

India couldn't have practised more, there aren't 10 days in a week: Bayliss



Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo with a fan — REUTERS

More friendlies with West Asian countries in pipeline: AIFF

NEW DELHI, AUG 14 /-/- Newly-elected vice president of the South West Asian Football Federation Subrata Dutta said the Indian team will play more friendlies with West Asian teams on a regular basis from now on. "This will help India improve their rankings. I believe SWAFF will surely help India to develop," AIFF senior vice-president Dutta said. Dutta was elected for a four-year term by the newly formed SWAFF during its general assembly in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Sunday. India is currently ranked number 97 in the FIFA chart and will compete in the Asian Cup in January next year. India is clubbed with UAE, Thailand and Bahrain in group A of the continental showpiece and it's expected that the team will play international friendlies against higher-ranked Saudi Arabia and China in AFC Asian Cup build-up later this year. "I believe SWAFF will surely help India to develop. AIFF shall support SWAFF to fulfill its objectives. We shall also give our best efforts for the achievement of SWAFF's mission and vision," he said. Dutta said SWAFF president Adel Ezzat, who heads the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, will visit India either on August 20 or 31 to meet his AIFF counterpart Praful Patel and find out how the new football body can help the development of the sport. "President of Saudi Arabia Football Federation, Adel Ezzat, who is also the President of SWAFF shall come to India end of this month to finalise it," Dutta added.

Ben Stokes found not guilty of affray as jury announces verdict

LONDON, AUG 14 /-/- England cricketer Ben Stokes was found not guilty of affray by a jury in less than three hours of deliberations on Tuesday following a trial at Bristol Crown Court. The 27-year-old - whose co-defendant Ryan All was also found not guilty - had been charged following a brawl hours after England played the West Indies in a one-day international in Bristol, southwest England, in September last year. At the start of the trial the prosecution tried to amend the indictment and charge Stokes with two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm but this was rejected by the judge. And half way through the trial Stokes's legal team attempted to have the case against him dropped but this was also refused by the judge. New Zealand-born Stokes said in his testimony last Friday he had a "significant memory blackout" but he was "absolutely not" an angry man who had lost all control. Stokes said he intervened because 28-year-old All and his friend Ryan Hale - who had been acquitted earlier in the trial - had directed a



legged homophobic abuse at gay men William O'Connor and Kai Barry as they walked away from Mbarago nightclub. Stokes went out celebrating after beating the West Indies in a match in Bristol on September 24. Stokes said he would have had a bottle of beer after the match, two or three pints at the hotel, five or six vodka and lemonades and then "potentially had some Jagerbombs" in Mbarago. All who was knocked unconscious and suffered a fractured eye socket said in his evidence he remained in the care of a surgeon and still suffered from double vision. He said his memory of the night was "incomplete" due to his head injury. All recalled walking along the street with Hale, Barry and O'Connor, "having a laugh and some banter and the next thing I remember is having a tall blond man charging towards me". "Just didn't want any trouble so I was backing away, trying to retreat." Stokes's career has been on hold during the trial - meaning he missed England's second Test victory over India at Lord's - and he was omitted from the squad for the third Test which gets underway next Saturday. A brief statement issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said they would review Stokes's position following the conclusion of the trial.

England selectors announce unchanged squad for 3rd Test

LONDON, AUG 14 /-/- The England selectors have named an unchanged squad for the third cricket Test against India at Trent Bridge, starting August 18. Already 2-0 up in the five-match Test rubber after wins at Edgbaston and Lord's, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement that it will make an assessment of all-rounder Ben Stokes's availability after the conclusion of the trial in Bristol. This means Stokes is likely to miss out even if he is found not guilty of affray at Bristol Crown Court this week. Stokes's absence from the Lord's Test, however, did not affect England in the second game, with fellow all-rounder Chris Woakes striking his maiden century and putting in a man-of-the-match performance. Woakes registered a maiden Test century, scoring 137 not out, along with match figures of 4/49.

ENGLAND SQUAD FOR 3RD TEST:
Joe Root (Captain), Moeen Ali, Jimmy Anderson, Jonny Bairstow (WK), Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Alastair Cook, Sam Curran, Keaton Jennings, Ollie Pope, Jamie Porter, Adil Rashid, Chris Woakes.

BUMRAH, ASHWIN FIT

Kohli in race to get fully fit for third test



LONDON, AUG 14 /-/- The beleaguered Indian team on Tuesday received a boost with pacer Jasprit Bumrah being declared fit and available for selection for the third Test against England starting in Nottingham on Saturday. The five-match series 2-0 after convincing wins. Bumrah had injured his left thumb whilst playing in the first game against Ireland in Dublin back in June. He isn't faze in the 720s or ODI as England since then, and also missed the first two Tests thanks to a fracture on his left thumb. He underwent surgery in Leeds on July 4 and underwent rehabilitation back in India, before being called up for the Test series. Throughout the second leg of this tour, Bumrah has been keenly working in the nets, from Chelmsford, to Birmingham, to Lord's, although the team management was waiting for the plaster to come off finally. During one of the net sessions, while the rain intervened during the second Test,

Bumrah was seen bowling without his plaster and thus his availability for the next match has now been confirmed. Even so, it remains to be seen whether he will be included in the playing eleven without having any proper match time. In other news, both Ravichandran Ashwin and Hardik Pandya have also been declared fit. Both suffered blows to their bowling hands while batting in the second innings at Lord's. Ashwin was hit twice, in fact. Meanwhile, skipper Virat Kohli is in a race against time to get completely fit for the third Test. He had confirmed his availability albeit with the rider that he might not be able to field or run between the wickets up to a 100 percent of his ability. There was a gym session for the entire Indian team today, with the players as well as the skipper taking part. Kohli is also undergoing rehabilitation to improve his chances of attaining total fitness, even as these various issues put a spotlight on the heightened workload of Indian cricketers.

Kohli's plea to fans: Never give up on us

LONDON, AUG 14 /-/- Embattled India captain Virat Kohli called on the fans to back his team following consecutive losses to England in the ongoing Test series, hoping that they "never give up" on the side. "Sometimes we win and other times we learn. You never give up on us and we promise to never give up on you either. Onwards and upwards," read a message on Virat Kohli's official Facebook page. The brief post was accompanied by a picture of the Indian team in an on-field huddle. The Indian team lost the opening two Tests of the ongoing five-match series by heavy margins with the much-vaunted batting being a major let-down in the first Test, also experienced a dip in form in the second match and was troubled by an old back problem. Following the innings and 159-run loss at Lord's, the skipper admitted that the team combination was "a bit off" when questioned specifically on selection decisions so far but insisted that the side would bounce back. "(A) Two-nil down the only option is to come out positive, make it 2-1 and make it an exciting series from there," Kohli had said. The third Test starts this Saturday in Nottingham, following which the Indian team for the remaining two matches would be named. (PTI)

East Bengal ease past Pathachakra 3-0

KOLKATA, AUG 14 /-/- East Bengal recorded a comfortable 3-0 victory against Pathachakra in their third match of the 2018 Calcutta Football League at the East Bengal ground on Tuesday. Jobby Justin (16, 77) and Laldanmawia Ralte (42) scored to give the Kolkata giants a deserved win. Technical director Subhash Bhownick made three changes in the East Bengal starting lineup. Mahmoud Al Anna, Brandon Vanlair-mndika and Joby Justin replaced Lalrmdika Ralte, Bibyassagar Singh and Gagandeep Bali. Didika Ralte didn't even make it to the matchday squad due to injury. Bhownick made changes to his tactics as the Red and Golds took the field in a 4-1-4 formation which often changed to 4-1-3-2 with Anna moving up as a second striker. Kamalpreet Singh was deployed in the defensive midfield position and Kassim Aidara was deployed in a box-to-box role. Pathachakra coach Remco Boers fielded his side in a 4-3-3 formation. East Bengal dominated proceedings right from the beginning of the match. The presence of two foreigners in the midfield gave the home side an advantage. The attacking mindset of East Bengal yielded them their first goal of the match in the 16th minute. Brandon and Chullowa



combined well on the left flank before the Lalram Chullowa sent a perfect cross into the box. Joby Justin scored a perfect header to make it 1-0. The Kolkata giants doubled their lead in the 42nd minute after Pathachakra's Monotosh Chakladhar accidentally stopped Joby Justin's second header with his hand. Referee Franjo Banerjee did not hesitate to point towards the spot. Laldanmawia Ralte converted from the penalty spot. East Bengal continued to dominate the match after the restart. Anna, Brandon Ralte and Justin kept the defenders on alert and sprayed passes in and around the opposition's penalty box. The visitors got their first major chance of the match in the 58th minute when they won a free-kick just outside the East Bengal penalty box. However, Croatian striker Anto Pejic blasted the ball away above the crossbar. Joby Justin completed his brace in the 77th minute from Danmawia Ralte's square pass. Anna forwarded a long ball from the midfield which Ralte met inside the box. He went ahead and squared the ball for Justin who converted an easy tap-in. It was a convincing performance from the Red and Golds who desperately needed a win to shrug off the discontent of losing points in their last match. (Pix: Arjith Ganguly)

QUIZ Contest

CQ028

WHAT IS A CLEANER WRASSE?

Yesterday's Answer: Type of gum tree.

We will publish your name, correct answer in this space. SMS the answers alongwith your name, address, correct answers to the following mobile number: 8334826380