

PHOTO: BANGLARCHOKH Action from yesterday's South East Bank 22nd National Youth Hockey Competition match between Dhaka and Natore at the Maulana Bhasani

NAT'L YOUTH HOCKEY

Three teams in super league

SPORTS REPORTER

Hockey Stadium.

Three teams reached the super league of the Southeast Bank 22nd National Youth Hockey Competition eliminating their respective rivals at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the matches player yesterday, Dinajpur thrashed Munshiganj 10-0, Rangpur beat Satkhira 4-1 and Narail defeated Narayanganj 3-2 to reach the super league stage.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka crushed Natore by 15-0 goals.

Ilievski wants

FROM PAGE 16 to get any response from the

All India Football Federation. Illievski believes that Saudi

Arabia and Iraq would be tough opponents compared to Oman and Maldives in the group-phase battle of the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers. But the Macedonian coach

is very much optimistic about qualifying for the 16-team finals as the champions and runners-up will advance to the

Illievski also praised some players such as midfielder Shahed, striker Sobuj, captain Malek and defender Tapu Barman as he felt these boys would be the key players in the

5 spots up

FROM PAGE 18 snatch the play-off spot by

beating Slovenia. In Group E, the Nether-

lands have a perfect 27 points from nine games and are the tournament's top scorers with 35 goals.

They tackle Sweden, who are already assured of a playoff spot, but a win for the Swedes in Stockholm will ensure automatic qualification as best runners-up.

Sweden suffered a 4-1 defeat in Amsterdam last October, and on Tuesday will be without key striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who picked up a suspension with a yellow card in Friday's win over Finland.

Group G has already been settled with England in top spot and Montengero taking the play-off spot.

Spain had already made sure of qualifying with a perfect seven wins in seven games in Group I and face Scotland in Alicante.

The Scots are second but the Czech Republic, with a better head-to-head record, can snatch a play-off berth by picking up more points in Lithuania than Scotland in Spain.

Ross loss

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"The incident had nothing to do with the resignation. It is just because he could not adjust with the food and weather in Bangladesh. Ross informed us long ago that he would not continue in the position because of illness," he added.

Onus on seniors: Mahela

Cricket

CRICINFO, Colombo

Mahela Jayawardene, the former Sri Lanka captain, has said the senior players in the team have the responsibility of ending Sri Lanka's recent struggles in Tests while at the same time nurturing the next generation of cricketers. Sri Lanka's last Test victory came at Galle against India in July 2010 and this year they have lost series away to England and at home to Australia.

"I think it's our responsibility (as senior players) to make sure that it is a smooth transitional period and at the same time try to build another team for the next 10 years,' Jayawardene said in a release issued by Dubai Sports City. "We might not be here for that long but while we are we have to make sure that we build a team, make sure that these guys are comfortable and they will take Sri Lanka cricket on for the next 10 to 15 years and try and improve on what everyone else has done.

"I think we've achieved quite a bit in Sri Lanka cricket in the past 20 years, there are a lot of people who are part and parcel of that and we have carried that forward, and hopefully the next generation will do the same."

Sri Lanka will have a chance to break their losing streak when they take on Pakistan in three Tests in the UAE, the first of which

starts on October 18, and Jayawardene said the team remains positive despite its current barren run. "Yes, we haven't won a Test match for a good year-and-a-half, but I think we've played some really good cricket and we have had our opportunities. We just need to push a bit more and create a few more opportunities and grab hold of them."

Jayewardene also admitted the retirement of Muttiah Muralitharan -- the spinner's last Test was also Sri Lanka's last win -- has been difficult to overcome. "Murali has taken 800 Test wickets, the most by any bowler in world cricket, so you know that with him in the side he is going to create something for you, even in tougher situations.

"Most of the time he breezes through lineups, but even in tough times he is going to create that opportunity for you to change the game, he is a magician, and obviously without him it's a big hole to fill."

Sri Lanka have turned to offspinner Suraj Randiv and left-arm spinner Rangana Herath to fill Mural's shoes, and Jayawardene said the pair need to carry that mantle. "There are a couple of young spinners who have played with Murali and have performed really well and who now have to take the burden and carry the attack."

Sri Lanka will play three Tests, five Oneday Internationals and a Twenty20 International against Pakistan.

Focus on new regime

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behind the decision, so it would be interesting to see how the new skipper regroups his team after that episode.

"We couldn't get the results we expected during the last tour. I want the team to perform as a unit. The difference that I want to create is finding positive results," said Mushfiqur about his vision.

If there is a point for Mushfigur to prove as captain, then Law is also faced with a big challenge as many think that this series will provide a concrete impression of his strategies and plans for the Tigers. Compared to his first assignment the Australian got ample time to prepare the

"You don't want to put that

much pressure on two players.

Obviously they're fine players

of all cricket; we need them to

turn up tomorrow and con-

has a job in the field to do.

Shakib's got a job in all three

facets of the game. I'd rather

see eleven guys performing

missing their gun batsmen --

Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo and

Kieron Pollard -- who are pre-

dictably in form at the same

time the West Indies are play-

which the selectors have

given to us. We won a game

against England. Whenever

Chris Gayle comes back, he

will be welcomed into the

setup," said Sammy. Pollard,

meanwhile, is not eligible

for today's game as he has-

n't played a domestic

averted the Gayle-Bravo-

Pollard trinity, they will have to

grapple with their utter lack of

experience in this format. They

haven't played a T20 at home

since 2006 and none anywhere

in 17 months, while their oppo-

nents have played nine over the

Though the Tigers have

Twenty20.

"We have a team now

ing an international series.

Conversely, the visitors are

extremely well," said Law.

"Tamim only bats but he

FROM PAGE 16

tribute in all areas.

team for the series against the Caribbean cricketers. As a coach he has a plan, and now everyone will be scrutinising how his plans are translated into action in the middle by his charges.

Each and every coach has their own mantra and Law is no exception. "It's about playing smart cricket," were the words from the Australian when he talked at the official press conference.

"I'm trying to bring about some changes. Bangladesh have been at the same level for

some time," added Law. Now everybody has to wait to see what new changes are brought through Law's "smart cricket" mantra.

become a worry, especially

Iwo stars & sans stars same period. It has already

> with the World Twenty20 less reserved Strauss. than a year away. "The boys have played 16 games in five years, that's not a lot of Twenty20 cricket. It would be nice to get a couple of competitions, especially before the World Cup next year," said Law as his team takes on a line-up those natural leaders. that has recently beaten

Bangladesh

England in the format.

FROM PAGE 16

The feat is even more praiseworthy given the fact that there is no culture of beach football in the country and the booters had only five days worth of preparation before leaving for the island nation. In the other events of the

day, the women's kabaddi team lost to hosts Sri Lanka by 48-40 points. The kabaddi team had also lost to India on the previous day. Bangladesh's swimmer Palash finished fifth amongst six competitors in the marathon swimming event, clocking 1 hr 5 min 59 seconds.

Bangladesh are participating in five events in these games: football, kabaddi, bodybuilding, long-distance swimming and surfing.

'KP not made for captaincy'

Graeme Swann believes Kevin

CRICINFO, London

Pietersen is not a natural captain and has claimed the batsman was never the right man to lead England. Swann, who captained England himself in the Twenty20s against West Indies last month, suggested that Andrew Strauss's calm leadership style has been central to England's success.

Pietersen was named England captain in August 2008, but his tenure lasted just five months after a much-publicised spat with then-coach Peter Moores. Strauss then took up the role and his harmonious partnership with Andy Flower has seen England crowned the

world's No. 1 Test team. In his new book, The Breaks are Off, Swann claims Pietersen does not command respect in the same way as the more

"There is no doubt that Kev is a good player, a really fine batsman, but he was never the right man to captain England in my opinion," Swann said. "Some people are better leaders of men, and Kev, for all his abundant talent is not one of

"I wouldn't say he was a useless captain, but he wasn't my sort of captain, and we've ended up with the right man. I can't really work out why Strauss demands respect, but he does. I've known him for a long time but there is a line I won't cross with him that I will cross with anyone else. It's the sign of a good leader. I'm in awe of the way he speaks.

"He always seems to press the right buttons with me and says exactly what I'm thinking. He's to the point and meaningful and I'd be really upset with myself if he ever felt it necessary to dress me down."

U-14 tennis

FROM PAGE 16

Ministry of Youth and Sports and director general of BKSP (Incharge) ATM Mustafizur Rahman will inaugurate the four-day meet in the morning.

Wisden to have Indian

AFP, London

edition

Cricket bible Wisden is to launch a separate Indian edition, its publishers revealed on Monday.

Cricket in India is booming and Wisden India will focus on all areas of the Indian game from Test matches through to domestic cricket and has set itself the aim of becoming the independent voice of cricket in the home of the reigning world champions.

"The chance to marry Wisden's age-old strengths with the 21st century home of the game was too good to ignore," added Wisden editor Lawrence Booth.

The first edition will launch in October 2012 with the pool of writers expected to include some of the great Indian players as well as respected journalists. Founded in 1864, Wisden

has been published every year since and is recognised around the world as the definitive record of the game. Bloomsbury sells about

40,000 editions of Wisden each year, but the potential in the Indian sub-continent is 50 times that, said director Richard Charkin.

As well as the book, he also sees huge scope in the mobile phone and internet market, where it will provide commentary and opinions online. A new Wisden India Hall of Fame is to be set up to recognise the greats of the game.

Bloomsbury have signed a long-term licensing agreement with sports marketing group FidelisWorld for Wisden India, with the deal also covering Pakistan Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and North America, which has a large Indian ex-pat market.

£1m can buy a Test?

Cricket

AFP, London

A Brish sports agent representing two Pakistani cricketers accused of a betting scam told an undercover reporter that Test matches could be thrown for 1 million pounds, a court in London heard Monday.

The claim emerged as the former investigations editor for Rupert Murdoch's nowdefunct News of the World tabloid, Mazher Mahmood, gave evidence at the trial of ex-Pakistan cricket captain Salman Butt and bowler Mohammad Asif. The jury heard an audio recording of the

two cricketers' agent Mazhar Majeed talking to the reporter during a secretly recorded conversation in a car, and outlining the prices for different forms of fixing.
"There is massive, massive money in

this," Majeed was heard to say in the recording played to Southwark Crown Court. Majeed said that for a "bracket" -- where

bets are made on incidents during a certain period of play -- the cost could be between 50,000 and 80,000 pounds (78,000 and 125,000 dollars).

"For a result, Twenty20 is about 400,000 pounds and Test matches, depending on the situation, is about 1 million pounds."

He said that he was dealing with a contact in India, adding: "Indian bookmakers, think of how many millions are bet on these games."

Mahmood gave evidence behind a screen after the judge made an order banning publication of descriptions of his appearance or sketches because the journalist has argued his security could be compromised.

Butt and Asif plead not guilty to charges of conspiracy to obtain and accept corrupt payments, and conspiracy to cheat at gambling.

Prosecutors said at the opening of the trial last week that the pair had agreed to bowl no-balls as part of a spot-fixing scam.

Young Pakistan bowler Mohammad Aamer and Majeed have also been charged with the same offences but are not standing trial alongside Butt and Asif. The judge has told the jury there is "nothing sinister" in their absence.

The News of the World was closed down in July amid a public outcry over revelations that a private investigator working for the paper had hacked the voicemail of a missing teenage girl who was later found murdered.

Andy survives Lu scare

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

A frustrated Andy Roddick dug deep to beat Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 at the Shanghai Masters Monday and avoid a second ignominious first-round exit in a week in China.

The American 10th seed, who lost to Lu at Wimbledon last year in their most recent meeting, started the match in blistering form, breaking twice and racing into a 4-0 lead, taking the first set 6-2.

But the Taiwanese world number 74 hit back strongly in the second set, striking a stunning two-handed back-

hand down the line to force a break for a 3-1 lead, which proved enough to level the match against an erratic it," said Roddick. Roddick. Clearly unsettled, the

American voiced his frustration at noise and movement in the sparse crowd and at a ball-boy, but he refocused and crucially broke in the

fourth game of the decider.

Roddick, ousted from the first round of the Beijing Open by South Africa's Kevin Anderson last week, kept his grip as the Lu challenge faded, breaking again to seal the match in a little under two hours.

"He plays so high risk. You know, a lot of it's two sets



Andy Roddick of the US pumps his fist in celebration after beating Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan in the first round of the Shanghai Masters in Shanghai yesterday. Roddick won 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

PHOTO: AFP

with two breaks, one set where I had more break opportunities and didn't get

"You know, overall I

thought it was pretty good, save four games maybe." The American former world number one said it

had been "the toughest year I've had." "I feel like I've been starting and stopping a lot. You know, I'm going to probably

have to adjust how I go about things a little bit more," he added. "I think the frustrating thing is a lot of times, when I've done the work, I haven't felt terrible about my tennis,

but I've been unprepared a lot of the time this year," he Earlier, former world number three David Nalbandian eased into the

second round, beating Latvia's Ernests Gulbis 7-5, Nalbandian, a member of the Argentinian team that beat Novak Djokovic's Serbia in last month's Davis

But the 29-year-old was too good for his higherranked opponent, breaking Gulbis (ranked 51) twice in the first set and then once more in the second set to

seal the win.

Wimbledon quarterfinalist Bernard Tomic beat Kevin Anderson 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 in a match dominated by serve, with Australia's Tomic forcing the only break of the contest in the decider.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT SPELL-CASTING

WOMAN IS A CHAMPION CRICKET PLAYER.

ONE MIGHT SAY SHE'S A WICKET WITCH.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H