

Talent hunt's 2nd round from July 15

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of the country-wide cricket talent hunt programme titled 'cricket medha khoje' ended at Manikganj last Saturday. A total of 14,000 aspiring cricketers took part in the programme, arranged by Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh in collaboration with 5p events, at 20 venues across the country. A selection panel comprising coaches Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Osman Khan, former national captains Gazi Ashraf Hossain and Khaled Mahmud will pick up players from the preliminary selections for the second round which will begin on July 15 at Dhaka.

Yousuf ensures good Pak start

AFP, Edinburgh

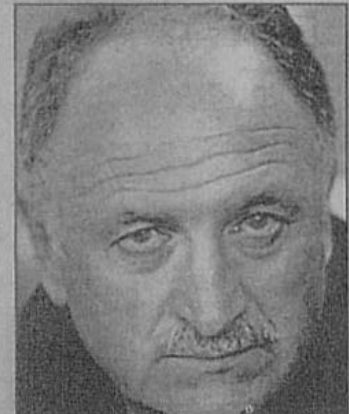
Pakistan began their UK tour by beating Scotland by five wickets in a one-day international at The Grange here Tuesday. Pakistan, set 204 to win, finished on 205 for five after Mohammad Yousuf scored 83 not out and Abdul Razzaq 49 not out. Thoughts of minnows Scotland, who have qualified for next year's World Cup in the West Indies, pulling off one of cricket's great upsets were ignited when they reduced Pakistan to 93 for five before an unbroken stand of 112 between Yousuf and Razzaq saw the visitors to victory. Scotland, who had been 20 for four, recovered well thanks to a partnership of 118 between Ryan Watson (80) and Neil McCallum (68).

Meanwhile, Test discard Robert Key was named as captain of the England A team to face Pakistan in a four-day match at the Kent cricketer's Canterbury home ground starting on July 6. Key, who led England A to victory against Sri Lanka earlier in the season, will captain a side which includes five other players with Test experience in what will be Pakistan's final tour match before the first of a four-Test series starts at Lord's on July 13.



Did U Know?

Three of the four quarterfinals in the 1986 World Cup went to penalty shoot-outs. Germany took care of Mexico 4-1, France stunned Brazil 4-3 and Spain were left broken-hearted by Belgium, again by a 4-3 scoreline.



Luiz Felipe Scolari (Portugal football coach) 'My players have a will and a spirit I've never seen before. That can overcome a lot of difficulties.' After beating the Netherlands 1-0 in the World Cup.



STAR Sports Wimbledon Championships Second Round Live at 5:00 pm



Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene flicks to the on-side on his way to a century during the fourth one-day international against England in Manchester on Wednesday.

Mahela whacks Eng again

Cricket AFP, Manchester

Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene scored his second hundred in as many matches as the tourists made 318 for seven in the fourth one-day international against England at Old Trafford here Wednesday. Jayawardene made exactly 100 after scoring an unbeaten 126 in Sri Lanka's crushing eight-wicket win at the Riverside on Saturday where the 1996 world champions took an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the five-match international series. An unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 68 in 38 balls between Farveez Maharoof (38 not out) and Malinga Bandara (28 not out) led Sri Lanka past the 300-mark after injury-hit England, who had lost eight of their previous 10 one-day internationals, had threatened to pull things back. Recalled seamer Kabir Ali bore the brunt of the assault, his 10 wicketless overs costing 77 runs with 20 off his last, including two sixes by Maharoof -- the first taking him to a maiden fifty at this level. Bandara, who also drove Kabir for six, faced 21 balls with three fours. England's cause was not helped by the return of their wide problem. Having bowled 44 in the first two matches of this series, they cut down to six at the Riverside. But here they sent down 21 wides, nine from Stephen Harmison alone. Off-spinner James Dalrymple led the attack with two for 44 in 10 overs. Jayawardene then completed a

32-ball fifty and soon afterwards opener Tharanga reached the same landmark off 60 balls. England stand-in captain Andrew Strauss rotated his bowlers and eventually the breakthrough came when Tharanga chipped Dalrymple to Solanki at short extra-cover. Either side of a brief rain break, Sri Lanka lost three middle-order batsmen for seven apiece, including experienced wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara. Jayawardene though pressed on to an 82 ball hundred with nine fours courtesy of a pulled boundary off medium-pacer Ian Bell. It was his eighth at this level and fourth against England. But to his next ball Jayawardene gave the impressive Dalrymple an easy return catch, Sri Lanka 220 for six in the 37th over before their late

score. SRI LANKA c Solanki b Dalrymple 60 Tharanga c Dalrymple b Harmison 14 Jayawardene c and b Dalrymple 100 Sangakkara c Jones b Harmison 7 Dilshan b Plunkett 7 Arnold c Jones b Bell 7 Maharoof not out 58 Vaas c Jones b Plunkett 7 Bandara not out 28 Extras: (lb-6, w-21, nb-3) 30 Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 318 Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-160, 3-173, 4-196, 5-214, 6-220, 7-250 Did not bat: L. Malinga, D. Fernando

Table with columns O, M, R, W for Sri Lanka players: Harmison (10, 0, 51, 2), Kabir Ali (10, 0, 77, 0), Plunkett (9, 0, 60, 2), Bresnan (8, 0, 58, 0), Dalrymple (10, 0, 44, 2), Solanki (1, 0, 9, 0), Bell (2, 0, 13, 1). Includes England bowlers and umpires.

Spanish curse

FROM PAGE 17 I'm just sorry we wouldn't make the fans happy.

Spain's record goalscorer Raul, another from the Real Madrid contingent, was similarly upset after the French hoodoo struck again on his 29th birthday - he missed a penalty against Les Bleus in the 2000 European Championship quarter-final. "France were the better side and despite our efforts we didn't have that many chances to win. "But we're a young team and we have to learn from this. The future looks bright for upcoming tournaments. "I hope that Euro 2008 goes well for us as I think that will be my last championship," said the striker, three times a Champions League winner with Real but who has lost his way over the past two seasons after serious knee problems. Spain's Liverpool star Xabi Alonso, another who did not find his form on the day, said that the defeat "hurts a lot. "We'll need to improve for the European Championship - we expected to be here for longer." Colleague Joaquin said Spain had to move on - again. "We must look to the future. We're down but life goes on and this generation is very young."

WC BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24 deflected off defender Iliastu Shilla and bounced into the goal off the thigh of Adriano, who was offside on the play but was not flagged by the linesman. But Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira would have none of it, saying Dujkovic was whining after being beaten by a superior team. "That's a loser's crying game," Parreira said. "Those who lose cry, weep or cringe." Diego to tango A German teacher of tango is hoping the newly svelte Diego Maradona, he of the wildly popular Argentine television dance show "Tens' Night," to come and hone his steps at her Berlin workshop. "A number of tango moves were borrowed from football," Ines Moussavi told the Berliner Kurier daily, inviting Maradona to drop by her Far Out venue on Berlin's Lehnhir Square. Old timers French defender Lilian Thuram said it was just like old times as France knocked out Spain in a match which brought back memories of his country's run to glory on home soil in 1998. "It's difficult to describe the sensations I felt. When (Zinedine) Zidane got the third goal it was like a feeling of liberation. I felt even more emotion than during the competition in France." Thuram famously didn't show much emotion eight years ago, looking simply incredulous and placing a hand to his chin after scoring twice in the 1998 semifinal against Croatia -- his only goals for the national side. Nemesis! Spain are destined to lose -- it's part of the whole business of being Spanish, according to AS sports daily. "We just must believe that there is something in us which prevents us overcoming at the crucial moment. "Maybe there's something deep within us," said AS in a commentary which said the defeat by the French in the last 16 could be added to a long list of losses including "Cuba, Trafalgar..."

THIRD EYE

FROM PAGE 17 missing star midfielder Michael Essien, suspended for two bookable offences. Their 3-0 loss really does not reflect the true run of play as the speedy and powerful Ghanaians looked set to rob Brazil of their pride. And the Africans can be proud of Ghana for stretching heavyweight opponents like Italy, Czech Republic, USA and Brazil. They produced plenty of difficulties for the Brazilians, who despite getting ahead after Ronaldo's fifth minute strike were busy defending their fort. Had it been any other team barring Brazil, they would have not managed to stop a barrage of Ghana attacks and survive. Thanks to Dida, again whose anticipation at goal was superb, and Brazil's patience, finesse and reading of the opposition. Mastery in the so-called final third -- the attacking zone by the five-time world champions made the difference as they made most of the rival offside traps with lightning swift counter attacks. Ronaldo, meanwhile, wrote another chapter in his illustrious career by breaking German great Gerd Muller's record of 14 World Cup goals, notching his 15th and the third in the current edition. Another vintage from the master himself, getting sharper match by match as the trademark twist, turn, faking and the overstepping are

back. I was never in doubt that 'Phenomenon' would be the one to set a new mark at this World Cup but he just took some time. How many times one of the greatest in the trade will have to go out and prove that he is far from being finished? If there was any doubt about Adriano's 'offside' goal, no one could say anything about the third from the indefatigable Ze Roberto, who finished a 25-pass move, eclipsing the 24-pass 'goal of the World Cup' by Argentina. In the end, Brazil's central defender Juan was running up to score; it means things are going their way for certain. Bad news for France, Brazil and Ronaldo would be raring to take revenge of defeats in 1986 quarterfinal and the 1998 final. Another major tournament came for Spain and one thing remained constant: their unerring ability to flatter to deceive. Regularly touted as possible winners, they always contrive to slip and stumble just when the hype starts to look justified. And it was no exception this time when the Spaniards, having played some inspiring football, return home with the familiar tag of the perennial underachievers after their first big date. The difference? Spain brought a very, very young side while the French picked their oldest team ever. Still, at the heart of France's victory was youth and experience: Marseille's 'pocket dynamo' Frank Ribery, his predecessor Zidane and his fellow World Cup winner Patrick Vieira. With France trailing after David Villa's 26th minute penalty, Ribery was set by Vieira to race past three rival players including goalkeeper Iker Casillas for the equaliser. The middle-aged Zidane did everything on the pitch to inspire his teammates before setting the standard with a late goal, chasing Vieira's through like a young man, slicing through Puyol and Pablo before coolly slotting the ball past his Real Madrid teammate Casillas. Fitting for a man for who starts every match at this World Cup knowing it could be his last. While oldies like Zidane and Vieira sparkled, what was the most talked-about and 'overrated' French star Thierry Henry's role in the game apart from the theatrics that won a freekick to provide France's second goal for Vieira -- one of the seven survivors of the triumphant 1998 team -- who has been inspirational in both of France's wins at this tournament? Ghana and Spain, in the end, need not feel ashamed. You two have just been knocked out by the teams who won the last two World Cups.

Clash of the titans

FROM PAGE 17 confident of beating them to reach the semi-final," said captain Michael Ballack. Argentina are well aware that Germany have scored goals inside the first six minutes in three of their four games at the finals and midfielder Maxi Rodriguez said his team would be ready for a fast start. "Germany won't allow us to settle down or give us a moment's freedom," Rodriguez said. "That means Argentina will look to knock them down right from the start." Germany and Argentina met twice last year - in February for a friendly and then at the Confederations Cup in June - and on both occasions the score was 2-2. On this occasion there will be a winner - even if it takes extra-time and penalties.

Interesting

FROM PAGE 17 against Spain. "Germany, Portugal and Brazil are the only teams so far who have won all of their four matches and all within scheduled 90 minutes. "Out of the quarterfinalists, France are the only team to have survived with just two wins out of their four games. "Germany, Argentina and Brazil have scored most number of goals (10) so far. "The only team to advance to the quarterfinals with a defeat are Ukraine. (Lost to Spain in their opening match 4-0). "All the group champions of the group stage qualified for the quarterfinals except Spain and Switzerland. The group runners-up to come this far are France and Ukraine. "Incidentally, all the eight groups have representatives in the quarterfinals. "Out of seven countries that have won the World Cup, only Uruguay did not qualify for 2006 World Cup. The rest six champions who participated in this World Cup have all qualified to last eight. Only Portugal and Ukraine are among the quarterfinalists, who have never won the World Cup. Courtesy: Ananda Zaman

Football infects tennis!



AFP, London

The glory of victory, the agony of defeat: Wimbledon's top stars are going through all the extremes of emotion. But not during the thrills and spills of their own matches -- many of them are hooked on the football World Cup. Swiss superstars Roger Federer and Martina Hingis had plenty to smile about after they breezed through to the second round. But they were both down in the dumps about Switzerland's dismal defeat on penalties to Ukraine. "It was a big pity. I'm very disappointed," said reigning Wimbledon champion Federer. Hingis refused to say whether she thought she could do any better than the Swiss penalty takers, who missed all their kicks. "I don't want to say something which could turn against me," the former world number one said. "It was a great match, a great

battle. Unfortunately, not the right outcome for us." Scotland's rising tennis star Andy Murray is known for having little time for all things English -- and directed a furious glance at one Centre Court supporter who shouted "Come on England" as he was about to serve during his first round match. But even he predicted England would beat Portugal in the quarter-finals. "I'm going to go 1-1. England on penalties," the feisty teen said. "It's going to be interesting. I think England are probably slight favourites after the Portuguese got the sendings off and then Cristiano Ronaldo got injured. "England had a pretty tough match with them at the European Championships. I'm sure it will be a close match, hopefully a few goals." Fellow Brit Tim Henman -- an Englishman -- said the referees at the World Cup were having as bad a time as the Wimbledon umpires. "Sort of questioning whether the umpires are having a little bit of a bad time. I think the referees are having a pretty suspect time in

Germany at the moment." Headed: "I think we'll win." Thai tennis star Tamarine Tanasugarn is roaring on England to thrash Portugal and go all the way to glory. "I watch every match," the world number 164 told AFP. "This are crazy about Manchester United and Liverpool so I know all the English players -- that's why I'm rooting for England to win the World Cup. "I also like Brazil too, they're a very tough team." Argentinian number four seed David Nalbandian said he hoped his countrymen would not forget all about him as Argentina face hosts Germany in their quarter-final. "Soccer is the biggest sport in the world," he admitted. "Most of the people are watching the World Cup. Of course, a lot of people went to Germany to see it. But I think there are a few fans that always follow tennis, so they are going to follow the tennis as well. "The Argentinian people, they don't forget that we are playing Wimbledon, so they want to watch us," he said.

Maria annihilates Anna

WIMBLEDON AFP, London

Maria Sharapova insisted she was intent on seizing back her Wimbledon crown from Venus Williams after she blasted her way into the second round here on Wednesday. The 2004 champion said she had nothing to prove any more and was in it to get her hands on the silverware, and for the sheer love of a fight. The Russian became the darling of the Wimbledon crowd when she won the women's title as a 17-year-old -- but vowed that she would not let the pressure get to her. "I never have big expectations for myself," the number four seed said after thrashing Israel's Anna Smashnova 6-2, 6-0. "I don't think I have anything to prove to the whole world. I do this because I love it -- I love to compete. I love to go out there. "The only reason why I'm here is to hold that plate at the end of the two weeks. I'm not here to show someone I'm better than others or to prove a point. I do it because I love it. As long as I have that passion for it. "You have nerves, that's part of

the sport, coming out on Centre Court and battling your nerves -- but that has nothing to do with expectations. "If that controls you, you should be out of the business." The Russian said she was enjoying being back at the All England Club, and seemed in her element as she breezed through her opening match. "I'm always excited to be playing on grass," she said. "I love the feeling of it. I'm more excited about playing on grass than on any other surface." Sharapova was beaten by the eventual winner Venus Williams in last year's semifinal, one of the hardest-hitting players on tour. She said she was red-hot serve-volley player as a junior and would like to re-open her old box of tricks to increase the aggressiveness in her play. "I would serve-volley. I'd hit drop-shots, slices," Sharapova said. "I did all kinds of things. I'm really good at it and I know I am, it's just a matter of going to a match and doing it. "I don't want to be tentative. When I see the opportunity, I've got to take it." Sharapova was rarely troubled on Court One by Smashnova, who held her serve only once through-

out the 51-minute mismatch. She faces either American Ashley Harkleroad or Croatia's Jelena Kostanic in her quest to reclaim the title. Sharapova's game briefly wobbled in the fourth game. She lost her serve thanks to two unforced errors and a double fault as her grunting grew louder. But she recovered to take the next two games. The Israeli number 42 held her serve to make it 5-2 but Sharapova won the set on a serve and volley. The Russian was 30-0 down in the first game of the second set on the Smashnova's serve but she dug deep turn it round and then sailed through the remaining games. She served for the match and sealed victory when Smashnova hit a return in the net.

Argentina won't French press Domenech hails

FROM PAGE 24 "They are pretty tall and so the aerial route is not the way to go for Argentina," added Tevez after a training session at Herzogenaurach. "It will be a tough encounter - but Germany will have to do more than they have been doing to get past us," Tevez, of Brazilian outfit Corinthians, insisted. Some were less euphoric, like Le Figaro which reminded the country of the team's laboured performance in the first round before adding: "Finally they have succeeded in the most convincing fashion." L'Est Republicain sounded a warning that "Zidane's Les Bleus will not change the world", but then allowed themselves to enjoy the moment: "They may not make it to the next round but in overcoming Spain they reminded us that France can reach the highest level." Even beleaguered French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin took the opportunity to reflect on the team's glory, saying: "I feel only happiness, just happiness."

FROM PAGE 24 right to the end of the match. And then to score, if there's extra happiness from this game if Zidane getting that last goal. That was incredible." Domenech described the prize of playing Brazil as "the biggest match" since taking over as France manager from Jacques Santini. "There aren't many coaches who've made it to the World Cup quarterfinals. "It's for matches like that that we are here. "Brazil are the defending champions, they're unbeaten, so we're going to have to create something additional to our game. "But we've improved with each match. I don't know what'll happen against Brazil, but we want to go to July 9. "This team has enormous potential. We're here to go to the end but I'm not making predictions."

FROM PAGE 24 on like this for a long time to come," Merkel told Sport Bild magazine. "I am confident that we will survive the quarter-finals," she added, hinting Germany will beat Argentina when they meet in Berlin on Friday. Klinsmann took charge of Germany in August 2004 and has yet to pen a new deal as coach. He has declined to disclose his future plans, saying these hinged on the World Cup. Merkel has charmed the public by turning into a committed, excitable football fan who has been in the stand for every one of Germany's matches. She described the whole first half of the country's match against Sweden, which saw striker Lukas Podolski score two goals in less than 12 minutes, as her favourite World Cup moment so far. "It was perhaps the best first half we have seen in the World Cup. It was a joy to see the way they played," she said. The chancellor said she was delighted with what the tournament has done for the host country, in particular the way it has changed unflattering perceptions about Germans. "At the European Union summit meeting (in mid-June), many people told me they thought it was great that Germans can be so cheerful. "If it carries on like this, our country stands to benefit a great deal from the World Cup," she said.

LEADING SCORERS

Table of leading scorers: Gilardino (Italy), Gilberto (Brazil), Golmohammadi (Iran), R Gomez (Costa Rica), Gyan (Ghana), Iaquinta (Italy), Ilic (Serbia-Montenegro), F Inzaghi (Italy), Jaidi (Tunisia), Jaziri (Tunisia), Juanito (Spain), Juninho (Brazil), Kaka (Brazil), Kalou (Ivory Coast), Kalininchenko (Ukraine), Kavedes (Ecuador), Kewell (Australia), Koller (Czech Republic), B Kone (Ivory Coast), N Kovac (Croatia), Lahm (Germany), Larsson (Sweden), Lee Chun-soo (South Korea), Ljungberg (Sweden), Marquez Alvarez (Mexico), Materazzi (Italy), Messi (Argentina), Mnar (Tunisia), Mohamed Kader (Togo), CA Moore (Australia), Muntari (Ghana), Nakamura (Japan), Neuville (Germany), Park Ji-sung (South Korea), Pauleta (Portugal), Pirlo (Italy), Raul (Spain), Rebrou (Ukraine), Ribery (France), Robben (Netherlands), Rusol (Ukraine), Saviola (Argentina), Senderos (Switzerland), Simao Sabrosa (Portugal), Sma (Croatia), Tamada (Japan), Tevez (Argentina), Totti (Italy), Van Nistelrooy (Netherlands), Van Persie (Netherlands), Xabi Alonso (Spain), Ze Roberto (Brazil), Zidane (France), Zigic (Serbia-Montenegro), Zinha (Mexico).