

Star SPORT

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Diego to become father again

Argentinian football legend Diego Maradona is set to become a father again for the fourth time, his partner Veronica Ojeda revealed on Friday. "I'm four months pregnant," Ojeda, 34, told Ciudad.com.

The 51-year-old Maradona has two daughters - Dalma, 25, and Giannina, 23 - from his marriage to Claudia Villafane, and a 26-year-old son, Diego Jr, born following an affair with Italian Claudia Sinagra when he was playing for Napoli.

Diego is already a grandfather as Giannina is married to Manchester City striker Sergio Agüero, and they have a three-year-old son Benjamin.



AUS-WISSCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES	R	B	4	6
Smith b Starc	2	5	0	0
Gayle c and b Watson	54	33	5	4
Charles b Christian	16	12	2	1
Samuels c Warner b Hogg	50	32	3	4
Bravo b Cummins	27	21	1	1
Pollard c Hussey b Watson	10	8	2	0
Sammy c Warner b Starc	12	7	1	1
Ramdin b Starc	3	2	0	0
Rampaul not out	0	0	0	0
Narine not out	4	1	1	0
Extras: (lb 10, w 2, nb 1)	13			
Total: (for 8 wks)	191			
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-47, 3-93, 4-140, 5-162, 6-171, 7-187, 8-187.				

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Watson	4	0	29	2
Starc	4	0	35	3
Cummins	4	1	41	1
Christian	3	0	29	1
Hogg	4	0	30	1
Maxwell	1	0	17	0
AUSTRALIA	R	B	4	6
Warner c Ramdin b Edwards	28	14	3	2
Watson not out	41	24	2	3
Hussey not out	28	19	3	1
Extras: (w 1, nb 2)	3			
Total: (for 1 wk in 9.1 overs)	100			
Fall of wicket: 1-30.				

BOWLER	O	M	R	W
Edwards	2	0	16	1
Rampaul	1.1	0	23	0
Narine	2	0	16	0
Sammy	2	0	15	0
Samuels	1	0	22	0
Bravo	1	0	8	0

Result: Australia won by 17 runs (Duckworth)

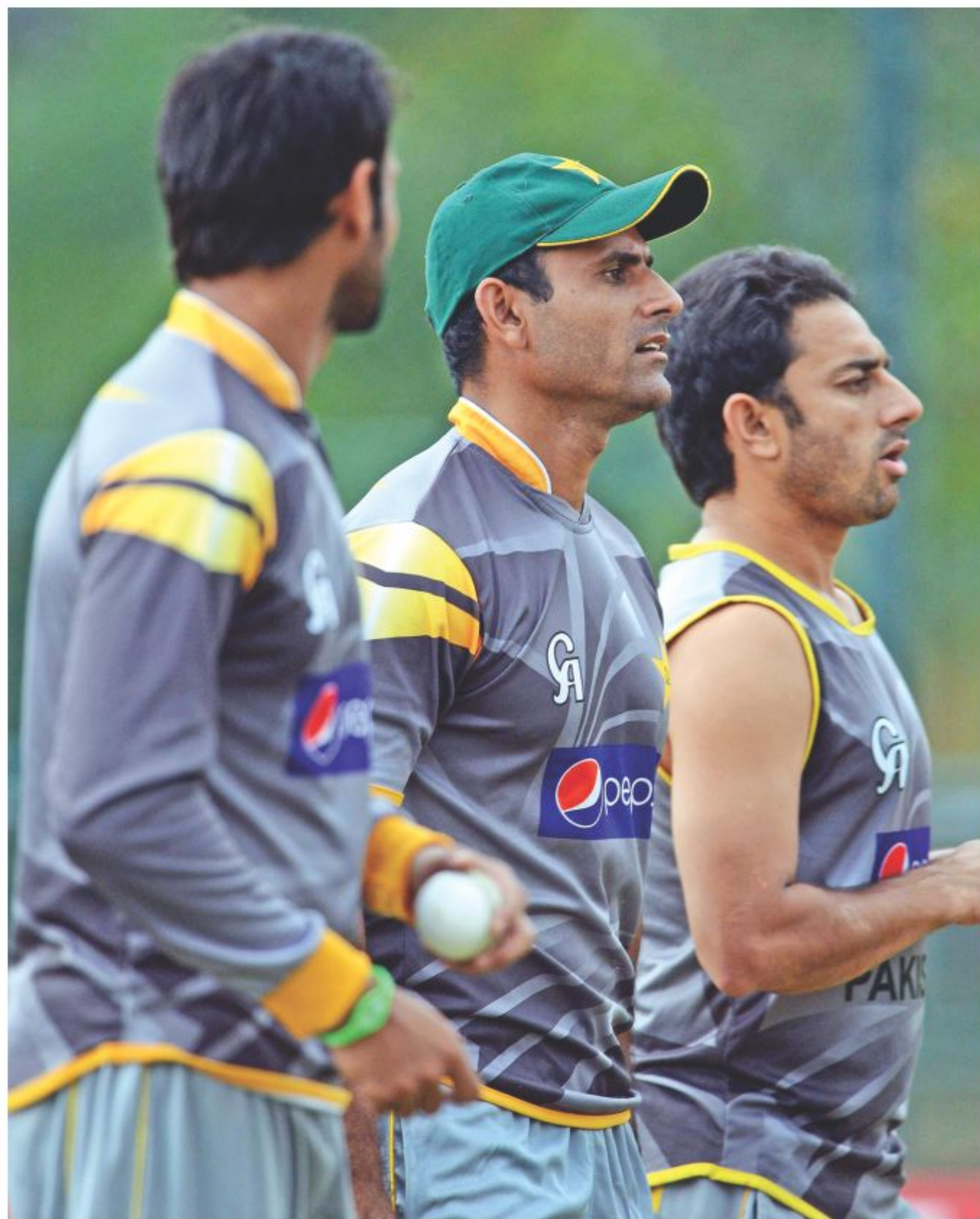
ASIAN U-14 TENNIS Rubel, Safina's double crown

SPORTS REPORTER

Rubel Hossain and Shah Safina won double crowns in the Asian U-14 Series Tennis Competition which concluded at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. Rubel Hossain defeated Pakistan's Syed Nafi Kalim 6-7, 6-0, 7-5 in a topsy-turvy final in the boys' singles yesterday. Rubel also won the boys' doubles final pairing with Mahin Reza Khan as they swept past compatriots Kawsar Ali and Tahmid Rakib 6-0, 6-0.

In the girls' singles final, Shah Safina defeated compatriot Protty Afrana Islam 6-0, 6-0.

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Star Pakistan spinner Saeed Ajmal (R) waits for his turn to bowl in the nets at the Pallekele Cricket Stadium in Kandy yesterday. Pakistan take on New Zealand in a crucial World T20 match here today.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak-Kiwi clash today

AFP, Pallekele



New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor hoped his batsmen counter Pakistan's spin threat in the Group D cracker at Pallekele Stadium on Sunday.

New Zealand thumped Bangladesh by 59 runs in their opening match on Friday on the back of a Twenty20 record score of 123 by Brendon McCullum in a match they faced three left-arm spinners as well.

But Pakistan pose a far greater threat as they have the top three wicket takers in all Twenty20 cricket with Saeed Ajmal (60 wickets), Umar Gul (59) and Shahid Afridi (59).

To add to Ajmal and Afridi they also have skipper Mohammad Hafeez and rookie left-arm Raza Hasan, meaning New Zealand may well have to play 16 overs of spin.

But Taylor said the momentum gained from the victory over Bangladesh could be

invaluable.

"Hafeez and Ajmal have got very good records in the last 12-18 months. We have had an insight into the wicket and the confidence from the way we played on Friday, we'll hopefully take that also," said the New Zealand skipper.

"We have prepared really well and I am sure we'll do the same against Pakistan." New Zealand have happy memories of the Pallekele stadium where they beat Pakistan by a 110-run margin in the 50-over World Cup last year, with Taylor notching a career best 131 not out.

"I am not sure [whether this venue suits NZ more]. It didn't spin as much as we thought it might. When you play a second time on it, it could probably spin a little bit more. We'll have to wait and see," said Taylor.

"Pakistan are a lot more experienced than Bangladesh. They've played very well in the last 12-18 months. They've got world-class players but hopefully we can get the better of

Fingers crossed for NZ

BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy

Hope never dies. The 59-run defeat against New Zealand might have faded the Tigers' chance of reaching the Super Eights stage of the ICC World Twenty20 but the Tigers, as well as 160 million people at home, will definitely be praying for a Kiwi victory against Pakistan in today's Group D match at the Pallekele International Stadium.

It will become a straight equation for the Tigers if New Zealand win the game against favourites Pakistan. Everybody knows how tough it would be to beat a team like Pakistan on September 25 at the same venue but a New Zealand win will at least keep hopes alive for Mushfiqur Rahim's men.

"It would be fantastic if New Zealand win this match," said dashing left-handed batsman Tamim Iqbal. But he was very aware of the fact that it would not

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Question of strength

BISHWAJIT ROY from Kandy



The Tigers are dejected but not completely shattered by the 59-run defeat against New Zealand on Friday. True, Bangladesh had focussed all their energy on this particular match before the start of the tournament but the team now realises that there is a huge difference in strength between them and the other top teams in the newest format of the game. Richard Pybus's charges might have taken the best possible preparation but the reality is that they are yet to attain the strength that will allow them to compete neck-and-neck with the top teams, though it's often said that there is no small or big team in the T20 format.

And if a player like Brendon McCullum hits his best then they have little to do in the middle because they do not possess the kind of weapons in their arsenal to answer an assault of that sort. Bangladesh may pull off a surprise on a given day but in reality they still lack skill and power to produce wins on a consistent basis in T20 cricket.

And the Tigers' two leading cricketers, Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, admitted that they are not a team who can exploit any kind of surface, especially the true sporting wicket.

"You know we are a much better team in home conditions and we can challenge any team in our own den. Honestly speaking, as a team we need some help from the conditions, otherwise it's difficult to win the match. We don't have the quality to exploit any conditions. We struggled because it was a true wicket," opined Shakib, who failed to fulfil expectations, making eleven runs after conceding 40 runs in his 4-over spell without any success.

"I agree that we fumbled in our fielding and conceded some unnecessary runs and also failed to bowl according to our plan but you must accept the fact that Brendon (McCullum) picked up every ball rightly to smash it to the fence or over the fence. We also lack the

firepower that McCullum or others in his team have. You can understand the difference if you compare their players with us," added Shakib.

Tamim Iqbal, who also flopped in the match with a three-ball duck, echoed the champion all-rounder's sentiment.

"We are improving as a team and started to learn the craft of this format because we have played enough matches in the last few months but should accept the reality that there is a big difference with the top teams. We have a lack of power which is very important

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Tigers enjoyed a day of rest yesterday. However, Nasir Hossain (L), Farhad Reza (C) and Abdur Razzak (R) and Shakib Al Hasan are seen going through fitness drill at the team hotel in Kandy.

'No game is a dead game'

England face India today

AFP, Colombo



Luke Wright's match-winning 99 not out off 55 balls for England against Afghanistan in the World Twenty20 was warmly greeted by axed teammate Kevin Pietersen.

"Thrilled for Luke Wright," Pietersen said in a post-match discussion on ESPN-Star Sports, the host broadcaster of the tournament for whom he is working as a studio expert.

"He has been out for ages. He has come back in one of his first games since the last tournament and he has performed." Pietersen, who was player-of-the-tournament when England won the tournament in 2010 in the Caribbean, has been cast into international exile for disciplinary reasons.

Wright's effort, the best by an England batsman in the World Twenty20, powered the defending champions to an emphatic 116-run win over Afghanistan in a Group A match in Colombo on Friday night.

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PHOTO: AFP

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (L) and his key batsman Virat Kohli arrive for a training session in Colombo yesterday.

BD A shot out for 199

Hartal postpones 2nd day

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A were bowled out for 199 runs on the first day of the four-day game against the West Indies High Performance team yesterday, as the visitors took full advantage of the home side's inexperience against pace bowling. In reply, the West Indies side finished the day on 14 for no loss.

The match, being played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, will witness an unusual break in proceedings as the second day of the four-day game has been postponed due to the countrywide hartal imposed by various Islamic Parties today.

"Since we have two extra days after this match we thought it would be best to postpone today's play. We had a talk with the police and they said that they will not be able to provide adequate security for the players due to the hartal. We also talked to both the teams and the players agreed. Considering the circumstances, we decided not to

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Confidence earned



Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national football team arrived home yesterday from their tour of Nepal with some new-found confidence, having fought the hosts for a creditable 1-1 draw in the second International Friendly at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu on Thursday, after the first one was cancelled due to unplayable pitch conditions.

The two pre-season fixtures were arranged at the insistence of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), for an estimated expenditure of Tk 16 lakh, to give the booters

some much-needed match time against an international opponent.

The confidence level of the Bangladesh team, who lost against these Nepalese opponents 1-0 in the SAFF Championship last year, was not very high as the Himalayan nation had made great strides since while there were question marks over the Bangladesh booters' physical and mental shape. But having restricted the home side to a dominating draw, Bangladeshis feel they missed a great opportunity for revenge.

Zahid Hossain, who was the key player for Bangladesh as he gave the Red and Green a 42nd minute lead from an expertly-taken

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CLEAR MEN

BREAKTHROUGH IN MEN'S SCALP CARE

ICC WORLD T20 TODAY'S MATCHES

MATCH	TIME	VENUE
PAKISTAN v New Zealand	4:00pm	Pallekele
England v India	8:00pm	Colombo