SPORT

DRS in SL-Eng Tests

Cricket

CRICINFO, Colombo

The Decision Review System (DRS) will be used for the upcoming two-Test series between Sri Lanka and England but the Hot Spot technology will not be available, leaving the Snickometer as the only tool to decide decisions on catches.

The ball-tracking technology will be provided by Hawk-Eye, Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Nishantha Ranatunga has said.

The version of the DRS used in the series will be the same as the one used in Sri Lanka's previous home series, against Australia in August-September last year. There had been doubts before that series over whether SLC would be able to afford the technology required for the system, given their financial crunch, but the DRS was used then, though without the expensive Hot Spot, and will be used again for the series against England. The ICC, in October last year, removed the mandatory requirements for the DRS, leaving the decision of what technology to use to the participating boards in a series.

The last time the DRS was used in Sri Lanka, Hawk-Eye admitted there had been a tracking mistake that led to Phil Hughes being adjudged lbw during the first Test, in Galle. There was a visible discrepancy between Hawk-Eye's graphic and television replays for Hughes' dismissal, the umpires referred the incident to the ICC, and Hawk-Eye admitted there had been a mistake, mainly due to the small distance between where the ball pitched

and the point of contact with the pad.

The absence of Hot Spot also became an issue during that series when, in the second Test, wicketkeeper Brad Haddin was convinced Tharanaga Paranavitana had gloved a ball down the leg side to him, but was denied due to a lack of evidence. ""It's pretty hard with those ones in general for umpires where it comes off the glove or the hip or the bat. It's pretty hard with no Hot Spot as well; it's hard to make a decision. I was pretty confident then that we got some glove," Haddin had said of the incident.

England, though, have had issues with the Hot Spot technology. During their home series against India last summer, Stuart Broad suggested Hot Spot does not show faint edges, after England were convinced VVS Laxman had edged a ball but survived a referral, at Trent Bridge.

There were also a couple of flashpoints surrounding the DRS during England's recent Test series in Pakistan in the UAE. In the second Test, a not-out lbw decision against Mohammad Hafeez was overturned despite the fact that Hot Spot appeared to show a faint inside edge, and an lbw against Stuart Broad in the third Test, when he had got his front foot well down the pitch, raised the question of whether the DRS had swung things too much in favour of the bowlers.

While Hawk-Eye will be used in Sri Lanka, its rival ball-tracking provider Virtual Eye was called into question by South Africa's Jacques Kallis and New Zealand's Doug Bracewell after the Dunedin Test. Virtual Eye threatened to pull out of the series due to the criticism but were persuaded to stay on by the ICC.

Nupur suing Sunday Times

ICC won't investigate WC semifinal

Cricket

REUTERS, Mumbai

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has dismissed a Sunday Times report that it will investigate a 2011 World Cup semifinal for match-fixing while a Bollywood actress said she would sue the newspaper for using what she said was her picture with the story.

The British newspaper said on Sunday that Indian bookmakers, with the help of a Bollywood actress, had been fixing the results of English County Championship matches and international games.

It said it had evidence that tens of thousands of pounds were being offered to players to throw part or all of international matches, including last year's World Cup semifinal between India and Pakistan.

"The story carried by the newspaper, in which it has claimed that the ICC is investigating the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 semifinal between India and Pakistan, is baseless and misleading," ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat said in a statement.

"The ICC has no reason or evidence to require an investigation into this match.

"It is indeed sad for spurious claims to be made which only serve to caste doubt on the

semifinal of one of the most successful ICC CricketWorld Cups ever," Lorgat said.

One of the bookmakers cited in the report said at least two New Zealand cricketers were also involved in fixing matches.

Nupur Mehta, a Bollywood actress who has appeared in two films, said a picture used for the story, of a skimpily-clad woman with her faced blurred, was of her.

"All I can say is that the journalist from the Sunday Times must be completely in love with me to make me famous in India and New Zealand, and even in London itself," Mehta told Reuters by telephone on Tuesday.

Mehta, who said she had modelled in Paris and Milan before moving to Bollywood, said she was consulting a lawyer and would send a legal notice to the newspaper in the next day or two.

"I have no linkage with these kind of people," she said.

Match-fixing claims have haunted cricket, and former Essex bowler Mervyn Westfield recently became the first English cricketer to be jailed for corruption after admitting that he took money to fix a match against Durham in September 2009.

Last year, Pakistan players Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir were also jailed in Britain for their role in a spotfixing scandal involving a Test match against England at Lord's in August 2010.

We have three double-

hundred partnerships and we

understand each other's

games. We run well and don't

need to talk too much. I am

happy that we got the partner-

ship and we each got hun-

is living up to his reputation as

the next big thing in Indian

cricket, hopefully past the

Iwin-ton up

for India claiming three wick-

ets while Ashwin also took

three wickets to script the easy

Indian win after the mastery of

After the dismissal of

Tendulkar, who had waited for

the third umpire's clearance on

whether Jayawardene took the

catch cleanly at extra-cover,

new vice-captain Kohli joined

Gambhir and right from the

beginning he looked settled in.

Both batsmen played sensibly,

milking singles and punishing

the bad balls only, before

boundaries while Kohli also

struck seven boundaries to

'angry young man' stage.

FROM PAGE 16

Gambhir and Kohli.

Definitely Kohli is a man who

dreds," added Kohli.

Kohli the real deal

FROM PAGE 16

on February 28 where Kohli and the rest destroyed Sri Lanka quite easily. At the Shere-Bangla National Stadium, it was Kohli's second successive century though this was more restrained as he took time to settle down and let Gambhir flow freely at the other end. Their stand began when Sachin Tendulkar timed a Suranga Lakmal full-toss right into Mahela Jayawardene's lap at short cover.

From then on, Kohli and Gambhir didn't allow the Lankans a sniff. A limited bowling attack also didn't help, although the pair never really put too much emphasis on the big hits. None of the overs during their partnership even reached the double-figure mark but runs kept flowing.

At one stage during their stand, both batsmen were batting on 99 and it was Kohli who reached the landmark first, off 115 balls. A ball later, Gambhir pulled the ball into the gap to reach his one off 116

dence for both batsmen as Kohli celebrated his first game as vice-captain with the big score. Who did he inherit the position from? Gautam Gambhir, whose celebrations after reaching the century showed what it meant for him.

but it doesn't change my position in the team," said man-of-the-match Kohli at the end of the game. "It is the same as it was before. I want to score more runs to help the

years apart, are not known to be the greatest of friends but are from the same city and have played first-class cricket together since 2006. But it seems Kohli, who played his first match in 2008, is quickly catching up to the senior pro as he already has ten ODI tons, as many as Gambhir has reached after making his

Muktis back on top

attacks. And they came close to taking the lead in the 49th minute, but the woodwork denied the Reds again as Mithun's header came off the far post. Sheikh Russel goalkeeper Biplob Bhattarcharjee too proved vital as he made two brilliant saves to deny Muktijoddha the lead.

Muktijoddha were dealt a blow in the 74th minute when defender Rezaul Karim was given the marching orders for a second bookable offence, but that hardly changed their approach as they continued in that attacking vein.

In the 77th minute, Mamunul missed the easiest opportunity as he sent the ball wide of the target from inside the six-yard box but he redeemed himself a minute later as he turned the provider for the decisive goal. Mamun put a defence-splitting through ball for Sunday, who raced past the advancing goalkeeper before placing the ball at the back of the Sheikh Russel net to seal the fate of the match. "Despite being reduced to 10 men, we played according to

our initial plan and the decisive goal was the outcome of our efforts," said Muktijoddha coach Shafiqul Islam adding that the way his charges played in the second half proved decisive. His counterpart Maruful Haque expressed his disappointment

at the losing streak and has seemingly thrown in the towel already. "In spite of all the motivational talk from the team management, the players are failing to deliver on the pitch because they don't believe that they can win the title," said Maruf.

debut back in 2003. "It is balls, his first international hundred in two years. always special to bat with him.

It was a strange coinci-

"It is a great honour for me team win."

The two batsmen, seven

reaching their centuries in the 42nd over. Both however departed in the following over, holing out in the deep. Gambhir smashed 100 off 118 balls with seven

make 108 runs from 120 balls. The double-strike in the 43rd over hardly made any impact on the scoring rate of the Indians as skipper Dhoni and Suresh Raina plundered some wayward bowling towards the end. The two took full advantage of the Lankans' indiscipline bowling as they

added 78 runs off 43 balls. Dhoni clobbered six boundaries and a six during his unbeaten 26-ball 46 while Raina contributed unbeaten 30 off 17 deliveries that contained three fours and a six.

Butt's baby denied visa to Britain

AFP, Lahore

Britain has denied the baby son of Pakistan's jailed former captain Salman Butt a visa, crushing the family's hopes of visiting him behind bars, his father said Tuesday.

Butt and two of his other teammates, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif, were sentenced by a British court last November for spot-fixing during the 2010 Lord's Test against England.

Butt was sentenced for 30 months and Asif for 12 months. Aamer served half his six-month suspended sentence and was released last month.

Butt's father Zulfiqar said his daughter-in-law Gul "wanted to take both her sons to meet their father but the youngest son Ayan was refused a visa by the British High Commission for a second time".

Ayan was born just minutes after Butt was sentenced on November 3 last year and he has never seen his father.

Zulfiqar said the mother and the elder son had valid visas.

"The refusal of a visa for the younger son has halted their visit and we are considering appealing on humanitarian grounds," Zulfiqar told AFP.

The British High Commission in Islamabad said it could not comment on individual visa applications.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 16

Jhenaidah, Magura and Chuadanga. Pabna, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Bagura and Natore will play in Pabna zone while Rangpur zone consists of Dinajpur, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Pabna and Rangpur.

Patuakhali, Barguna, Jhalakathi and Pirozpur will play in Barisal zone.

Bangla Channel Swimming

The First International Bangla Channel Marathon Swimming will be held on March 17 with two English channel winners taking part in it, said a press release yesterday.

Lipton Sarker, who swam across the Bangla Channel six times, will accompany Dutch swimmer Van Gool Milko and Italian swimmer Ferer Tulio in the 16.1 kilometre-length channel which starts from Teknaf Fisheries jetty and ends

at the St. Martin Island jetty. At a press conference, Everest conquer Musha Ibrahim announced his target to cross the English Channel in 2014 and organisers also declared that they would arrange another international Bangla Channel Swimming in 2013 with the participation of swimmers from SAARC nations.

School football

Rayerpara High School, Sribordi APPI Higher Secondary School and Tarash Islamia Pilot High School became champions in their respective upazilas in the National School Football Islami Bank Tournament yesterday. Rayerpara High School beat Gajaria Bhashania Alim Madrasa 4-3 to become champion in Gajaria upazila of Mushiganj, Sribordi defeated Kakilakura High School 5-0 to emerge champion in the Sribordi upazila of Sherpur while Tarash beat Gultabazar High School 2-0 to become champion in the Tarash upazila of Sirajganj district.

U-16 cricket

FROM PAGE 16 deal with the Bangladesh

Cricket Board for the next three years that also gave them the added opportunity to explore the possibility of setting up a cricket academy. Standard Chartered Bank

head of corporate affairs Bitopi Das Chowdhury, BCB's game development manager Nazmul Abedin, acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury and game development committee member Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury were present on the occasion.



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark celebrates winning a point against Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden during their women's singles match in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells in California on Monday.

Novak beats Kevin again four points in the final game.

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

World number one Novak Djokovic continued his domination over Kevin Anderson, rolling over the South African 6-2, 6-3 in the third round of the ATP-WTA Indian Wells tournament on Monday.

Top seed Djokovic has now beaten Anderson four straight times, including three matches in 2011. After winning the Australian Open, defending champion Djokovic is now 12-1 for the season in his third tournament. He will be hard-pressed to match his per-

formance of last year when he had one of the best seasons in the history of the sport, but he is showing no signs of slowing down either. The 24-year-old Serb advances to the fourth round, where he will play Spaniard Pablo

Andujar, who beat countryman Albert Ramos 7-6(7/5), 6-4.Djokovic had five aces, was a perfect three-

percent of his first-serve points in the 97minute match. He broke Anderson twice in the first set and once in the second to go up 4-2, closing out the

contest on his first match point when Anderson smacked a forehand wide. Australian qualifier Matthew Ebden sur-

prised Mardy Fish, beating the eighthseeded American 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the fourth round. The 24-year-old Ebden said the win over

the US number one was the biggest win of his career.

Ebden took his chance at 4-4 in the second set when the umpire called a hindrance penalty against Fish, who had called out a "Come on" before the ball was dead.

Fish lost his cool with the umpire and Ebden ended up breaking serve to go ahead 5-4. He served out for the match, winning all

37 Top

38 Old

39 Bronze

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PALEBLINDERS

ABODE GRIN

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DOWN

The Durban, South African-born Ebden,

who now lives in Perth, Australia, is ranked 91st in the world and came into the tournament with a modest 4-5 record.

Playing for the first time since their epic three-

Ebden will next face another American, John Isner, who beat Juan Monaco of Argentina 7-5, 7-5. It was a mixed day for the Aussies on Monday.

hour, 16-minute match at the US Open last year, Nadia Petrova outlasted Australia's Samantha Stosur in another three-set marathon. This time, Petrova won on the third match point but she needed two hours, 46

minutes to defeat sixth-seeded Stosur 6-1, 6-7(6/8), 7-6(7/5).Stosur, who beat Petrova at the US Open before going on to win her first grand slam title, has lost five of seven career matches to the world number 33 Petrova dating back to

their first meeting at the 2004 US Open. Stosur struggled on her serve, making six for-three on break points saved and won 67 double faults and winning just 43 percent of her second-serve points.

> Just six months ago Stosur became the first Australian woman to win a grand slam since 1980 when she captured the final major of the

year in New York. In other third round matches Monday, second seed Maria Sharapova defeated Romania's Simona Halep 6-3, 6-4 and defending champ Caroline Wozniacki outlasted

unseeded Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden 3-6, 7-5,

Sharapova, who is chasing the world number one ranking, advances to the fourth round, where she will play Roberta Vinci of Italy.

6-2 in the night match.

Wozniacki needed two hours and 37 minutes to oust Arvidsson who was fresh off winning her second WTA Tour career title last month in Memphis.

Yuvi's chemo almost over

PTI, New Delhi

Cricketer Yuvraj Singh, who is undergoing chemotherapy in Boston for a rare germ cell cancer, is in the last leg of his treatment and is eagerly waiting for it to end in the next four days. The flamboyant left-

hander has said that only four days are left for his chemotherapy. "My last stretch 4 more

days to go. Can't wait for it to end. Set me free dear lord," Yuvraj tweeted. Yuvraj had last month

stated that the tumour between his lungs is almost out of his system. Yuvraj, who has been in Boston since last month, is

expected to be back on the field in the first week of May, according to his doctor. The 30-year-old has gone bald during the treatment, which will go on till the last week of March before the

process of rehabilitation starts in April. After being diagnosed with the illness, Yuvraj has not played competitive cricket since taking part in two of three home Tests against the West Indies in

He has so far scored 8,051 runs in 274 one-dayers and 1,775 runs in 37 Tests since making his international debut in 2000.

Nasir upbeat **FROM PAGE 16**

everyone irrespective of

November.

whether Tendulkar is playingit or not."

Back to the opening match, Nasir, who was involved in an 89-run sixth wicket partnership with Shakib Al Hasan, admitted his mistake of getting out at a very crucial time in the match.

"I was a set batsman, so

my dismissal was the turning point in the match. I shouldn't have got out at that stage of the match but I think I played a bit causally; it would have been better if I was tight in my approach at that stage. And then the lower order batsmen could not provide the proper support to win the match," explained the 20-year old all-rounder.

Nasir believed that it's an area where Bangladesh should improve their skills if they want to win matches.

"I think we should improve in this area and we are trying to do that. We went close on several occasions and then we lost. We will try not to repeat it I am also trying for a long time to stay till the end but somehow it doesn't happen and that's a big weakness. Now it's a challenge for me to finish the game if I am settled in the middle," hoped Nasir, who won many close matches in the domestic competition for Abahani.

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MON NLX'ES O QTOK-OPHY.

PLGGSJ JSMMSEP, LKS FHARP

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: INHABITANTS OF

URBAN AREA. THEY'RE WAY OUT IN THE STYX.

HADES DWELL EXTREMELY FAR FROM ANY

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals Y