

## FIFA unhappy with BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

FIFA has warned Bangladesh football's governing body (BFF) that their reputation as a football federation will be damaged if two of the allotted FIFA projects are not implemented immediately.

Manilal Fernando, FIFA Development Officer and a powerful lobby in Asian Football Confederation, mailed the BFF president Kazi Salahuddin stating their displeasure over the lack of progress of FIFA Goal Project-2 and Tsunami Project.

Under the FIFA Goal project-2, an artificial turf was supposed to be installed on the Balur Math adjacent to the BFF House in latter part of 2009 to increase practice facilities for the national team as well as clubs after AFC president Mohamed Bin Hamman laid the foundation stone in March, 2008.

But the ground still stay covered in mud and sand as a neighbouring people protested the move demanding the ground to be kept available for local children and elderly people. The Tsunami fund for setting up a football academy in the coastal areas was sanctioned in 2005, but that project too has yet to see substantial progress.

In the letter, Manilal threatened that FIFA would cancel the tsunami project and not sanction any more funds as the time frame has already elapsed and asked BFF to take these matters seriously and get the projects off the ground immediately.

## Radio reach for the Star

SPORTS REPORTER

It was one of those days when weight of expectations gets the better of a team tailor-made for the title. And it was the case with The Daily Star football team at the Handball Stadium yesterday when Radio Today, a team that had not aspired to anything before, handed the popular English daily a 1-0 defeat.

The defeat can be best described as an upset in one of the six games played on the opening day of the seven-aside Cool Media Cup, a fun tournament for the electronic and print media of the capital.

There was an overnight propaganda blitz that fans wrestled to get hold of a ticket to see The Daily Star in action at a place where they won a deserved title last year. There were a couple of hundred fans in the stands. But they were sitting there more in an effort to take cover from the incessant rain that crippled city life instead of cheering any team, let alone The Daily Star who had an unforgettable outing in the middle.

They not only desperately lacked those sublime passing, powerful shooting and a collective effort but had to remain at the receiving end against an aggressive Radio who deservedly struck the winner midway through the second session. Still, it needed a decisive slip from a Daily Star newbie.

Morshed Ali Khan, a Daily Star stalwart, was upset after the defeat and looked for excuses with the tougher rules of game. But for Morshed and many of the veterans the fast track at the Handball Court was a rude reminder that football here is not for tiring legs.

Meanwhile, in the other matches on the opening day, Channel i blanked The Independent 2-0, Bangla Vision also scored a 2-0 win over New Nation on a day when the electronic media stole a march over print media. Whether it was any indication of the change in times, but on the football field the score at the moment stood 3-1. It was a goalless draw between Ekushey TV and ABC Radio while Financial Express, the only saving grace for print media, recorded a 3-2 win against Baishakhi TV. Viva la finance.

## Bangladesh's

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Captain-cum-goalkeeper Jaffar Khan echoing the sentiment of his coach said, "I have been playing for the national side for a long time and in my opinion this is the best ever squad I have seen and we will win the match."



PHOTO: AFP

**German tennis player Sabine Lisicki exults after taking a point off Marion Bartoli of France during her Wimbledon quarterfinal victory at the All England Tennis Club in London yesterday.**

## Maria, Sabine thru'

AFP, London



Maria Sharapova stormed into the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time since 2006 Tuesday, blasting aside Dominika Cibulkova with an emphatic 6-1, 6-1 quarterfinal victory.

Cibulkova, who had stunned world number one and top seed Caroline Wozniacki in the last 16, never looked like repeating that upset against Sharapova, who is the heavy favourite to repeat her 2004 triumph.

The 6ft 2in Russian fifth seed unleashed a string of thunderous groundstrokes to overwhelm her Slovakian opponent, and now faces German wildcard Sabine Lisicki in the last four for a place in the final.

Earlier, Lisicki became the first German woman to reach a Wimbledon semifinal since Steffi Graf in 1999 when she defeated French ninth seed Marion Bartoli 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1.

As thunder rumbled over the All England Club and torrential rain lashed the 80-million-pound Centre Court roof, the 21-year-old Lisicki also became just the second wildcard to make the last four.

But the 21-year-old, whose career suffered when a five-month ankle injury absence in 2010 sent her ranking plummeting to 218 in March, did it the hard way, squandering three match points in the 10th game of the second set.

Sharapova, who had not dropped a set en route to the quarterfinals, was quickly into her groove, stretching the 5ft 3in Cibulkova with an array of shots that left the Slovakian flailing.

A superb forehand winner set up Sharapova's first break in the third game, and with the Russian's powerful serve functioning smoothly, Cibulkova was always struggling to claw back the initiative.

"It's an honour to be in the semifinal. It's a few years since I've got past the fourth round so it's a great chance to take it a step further," Sharapova said.

## Skill squad to be trimmed

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Mohammad Ashraful will also be another major issue.

The selectors are also in a spot of bother with the shortage of pace bowlers at their disposal. Young Shafiu Islam and Rubel Hossain have been operating with the new ball in absence of the injured Mashrafe Bin Mortaza for the Tigers' last couple of assignments, but it would be a hard task for the selectors to choose the third seamer. Considering the conditions in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh will not completely rely on their slow bowlers and they may need to play a third seamer. This means that Shahadat Hossain has a good chance of making the squad.

"We have some problems as there is not enough players in the pipeline and that's the reason we are concentrating on the Academy team and the A team. I'm confident that we will be able to make a good team for the Zimbabwe tour," hoped Akram.

## Ross's centre of excellence

FROM PAGE 16

who only need to adapt to life in international cricket and not the skills.

Turner wants the trainees to turn out as complete cricketers who are capable in all three formats (Tests, ODIs and Twenty20s) and who realises that there is more to cricket than just aggressive batting and bowling left-arm spin.

"There are a number of things that need to change among these players. Here the cricket is built around instinctive play -- aggressive batting. I want to teach them the different, productive ways of playing.

"A batsman can move his feet to the spinners and pace bowlers. He needs to know where to stand to certain types of bowlers. It is not just a new style of play but also their thinking.

"Even for left-arm spinners, they need to cut their fingers over the top of the ball which will help in surfaces that offer bounce and not just undercut them like they do here," he explained.

The training has gone through the phase that dealt with physical fitness and classes on developing a positive mindset, envisioning outcomes and learning techniques for building resilience as well as leadership, account-

ability and trust.

After the month-long programme ended on June 23, the boys got a four-day break and from today, the skill development phase begins with Alan Campbell coming in for a month to share his expertise with the batsmen and wicketkeeper. Though Geoff Lawson was announced as the other visiting coach, he will probably arrive a bit later as his stint is not finalised yet.

Turner has said that he would like to see more short-term coaches to not just facilitate cricketers but also the local coaches who can pick ideas and teaching techniques from the foreign coaches, a fine way to make the country's cricket self-sufficient.

"The overseas coaches are of the highest quality and who have dealt with international players. They will demonstrate a very clear understanding of the game and pinpoint the key elements," he said.

"Also, the Bangladeshi coaches can learn from them and reinforce those methods," added Turner who has undertaken several coaching and umpiring coaches over the years in the country.

Turner ultimately wants to leave behind a successful legacy which not only bring

## 4 minnows in next WC



AFP, Hong Kong

World cricket's governing body announced on Tuesday that four non-Test playing nations would compete in the next World Cup, in a U-turn of a controversial decision that had excluded the game's minnows.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) in a statement said its executive board had approved 14-team contest in Australia and New Zealand in 2015, with 10 places going to the Test-playing nations. The second-tier teams will have to pre-qualify for the remaining four places.

The ICC also announced the 2019 World Cup would be a scaled-down 10-team event, with the top eight places being awarded to the top-ranked teams and two berths being awarded in a pre-qualifying tournament.

The about-face on the 2015 World Cup reverses the ICC's decision to limit the 2015 tournament to the sport's 10 full-member teams -- which left countries such as Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada and Kenya on the sidelines.

"In Hong Kong today, the ICC executive board opted to retain the 14-team format that was used at the highly successful and universally acclaimed ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka with the 10 full members being joined by four associate or affiliate qualifiers," the ICC said on its website.

ICC president Sharad Pawar had asked his board to discuss the matter at the conference, with the governing body looking to avoid a repeat of the seven-week World Cup, deemed

## Tamim off to Notts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Tamim Iqbal has left the capital this morning for his county Twenty20 mission in England.

The Tigers' vice-captain will appear for the Nottinghamshire Outlaws in the Friends Life t20 tournament after signing up on June 16.

His first game will be against Derbyshire on July 1 and he is expected to take on Shakib Al Hasan's Worcestershire on July 5 and 15.

Tamim will play six Twenty20 matches in all and will leave England on July 16.

Nottinghamshire roped in the left-handed opener as a replacement for David Hussey, the Australian batsman, who is returning home to prepare for the one-day series against Sri Lanka.

## Rangers roll on

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangers mauled Flame Boys by 101-47 points in the Citycell Premier Division Basketball League at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday. Rangers led the first half by 36-14 points. Sandy netted a staggering 42 points for the winners while Mamun netted 18.

Earlier on Monday night, Rangers had beaten Hornets by 56-45 points, with Sandy scoring highest 16 points in that match.

## Rafa fit to play

Roger's record 29th qtrs

AFP, London



Defending champion Rafael Nadal said on Tuesday that he will be fit to play his Wimbledon quarterfinal against Mardy Fish after a scan revealed he had not suffered a serious left foot injury.

The world number one suffered the injury in Monday's last 16 win over Juan Martin del Potro and immediately revealed that his future participation in the tournament was in doubt.

But the 25-year-old revealed on his Facebook page that he will be fit to tackle Fish on Wednesday.

"Yesterday after the match I went to take an MRI at a London hospital," he said. "During the match I thought I had something serious. But as the match went on the pain got better and thankfully the tests don't show an injury."

Nadal, who was unable to defend his Wimbledon title in 2009 because of a knee injury, had his foot bandaged at 6-6 in the first set of his 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 triumph over Argentine 24th seed del Potro on Monday.

Meanwhile, six-time champion Roger Federer dropped his first set of this year's Wimbledon before clinching a 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Mikhail Youzhny, also on Monday.

The 16-time Grand Slam winner faces France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the last eight and is seeded to face Djokovic in the semifinals.

Federer, playing in a record 29th consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinal, has 4-1 record over Tsonga but appreciates the danger of the 12th-seeded Frenchman.

## India in disarray



SPORT DESK

India's second Test against the West Indies got off to a disastrous start as the tourists stuttered their way to 44/4 at lunch on the first day at Barbados yesterday. Some accurate and incisive bowling from West Indies pacer

Ravi Rampaul left the Indians in disarray, as Rampaul extracted the wickets of openers Abhinav Mukund, Murali Vijay and middle order batsman Virat Kohli.

India's hopes of recovery rested on veteran batsman VVS Laxman, who was batting on 23, and Suresh Raina, who had just come to the crease.

## TESTS THROUGH TIME



SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS

## Figurehead of dominance

Seconds after delight at separating the all-time great opening pair of Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes, they were quaking in their boots at the sight of the next emergence from the pavilion.

He walked with a swagger that conveyed emphatically his indifference. In all likelihood, he could chew and spit his opponents out like one of the chewing gums that formed an integral part of his persona. From the moment he took strike till the moment he saw it fit to get out, he held the crowd in thrall of his talent and sure-footed dominance. He was Sir Vivian Richards, and he was the embodiment of West Indian dominance throughout their rule.

Before he reached the peak of his powers, West Indies were a respected team but not a feared one. The tag of 'easy-going Calypso cricketers' changed during 1976 when Richards scored more runs in a calendar year (1710 at 90) than anyone had done before.

He embodied the fun-loving aspect of cricket in his region through his fantastic strokeplay, but also brought a steely resolve through his apparent disregard for opponents, the conditions or the match situation. Richards came to dominate, and dominate only.

In an era that had many bowlers of high pace Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson, Imran Khan, Bob Willis and later Wasim Akram he shunned helmets because they were an admission of fear that went against the grain of everything he was.

His powerhouse batting is a precursor to the explosive batsmen of today. His cricket and general attitude had influences further-reaching than the islands of West Indies.

During his captaincy in the late 1980s, one of West Indies' army of fast bowlers once rapped a batsman on the pads, and without appealing Richards started celebrating in his customary fist-whirling manner, and the flummoxed umpire had no recourse but to comply. When you see captains today masterfully manipulating umpires, the mind must go back to the antics of one Viv Richards.

West Indian cricket during its halcyon period would not have been what it was without Richards. When he made his first-class debut in 1971-72, the Combined Islands had just been allowed to participate in the West Indian first-class domestic tournament. Until then cricketers from outside, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Barbados were powerless. When Richards got going, the Combined Islands became too powerful, winning the Shield in 1980-81, and were split into the Leewards and Windwards. These previously ignored outer islands became the dominant force in the Caribbean, enriching cricket in the region.

It was in his native Antigua, which became a Test venue during this period, that Richards chose to leave one of his lasting marks on cricket folklore -- the fastest Test hundred, off only 56 balls against England in 1986. The bowlers never had a chance as he whipped, drove, and pulled them to distraction. In the end, he walked off like the emperor that he was, but before crossing the boundary line, he paused and had a look around at his adoring public, perhaps realising that he was the author of the scene he beheld.

He left international cricket in 1991, and the immense hole he left can be seen in West Indian decline since. Cricket hasn't been the same without King Viv.

-- Sakeb Subhan

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 —  
4 Parisian pals  
8 Choose from a group  
12 Fuss  
13 Color quality  
14 On the briny  
15 Old communication method  
17 Bit of banter  
18 Comestibles  
19 Stallion or mare  
20 Malaria symptoms  
22 Trans-action  
24 Tranquil  
25 Pollen-caused allergy  
29 Under the weather  
30 Cupid's yokemate  
31 Is for you?

32 Short-term employment

- 34 Schleps  
35 Shake-speare's river  
36 Cockpit VIP  
37 Steeple  
40 Regiment  
41 Lumber  
42 Spring parade leader  
46 Initial stake  
47 Birthright  
48 Old studio letters  
49 Paraphernalia  
50 Sommelier's offering  
51 Stitch

DOWN

- 1 Noisy dance  
2 Oklahoma city  
3 With glee  
4 Friend of D'Artagnan  
5 Disposition  
6 Hostel  
7 Get a glimpse of  
8 Wheedle  
9 Addict  
10 Not so much  
11 Tardy

16 Verse

- 19 Weapon's handle  
20 Alkali neutralizer  
21 Festive  
22 Pythias' pal  
23 Watchful one  
25 Vagrant  
26 Some track-and-field athletes  
27 Therefore  
28 Take a break  
30 Bear lair  
33 Pantry  
34 Stead  
36 Resentment  
37 Booty  
38 Corn concoction  
39 Tittle  
40 Actress  
42 Kitten's call  
43 "— was saying, ..."  
44 Scratch (out)  
45 Promptly

Solution time: 25 mins.

M A R C F B I A F A R  
U T A H L O S S I T E  
M I N I E A R S L E D  
S T I F L E A B E L  
M O T H E R I D I O C Y  
B E B O P A L A P O L  
R U I N U Z I T S E R A  
T R A O N E O L D E N  
M O T H E R L O D E  
H A R E I D I O C Y  
I L L S A W L G L U E  
M O O T D O E H I S T  
P U N Y Y O D T O P I

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12				13				14		
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49				50				51		

## CRYPTOQUIP

E Y E S K M Q L Y T V U R H B K T  
H V M P S Q B G J T M G R H M T Y S C  
K Y L M P B Y G C Y H C G V M W  
M P P M L W C: "Q M B U B G J E K M L V C."

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** I BELIEVE THE ROAD CREW GUYS WHO LOVED GROOMING THEIR HAIR WERE BUSY ARRANGING TRAFFIC COMBS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals F