

A cheerful Pakistan footballl team pose for photographs at a hotel in the city after their arrival yesterday. Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in the first of the two-legged World Cup pre-qualifiers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow. PHOTO: STAR

WORLD CUP PRE-QUALIFIER

Pakistan, hopeful and inviting

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The coach of the Pakistan national football team believes that there is no reason for Bangladesh to be concerned about the security situation in Pakistan for the second leg of the World Cup pre-qualifiers in Lahore on July 3.

The Pakistan team arrived in Dhaka yesterday afternoon for the Dhaka leg match which takes place tomorrow and then will be hosting Bangladesh on July 3 in Lahore, after FIFA gave the allclear on Friday regarding the security measures there, rejecting Bangladesh's appeal to hold the match in either Dhaka or a neutral venue.

Tariq Lutfi, the coach of Pakistan, is convinced that the players and officials of Bangladesh will have the safest journey there.

"There may be concerns in the mind of players and officials, but I feel that Pakistan is a safe country. What goes on outside is a different thing altogether, and you won't feel anything when you come," said Lutfi after his team checked in at Ruposhi Bangla hotel yesterday. Lutfi also mentioned the Malaysia and Palestine football teams' visit to Pakistan as a case for tight security.

Meanwhile the Pakistan coach expects good things from his team in tomorrow's match as they have been practising hard for a month and had a few practice matches as well.

"We started preparation early this month and played six to seven practice matches against the premier division teams in Islamabad," said Lutfi who took charge of the team six months ago, after his first stint in 1985.

"We are grooming a new generation of players while we need some senior players as well. The boys have been playing good football for the last eight to nine months," said Lutfi adding that the squad consists of four overseas players - Adnan Farooq, Atif Bashir, Zeeshan Rahman and Ahmed Akbar Khan.

Midfielder Farooq, who received training at the Manchester United football academy in 2001-2002, is now playing for an Iranian Club, Ahmed Akbar Khan is a UK-based playmaker, Atif Bashir is playing in the Australian league while Zeeshan Rahman, a former Fulham player, is now playing in the Thailand League.

The squad has also 8 to 10 players who played the Olympic pre-qualifiers against Malaysia. Pakistan drew the home-leg match against Malaysia and lost the away match 2-0.

Apart from them, there are six young players who are waiting to wear the green jersey for the first time.

"The young players are working as expected and I am pleased with them," Lutfi said, "Yes, there was problem in the striking zone during the SAFF Championship but now we have enough strikers available to make a difference."

Captain-cum-goalkeeper Jaffer Khan informed that striker Arif Mahmood is on song, scoring 16 goals in their practice matches.

"Good physique and fighting attitude may make the difference against Bangladesh, said Jaffer.

Djokovic, Murray on

AFP, LONDON



act of Law.

Second seed Novak Djokovic beat Michael Llodra of France 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals on

Monday. Djokovic will face Australian qualifier Bernard Tomic for a place in the semifinals. Tomic, 18, crushed Belgium's Xavier Malisse 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 in the fourth round and is the first teenager since Boris Becker in

1986 to get to this stage at the All England Club. The Australian admitted that he had exceeded his wildest expectations after becoming the youngest man to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals for 25 years.

Only Becker, John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg have made the last eight at a younger age and Tomic is also the first qualifier to reach the last

Law for Tigers

mutual commitment to jointly make the

announcement. Jalal however was diplomatic

when asked whether they were upset by the first

ment. I can't say why exactly it happened. It

might be because of the time difference. I

We have some bitter experience in the past

Yunus informed that Law will quit the posi-

"After July 9, he will go to Sri Lanka to complete

"We are expecting him to join the team before

all the formalities and after that he will come back

the Zimbabwe tour and if it's not possible than

he will join the team directly there. It may not be

possible for him to join the team here as you

know the Tigers are all set to go to the South

Africa on July 18 to play a practice match,"

tionals in their monthlong tour in Zimbabwe.

Tigers will play a Test and five one-day interna-

In response of a question of terms and condi-

"There was a win-win situation. There has

tion of the agreement, Yunus said that it was a

been no window for IPL or any other T20 tour-

naments and without board permission he will

not be able to do any other job during his two-

tion of Sri Lanka's interim coach after the five-

the Bangladesh team as soon as possible.

to England where he is settled with his family.

was excited," explained Yunus.

signed the paper," he added.

informed Yunus.

win-win situation.

year tenure.

"There was supposed to be a joint announce-

eight at Wimbledon since Vladimir Voltchkov in 2000.

The teenager had already become the youngest man since Michael Chang in 1990 to reach the Wimbledon fourth round by defeating world number five Robin Soderling on Saturday.

Earlier, Andy Murray served up a royal treat for Prince William and Catherine as the British fourth seed thrived in 30-degree heat to crush Richard Gasquet and reach the quarterfinals.

The 24-year-old, who had to come from two sets to love down to defeat the flamboyant Frenchman in the fourth round three years ago, had no such problems this time, wrapping up a 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Murray, bidding to become Britain's first men's Wimbledon champion since Fred Perry in 1936, has reached a fourth consecutive quarterfinal and will now tackle either Spain's Feliciano Lopez or Polish qualifier Lukasz Kubot.

"The financial package is more or less the same as Jamie Siddons," said Yunus adding that they will confirm the appointment of the support staff soon after the arrival of the new head coach.

Yunus said that the leadership quality of Law impressed them the most. "Law was far ahead on our shortlist for the new coach. We were on the lookout for someone with passion, drive and wouldn't say we are embarrassed. May be the international pedigree to lead the Bangladesh early announcement came from him because he team to greater heights and in him we believe we have found a coach who is highly motivated and "After May 30, it was almost confirmed also committed towards achieving goals. The because he (Law) was quite interested to take most important thing which impressed us most the job and as well as he made the commitment. is his leadership quality during his playing

that's why we were waiting for the signing of the "He has had a distinguished playing career agreement. What I can assure you is that he and his coaching experience with a world class side like Sri Lanka would be very beneficial for the Bangladesh Team. The negotiations took some time but we are delighted to finally have match ODI series against England and will join him on board" continued Yunus.

Law said he was relishing the challenge of working with the youthful and talented Tigers squad: "I'm really excited by this opportunity the BCB has presented me with. It's a great honour. To leave Sri Lanka Cricket is not a decision that was taken lightly. My time with them has been a most enjoyable journey and I'd really like to thank everyone involved there for their support. I have made so many friends there and had some fantastic experiences.

"A new challenge awaits me now in Dhaka, which I believe I'm ready for. To coach a national side, I think is any coach's goal, so to get the opportunity to work with what I think is a very talented bunch of cricketers, is particularly exciting. I look forward to the times ahead and taking

Bangladesh to the next level," said Law. Like his predecessor, Law, the fifth foreign coach of the Bangladesh Test team, also promised to improve the ranking of the Tigers from the current ninth position.

India accepts 'UDRS'

Minnows to have their shot at WC

Cricket

AFP, Hong Kong

India agreed Monday to a modified version of the controversial Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS), bringing to an end a damaging row which threatened to tear apart international cricket.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said its chief executives' committee (CEC) had unanimously agreed at its Hong Kong conference to make UDRS mandatory in all international Tests and one-day matches, India's cricket authorities announced.

"The agreed standards will include infrared cameras and audio-tracking devices," the ICC said in a statement on its website.

"The CEC also agreed that further independent and expert research will be carried out into ball-tracking technology and its accuracy and reliability.

"The continued use of ball-tracking technology as a decision-making aid will depend on bilateral agreement between the participating members."

The ground-breaking deal means that India will, for the first time, agree to using the UDRS in a Test series when they tour England from July. But the world champions released a statement after the meeting insisting that the Hawkeye ball-tracking system remained "unacceptable".

"The BCCI has always expressed its willingness to embrace technology, for the betterment of the game," said Narayanaswami Srinivasan, the president-elect of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in a statement

posted on its website.

Hot Spot, the "thermal imaging" technology now available and made mandatory in the UDRS, will mostly be used for close catches and edges.

But the committee decided that the use of Hawkeye, which tracks the trajectory of the delivery, would continue to depend on agreement between both teams in any match.

Lbw decisions will continue to be governed by the on-field umpires.

Under the agreement, teams will be allowed to make one incorrect challenge to an on-field umpire's decision before all their referrals for that innings are used up.

Meanwhile, the ICC also opened the door Monday for non-Test playing nations to compete in the next World Cup, reversing a bar that had outraged "minnows" such as Ireland and Holland.

The ICC in a statement said the CEC had recommended a qualifying process for the 2015 tournament, without specifying how many teams it wanted to see taking part.

The recommendation rows back on the ICC's unpopular decision to limit the 2015 World Cup, in Australia and New Zealand, to the 10 fullmember teams -- excluding Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada, Kenya and other countries.

Officials are believed to be in favour of retaining a 10-team limit but a qualifying tournament would give minor nations a chance of reaching the event.

The committee approved recommendations to continue research into the use of different colour balls in day/night Test matches and the directive that batsmen can be given out for obstructing the field if they change their direction when running between the wicket to block a runout chance.

India aim for series and Cricket history

AFP, Bridgetown

India are looking to wrap up their second straight Test series victory over West Indies in the Caribbean, when the second Test begins at Kensington Oval here on Tuesday.

The Indians hold a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, following a 63-run victory inside four days in the first Test at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

The visitors also looked set to create a piece of history by becoming the first Indian team to win a Test and oneday international series in the Caribbean -- but India will also have to rail against their history at the ground to accomplish that feat here.

The world No. 1 side have an unflattering record at the ground, locally referred to as 'the Mecca of Caribbean cricket'.

India have lost their last five Tests since they drew with Garfield Sobers's side in 1971, and have hardly pushed West Indies in the seven Tests they have played at this venue over the years.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team still have cause for optimism though -- following a 10-wicket defeat for Sourav Ganguly's side nine years ago, West Indies have lost six of the eight Tests they have played at this venue.

Bresnan Back

First ODI against SL today

AFP, London

England called up Tim Bresnan to their squad for the forthcoming one-day series against Sri Lanka on Monday, following the Yorkshire all-rounder's recovery from a calfinjury.

Bresnan is available for the opening clash of a five-match one-day international (ODI) series against Sri Lanka at The Oval on Tuesday.

His injury problems ruled Bresnan out of both England's recent 1-0 win in a three-Test series against Sri Lanka and Saturday's nine-wicket loss against the same opponents in the lone Twenty20 international in Bristol.

The Gregs crush Eagles

SPORTS REPORTER

The Gregs crushed Eagles by 103-37 points in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium vesterday.

Earlier on Sunday night, Europa Youth defeated Eagles 125-34 (1st half 57-18) while Bakshi Bazar outplayed Flame Boys Club 74-46 (1st half 35-23) in another match.

ODIs brace for changes

CRICINFO

The abolition of runners, the usage of new balls from each end in one-dayers, and regulation of when the batting and bowling Powerplays can be taken are among the key recommendations the International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executives' committee (CEC) has made after its meeting in Hong Kong Monday.

The suggestions, if approved by the ICC Executive Board, will come into effect from October 1.

Runners have been an established part of cricket for more than a century, though there have been several recent disagreements over their usage. In the 2009 Champions Trophy, Andrew Strauss had denied the cramping Graeme Smith a runner leading to controversy. Earlier this year, Michael Clarke had also questioned the need for runners for batsmen suffering from cramps.

The committee also made a series of proposals to spruce up the one-day game, foremost among them being the decision to use new balls at each end. The white ball loses colour as the innings progresses, making it hard to sight for the batsman, a problem the ICC had tried to address by replacing the ball after 34 overs. The most high-profile occasion so far where two new balls were used was the 1992 World Cup. The new ruling means bowlers will be able to get the ball to swing for longer periods, giving them more of a say in an increasingly uneven battle with batsmen.

The other major decision regarding the one-day game was to allow teams to take the batting and bowling Powerplays only between the 16th and 40th over. While the idea of introducing Powerplays are generally seen to have added an element of unpredictability to the format, bowling sides usually stuck to taking their Powerplay between the 11th and 15th over, while the batting team saved theirs for late in the innings.

Maruf, Kala

FROM PAGE 16

Kala said that he actually wanted to call Rahmatganj MFS secretary Tipu Sultan to explain the reason of withdrawing the defender and mistakenly called Maruf. He however said he never told Muruf to score goals or that he had withdrawn a player.

Kala, on the contrary, claimed that Maruf offered him Tk 3.5 lakh for not giving up the match against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club but Maruf also refused such claim.

Meanwhile, before the start of the quizzing, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club president Manzur Kader and Awami league leader Moffazal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, president of Sheikh Jamal Supporters Group, met the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin with a flower bouquet and two mega-size cakes for successful completion of the professional football league.

KAPIL DEV

Bringing pace to India

Kapil Dev should have felt little pressure during his playing career. After all, his only motivation was a taunt he faced early in life during an under-19 trial.

After bowling all morning, young Kapil asked for a second helping of roti and vegetables. But like Oliver Twist, he was turned down, the board official telling him that there are "no fast bowlers in India, so you don't get more food".

He decided to be that fast bowler, and a truly great one at that.

After making his Test debut in 1978, Kapil's greatest time came five years later when he took 75 wickets in 1983. For India too, that year was a landmark.

Though it was always argued whether India's greatest all-rounder should have been burdened with the captaincy five years into his debut Kapil did find some success, but his four-year reign saw only four Test wins from 34 games.

But he always performed well as a skipper (his best bowling figure and batting score came during this time). In November that year, the skipper reached a personal best: 9-83 against West Indies.

Having bowled twenty overs unchanged on the third day, he took six wickets. "When West Indies continued their innings on the fourth morning, the ball again lifted frequently, but the pitch having become softer and slower the batsmen had more time to adjust," wrote the Wisden match report. "West Indies's remaining three wickets, which added important runs, were all taken by Kapil Dev, who thus became only the eleventh bowler in history to take more than eight wickets in a Test innings."

Kapil's bowling record against the mighty West Indies was stellar (89 wickets at 24 apiece), though his 99 wickets against arch-rivals Pakistan was also outstanding.

In 1980, Kapil took eleven wickets in the Chennai Test, including seven for 56 in the second innings, and contributed a boisterous 84 to India's total of 430. "The great-hearted bowling minimised India's self-imposed disadvantage of going into the match with only four bowlers," reported Wisden.

Kapil had his moments in Australia too. His five for 28 in the second innings of the Melbourne Test in 1981 helped India bowl the hosts out for just 83, drawing the three-Test series and he did all that with a badly strained thigh muscle.

Defending just 143 runs, Kapil joined the fray on the final morning and bowled unchanged to take five of the seven remaining Australian wickets that fell in just over two and a quarter hours.

His batting helped India from a lot of situations and more famous than his eight Test centuries were the four consecutive sixes he hit off Eddie Hemmings in the 1990 Old Lord's Test that helped India avoid the follow-on. India required exactly 24 to avoid the follow-on, and Kapil was batting with number eleven Narendra Hirwani, a consummate batting "bunny" at the other end. With four balls left in the over, Kapil launched into Hemmings, and each six was bigger than the last. More than mere statistics, it was deeds like these that set him apart as a cricketer -- one who gave joy to the spectators through sheer daring.

On February 8, 1994, he took wicket No 432, that of Hashan Tillekaratne (caught at short leg), to become the most successful bowler in Test cricket by overtaking Richard Hadlee's tally. It underlined his importance to India cricket once and for all.

-- Mohammad Isam

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 33 Antitoxins 54 Hebrew **ACROSS** 19 Once

1 Painter 34 Playletter around 21 Support 55 Pith Chagall wright 5 G-men's helmet system? Levin 35 Indivisible org. **23** Ted 8 Some-36 Bygone Key's DOWN where out 37 Principal **1** "— the cartoon there supply word" maid 12 Hexag-2 Persisting 24 Additional 40 Aesop-25 Verve 3 Hindu onal ian 26 Fedora state alsoroyal 13 Part of 4 Sheer feature ran UCLA 27 Modern-41 Utter silk day foolishfabric 14 Location 15 Short 5 Armada money ness 45 Troubles 6 Feathery 28 Skiingskirt 47 Piercing 16 Listener accesshooting

17 Coaster tool sory 18 Smother 7 Tel Aviv 49 Adhesive 32 111-20 Son of resident 50 Academic 51 Female 8 No Eve 22 New 35 "— the deer liability 52 H.S. 9 Flicked a Year's subj. finger Eve

figure 53 Hardly 10 Dined 26 Jazzy muscular 11 Scarlet style Solution time: 25 mins. **29** In the manner

of

30 Cam-

32 9mm

chine

gun

ABEL ORLON ROLLED AROMA LIVINGROOMSET LAEDOILY paigner, SPORTLASES for short BOOM 31 Destroy ALTALANS MOE D E A D R E C K O N I N G
S T R E A K L O T T O
O U T D O V E T O
M E S E L Y subma-

46 53 prepared 33 Dexterity ramparts

combo

36 Peculiar

38 Rash

39 Lubri-

cated

podge

44 Bigfoot's

cousin

45 Mischief-

maker

Retton

46 Mary —

48 Court

42 Hodge-

43 Point

CRYPTOQUIP

F USQFSZS CGS HJVA XHSR

MDBO RGJ QJZSA MHJJNFPM GVFHCGSFH RSHS UDOB

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A THRIFTY PERSON

TENDS TO NEVER OVERSPEND, WOULD YOU

CALL THAT WALLET-Y CONTROL?

21 24 25 30 38 42 | 43 | 44 48 51 52 54 55

VHHVPMFPM CHVTTFX XJNUO

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E