

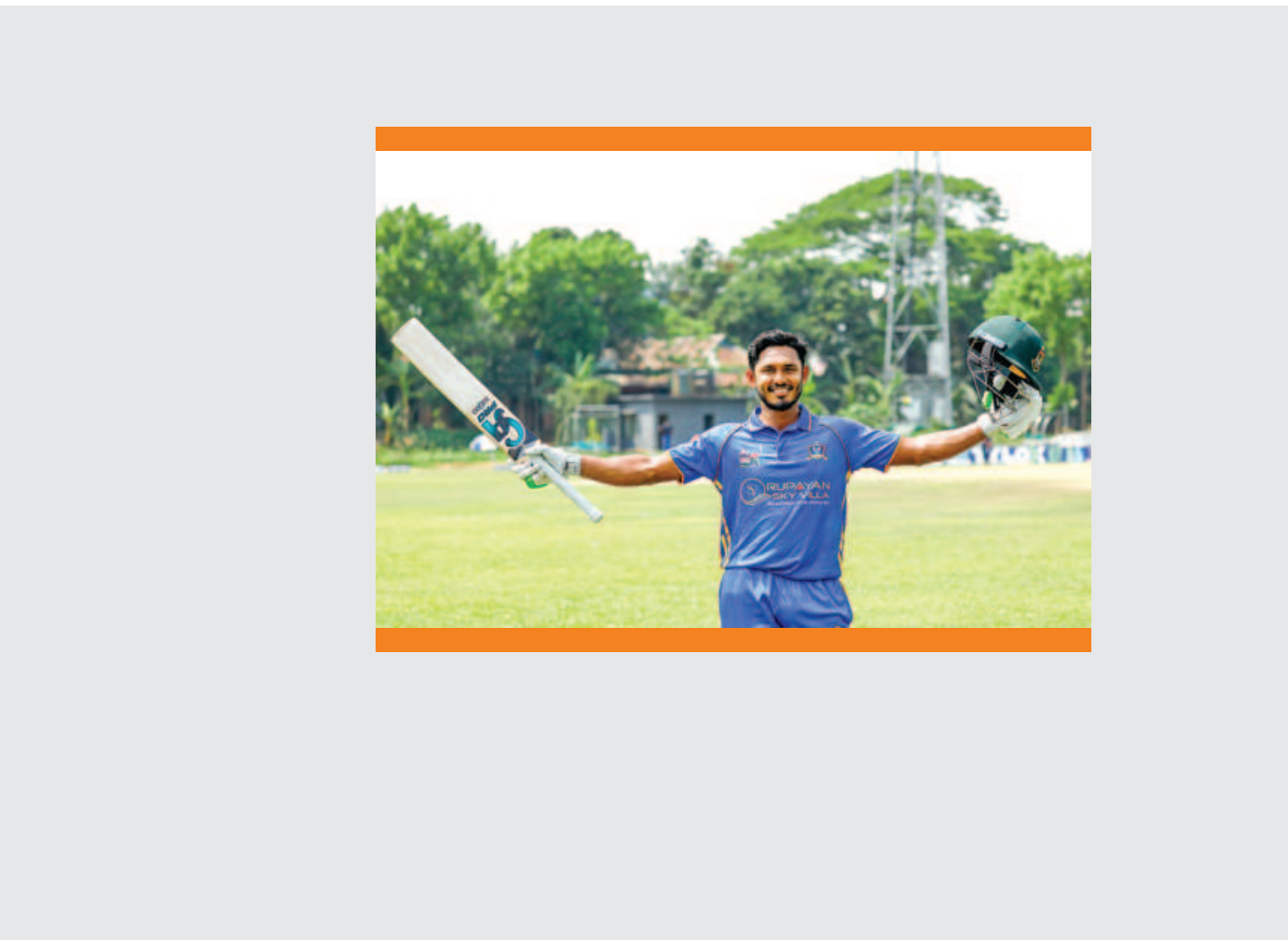
Brook named new England's white-ball captain

England batter Harry Brook has been appointed the country's white-ball captain after Jos Buttler stepped down after their group stage exit from the ICC Champions Trophy, the England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday.

The 34-year-old Buttler had overseen 22 losses in 34 One-Day Internationals since succeeding the retired Eoin Morgan in June 2022 and led England to their second Twenty20 World Cup title that same year. However, the performances have dipped since then with the side failing to retain their T20 and ODI crowns.

Brook, 26, captained England in the ODI series against Australia in September and was vice-captain at the Champions Trophy.

"It's a real honour to be named England's white-ball captain," Brook said in a statement.



Southampton sack Juric after relegation

Southampton have sacked manager Ivan Juric following their relegation from the Premier League, the club announced Monday.

Southampton were condemned to relegation in record time after a 3-1 defeat at Tottenham on Sunday.

Juric's bottom of the table side have lost 25 of their 31 top-flight games in a wretched campaign.

Relegation with seven fixtures left gives Southampton, last season's Championship play-off winners, an unwanted Premier League record, surpassing Derby and Huddersfield's relegations with six games left in 2008 and 2019 respectively.

Juric took over from Russell Martin in December, with Southampton already deep in trouble, but the 49-year-old won only one league match, at Ipswich in February.

Saints have lost seven of their past eight league matches.

"We can confirm that we have today reached an agreement with our men's first-team manager,

Wednesday's high-voltage Champions League quarterfinals lineup will feature defending champions Real Madrid taking on Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium. In the other fixture, Bayern Munich will host Inter Milan. The Arsenal-Real contest pits together two sides who are second in their respective domestic league. At the same time, it is a clash of league-leaders as Bundesliga toppers Bayern will brace for the arrival of Serie A leaders Inter in the other fixture.

*Arsenal won their only previous tie with Real Madrid, back in 2006 -- a goalless draw at Highbury following a 1-0 win in Spain in the last 16 of the competition.

*The Gunners last progressed into the semifinals of the competition in 2009, while Real have been crowned kings of Europe six times since then.

*Real Madrid have won 11 of their previous 22 knockout games against English opposition in the UEFA Champions League. In the last three seasons alone, they have won at Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester City.

*Real haven't lost the first leg in any of their last eight knockout-stage ties in the Champions League, winning five of them. They are unbeaten in four when on the road for the opening game.

*Los Blancos have won 10 of their last 11 away ties in the competition.

*Inter have kept four clean sheets in their last five away games in the competition.

*Bayern are unbeaten in their last 10 away games in the competition.

*Bayern have won 10 of their last 11 away games in the competition.

*Inter, though, have lost three of their last four away goals over the last five seasons.

It's a club (Madrid) that has set new standards in world football. This is where we want to be, where we want to belong. We need to have a lot of hope that we can get a result, that we can do it. We need to be convinced. It will be just the first leg, the intention is clear for tomorrow. We're going to go for it.

Mikel Arteta, Arsenal manager

Lifting of saliva ban rewards IPL bowlers

The return of saliva on the ball in the Indian Premier League is helping bowlers generate reverse swing, with Gujarat Titans' Mohammed Siraj among those reaping the benefits.

Siraj starred with figures of 4-17 in Gujarat's third straight victory in the T20 tournament when they thrashed Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets on Sunday.

The paceman beamed when asked if bowlers were enjoying the end of the saliva ban, saying, "100 percent".

"If the ball tails a bit, it is a wicket," Siraj said, after being named player of the match.

"When there is no saliva, the ball comes onto the bat easily. This rule makes it much better for the bowlers, with lbw and bowled now a chance (for the bowlers)."

The ban on saliva imposed during the Covid pandemic was lifted ahead of the 18th edition of the IPL last month.

The use of saliva to shine one side of the old ball and keep the other rough helps fast bowlers get the leather ball to swing late.

Punjab Kings pace spearhead Arshdeep Singh got the ball to reverse in his team's opener last month as he claimed two key wickets in a win.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer said left-arm quick Arshdeep "came in and said the ball is actually reversing a bit so the saliva on the ball is helping the bowlers".

The art of reverse swing was pioneered by former Pakistan fast bowlers Sarfraz Nawaz and Imran Khan to aid bowling on batting-friendly Asian pitches.

The IPL barred the practice after it was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as a precautionary measure during the pandemic.

India pace spearhead Mohammed Shami appealed last month to allow the use of saliva in the game's 50-over format during the team's Champions Trophy triumph in Dubai.



Bangladesh national women's team coach Peter Butler consults with his assistants as the players in the camp go through a gym session at the BFF Gymnasium yesterday. The English coach came to Dhaka yesterday and oversaw the session, which was not attended by the senior players who had been boycotting training under him since January 29. With four of the seniors already off to Bhutan, the remaining 14 who were part of the boycott, later sat for a meeting with Butler. According to BFF's women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron, who arranged the meeting, the Englishman asked the players to join the training on his terms by forgetting past issues, and Kiron claimed that the players agreed to the proposal.