#### Yelena eyes return

AFP, Volgograd

Russia's two-time Olympic pole-vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva is targeting an international comeback this season after a series of setbacks last year, she told AFP in an interview.

The glamorous native of the Volga river city of Volgograd astonished the world and became Russia's best known sportswoman by winning Olympic gold in Athens and Beijing and lifting the world record to well above five metres.

However, her aura of invincibility slipped when she failed to record a height in the final stage of the 2009 Berlin world championships and only came fourth in last year's world indoor championships in Doha.

She has not appeared in competition outside Russia or Ukraine since.

But Isinbayeva, who has only participated in five events in the last two years, told AFP that the 2011 world championships in Daegu, South Korea, would be a springboard for the London Olympics and more world records.

"I want to win the 2011 world championships, the 2012 Olympics, and, of course, set more world records," she said.

#### Butt blames

FROM PAGE 16

Twenty20 league in England. Asked if Afridi would be allowed back on the team, Butt said: "He has not given us his retirement. If he wants to resign, he has to resign with the PCB.

"He is no more on our contract... after the West Indies tour he was no more the captain as our policy was to appoint a captain after every series and he knew that," said

Butt accused Afridi of politicising the row, saying he had to fend off calls from former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the governor of the Afridi's home province of Sindh, Ishrat-ul-

"I told them point blank that I will not budge and Afridi will have to appear before the disciplinary committee," said

Butt said leg-spinner Danish Kaneria, who was arrested then released without charge in connection with a spot-fixing scandal in England, had not been cleared

to play because he is not speaking the truth. "He is involved in certain things, which unless he clarifies himself, and he has not done so far, he will not be considered (for selection),"

said Butt. Kaneria has filed a petition against not being cleared for play in a bid to revive his international career, stalled since

ast year. Kaneria and his Essex team-mate Marvyn Westfield were arrested in a spot-fixing case last year, but the police released the Pakistani spinner without any charges. Westfield

faces criminal charges. Butt said another undersuspicion all-rounder Shoaib Malik was also not cleared.

"We have a former Supreme Court judge in the integrity committee and he said that Malik is not speaking truth, if he speaks the truth and cleared he can walk in the team as we need him in oneday matches," said Butt.

#### Basketball

FROM PAGE 16 basketball, hockey, handball and cricket -- at some professional level, Maksud said that he enjoys the camaraderie when playing for Rangers, a club that has been active in basketball since 1993. He also informed of students from Nepal playing for their team at times.

Mostofa Javed Mohiuddin an organiser of the club, pointed out that every player in their side were amateurs who held other jobs. "We all get together in the weekends and play. It is a great pastime but we

take it seriously," he said. Rangers, and Mohammadpur too, received trophies for

their First Division triumph while the chief guest, Minister of Liberation War Affairs Captain (retd) AB Tajul Islam, presented the Premier League champions trophy to Europa. Citycell CEO Mehboob Chowdhury was also present at the closing ceremony as a special guest.



West Indies skipper Darren Sammy (2nd R) celebrates with teammates after bowling out India batsman Rahul Dravid during the third day of the third and final Test at the Windsor Park Stadium in Roseau, Dominica yesterday.

# Rain ruins India's party

# Cricket

AFP, Roseau

Harbhajan Singh became the 11th bowler in history to capture 400 Test wickets while Ishant Sharma again bowled impressively in the rain-lashed third Test between India and West Indies on Thursday.

India were eight without loss, replying to West Indies' first innings total of 204, when a combination of rain and bad light stopped play early on the second day at Windsor Park, where only 49.2 over were possible.

Out of the statutory 180 overs that should have been bowled over the first two days, only 80.3 have been completed as typically seasonal weather has ravaged the Dominica capital, hosting a Test for the first time.

Sharma, the most successful of all the bowlers in the series, upstaged Harbhajan, taking 5-77 from 21.3 overs.

His success, followed up his 6-55 in the first innings of the drawn second Test at Bridgetown, taking his tally in the three-Test series to 21 wickets at 14.04 apiece.

Harbhajan, playing his 96th Test for the Indians, bowled Carlton Baugh for the West Indies top score of 60 about an hour and 20 minutes after lunch to achieve the milestone.

Only former captains Anil Kumble (619) and Kapil Dev (434) have taken more wickets for the visitors than Harbhajan.

He is also the fourth spin bowler to take 400 wickets in Tests, following in the footsteps of fellow off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran of Sri Lanka, whose 800

scalps are the most, Australia's Shane Warne (708), and Kumble.

Harbhajan finished with 2-26 from 15 overs, and Praveen Kumar took 2-22 from 16 overs.

Before lunch, India had continued to exploit the brittle West Indies batting lineup, removing Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Marlon Samuels, when play resumed 20 minutes later than regularly scheduled, with the hosts on their overnight 75

#### LATEST

India were 102 for two, replying to West Indies' first innings total of 204, at lunch on the third day of the third Test on Friday at Windsor Park.

#### **SCORES IN BRIEF**

WEST INDIES: First innings 204 (Barath 12, Bravo 50, Chanderpaul 23, Baugh 60, Sammy c Mukund 20; Kumar 2-22, Sharma 5-77, Harbhajan 2-26) INDIA: First innings 102-2 (Mukund 52

not out, Laxman 30 not out; Edwards 1-22, Sammy 1-18)

for three.

Munaf Patel struck in the fourth over of the day, when Chanderpaul was slightly squared-up by a perfectly-pitched delivery moving away, edged, and was caught behind by India captain and birthday boy Mahendra Singh Dhoni for 23, following a 49-run stand with Bravo.

Kumar tightened India's grip, when Samuels, struck on the helmet by a short, rising ball from Patel, attempted a lazy drive at a delivery outside the off-stump, and was bowled for nine, dragging the ball

Just line and length is not enough. You

have to make sure you are not left behind.

Off-spinners now are coming on to bowl

from 'round the wicket. You have to keep

and play their shots. I remember 10 years

back, all the bowlers were averaging 25, 26

or 27. These days the normal average is 30

He added: "Batsmen these days come

into the stumps off the inside edge, leaving West Indies 99 for five.

The Indian bowlers came under a little pressure in the final half-hour before the interval, when Baugh arrived, and inspired some positive play from Bravo.

An imperious drive through extra cover off Sharma brought Bravo his fifth boundary, and Baugh swung Harbhajan over square leg for six before he cut Suresh Raina through square cover for four, as West Indies reached 128 for five at lunch.

After the interval, Sharma made the breakthrough for India, when he cut short the counter-attacking stand of 59 for the sixth wicket between Baugh and Bravo.

The beanpole fast bowler had Bravo caught behind for an even 50, playing defensively forward to a well-pitched delivery. The West Indies left-hander spent a little over three and a quarter hours at the crease, and struck eight fours from 134 balls.

India continued to leak runs, and West Indies inched closer to the 200-run mark, when their captain Darren Sammy joined Baugh, and put on a valuable 41 for the seventh wicket.

Harbhajan however, stemmed the flow of runs, and triggered a batting collapse that saw West Indies lose their last four wickets for five runs from 57 balls. He had Sammy caught at forward short

leg for 20, and then reached his landmark, when Baugh, whose innings contained six fours and one six from 79 balls, made room to cut, played over the top of the delivery, and had his stumps shattered.

Sharma then returned to wrap up the tail, removing Fidel Edwards for three and Devendra Bishoo for a duck in successive overs.

# Bhajji in elite group

trying new things.'

# Takes 400th Test wicket

Cricket

AFP, Roseau

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh said he expected to continue tormenting batsmen for a long time, after becoming only the 11th bowler to capture 400 Test wickets in the third Test against West Indies on Thursday. Harbhajan, playing in his 96th Test,

finished with 2-26 from 15 overs to help India bowl West Indies out for 204 in their first innings.

He bowled Carlton Baugh Jr for the West Indies top score of 60 about an hour and 20 minutes after lunch on the rainaffected second day at Windsor Park to achieve the milestone.

"I'm only 31, and even though the last seven wickets have made me work harder, (I'm hopeful) the next 200 will come very soon," said Harbhajan.

"I have faced a lot of ups and downs in my career, mostly downs. I've worked hard for these wickets. Spinners mature with age. Most of them, be it Anil (Kumble) bhai, Shane Warne, or Muttiah Muralidaran, they took a lot of wickets after they turned 30.

"Time is on my side. I am still very young, and there is a lot of cricket left in

"I have to start doing even better for Team India and start taking a lot of wickets. If I keep myselffit, I will be able to do it."

The patka-wearing Harbhajan, whose nicknamed is 'The Turbantor', has not been his penetrative-best throughout the three-Test series in the Caribbean.

He seemed to look to the heavens in relief, when he captured the wicket, which brought to an end a counter-attack innings from Baugh that ushered West Indies past the 200-run mark.

He received a standing ovation from teammates in the players' viewing area in the Billy Doctrove Pavilion and from the modest, but appreciative crowd, as well as hugs and pats of approval from teammates on the field.

"It's not easy to take even one wicket in international cricket," he said. "Batsmen

"You have to keep adding variations.

are watching you all the time.

many runs.'

Harbhajan.

He is also the fourth spin bowler to



PHOTO: AFP

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh delivers a ball during the second day of third and final Test against West Indies at the Windsor Park Stadium in Roseau on Thursday.

"When I have my good days, I take wickets. On bad days, I try not to give too

Only former captains Anil Kumble (619) and Kapil Dev (434) have taken more wickets for the visitors than

take 400 wickets, following in the footsteps of fellow off-spinner Muttiah

Muralidaran of Sri Lanka, whose 800

scalps are the most in Tests, Australia's

Shane Warne (708) and Kumble, upon

whom he showered high praise." Anil bhai

was a very big bowler for Team India," he

said. "After he left, there's been a lot of

responsibility. The good thing is that Zaheer has been there to take some of it. "I have the greatest of regard for Anil bhai. It was he who made us believe that

we could win Tests abroad. "I respect him the most. He was a great bowler and a greater individual. He has helped me a lot to become what I have today. I know when I need his help he is

just a phone call away." 'Bhajji', as he is also known, made his Test debut against Australia 13 years ago in Bangalore, Harbhajan recalled his first Test wicket in his debut Test against Australia at Bangalore in March 1998 - Greg Blewett bowled for four with his 10th

delivery. He also pouched Wavell Hinds for his 100th scalp on the 2002 tour of the Caribbean, Zimbabwe's Charles Coventry was his 200th wicket, and former Australia captain Ricky Ponting, a batsman he once described as his 'bunny' was his 300th.

"I remember my first wicket - Greg Blewett," he said. "I also recall the doosra which got Michael Hussey in Bangalore.

"He left it outside his off-stump, and it came a long way to hit the off-stump. I thought only Murali bowled those kind of balls.

"Ricky Ponting, I got him many times, but he is a great batsman. Matthew Hayden, Brian Lara, Steve Waugh were all special."

#### LEADING WICKET-TAKERS

Bowlers	M	W	Avgs
Muttiah Muralidaran (SRI)	133	800	22.72
Shane Warne (AUS)	145	708	25.41
Anil Kumble (IND)	132	619	29.65
Glenn McGrath (AUS)	124	563	21.64
Courtney Walsh (WIS)	132	519	24.44
Kapil Dev (IND)	131	434	29.64
Richard Hadlee (NZL)	86	431	22.29
Shaun Pollock (RSA)	108	421	23.11
Wasim Akram (PAK)	104	414	23.62
Curtly Ambrose (WIS)	98	405	20.99
Harbhajan Singh (IND)	96	400	31.80

# **Eng-SL final ODI** today

AFP, Manchester

Sri Lanka's Suranga Lakmal will miss the fifth and final one-day international against England at Old Trafford here on Saturday.

The seamer suffered a side strain bowling his first over in Sri Lanka's 10-wicket defeat by England at Trent Bridge on Wednesday, a result that left the series all square at 2-2 heading into this weekend's decider.

"He is out for three or four weeks," Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan told reporters at Old Trafford on Friday. "The doctors advised him after his scan today." Lakmal's injury means he

will also miss the final matches of Sri Lanka's tour, the tri-series one-day internationals against Ireland and Scotland, in Edinburgh next week.

Fellow seamer Dhammika Prasad is expected to take Lakmal's place, especially as all-rounder Angelo Mathews has yet to regain full bowling fitness following a hamstring problem.

"It will be a seamer," Dilshan said of Mathews's replacement. "Angelo is still not 100 percent fit to bowl. We have three spinners already."

A see-saw series has yet to witness a close match, something Dilshan explained by saying: "We've had two flat wickets -- we won easily; then two seaming wickets -- they won easily.' Dilshan, returning to the

side after a broken thumb suffered making a superb 193 in the drawn second Test at Lord's, has managed just 13 runs in four innings this series. And at Trent Bridge the

opener was out for a duck, one of a trio of top-order wickets for swing bowler James Anderson whose return of three for 24 in eight overs laid the platform for England's crushing victory.

"Anderson is the key man for their bowling attack," Dilshan said. "He took early wickets that pushed us back. If we can play him, it might be we have a good chance to put some runs on the board.

### Shah joins Hurricanes

AFP, Sydney

English batsman Owais Shah has become the second international to sign with the Hobart Hurricanes for Australia's Twenty20 Big Bash next summer, the team said on Friday.

The experienced middleorder batsman and T20 specialist, who is currently playing for Essex, has also played in the Indian Premier League for the Delhi Daredevils, the Kolkata Knight Riders and the Kochi Tuskers Kerala.

Shah has played in 17 T20 internationals scoring 347 runs and joins Pakistan's Rana Naveed in the Hurricanes' lineup for the December 30-February 5 tournament.

### Lankan marvel

Where does greatness begin? Shane Warne's started when he bowled that famous ball in Old Trafford in 1993 while Sachin Tendulkar had it stamped on him the moment he decided to bat with a broken nose in his first Test series at the age of 16.

Muttiah Muralidaran hardly touched that level in the first six years of his international career, instead courting controversy when two Australian umpires called him for throwing in 1995. As his career threatened to fritter away after early promise and a few good performances, Sri Lanka toured England for yet another one offTest.

It was a momentous occasion for the one-day world champions and a ground to prove their worth in a format they were slowly mastering. The batsmen had already made headlines with their forceful modus operandi but Sri Lanka regularly struggled to take 20

wickets to finish off opponents. Muralidaran had become the first man to take 100 wickets for Sri Lanka but at The Oval, he didn't have his

trusted ally Chaminda Vaas. England posted a formidable 441 in the first innings in which Muralidaran was the only standout performer. The off-spinner took seven wickets in a monumental 59.3 overs, without much support from the rest.

But Sri Lanka made England's total look like a modest one soon after. Sanath Jayasuriya made Aravinda de Silva take a backseat in a third wicket partnership of 243 runs but both men made it into the triple figures with Jayasuriya hitting 213 while de Silva, who earlier brought up his 5,000th Test run, made 152.

On the fourth evening, England had to survive an onslaught by spin as the crafty Arjuna Ranatunga gave his only trump card the fields he wanted. Muralidaran bowled with venom and soon, had Mark Butcher stumped when the left-hander made an ill-conceived dash down the wicket. First innings centurion Graeme Hick fell two balls later when he thoughtlessly played back to a sharp off-break.

A battling Steven James was caught at silly mid-off the next morning and Sri Lanka had only to get rid of skipper Alec Stewart to have a real chance of winning. That was completed when substituted Upul Chandana's direct-hit had the Surrey man short by a few inches. Muralidaran then ran through the rest, getting John Crawley out with a beautiful off-spinner that broke through his drive while Mark Ramprakash was caught brilliantly at short-leg by Hashan Tillekaratne.

He finished with 9 for 65 and Sri Lanka completed the victory in the next thirty minutes. It was Muralidaran's arrival and he has not looked back even once. He eventually broke several bowling records and even bettered this performance at The Oval with another 9-for, against Zimbabwe in 200.

His 800-wicket career that spanned 18 years had several extraordinary features, including his massive wicket-count against all right-handers than lefthanders, 609 to 191, unusual given off-spinner's advantage against lefties. But Murali wasn't the run-of-themill offie, he had a huge repertoire like all great spinners including a doosra that spun the other way. His battles against Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara were epic in their own right with Murali coming out on top on 13 occasions against the two legends. His favorite teammate has to be Mahela Jayawardene as the former Sri Lankan captain took 77 catches, mostly at slip, off his bowling.

When he removed Craig McDermott in his debut Test, it went by unnoticed but by the time Jayawardene held that low catch to get him his 800th (Pragyan Ojha), he had already shaken the world slightly with his world record haul.

-- Mohammad Isam

# Jamal show no love for Brothers

**FROM PAGE 16** Packeer Ali kept national

players like Zahid Hasan Emily, winger Zahid Hossain, Meshu, and defender Rezaul Karim Reza out of his starting eleven to accommodate four foreign recruits. Local defenders Mohammad Sujan and Wali Faisal also found their place in the starting eleven. Cameroonian trio of Loga Bouga, Emmanuel Ayuk and Nigerian Femi Orunnimi justified their inclusion finding the back of the net while Emily and Meshu also proved their scoring touch after coming off the bench.

From the world go, Sheikh Jamal showed their mettle and could have taken the lead inside the first minute but Loga Bouga floated his effort over the crosspiece despite having opposition goalkeeper Atiqul Islam Tareq in a oneon-one situation.

The Dhanmondi-based outfit had to wait till the thirtieth minute to break the deadlock when Ayuk availed a chip from midfielder Mamunul Islam inside the box and fired home after a delightful turnaround (1-0).

Femi twice came close to doubling the lead before Loga Bouga brilliantly placed a Shakil Ahmed cut-back home over the head of Tareq six minutes into the second half.

Brothers' regular goalkeeper Uttam Barua, who however could not save his side from more misery.

Meshu came in place of winger Shakil and played a cute one-two with Femi to advance into the box and send the ball over the advancing goalkeeper to make it 3-0 in the 65th minute. Brothers showed glimpse

of a comeback and hit back in the 77th minute, courtesy of a spot kick converted by Brazilian Everton Souza. But that was the only moment for the Oranges to celebrate, and what followed afterwards was a goal fest.

Packeer Ali sent on Emily in place of injured defender Wali to strengthen the attack and the national striker widened the margin by tapping a low cross from Abdul Baten Komol in the 84th minute while Femi found the back of the net two minutes from time with a harmless drive taken from

outside from the box. Loga Bouga then sealed the match in the stoppage time with a header.

**TEAMS** 

SHEIKH JAMAL: Aminul Haq, Wali Faisal (Zahid Hasan Emily), Mohammad Sujan, Nasirul Islam, Ariful Islam, Mamunul Islam, Shakil

Tareq then was replaced by Ahmed (Atiqur Rahman Meshu), Yoko Samnick, Emanuel Ayuk (Abdul Baten Komol), Stephen Loga Bouga and Femi Orunnimi.

BROTHERS UNION: Atiqul Islam Tareq (Uttam Barua), Yousuf Ali Khan, Danilo Santos, Ashraful Karim, Nahidul Islam, Tanmoy Hossain Toru, Kingsley Chigozie, Everton Souza, Imdadul Haque Monu, Faisal Mahmud (Kabir Hossain) and

Subair Mohammed. Refereee: Hannan Miron

# Ascent

**FROM PAGE 16** 

Nokia Siemens 2-1, Banglalink blanked Santos Sangu 3-0 and Textmart thrashed Green Delta SEC 4-1.

The biggest victory of the

day however went to defending and five time champions Beximco Pharma who hammered a hapless Grey Bangladesh by a 12-1 scoreline. Adil scored 6 goals,

Shumon notched a hattrick

while Sunny got a brace and Mukul scored the other goal for the winners. Gemcon played out a 3-3

draw against QUBEE while IBM got a walkover against Nokia after the mobile giants failed to show up for the fivea-side football meet.