

Star SPORT

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 4, 2012, E-MAIL: sports@thedailystar.net

MS to lead from front

An honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Parachute Regiment already, India captain MS Dhoni said that he wants to serve in the army post-retirement. "Why I got here is because of cricket. I would like to serve actively only after cricket. I don't want my cricket to suffer because that is something I am good at. Once my cricket career is over, I would definitely like to serve in the army," Dhoni said during a visit to the forward area of the Line of Control (LoC), the line dividing Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir.



'Trust is everything'

Quiet first day for Pybus

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Richard Pybus has said that gaining the confidence of the players would be of paramount importance in his new job.

The newest coach of the Bangladesh cricket team took a look at training yesterday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in his first day in the country after being appointed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board. He will be officially presented later today, but appeared part of the group already.

The 47-year-old Englishman, who has been coaching in South Africa since his twenties and is now settled in Cape Town, was briefly introduced to the national cricketers before having an informal meeting with the national selectors.

He is taking over at a time when Bangladesh cricket is on a high after the success during the Asia Cup, so for Pybus to start from scratch with a settled group of cricketers would be a challenge. But he believes that trust is all it takes to bring out the best in players.

"I think the most important part of my job is to gain trust, the players and I have to trust each other," he said.

"Even before we get into the cricket, I have to understand every player and what he's all about and gain his trust.

"It is very important that we can trust each other and that will help us to work well," he added.

Among other issues, Pybus would have to make new plans for his batsmen after the ICC's cricket committee recommended the number of bouncers permitted in an ODI over be increased to two. Since it is too early for him to make a comment on any cricketing matters, Pybus shared some of his philosophy on different styles of batting.

"Every individual has a different style. Someone can be orthodox and even then can be successful," he said.

Among the few members of the Zimbabwe-bound team who were at the indoor facilities during training yesterday, only Junaed Siddiqui batted in the nets while the rest were bowlers like Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shafiqul Islam, Abdur Razzak, etc.

"After working with a coach for a long time we can understand what is going on in his mind. Naturally every batsman has his individual style and wants to continue with that," said Junaed.

"We are professional cricketers so no matter who comes in as a coach we have to play well. Coach is certainly a factor but we have to adjust to different conditions.

"Today is the first time I'm batting in the nets. I didn't have the chance to talk a lot with him but from what I've seen he looks to be positive," he added.



Bangladesh's new coach Richard Pybus (4th from R) is being introduced to the Tigers during a training session at the Mirpur indoors yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Top seed Victoria felled

Roger through to the quarterfinals

French Open

AFP, Paris

Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia downed top seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to pull off a major upset in fourth round action at the French Open on Sunday.

The 15th seed won 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) to set up a quarterfinal match with either Samantha Stosur of Australia or Sloane Stephens of the United States.

Roger Federer reached the quarterfinals on Sunday with a 5-7, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 win over Belgian lucky loser David Goffin.

The third seed will play either Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina or Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic for a place in the semifinals.

Azarenka won the Australian Open in January and had been expected to coast past Cibulkova having beaten her seven times out of eight previously.

Earlier, Sara Errani of Italy and Angelique Kerber of Germany both reached the quarterfinals at Roland Garros for the first time with straight sets wins.

"I am getting more mature and more tough mentally," said Cibulkova, explaining that she had learned from the experience of losing to Azarenka in Miami earlier this year when leading a set and 5-2.

"I managed to go through these emotions. She was 6-5 up, and I said, hey, come on, you have to play your game again and just make it.

"And for the tiebreak I'm very, very proud of myself that I was still going for my shots, and I just made it because she would never give me the match."

Errani, seeded 21, defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia 6-0, 7-5, while 10th seed Kerber ousted Petra Martic of Croatia 6-3, 7-5.

The pair will meet in the last eight in a top half of the draw which had also

contained Azarenka.

Errani has been the form player on clay this year winning tournaments in Acapulco, Barcelona and Budapest. She also reached the Australian Open quarterfinals in January on hardcourts.

After a tough opening game, Errani took total control as 2009 champion Kuznetsova struggled to put her game together.

Novak Djokovic staged an epic French Open fourth round recovery to defeat Italy's Andreas Seppi 4-6, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 on Sunday and salvage his dream of making Grand Slam history.

The world number one, bidding to become just the third man to hold all four majors at the same time, and first since 1969, struggled in the cold conditions on Philippe Chatrier Court against a player he'd beaten seven times in seven meetings.

"I played very badly, but I won thanks to my fighting spirit," said Djokovic.

Zunapio treble lifts Farashganj

SPORTS REPORTER



Congolese hitman Siyo Zunapio slammed a hat-trick to guide Farashganj Sporting Club to an emphatic 4-0 win over Rahmatganj MFS in their Grameenphone Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Nigerian Akinyele Peter netted the other goal in Farashganj's fourth victory in 15

matches which lifted the Old Dhaka outfit to seventh position with 17 points. Neighbours Rahmatganj remain at the bottom of the 11-team table with nine points from the same number of matches.

The match was equally important for both sides in their bid to avoid relegation and in the end Farashganj's counter-attack based approach was rewarded game and all but ensured safety after putting four



PHOTO: STAR

Farashganj's hat-trick hero Siyo Zunapio celebrates one of his goals.

ASIAN YOUTH CHESS Niaz to coach BD team

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Niaz Murshed is expected to lead Bangladesh team in the upcoming Asian Youth Chess Championship as coach-cum-manager, confirmed a Bangladesh Chess Federation official yesterday.

The tournament which will be held in Sri Lanka from June 24 to July will be participated in by two young chess players from Bangladesh; national sub junior champion Fahad Rahman (U-14) and National Junior champion Abdullah Al Saif (U-16).

Niaz initially volunteered to accompany Fahad for the tournament of his own accord, but later when the newly elected committee of the federation approached him, the first Grand Master of the country decided to accompany the team as coach-cum-manager in the

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

BCB stands by stalwarts

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken the benevolent step of recognising two former cricketers who are suffering from various ailments.

Syed Abdul Majid, better known as Koran bhai in cricketing circles, and Altafuddin Ranu have received Tk 4 lakh each in two parts from the cricket board.

Majid is suffering from old-age complications while Altaf has heart disease.

"It is in recognition of their contribution to cricket in the country, they are not in good health so the BCB is helping them out," said BCB's acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury yesterday.

As a middle-order batsman, Majid's career ran for a decade from 1958 and he played for Dhaka Wanderers Club and Azad Boys before appearing for Mohammedan Sporting Club for nine seasons. He was in the Dhaka district team when it won the 1958-59 zonal tournament. In 2008, he was the National

SEE PAGE 17 COL



Slovakia's unseeded player Dominika Cibulkova (L) is ecstatic after scalping Belarussian world No 1 Victoria Azarenka in their French Open fourth round match at the Roland Garros in Paris yesterday. (INSET) Azarenka walks off the court in disappointment after a match where nothing went her way.

PHOTOS: AFP

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

'Beware' of Azarenka

REUTERS, Paris

If looks could kill, Victoria Azarenka would be leaving Roland Garros in handcuffs.

The world number one, who suffered a surprise exit in the fourth round against Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova at the French Open on Sunday, was in dangerous mood at her news conference afterwards.

Asked what went wrong on Court Suzanne Lenglen, where she lost 6-2, 7-6 to the 15th-seeded Cibulkova, the Belarussian said: "Pretty much everything."

When one reporter wondered aloud what she would do to recover from the shock, Azarenka looked daggers at him and said sarcastically: "I'm going to kill myself." Possibly meaning "you".

Australian Open champion Azarenka, who will not play in another tournament before Wimbledon, was at a loss to explain her defeat.

"I was trying, but before I was at least making something happen myself. Today I couldn't do it," she said.

"I don't know. It was just not going for me. I tried everything. It was just not going. All I could hope was

Pakistan crush Sri Lanka

Cricket

SPORT DESK

Brilliant batting by Shahid Afridi and a fiery bowling performance drove Pakistan to a 23-run series-levelling victory over Sri Lanka in the second and final Twenty20 international yesterday.

Chasing a modest 123, Sri Lanka ran into a roadblock as Kumar Sangakkara fell in the fourth over to Yasir Arafat with the score on 19. Four balls later, Arafat removed Nuwan Kulasekara who was sent in as a pinch-hitter.

Tillakaratne Dilshan hit four boundaries in his 18 before having his stumps disturbed by a Shahid Afridi quicker ball. By then, with a run rate below five, Sri Lanka were on the ropes as Pakistan took full advantage of the difficult batting conditions.

Chamara Kapugedera, Dinesh Chandimal and Lahiru Thirimanne all got starts but their innings were snuffed out before they could do any damage. Pakistan's mixture of high quality pace and spin reduced the Lankans to 85 for six, needing 38 to win off 22 balls with only one specialist batsman in Angelo Mathews left. But he was always fighting a losing battle as the fiery Mohammad Sami and the cunning Saeed Ajmal cleaned up the tail without fuss. Sami and Arafat picked up three each, while Afridi scalped two.

Earlier, after Pakistan chose to bat first, Afridi smashed an unbeaten 52 off 33 balls to help Pakistan score a competitive 122-6.

Pakistan were struggling at 41-4 before all-rounder Afridi steadied the innings with a 68-run stand for the fifth wicket with Shoaib Malik, who hit three successive fours off leg-spinner Kaushal Lokurachchi in his 26-ball 27.

Afridi, who became the first player to appear in 50 T20 internationals, hit one six and five fours in his fourth half-century.