

GILES DENIES BALL TAMPERING CLAIMS

Cardiff

England limited overs coach Ashley Giles has denied his players tamper with the ball following controversial allegations by former captain Bob Willis.

Willis told Sky Sports on Friday that Pakistan umpire Aleem Dar and New Zealand's Billy Bowden had ordered the ball to be changed while Sri Lanka were batting during their seven-wicket Champions Trophy win over England at The Oval on Thursday because it had been tampered with.

"Let's not beat about the bush --- Aleem Dar is on England's case. He knows that one individual is scratching the ball for England - who I am not going to name -- and that's why the ball was changed," Willis said.

But ex-England spinner Giles, speaking yesterday ahead of his side's key Champions Trophy match against New Zealand in Cardiff today, said: "We don't tamper with the ball.

"With the situation the other day, the ball was changed because it had gone out of shape. We asked the question, the captain (Alastair Cook) asked that question to the umpires

which he has a right to.

"The ball was changed, the rest is history." Giles added: "The most important thing is winning cricket matches and not what Bob Willis says."

Reports in the British media have highlighted the role of Ravi Bopara in polishing the ball, a legitimate tactic, but Giles said the Essex all-rounder, who has starred with the bat in this tournament, had been selected for his cricket ability.

"There's even mention of one of our player's (Bopara's) specific role and that player is an extremely good cricketer, he has had an extremely good series so far and we'd like to let him concentrate on playing his cricket."

After England's tournament-opening win over defending champions Australia at Edgbaston, Australia stand-in captain George Bailey said he was "very surprised" by the speed with which Giles's side got the ball to reverse.

However, Giles insisted yesterday an abrasive pitch at Edgbaston had played a key role in aiding England's use of reverse-swing against Australia.



Giles

New investment projects given go ahead

DT Sports Desk
news@dt.bh

The national clubs' Investment Committee, chaired by General Secretary of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, has completed a study on several investment projects put forward by the boards of clubs and were granted approval.

The General Organisation for Youth and Sports (Goys) has received green signal from the committee to invest in Saar and Al Hala Sports Clubs' projects.

Goys had earlier given green signal to the investments at Riffa Club and a public tender has been floated as part of its commitment to show the principle of transparency and equal opportunities for all who wish to invest.

President of Goys and member of the investment com-

mittee, Hisham Mohammed Al Jowder said that under the guidance of Shaikh Salman they are currently working on the completion of these projects, pointing out Goys has been in contact with the tenders council to put the clubs properties for investment through the tender.

Mr. Al Jowder stressed the committee's keenness to complete all tasks assigned to them in processing the investment within clubs, noting that Goys will have a comprehensive study of the investment projects from the clubs before submitting its final report and sign up a deal with a specialised company to assess the real value of these properties to be invested and providing a feasibility study on this investment, which would guarantee the rights of the club in the first place and gives them a larger intake from their respective projects.



Mr. Al Jowder

Federer sets up Youzhny final in Halle



Federer

Halle

World number three Roger Federer edged closer to his first title of the season when he came from a set down to beat defending champion Tommy Haas 3-6 6-3 6-4 at the Halle Open yesterday to book a spot in today's final.

The 31-year-old Swiss looked sharp on the grass court after an erratic start in a repeat of last year's final as he prepares for his title defence at Wimbledon this month.

Federer, five-times champion at Halle, will play Russian Mikhail Youzhny who defeated Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-3 6-2.

"I felt good out there and as I had predicted it was a tough match," Federer said in a court-side interview.

"I have not won a title this year, twice I have lost here in the final in the past years. It will not be easy but I am really looking forward to it."

Team Eldewanya triumph

DT Sports Desk
news@dt.bh

Team Eldewanya defeated Samba Lads 1-0 in the final of the Bahrain Polytechnic Football Tournament played at its campus in Isa Town, while team Yes We Can came in third.

The tournament comprised of 10 teams- eight of students and two of staff.

Played in one day over five hours, the team with the most patience and talent prevailed in the end.

Dr Mohammed Al-Aseeri, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Polytechnic witnessed the competition with the crowd and insisted that the reward isn't only about winning first place.

"Football or sports in general, is the

kind of activity which requires planning and formation beforehand. During the match, it's about focus, teamwork and skill. Afterwards, win or lose, it's all about getting better. If you think about it, these steps are easily taken into account when a person wants to develop in life."

Accompanied by Dr Hassan Almulla, Deputy CEO of Academic Services, they were both impressed by the level of commitment and passion shown by all players.

"At the end of the day, all teams, before and after their matches, have learnt a lesson."

Another point stressed by Dr Al-Aseen is the amount of sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament.



Top three teams in the tournament.