

Jose unhappy with Xavi-Iker friendship

The father of Xavi has revealed that Spain captain Iker Casillas got into trouble with Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho because of his friendship with the Barcelona midfielder.

Although Casillas and Xavi managed to put any conflicts aside off the field to contribute to Spain's success, Mourinho was unhappy that his skipper remained friends with a rival player.

"Iker got into a lot of trouble with Mourinho over his friendship with Xavi. These problems became public last season and everybody knows about it. Xavi and Iker never had any intention to end their friendship," the Barcelona star's



Former world number one Roger Federer pumps his fist after defeating the defending champion Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon semifinal in London yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

ICC U-19 WORLD CUP

Major overhaul in squad



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) brought in major changes when they announced a 15-member Bangladesh Under-19 squad for the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2012 to be held in Brisbane, Australia in August.

The board made the changes following the team's failure to qualify for the semi-finals of the Asia Cup, where they were eliminated by Afghanistan and Sri Lanka during the group stage.

Anamul Haque, the wicketkeeper batsman who was ignored from the national side's Europe trip, was not only retained for duty in the junior side but was also made captain for the mega event while Quazi Nurul Hasan was appointed his deputy.

In another major move, former national team coach Sarwar Imran has been given the task of taking care of the under-19 side till

the World Cup as the head coach. Zafrul Ehsan, who worked with the team for the last one and a half years, was discharged from his duties due to the Asia Cup debacle.

Besides Anamul three other key players in Liton Kumar Das, Taskin Ahmed and Abu Jayed Chowdhury were included in the team after they recovered from their injuries and selector Sajjad Ahmed Shipon believes that the inclusion of four major players will help strengthen the squad.

"It's nice that we got back four of our vital players for the World Cup. We are now really confident with this team. The presence of Anamul and Liton definitely changes the whole scenario in the top order batting. And this is for the first time we got the full strength team," said Shipon.

Coach Sarwar Imran, who had resigned from the BCB last December, also expressed his optimism as he believes that this team has the potential to play good cricket in the World Cup.

"I am going to get three-four weeks to

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



ANAMUL HAQUE

Wins for Sonali and Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER

Title contenders Abahani and Sonali Bank won their respective matches of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Abahani thrashed Bangladesh Police 9-1 after leading the first half 7-0. Pakistani Kashim Ali scored three goals while Hasan Jubair Niloy and Iqbal Nadir Prince netted two goals each for Abahani who also saw Sabbir Khan and Yeamin Hossain hit the scoreboard of the opponents. Rana Das scored the consolation goal for Bangladesh Police.

In the other match, Sonali Bank defeated Bangladesh SC 4-2 after leading the first half 3-1.

Pak-Aussie schedule out

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Thursday finally announced a limited over series schedule against Australia, delaying the matches to late in the evening to avoid the heat in the United Arab Emirates, the cricket board said.

Pakistan had to search for the venue for the series after Sri Lanka refused to host the matches as they clashed with their premier league season.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also considered Kuala Lumpur and Malaysia, which was ruled out over the danger of monsoon rains.

But Australian Cricket Association fears over excessive heat in the UAE were allayed by scheduling the day-night matches as late as 6pm.

"The matches will be held in the UAE from 28 August until 10 September. The series will comprise three one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals," the PCB said in a statement.

FIXTURES

- First ODI: August 28 - Sharjah
- Second ODI: August 31 - Abu Dhabi
- Third ODI: September 3 - Sharjah
- 1st Twenty20: September 5 - Dubai
- Second Twenty20: September 7 - Dubai

Federer stuns Djokovic, reaches record 8th final

AFP, London



Six-time champion Roger Federer reached a record eighth Wimbledon final on Friday when he defeated world number one and defending champion Novak Djokovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

In the pair's 27th meeting but first on grass, Federer booked his place in his 24th Grand Slam final where he will face either Andy Murray or Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Victory on Sunday will take the 30-year-old level with Pete Sampras's record of seven Wimbledon wins, allow him to reclaim the world number one ranking and clinch a 17th career Grand Slam crown.

Djokovic, who was bidding to reach a fifth successive Grand Slam final, had defeated Federer six times in their last seven meetings.

But Federer, playing in a record 23rd successive major semi-final, was not to be denied as he buried the heartache of having been knocked out in the quarter-finals in the last two years.

He also took his record of semi-final victories to eight out of eight at the All England Club.

"I'm ecstatic. I played a great match

today. Novak played great in the first two sets too, but the third set was key," said Federer.

"I stepped it up then. He had a break points in the ninth game of the third set. It was a tough match."

Federer said he was delighted to be back in the final, having lost in the quarter-finals to Tomas Berdych in 2010 and Tsonga last year.

"It was a shock for some people when I lost to Berdych, but not for me. They said 'How are we going to survive a Wimbledon final without you?'"

"I just went on vacation and prepared for my next tournaments."

With Indian cricket superstar Sachin Tendulkar and pop singer Kylie Minogue watching from the Royal Box, Federer provided the early entertainment by easing to the first set in just 24 minutes.

The Swiss earned the break point he needed in the sixth game when Djokovic, who fell on the surface made slippy by the closed roof above, could only net a running backhand.

A shout from the crowd then caused Djokovic to check his service motion and Federer pounced with a low return which the Serb could only dump into the net.

Federer served up two successive aces in the ninth game to lay the founda-

tion for wrapping up the opening set.

Djokovic, who came back from two sets to love down to beat Federer in the semi-finals of the US Open last year, hit back in the second set, breaking with a razor-sharp backhand down the line for a 2-0 lead.

The match was level when the champion fired his fifth ace of the contest to take the second set.

A Djokovic double fault then gave Federer break point in the sixth game of the third which the Serb saved after a brutal, 23-shot rally.

Another fierce exchange, this time 26 shots, gave Federer a second break point but Djokovic's iron defence kept him level at 3-3.

However, Federer carved out two set points in the 10th game when Djokovic missed an easy overhead.

The champion saved the first but Federer converted the second with a leaping smash into an open court.

Federer was suddenly and comfortably on top, capitalising on a loose Djokovic service game to break for a 2-0 lead in the fourth set.

Djokovic was under siege and fought off three break points to hang on at 4-2 down.

But Federer claimed victory in the ninth game on his first match point when Djokovic netted a service return.



World's number one all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (C) gets all prepared as Mahmudullah Riyad (R) catches his attention during the Tigers' training at the National Cricket Academy in Mirpur on Thursday, ahead of their Europe tour. PHOTO: STAR

Five Bangladeshi players in SLPL



AGENCIES

Former Bangladesh captain and world's number one all-rounder Shakib-Al Hasan and dashing left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal will be among five Bangladeshi cricketers to feature in the inaugural Sri Lanka Premier League (SLPL) which will be held in Colombo and Pallekele from August 10-31. Apart from those two, current Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim, left-arm spinner Elias Sunny and all-rounder Nasir Hossain were the other three mentioned in the list of 56 foreign players picked by the seven franchisees via a draft system in Colombo on Thursday, announced Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

The list is dominated by players from Australia (18) and Pakistan (13), which also includes a host of current, former and upcoming players from Bangladesh, New Zealand, the West Indies and South Africa.

Former Bangladesh skipper Shakib will be playing for Uthura while his deputy Tamim will represent Wayamba. Mushfiq, Sunny and Nasir were scooped by the Nagenahira franchise.

The foreign players will play alongside leading Sri Lankan stars like skipper Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan and Lasith Malinga for seven provincial franchise teams. Sri Lanka's domestic players were to be drafted on Friday.

Unlike the televised players' auctions in the IPL, the cricketers contracted to the SLPL were divided among the seven teams by a draft system that was held behind closed doors in Colombo on Thursday.

The cricket board has so far declined to name the owners of

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

Handball returns after 7-yr hiatus

SPORTS REPORTER

After a seven-year gap, the First Division Handball League gets underway from tomorrow at the Shaheed M Mansur Ali National Handball Federation with only six teams taking part in the round-robin matches.

"It was our failure not to hold the first division league regularly, but we promise to keep it continuing from this season," said Bangladesh Handball Federation general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinor at a press conference at the handball stadium yesterday.

The participating teams are Mansur SC, Satirtha Club, Purbachal Parishad, Jatrabari Sporting Academy, Prime SC and Arambagh KS as two teams will qualify for the Premier Division League while four teams from the second division will join the second division league.

Sponsor Orient Bred would provide Tk one lakh out of estimated budget of Tk 2.34 lakh, informed Kohinor.



Community Legal Services (CLS)  
Maxwell Stamp Ltd., House 333, Road 113, Gulshan, Dhaka

The Community Legal Services (CLS) Project is announcing the call for concept notes as open to the public. Eligible Bangladeshi NGOs are invited to send their concept notes to the CLS Project Office. The details of the concept note process, as well as a concept note template, are found in the Grants link of the project website:

www.communitylegalservice.org

The deadline for the submission of the concept notes is 22 July 2012, Sunday at 4:00pm. Shortlisted concept notes shall be requested to submit a full proposal at a later stage.



CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES