

**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.

Manil 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, Manil 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-a-side 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 1 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**

SPORTS REPORTER

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**

FROM PAGE 16

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 Shafiq 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 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.

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**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

by some critics as unnecessarily lengthy.

Officials were previously believed to have been in favour of retaining a 10-team limit even if smaller countries were allowed into the World Cup.

Ireland, who outshone many Test-playing nations at this year's tournament, capping their tournament with a stunning win over England in Bangalore, had been at the forefront of the campaign against ousting the minnows.

A 12-team format was given the go-ahead for the ICC World Twenty20 events in Sri Lanka next year and in Bangladesh in 2014.

The board also approved a recommendation made by its chief executives' committee on Monday to make the controversial Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS) mandatory in all international Tests and one-day matches.

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

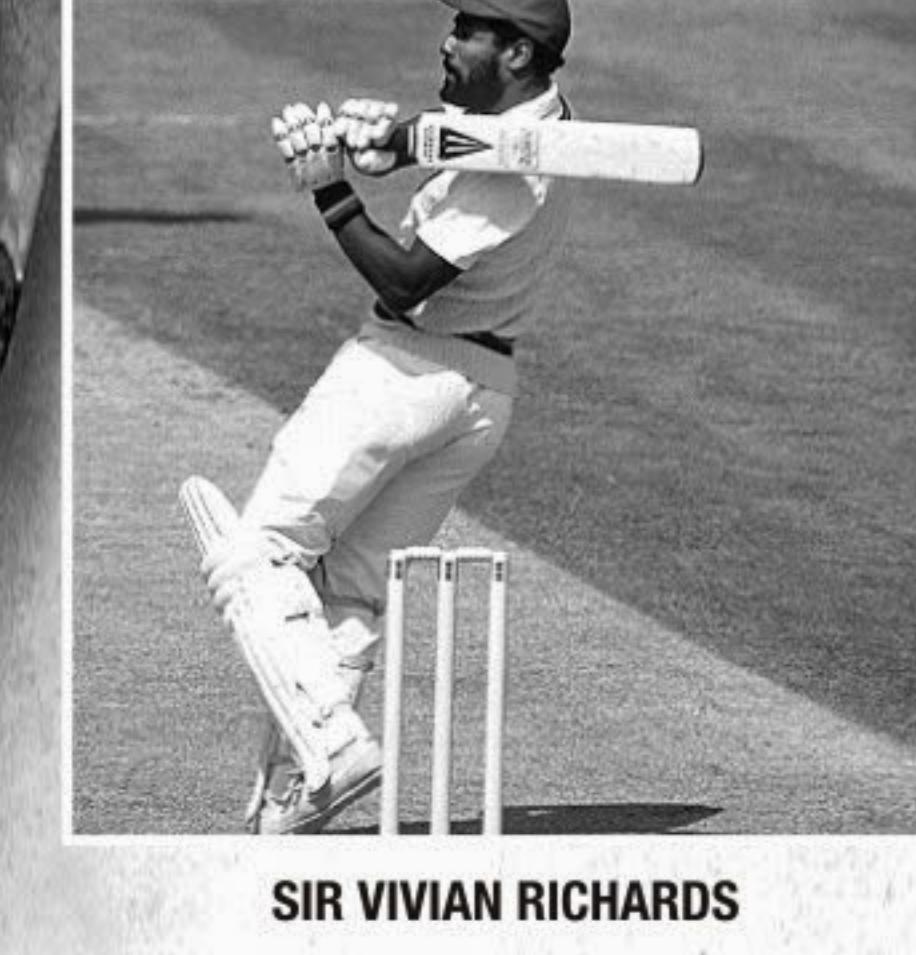
The ground-breaking deal means that India will, for the first time, agree to using the UDRS in a Test series when they tour England from July. But the world champions remain against the Hawkeye ball-tracking system.

The board said 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.

**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 behaved.

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

**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.

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

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