

India needs to shed the rust that has crept into its campaign

Though the Men in Blue have secured a semifinal berth, it remains to be seen if Jadeja will be picked for the final league game against Sri Lanka



Leading by example: Virat Kohli, who has been in ominous form, will hope to continue in the same vein. •STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES



K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LEEDS

The Long Room at Headingley lives up to its prefix but what strikes the eye are the wooden boards mounted on the walls. Brownish grainy wood inscribed with names of cricketers who either struck centuries or bagged a five-for in Tests. We have heard about the honours board at Lord's and the one here is equally resplendent.

From the Indian perspective, the list features Vijay Manjrekar, M.A.K. Pataudi, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Roger Binny to gaze at and leap back in time. But for the Men in Blue, besides drawing some inspiration from history, it is time to sternly look ahead as Saturday's game involving Sri Lanka looms into view.

A World Cup semifinal

berth has been secured but more needs to be done ahead of the knockouts. The contest against the men from the Emerald Island, presents an opportunity to enhance obvious strengths and shed the minuscule rust that has crept in during the campaign.

It remains to be seen if the management would pick Ravindra Jadeja, who hasn't had a match yet. As a substitute, Jadeja did all the right things on the field but off it, he has erred in his judgement. The allrounder's outburst on Twitter, against Sanjay Manjrekar's critical remarks, is a distraction that could have been avoided. Other than this unsavoury episode, Virat Kohli's men have shut out the noise and gone about their task of playing hard and then found time to switch-off and recuperate.

Karthik needs to step up
The top troika of Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul and Kohli have scored the bulk and it is time for the middle order to galvanise and add more adrenaline. Hardik Pandya and Rishabh Pant did reasonably well and the stage is

set for Dinesh Karthik to step up, while M.S. Dhoni has to hasten his strike-rate.

The bowling has been fine, barring that bruising stint against England and the latter is most likely to be at the opposition's corner in the semifinal. But that possibility could change if India plays to form and defeats Sri Lanka while Australia suffers



a blip and succumbs to South Africa. The table will flip, India will lead and would take on the fourth-placed New Zealand. But these are hypothetical situations and what matters is the clash on hand.

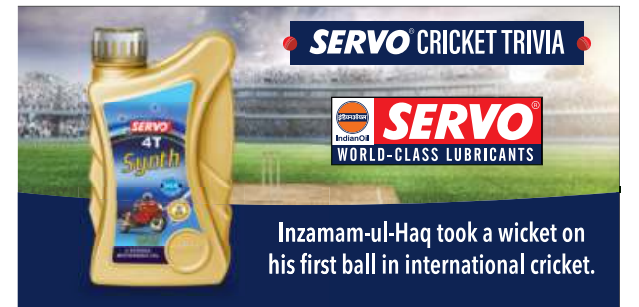
Taking heart from win
Sri Lanka has had a stop-

start campaign but has thrived on the will of its seniors, be it a Lasith Malinga or Angelo Mathews and the audacity of youth as reflected by Avishka Fernando. Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne would take heart from the fact that a fortnight ago, at this same venue, his men had humbled England. An encore against India would help the Sri Lankans leave with bigger smiles when

for now it is advantage India.

The teams (from):
India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma, M.S. Dhoni, K.L. Rahul, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant and Mayank Agarwal.

Sri Lanka: Dimuth Karunaratne (captain), Avishka Fernando, Suranga Lakmal, Lasith Malinga, Angelo Mathews, Jeevan



they exit London's Heathrow Airport. This is Malinga's last World Cup game and he has blazed bright in his twilight, roaring with delight and still promising a wicket in each of his spells. If he could dismiss his Mumbai Indians captain Rohit early, may be, the face-off pitting neighbours could throw up possibilities. But

Mendis, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Thisara Perera, Kasun Rajitha, Dhananjaya de Silva, Milinda Siriwardana, Lahiru Thirimanne, Isuru Udana and Jeffrey Vandersay.

Umpires: Chris Gaffaney and Paul Wilson; **Third umpire:** Ian Gould; **Match referee:** Chris Broad.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

'We do have the semifinal at the back of our minds'

Karthik feels that India has the ability to handle pressure and backs itself to chase or set totals

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
LEEDS

Dinesh Karthik's career has been a tale of the patient wait. He was part of India's 2007 World Cup squad to the West Indies but the wicket-keeper-batsman never got a game in a doomed campaign. He finally made his debut in cricket's global tournament during the recent match against Bangladesh at Birmingham's Edgbaston.

Karthik, who spoke to reporters at Headingley here on Friday, insisted that though the semifinals linger close, the Men in Blue are focusing on Saturday's contest against Sri Lanka. *Excerpts:*

Top priority: First up is Sri Lanka. There are a few things a few players would want to

For me to come here and sit out the initial bit and then get a chance against Bangladesh, was something that I was looking forward to.

DINESH KARTHIK

achieve personally and as a team as well. We want to play our best game. We do have the semifinal at the back of our minds but we are professional enough to play a very clinical game against Sri Lanka.

Semifinal prophecies: It's a World Cup semifinal and it's hard to say which team is a threat. The beauty of a tournament like this is that once you hit the semifinal mark, it's just that one day

and you have to make sure that you stand up on that day.

World Cup debut: I have been around for 15 years. So to play that game, I felt really happy. For me to come here and sit out the initial bit and then get a chance against Bangladesh, was something that I was looking forward to. I would like to do the best I can. I have been waiting for this opportunity, the hunger is there.

Role definition: When I go in at No. 7, I need to assess the situation and play accordingly. If we need to cross the line when we are batting second, I need to pace myself accordingly. If you are batting first, then make sure we get to the par score that's required.

The chase: India have been good chasers and we are very confident of chasing. As for other teams, there could be scoreboard-pressure. As a team we have the ability to handle pressure and we would back ourselves to chase and get the totals that we believe we can achieve.



Seeking top form: Kuldeep will look to bounce back from the hammering he got against England. •STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

'Have a plan for Rohit, Virat..'

Karunaratne hopes to win against India and finish on a high

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LEEDS

Dimuth Karunaratne wanted his team to leave the World Cup on a winning note. The Sri Lankan captain is aware of the challenges in a tussle involving India at Headingley on Saturday. But hope floats and he spoke at length with the media here on Friday. *Excerpts.*

Immediate goal: We have to win the game to end up in the fifth or sixth position. That's our plan and we intend to do our best. We are playing on the same track that was used in the match between the West Indies and Afghanistan. Hopefully we can get some turn.

Stifling Rohit & company: We have a plan for Rohit (Sharma), Virat (Kohli) and all in the top six but we have to execute those plans well. They are dangerous and once they get set, they will get big runs. We will try to restrict them and hopefully get Rohit early.

Inherent strengths: If you take the batting, Avishka Fernando is playing really well and he is one of the fu-

ture stars. And in the bowling, (Lasith) Malinga and Nuwan Pradeep have done well. These are the positive points I will take from this tournament.

Weak domestic cricket: In Sri Lanka, we have only one domestic season and when the players come through to the international level, there is a huge gap. We have to play more and

allow our cricketers to go and play in the Indian Premier League, Big Bash League and county cricket.

These are the things I am expecting from the cricket board and hopefully they will take a good decision and make us strong at the domestic level and produce good players for the future.

Malinga eyeing T20I WC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LEEDS

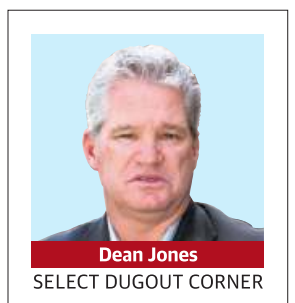
Lasith Malinga clarified that it would be premature to discuss his ODI retirement and added that he is keen to play next year's T20I World Cup. "I just want to meet the Sri Lankan Cricket Board and ask them about what they are expecting from me. According to that, I will make my decision. We have to play the 2020 T20 World Cup's qualifying round. It is a very crucial time for us



Malinga. •REUTERS

and I am looking forward to playing that T20 World Cup. I don't think I will make any decision on my ODI career without meeting the board," the Sri Lankan spearhead said.

Give Jadeja a game



Dean Jones
SELECT DUGOUT CORNER

In all likelihood, Australia will defeat South Africa, and India will get past Sri Lanka easily. So that means that India will take on England in the semifinal at Birmingham.

India should use this Sri Lanka outing to get ready for the semifinal. I don't think India has the right team balance to take on England. They need to give Ravindra Jadeja a game.

The reason for this is that I will not include two wrist spinners against England. The English batsmen have played wrist spin better than any other team in this World Cup.

Jason Roy presents a big challenge for India. Roy is the instigator; the heart of the England team. If India fail to get him early, it will be very tough to stop England. But if India can keep Roy quiet, they will go on to win the World Cup.

Rohit on fire

The Indian batting has been led by Rohit Sharma. Rohit is in the form of his life, but he has to be a little mindful of the hook and pull shots.

As for the Virat Kohli show, we haven't seen it yet, but it's coming very soon. Kohli has got a lot of fifties, but hasn't converted. India will want him to bat deep and make a big one.

The skipper is in great form, and the pressure of playing in the World Cup is not new to him. He's been there, done that. Maybe Kohli needs to prove to Rohit that the competition for best batsman in the world is not over yet.

The fans always remember the last bit of a big tournament like this, not the first phase. What a player does in the final stages is what will be remembered forever.

(Tune in to Select Dugout on Star Sports Select 1 on India match days and Sundays)

Imam's century, Shaheen's six-for rule the day

Bitter-sweet for Pakistan as the win is not enough to take it to the semifinals

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LONDON

Imam-ul-Haq scored a gritty ton and Shaheen Afridi scalped a six-for as Pakistan defeated Bangladesh by 94 runs at Lord's on Friday.

But that wasn't enough as the Sarfaraz Ahmed-led side crashed out of the World Cup despite finishing its group stage on a winning note. Pakistan faced an improbable task of beating Bangladesh by 300-plus runs to

keep its semifinal hopes alive. After it amassed 315 for nine, it needed to dismiss Bangladesh for seven runs or less!

Bangladesh rode on Shakib-Al Hasan's 64 to finish at 221.

After his seventh half-century equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of 2003, Shakib slashed wildly at a ball from Shaheen and was caught behind. The 19-year-old left-arm, playing in his maiden

World Cup, finished with a tally of 16 wickets.

Earlier, Imam and Babar Azam (96) added 157 for the second wicket to put Pakistan back on the rails after the

team lost Fakhar Zaman early. The 23-year-old Imam became the youngest Pakistan batsman to score a World Cup hundred, while Azam missed a ton by four runs.

SCOREBOARD PAKISTAN VS BANGLADESH

PAKISTAN

Fakhar Zaman c Mehidy b Saifuddin 13 (31b, 1x4), Imam-ul-Haq hit wicket b Mustafizur 100 (100b, 7x4), Babar Azam lbw b Saifuddin 96 (98b, 11x4), Mohammad Hafeez c Shakib b Mehidy 27 (25b, 3x4), Haris Sohail c Sarkar b Mustafizur 6 (6b, 1x4), Imad Wasim c Mahmudullah b Mustafizur 43 (26b, 6x4, 1x6), Sarfaraz Ahmed (not out) 3 (3b), Wahab Riaz b Saifuddin 2 (4b), Shadab Khan c & b Mustafizur 1 (2b), Mohammad Amir c Mushfiqur b Mustafizur 8 (6b, 1x4), Shaheen Afridi (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (lb-3, w-12, nb-1); 16; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 315.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-23 (Fakhar, 7.2 overs), 2-180 (Azam, 31.6), 3-246 (Imam, 41.5), 4-248 (Hafeez, 42.4), 5-255 (Sohail, 43.5), 6-288 (Wahab, 46.5), 7-289 (Shadab, 47.1), 8-314 (Imad, 49.4), 9-314 (Amir, 49.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Mehidy 10-0-30-1, Saifuddin 9-0-77-3, Mustafizur 10-0-75-5, Mortaza 7-0-46-0, Shakib 10-0-57-0, Mosaddek 4-0-27-0.

BANGLADESH

Tamim Iqbal b Shaheen 8

(21b), Soumya Sarkar c Fakhar b Amir 22 (22b, 4x4), Shakib Al Hasan c Sarfaraz b Shaheen 64 (77b, 6x4), Mushfiqur Rahim b Wahab 16 (19b, 2x4), Liton Das c Haris b Shaheen 32 (40b, 3x4), Mahmudullah b Shaheen 29 (41b, 3x4), Mosaddek Hossain c Azam b Shadab 16 (21b, 1x4), Mohammad Saifuddin c Amir b Shaheen 0 (1b), Mehidy Hasan (not out) 7 (6b, 1x4), Mashrafe Mortaza st. Sarfaraz b Shadab 15 (14b, 2x6), Mustafizur Rahman b Shaheen 1 (3b); Extras (lb-5, w-6); 11; Total (in 44.1 overs): 221.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-26 (Sarkar, 5.5), 2-48 (Tamim, 10.4), 3-78 (Mushfiqur, 17.2), 4-136 (Liton, 28.1), 5-154 (Shakib, 32.1), 6-197 (Mosaddek, 39.4), 7-197 (Saifuddin, 40.1), 8-198 (Mahmudullah, 40.3), 9-219 (Mortaza, 43.4).

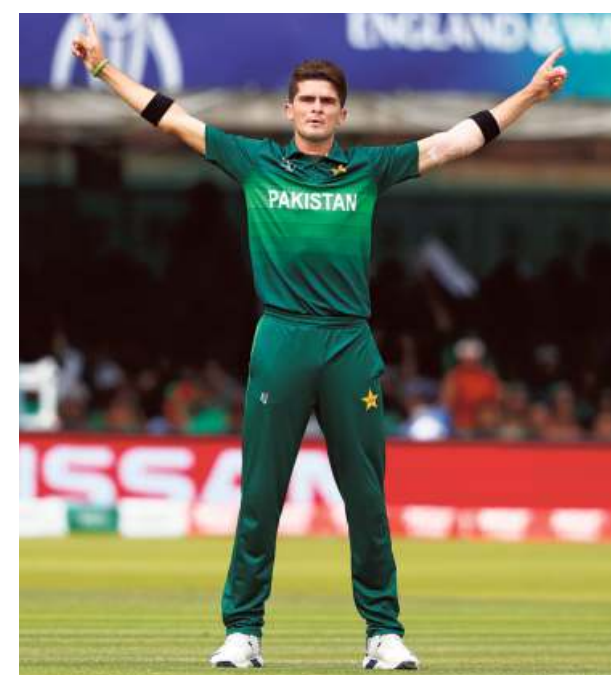
PAKISTAN BOWLING

Hafeez 6-1-32-0, Amir 7-0-31-1, Shaheen 9-1-0-35-6, Wahab 7-0-33-1, Imad 6-0-26-0, Shadab 9-0-59-2.

Toss: Pakistan.

MoM: Shaheen.

Pakistan won by 94 runs.



Superman! The 19-year-old Shaheen, who ripped through the Bangladesh line-up, finished with a tally of 16 wickets. •AP

Malik retires from ODIs

SHAYAN ACHARYA
LONDON

All-rounder Shoaib Malik announced his retirement from ODIs, minutes after Pakistan's last World Cup fixture on Friday.

The 37-year-old will, however, continue to play in T20Is and aims to feature in the World T20 next year. "That's my goal at the moment," said an emotional Malik. "I have no regrets. But it's just that I have been too flexible in my batting or-



Malik. •AFP

der. I am disappointed to be judged on two bad games here," he added.

Where they stand

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	NR	PTS	NRR
Australia (Q)	8	7	1	0	14	1.000
India (Q)	8	6	1	1	13	0.811
England (Q)	9	6	3	0	12	1.152
New Zealand (Q)	9	5	3	1	11	0.175
Pakistan (E)	9	5	3	1	11	-0.430
Sri Lanka (E)	8	3	3	2	8	-0.934
Bangladesh (E)	9	3	5	1	7	-0.910
South Africa (E)	8	2	5	1	5	-0.080
West Indies (E)	9	2	6	1	5	-0.225
Afghanistan (E)	9	0	9	0	0	-1.322

* till the Pakistan-Bangladesh match on July 5. Q: Qualified, E: Eliminated

Team	Mat	Aus	SA	Tied	NR
Overall	99	48	47	3	1
World Cup	5	3	1	1	0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 2 HD & STAR SPORTS 3, 6 P.M.

Pella proves too good for Anderson

Gritty Gauff makes pre-quarters, Wozniacki and Kontaveit bid goodbye; Divij advances in doubles



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Kevin Anderson, the 2018 runner-up, was dumped out of Wimbledon on Friday, leaving just four of the top 10 seeds in the tournament. Anderson, whose season has been interrupted by an elbow injury, slumped to a shock third round 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(4) defeat to Argentina's Guido Pella, the 26th seed.

Only four remain

The South African's defeat means that only Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Kei Nishikori remain of the top 10 seeds.

"I don't know how to describe this," said Pella, who had not gone beyond the third round of a Grand Slam tournament in seven years. "I played an unbelievable three sets."

In the women's event, Cori Gauff's incredible run continued as she bounced back to best Slovenia's Polona Hercog 3-6, 7-6(7), 7-5 and set up a fourth round clash with Simona Halep on Monday.

Earlier, Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova reached the fourth round for the second successive year with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 win over Hsieh Su-wei of Chinese Taipei.

Pliskova will next face compatriot Karolina Muchova, the World No. 68, who put out Estonian 20th seed Anett Kontaveit 7-6(7), 6-3.

Muchova is making her Wimbledon debut as is 19-year-old Dayana Yastremaska and the 35th-ranked Ukrainian marked the occasion by also making the last 16. She



All-round game: Guido Pella pulled out all stops as he put out last-year's runner-up Kevin Anderson in straight sets. ■ AFP

Saturday's picks

- MEN**
- 2-Federer vs Pouille
 - 3-Nadal vs Tsonga
 - 8-Nishikori vs Johnson
 - 12-Fognini vs Sandgren
 - 17-Berrettini vs Schwartzman
- WOMEN**
- 1-Barty vs Dart
 - 4-Bertens vs Strycova
 - 6-Kvitova vs Linette
 - 9-Stephens vs 19-Konta
 - 10-Riske vs 13-Bencic
 - 11-Serena vs 18-Goerges
 - 15-Wang vs 21-Mertens

put out Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic 7-5, 6-3 and meets unseeded Chinese player Zhang Shuai.

World No. 60 Zhang made the fourth round for the first time, coming back from 0-4 down in the opening set to beat former World No.1 Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-2.

Raonic, the 15th seed, reached the fourth round for

the fifth time by seeing off the sport's tallest man Reilly Opelka of the United States 7-6(1), 6-2, 6-1.

France's Benoit Paire booked a last 16 place for the second time with a 5-7, 7-6(5), 6-3, 7-6(2) win over Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely. He will meet Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut who stunned Russian 10th seed Karen Khachanov 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-1.

Meanwhile in men's doubles, Divij Sharan kept the Indian interest alive by reaching the pre-quarterfinals along with Marcelo Demoliner, quelling Belgium's Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen 7-6(1), 5-7, 7-6(6), 6-4.

Paes out

In mixed doubles, veteran Leander Paes crashed out in the first round as he and his Australian partner Samantha Stosur lost to British pair of Eden Silva and Evan Hoyt 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Third round: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-4; 2-David Goffin (Bel) bt Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; Fernando Verdasco (Esp) bt Thomas Fabbiano (Ita), 6-4, 7-6(1), 6-4; 15-Milos Raonic (Can) bt Reilly Opelka (USA) 7-6(1), 6-2, 6-1; 28-Benoit Paire (Fra) bt Jiri Vesely (Cze) 5-7, 7-6(5), 6-3, 7-6(2); 26-Guido Pella (Arg) bt Kevin Anderson (RSA) 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(4); 23-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-1.

Second round: Tennyis Sandgren (USA) bt 20-Gilles Simon (Fra) 6-2, 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 8-6; 12-Fabio Fognini (Ita) bt Mirton Fucsovics (Hun) 6-7(6), 6-4, 7-6(3), 2-6, 6-3; 24-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Dominik Koepfer (Ger) 6-0, 6-3, 7-5; **Doubles: Second round:** Divij Sharan (Ind) & Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) bt Sander Gille (Bel) & Joran Vliegen (Bel) 7-6(1), 5-7, 7-6(6), 6-4.

Women: Third round: Cori Gauff (USA) bt Polona Hercog (Slo) 3-6, 7-6(7), 7-5; 7-Simona Halep (Rou) bt Victoria Azarenka (Blr) 6-3, 6-1.

24-Petra Martic bt Danielle Rose Collins (USA) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; 3-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt 28-Hsieh Su-wei (Tpe) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Dayana Yastremaska (Ukr) bt Viktorija Golubic (Sui) 7-5, 6-3; 8-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt 31-Maria Sakkari (Gre) 6-3, 6-7(1), 6-2; Zhang Shuai (Chn) bt 14-Caroline Wozniacki (Den) 6-4, 6-2; Karolina Muchova (Cze) bt 20-Anett Kontaveit (Est) 7-6(7), 6-3.

Second round: 30-Carla Suarez Navarro (Esp) bt Pauline Parmentier (Fra) 7-6(2), 7-6(4); 21-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Monica Niculescu (Rou) 7-5, 6-0.

Mixed doubles: First round: Eden Silva (GBR) & Evan Hoyt (GBR) bt Samantha Stosur (Aus) & Leander Paes (Ind) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

PASSING SHOTS

Aimed for his chest, says Kyrgios

Nick Kyrgios has admitted he meant to spear a forehand directly at Rafael Nadal in their ill-tempered Wimbledon clash on Thursday. Nadal triumphed 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(3) in a second round duel which saw the combustible Australian pick up a code violation for unsportsmanlike behaviour and wage a bitter war of words with umpire Damien Dumusois. The two players faced down each other in the eighth game of the third set when Nadal had to take evasive action with his racquet to fend off a blistering forehand aimed straight at



him. "I was going for him. Yeah, I wanted to hit him square in the chest," said 24-year-old Kyrgios. "Why would I apologise? I mean, the dude has got how many Slams, how much money in the bank account? I think he can take a ball to the chest, bro. I'm not going to apologise to him at all." AFP

Was a bit nervous, says Murray

Former World No. 1 Andy Murray made a victorious return to Wimbledon, where he won two of his three Grand Slam singles titles, partnering Pierre-Hugues Herbert to a four-set win in their first round doubles match. The 32-year-old Scotsman, who could become the first Wimbledon men's singles champion since Michael Stich in 1992 to also win the doubles title, returned to tennis only a fortnight ago after what he called life-changing hip surgery. He and Herbert, who has won all four Slam doubles titles, gelled as the match

went on and beat Romanian Marius Copil and Frenchman Ugo Humbert on Court One.

"It was nice," said Murray. "I mean I was a little bit nervous at the start (he lost his opening service game) but got better as the match went on."

Herbert, who angered usual partner Nicolas Mahut by opting to play with Murray, smiled when asked what marks he would give Murray for his performance.

"It is tough to give a mark to Andy as he won here in singles and that is much harder than winning in doubles," said the Frenchman. AFP



Storm Breaker primed to repeat

BENGALURU: Storm Breaker, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Juvenile Sprinters Million (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (July 6). False rails (width about 8.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 2-30 pm: 1. Shivlik Kiss (4) Shobhan 60, 2. Brothers In Arms (7) Suraj 59, 3. Amber Crown (8) Bhawani Singh 58.5, 4. Azeemki Princess (5) Raghuvver Singh 56, 5. Glorious Days (6) P.S. Chouhan 54, 6. Goodwill Warrior (1) Chetan K 54, 7. Blarney Stone (2) A. Ramu 53 and 8. Mayne Dimension (3) Neeraj 51.5.

BROTHERS IN ARMS, 2. SHIVLIK KISS, 3. BLARNEY STONE

RARE GEM PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Caesars Palace (-) 56, 2. Indian Democrat (7) Sandesh 56, 3. Scorch (10) Rayan 56, 4. Sirocco (4) Neeraj 56, 5. Skyfire (11) R. Manish 56, 6. Slice Of Heaven (2) Darshan 56, 7. Antheia (9) B. Harish 54.5, 8. Capella (6) Arshad 54.5, 9. Estella (8) A. Merchant 54.5, 10. Love Music (1) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 11. Schafenberg (5) S.A. Amit 54.5 and 12. Will To Win (3) Zervan 54.5.

1. SLICE OF HEAVEN, 2. WILL TO

WIN, 3. INDIAN DEMOCRAT

MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 3-30: 1. Chula Vista (9) John 60, 2. Desert Angel (8) P.S. Chouhan 60, 3. Belleroophon (10) Sai Kiran 58.5, 4. Bravado (4) A. Merchant 58.5, 5. Girl With Pearl (7) A. Ramu 58, 6. Above The Rest (6) R. Manish 57.5, 7. Princess Amu (3) Nazerul 57, 8. Irish Prince (12) M. Prabhakaran 56, 9. Identiti (2) Md. Asif Khan 55.5, 10. High Tide (11) Dhebe 53, 11. Phoenix Reached (1) T.S. Jodha 53 and 12. Romantic Haven (5) S.A. Amit 52.5.

1. CHULA VISTA, 2. DESERT ANGEL, 3. PRINCESS AMU

KARNATAKA POLICE CUP (1,200m), rated 60 & above, 4-00: 1. Blue Blazer (2) Darshan 60, 2. Diamond Rays (7) Neeraj 59.5, 3. Bora Bora (1) P.S. Chouhan 59, 4. Haedi's Folly (9) Irvan 58.5, 5. Rum Runner (4) Antony 58, 6. Regal Music (5) R. Manish 57.5, 7. Mongolian King (6) Arshad 55.5, 8. Louisiana (3) Trevor 55 and 9. Into The Groove (8) Suraj 53.

1. HAEDI'S FOLLY, 2. DIAMOND RAYS, 3. INTO THE GROOVE

JUVENILE SPRINTERS MILION (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Breaking Bounds (3) Zervan 57, 2. Roma Victor (4) Suraj 55, 3. Sitara (7) Trevor 54.5, 4. Mursion (2) Bhawani Singh

52, 5. Mzilikazi (5) Akshay K 52, 6. Storm Breaker (6) Yash 52 and 7. Glorious Dancer (1) Darshan 50.5.

1. STORM BREAKER, 2. SITARA, 3. ROMA VICTOR

JULY PLATE (1,100m), rated 15 to 35, 5-00: 1. Morrane Gabriella (6) R. Pradeep 60, 2. Mischief Flyer (3) A. Ramu 59, 3. She's Super One (7) Mark 57.5, 5. Genuine Star (2) Suraj 57, 6. Perfect King (8) Irvan 57, 7. Lucky Isabella (1) A. Merchant 56 and 8. Cashmere (5) Darshan 55.

1. SHE'S SUPERB, 2. MORRANE GABRIELLA, 3. CASHMERE

BHISHMA PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-30: 1. Princess Holly (4) Rajesh K 60, 2. Air Of Distinction (1) Ashok K 59.5, 3. A Heartremember (3) Md. Akram 58.5, 4. Kasauli (5) Raja Rao 58.5, 5. Bernardini (6) S. Shareef 58, 6. Cosmic Feeling (7) Zervan 58, 7. Industrialist (9) R. Manish 58, 8. Darahasin (8) S. Mubarak 56 and 9. Lady Diana (2) T.S. Jodha 53.5.

1. DARAHASINI, 2. COSMIC FEELING, 3. INDUSTRIALIST

Day's best: **BROTHERS IN ARMS**
Double: **CHULA VISTA - STORM BREAKER**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i); 2, 3 and 4; (ii); 5, 6 and 7.

Intercontinental Cup — Stimac opts for judicious mix

Stresses on team stability with inclusion of several seniors

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA AHMEDABAD

India head coach Igor Stimac has opted for a combination of youth and experience while announcing a squad of 25 for the Hero Intercontinental Cup, where India opens its campaign against Tajikistan here on Sunday.

The other teams in the tournament are Syria and DPR Korea.

The four sides will play a round robin format before the best two clash for the title on July 19.

Looking to fine-tune the side after India's campaign in the Kings Cup in Thailand last month, the Croatian recalled Anas Edathodika from retirement before the preparatory camp in Mumbai.

Stimac seemed to be keen on team stability with the in-



The road ahead: Igor Stimac spells out his plans to the Indian players. ■ COURTESY: AIFF

clusion of a good number of seniors.

Defending champion India will be looking to reclaim its position in the top-100 in the FIFA rankings, which Stimac feels is priority along with putting up a good show in the qualifiers for the 2022

World Cup in Qatar.

"All our work has been programmed to get us in form for the qualifiers," Stimac said in a statement.

Indian Arrows defender Narender Gahlot was named in the list along with FC Goa wing-half Mandar Rao Desai.

Jobby Justin, the former East Bengal striker, is another new inclusion in the squad.

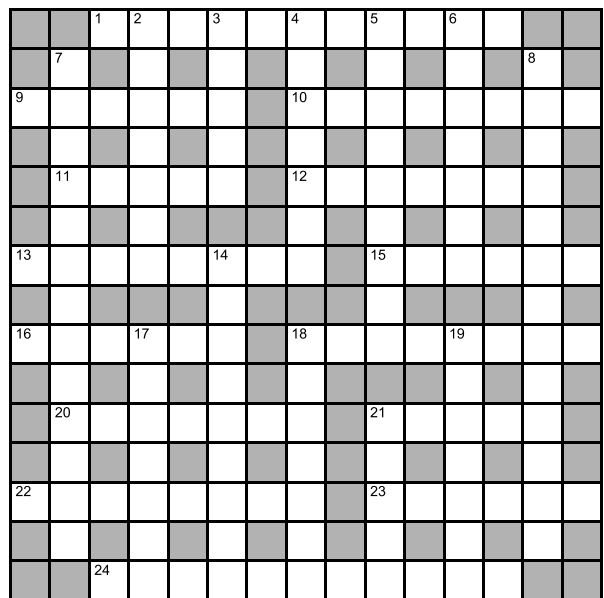
Stimac had summoned 35 players for the preparatory camp before trimming it down to 25 after the 10-day camp. The list will be further pruned to 23 before the

opening match.

The 10 players who failed to make the cut are Vishal Kaith, Nishu Kumar, Salam Ranjan Singh, Sarthak Golui, Anwar Ali, Raynier Fernandes, Michael Soosairaj, Nikhil Poojary, Jackiechand Singh, and Balwant Singh. Ashique Kuruniyan was earlier released from the camp.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Kamaljit Singh; **Defenders:** Pritam Kotal, Rahul Bheke, Sandesh Jhingani, Adil Khan, Anas Edathodika, Narender Gahlot, Subhasish Bose, Jerry Lalrinzuala; **Midfielders:** Kuman Udanta Singh, Brandon Fernandes, Anirudh Thapa, Pronay Halder, Rowlin Borges, Vinit Rai, Sahal Abdul, Amarjit Singh, Lalrinzuala Chhangte, Mandar Rao Desai; **Forwards:** Jobby Justin, Sunil Chhetri, Farukh Choudhary, Manvir Singh.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12671



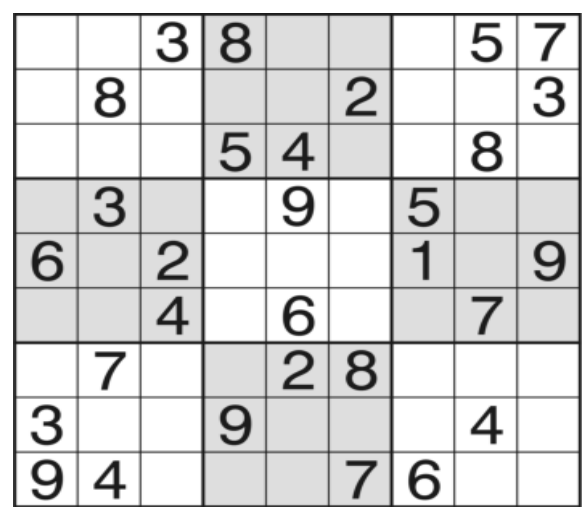
ACROSS

- 1 Chastening fellow setter, happy to knock vacuous clue (11)
- 9 Process of prioritising, working great around hospitals essentially (6)
- 10 Sang praises of old lover — took it as a duty (8)
- 11 Low point of revolting free article (5)

(set by Buzzer)

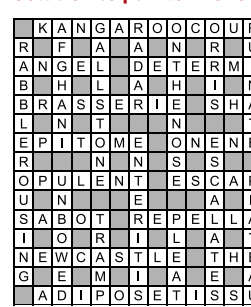
- 12 Put right notorious criminal? Not so (4,3)
 - 13 Secretaries facing one's stricture (8)
 - 15 Oily and gajess, a piece of cake (6)
 - 16 Woman in strife with domestic appliance (6)
 - 18 Swigging gin cured loss of excess weight (8)
 - 20 Wordplay — wicked reversal bringing cheer (5,2)
 - 21 First woman to box, a dead duck (5)
 - 22 Language like 'Open Sesame' (8)
 - 23 It indicates the hour where water freezes shut (6)
 - 24 Gang pile up on male outside cell (6,5)
- DOWN**
- 2 Two legs at great length (2,3,2)
 - 3 In disagreement about ruler (5)
 - 4 They show a degree of reverence heading off agents surrounding Bond (7)
 - 5 Cast do go to pieces filming fine tragedies (4,2,3)
 - 6 Approximately large section of pizza (7)
 - 7 Book club to forget keeping account? Be done with it (5,2,1,5)
 - 8 Killing scene at the end? (5,8)
 - 14 Still mastering golf, it is turning to be plain (9)
 - 17 Try ham, veal got after rump cuts (4,1,2)
 - 18 Full on exercise prisons to allow (7)
 - 19 Comedian keeping place in series (7)
 - 21 Time is hard to manage growing up (5)

SUDOKU

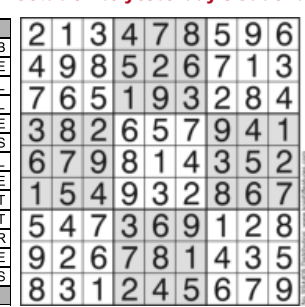


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12670



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Cleanse the mind

Reaching God is not easy. We must cross many hurdles before we attain Him, said R. Narayanan in a discourse. A soul is assigned a body according to its previous karma. Occupying that body, it lives its life on the earth and when life ends, the atma passes into its sukshma state. And the cycle of births and deaths repeats. Only a mind cleansed of all impure thoughts is ready to receive Him and we must practise control of the mind.

A sage once visited a house and wanted to show the people who lived there the importance of a pure mind. He spotted a filthy vessel and asked the man of the house to fetch water in it. The man did as he was asked. The sage asked the man to fetch more water and the whole process was repeated many times, and finally the man remarked, "The once dirty vessel has become clean." The sage said, "In the same way, the mind is full of undesirable thoughts. If you worship God repeatedly, the impure thoughts will vanish."

The Lord, in His infinite mercy, gives each atma a body, and then by enabling a person to focus on Him, he finally liberates him. The body that the atma inhabits is perishable, but the atma is not. God separates the imperishable from the perishable and takes the imperishable atma close to Himself. Milk spoils if not used at once. Curd has a slightly longer shelf life, but it tastes sour in a few days. Butter too can spoil after some days. But ghee, which is extracted from butter has a long shelf life. So, ghee which is more long lasting is extracted from butter and curd, which spoil faster. If human beings are able to extract that which does not spoil easily from that which spoils easily, one can imagine how easily God can grant sayujya to the imperishable atma that occupies the perishable body.