

# Column One

## DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the manner in which the television networks worldwide are getting into the act of providing excellent service to their viewers, their good work is becoming a direct threat to live attendance. The result is the dwindling size of crowds in even major sporting events. The ongoing Singer Cup with three of the best exponents of the game taking the field, the paucity of crowd at the Padang should make the current position absolutely clear.

Television viewers in the comfort of their home, able to keep in touch with business and the more sporting man-about-town hooking on to a set in his own office, the feeling that you are actually working while enjoying a game, and such vital issues continue to discourage enthusiasts from queuing up at the ticket-counter, sweating in uncomfortable seats, making the embarrassing walk along the row of seats to reach a decent cup of tea, etc. And, so Baba and the working Ammu are home when children are filing off to their schools. Not fair, uh?

The problem of thin crowds is more true for cricket than any other game because of its long duration. Moreover, there is no substitute for the ball-to-ball analysis, close-ups, instant and delayed replays, expert comments that are available on TV.

Although you might be lucky to get a seat beside the odd 'expert' in the gallery, TV wins hands down on the other aspects. Moreover, you can switch off the TV (or shoot it if you are losing) at your convenience. You would not do that if you were sitting in the stands because you, not only paid for it, but almost lost an arm and a leg to get hold of it.

So, an ageing Lara will be making delightful strokes in barren stadiums. But, don't worry! All of it (including slo-mo) will be on TV.

## SPORTS TALK



Zaheer Abbas

(Former Pakistani batting great)

The art of strokeplay is a way of communication between strokeplayers and cricket lovers. Perfect strokeplay touches the heart of a cricket fan as a lover's message touches the heart of the beloved.

## Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

### Sports WHIZZ KID competition-32

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 5, 1996)

1. In the 1996 World Cup, Zimbabwe were led by:  
Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Robert Flower
2. The first century in the 1996 World Cup was scored by:  
Nathan Aspin, Lee Cernoni, Adam Parore
3. The 1996 European soccer championship will be held in:  
Denmark, Germany, England
4. Sri Lankan cricket team is sponsored by:  
Panasonic, Sony, Singer
5. In the Singer Cup Pakistan will be led by:  
Salim Malik, Aamir Sohail, Ijaz Ahmed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No.: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

# Tussle of titans today



SINGAPORE, Apr 4: India will try to repeat their feat of playing Pakistan when they clash in the Singer Cup here Friday, reports AFP.

New manager Sandeep Patil is telling his team to forget their arch-rivals, who will be seeking revenge for their World Cup defeat at the hands of the Indians.

"We will be treating them as just another strong team," the



AAMIR SOHAIL

former Indian batting star said, adding that the fact that they are Pakistan would not matter. "It is just another game."

He predicted another tight match against Pakistan after India beat World Cup winners Sri Lanka by just 12 runs Wednesday with a superb performance by bowlers Jagavallabhi Srinath and Venkatapathy Raju. The 5,000 seats at the Padang will be full for the encounter, expected to be fought in their usual war-like atmosphere.

India crushed Pakistan's World Cup dream with a 39-

run victory in an epic quarter-final in Bangalore last month. It was the first time they met on Indian soil in seven years.

The defeat sparked immense disappointment and anger among fans in Pakistan, who were vastly relieved when Sri Lanka went on to defeat India in the semifinal before going on to beat Australia in the final.

"As the holder we wanted badly to win the trophy again and play the final in front of our own crowd in Lahore," said Pakistani strike bowler Waqar Younis. "Now we have the chance with this tournament here of gaining some revenge."

Star Sports will air live the crucial Singer Cup match from the Padang, Singapore, today. Time: 7.30 am BST.

The world's fastest bowler relishes the prospect of playing India despite the pressure that comes every-time the two countries, whose governments are forced at odds — meet on the sports field.

"People think some kind of war is going on or something. That is why we always struggle to play against each other," said the 25-year-old, who is still waiting to play a full Test series against the Indians.

Pakistan skipper Aamir Sohail said the tension among fans got to the players as well and affected their performance.

Sohail, who was acting captain in the quarterfinal, said the two countries should lay more often so that "You can have tension released between the teams as well as the fans."

Singapore may be neutral ground, but there will be fans cheering both sides on Friday.

India take the field with the psychological advantage of Wednesday's victory over Sri Lanka, who trounced Pakistan by 34 runs in a high-scoring

game a day earlier.

Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam stressed the unpredictable nature of limited-overs cricket.

"In one-day cricket it doesn't matter how good you are. It all depends on how you play in a particular day," Intikhab said.

Friday's match will determine which of the three teams go into Sunday's final. If all three are tied with one win each, the run-rate will be the deciding factor.

## TEAMS

INDIA: (from) Mohammed



MD AZHARUDDIN

Azharuddin (capt.), Sachin Tendulkar, Navjot Singh, Sanjay Manjrekar, Rahul Dravid, Vikram Rathore, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Venkatapathy Raju, Jagavallabhi Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Prashant, Vaidya, Ashish Kapoor.

PAKISTAN: (from) Aamir Sohail (capt.), Saeed Anwar, Rameez Raja, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Waqar Younis, Muhammad Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Alta-ur-Rehman, Aaqib Javed, Saqlain Mushtaq.

# S Australia muddle thru'

ADELAIDE, Apr 4: South Australia survived a tense final 40 minutes to grab a draw with Western Australia on Wednesday and win the Sheffield Shield for the 13th time, reports Reuters.

Needing only to draw after finishing at the top of the Shield standings, South Australia were in deep trouble on the fifth and final day after resuming at 57 for two in their second innings.

Tail-enders Peter McIntyre

Nat'l wrestling in May

The 20th national senior wrestling championship, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Wrestling Federation, will begin here on May 20 at the National Sports Coaching Centre, reports UNB.

Participating teams are requested to send entries by May 15, said a federation press release yesterday.

The three-day meet was earlier scheduled for March 28-31 and had to be deferred due to unavoidable circumstances.

and Shane George clung on grimly, frustrating the Western Australia bowlers as South Australia reached 208 for nine at the close.

Set 343 to win outright, South Australia gave up their run chase well before tea when they lost the wickets of opener Greg Blewett and James Bryshaw to be 193 for six at the interval.

Blewett was judged leg before wicket to a Brendon Julian in swinging for 72 after batting bravely for 320 minutes, while Bryshaw was caught and bowled by wrist-spinner Brad Hogg for 66.

The pair had put on 102 for the fifth wicket after South Australia had got off to a terrible start, losing nightwatchman Jason Gillespie and Darren Lehmann in one Julian over early in the first session to be 67 for four.

South Australia captain Jamie Siddons, hampered by a painful hip injury, batted resolutely after the loss of Blewett and Bryshaw.

Siddons took 59 minutes to score his first run and had four to his name after two hours at the crease.

South Australia lost wicket-

keeper Tim Nielsen and then Tim May and all appeared lost when Siddons was caught close to the wicket from Hogg's bowling on a crumbling pitch.

But McIntyre and George remained undefeated after a dramatic final 40 minutes in which they fended off 59 balls together to give South Australia their first Shield title since the 1981-82 season.

South Australia were beaten by an innings and 101 runs by Queensland in last year's Shield final.

BUET cricket nets

Sports Reporter

Practice session for cricketers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) to form their team to participate in the forthcoming national cricket championship, will begin at the University ground from Sunday afternoon, says a press release.

Interested students of BUET have been instructed to report to the Physical Training department immediately, the press release added.

# Wisden names top five

LONDON, Apr 4: World Cup hero Aravinda de Silva is one of Wisden's five cricketers-of-the-year — with troubled England surprisingly supplying three of the names, reports Reuters.

Sri Lankan batsman De Silva was chosen before he played a leading role in last month's

ble the other player named following his brilliant 1995 season with Northamptonshire.

Cork broke thrillingly into Test cricket last summer's series against the West Indies. Fraser's award comes after years of wholehearted effort and Warwickshire captain Reeve is recognised for leading Warwickshire to six titles since September 1993.

Wisden editor Matthew Engel, who made waves with a ferocious attack on England supreme Ray Illingworth in last year's cricket "bible", hands out a little more criticism.

Engel labels Illingworth's handling of fast bowler Devon Malcolm and young batsman Mark Ramprakash as "woeful", and adds: "It was hard to fathom what Illingworth thought he was achieving in his dealings with them."

Italy interests Magic

ROME, Apr 4: Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson says he would like to play in the Italian basketball league one day, reports AP.

Johnson, who retired in 1991 after learning he has the virus that causes AIDS but returned to the Lakers this season, said he would have no hesitation about playing in Italy.

But Engel also gives credit to the England management, up to the World Cup, for conducting affairs "With more dignity than has been the case before, especially on the hopelessly-run 1994-95 tour of Australia."

The 1996 Wisden, published on Thursday, is the 133rd edition. In a special feature it reveals the champion



ARAVINDA DE SILVA

teams of the last 50 years. The West Indies pip Australia as Test champions, with Middlesex narrowly beating Surrey and Yorkshire for the English county championship honours.

# Premier Div cricket AKC take on Biman today

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra will take on Biman this morning at the Dhaka Stadium as the remaining matches of Premier Division Cricket Super League resumes today after a 27-day recess due to the political impasse.

Abahani have so far played 13 matches. They won nine and lost four matches which puts them now in third position in the 12-team table with 18 points to their account.

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club, who need a further two points from their remaining two matches to clinch the championship, are leading the standings with 24 points from 14 matches followed by Brothers Union Club who have 20 points also from 14 encounters.

## FIXTURE

The remaining fixture of the league are as follows:

- April 5: AKC vs Biman
- April 6: Kalabagan vs Wari
- April 7: AKC vs MSC
- April 8: Biman vs Wari
- April 9: Kalabagan vs BU
- April 11: Kalabagan vs AKC
- April 12: Wari vs BU
- April 13: MSC vs Biman

# Nat'l women's chess

Sports Reporter

Eight players won their respective opening round matches as the qualifying round of the 17th national women's chess championship commenced at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the day's matches, Syeda Afiana Parveen Nira defeated Farhana Fatema Tanu. Zakia Sultana beat Ruhani Anwar. Ferdous Sultana Minni outplayed Dilwara Munshi. Jahana Hira Runtu outmastered Bilkis Sultana. Masura Begum overcame Nasreen Shamim. Falzunnissa Poly beat Farhana Sharmeen Titi, and Nazrana Khan defeated Ruksana Gulshan Nikkon.

With three late entries, sixteen girls are now taking part in the five-round Swiss-league qualifying round from which the top six girls will earn berth for the final round scheduled to begin from April 9 next with ten players.

# Div III football super league begins Apr 10

The 8-team super league of the metropolis Pragati Insurance Third Division football will begin on April 10 at the Mirpur Stadium, reports UNB.

Two matches will be played everyday at 3 pm and 4.30 pm.

Sunrise Sporting Club will play the inaugural match against East End Boys Club at 3 pm while Dipali Juba Samana will take on Magbazar Krira Chakra at 4.30 pm in the day's other fixture.

On the following day Matuall Udayan Sangsad will meet Prantik KC at 3 pm while Matuall Juba Sangha will face Fire Service & Civil Defence at 4.30 pm.

# BAF football CHITTAGONG, Apr 4: Annual inter-base football championship of the Bangladesh Air Force started at the BAF Base Zahurul Haque in Chittagong today, reports BSS.

In the opening match BAF Base Matuiri Rahman defeated BAF Base Zahurul Haque 3-2.

# Sino lifter better's own world mark

TOKYO, Apr 4: China's Guan Hong smashed two of her own world records Thursday as she swept all three titles in the women's 46-kilogram class of the Asian Weightlifting Championships, reports AP.

Guan, 22, snatched 80 kilograms (176.4 pounds) and then lifted 105 kilograms (231.5 pounds) in the clean and jerk, breaking her own record of 102.5 kilograms (226 pounds) set in the 1994 Asian Games.

Her total of 185 kilograms (407.9 pounds) bettered her world record of 182.5 (402.3 pounds), also set in the Asian Games.

Guan was the gold medalist in her class in the 1995 world weightlifting championships, held in Canton, China, last November.

In snatch, Taiwan's Tsai Huey-wan finished second with 72.5 kilograms (159.8 pounds), and Indonesian N Kunjarani third with 70 (154.3 pounds).

In clean and jerk, Kunjarani placed second with 95 kilograms (209.4 pounds), and Japan's Kaori Miyazaki third with 90 (198.4 pounds).

In total, Kunjarani was second with 165 kilograms (365.8 pounds), and Tsai third with 162.5 (358.2 pounds).

A total of 143 men and 54 women weightlifters from 16 Asian countries are participating in the six-day world which opened Thursday in Yachyo on the southeastern outskirts of Tokyo.

The men weightlifters include 10 from North Korea vying for five additional Asian places in the Atlanta Olympics.

North Korea boycotted the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, but announced last year that it would compete at the Atlanta Games.



Juventus' captain and star marksman Gianluca Vialli (L) is prevented from getting to the ball by Nantes' Jean-Michel Ferri during their Champions' League semifinal first leg encounter in Turin, Italy on April 3. Vialli scored one as Juventus won 2-0. —AFP/UNB photo

# Windies get cold feet

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Apr 4: New Zealand scored a dramatic four-run win against the West Indies on Wednesday to square the five-match one-day series 2-2 and set the stage for a tense decider in St Vincent on Saturday, reports Reuters.

After New Zealand made a disappointing 158 in 35.5 overs, the West Indies surprisingly struggled for runs on the docile strip and were dismissed for 154 in 49.1 overs.

It brought to mind the recent World Cup semifinal against Australia in Pune when West Indies lost by five runs.

On Wednesday, Roland Holder was left high and dry on a hard-fought 49, made off 86 balls with four boundaries.

Jimmy Adams hit a useful 23 but was then run out in a mix-up with his partner at a critical stage.

At 120-8 it looked all over but Holder and Curtly Ambrose, who made 16, brought victory back in sight only for Ambrose to be trapped leg before at 152 and Courtney Walsh to be bowled by Chris Cairns for one.

No one anticipated the drama to follow when play started in heavy sunshine. The general feeling was that it would be a high scoring affair on a typical easy-packed Bourda pitch.

Batsmen, however, found life difficult other than when the New Zealand openers were blasting 50 off just six overs and when Brian Lara threatened to dominate with three consecutive fours from spinner

Dipak Patel. But Lara went for 17 and apart from Holder none of the West Indians really got to grips with the task in hand against some tight New Zealand bowling and fielding.

Earlier, New Zealand collapsed after openers Craig Spearman and Nathan Astle had blazed their way to a half century stand in just six overs. They slithered from 77 for one to 158 all out.

Ambrose was, at the heart of West Indies' fightback with two wickets and two run outs.



CHRIS CAIRNS

He trapped Astle leg before for 20 and bowled Spearman for 41 in his opening spell.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between West Indies and New Zealand at Bourda on Wednesday. NEW ZEALAND Spearman b Ambrose 41

Astle lbw b Ambrose	20
Germon run out	19
Fleming c Harper b Simmons	9
Harris c Harper b Simmons	8
Twose run out	8
Cairns c and b L Williams	29
Thompson c Harper b L Williams	6
Patel c Jacobs b Walsh	2
Vaughan not out	4
Larsen hit wkt b L Williams	1
Extras: (lb-7, w-3, nb-1)	11
Total (all out, 35.5 overs)	158
Fall of wickets: 1-55; 2-77; 3-90; 4-100; 5-113; 6-113; 7-138; 8-145; 9-155.	

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	7	1	33	2
Walsh	6	0	38	1
Simmons	10	0	42	2
Harris	8	1	22	0
L Williams	4.5	0	16	3

WEST INDIES	O	M	R	W
S. Williams lbw b Larsen	6			
Chanderpaul c Harris b Patel	11			
Lara c Astle b Larsen	17			
Simmons c Harris b Vaughan	11			
Adams run out	23			
Holder not out	49			
Jacobs c Germon b Vaughan	0			
Harper b Harris	5			
L Williams c Fleming b Astle	1			
Ambrose lbw b Vaughan	16			
Harbesh b Cairns	1			
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-5)	14			
Total (all out, 49.1 overs)	154			
Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-35; 3-39; 4-68; 5-104; 6-111; 7-116; 8-120; 9-152.				

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Patel	10	1	35	1
Larsen	10	1	18	2
Harris	10	1	23	1
Vaughan	7	0	26	3
Astle	1	0	26	1
Cairns	5.1	0	17	1

Result: New Zealand won by four runs. Final match: St Vincent, April 6.

# Agassi in fine fettle

LONDON, Apr 4: Andre Agassi says he is back on top form after Sunday's Lipton Championship victory in Florida earned him his first title since last August, reports Reuters.

The 25-year-old fighting fit and ready for the rigours of Wimbledon and the Olympics in the months ahead.

"I feel it's been a while since I played my best tennis and last week was really good for me. I felt my tennis got better as the tournament went on and I finished playing very strong," he said.

Agassi was in London this week for a major media campaign to publicise his latest commercial for Pepsi, featuring a daring bungee jump and other stunts he says are all his

own. Sporting a designer-grey suit, a departure from the customary bandana and baggy clothes he wears on court, the ex-Wimbledon champion nominated his two greatest foes — Goran Ivanisevic and Pete Sampras.

Ivanisevic was forced to retire from Sunday's Lipton final with a neck injury, leaving Agassi to collect the \$38,000 dollars winner's cheque.

The Lipton was Ivanisevic's seventh tournament this year. The Croat has already won four titles and Wimbledon remains a great ambition.

"Sampras and Ivanisevic are certainly the two guys I look at and think 'I've got to stop one of them, if not both,'" said Agassi.

The American, having stormed to victory in Florida against semifinalist Andre

Boetsch in just one hour 24 minutes, believes the title success — albeit ultimately by default — was well-deserved.

"It would have been a great match and I'm disappointed we didn't get to have it," he said. "But I expected to win. I felt I was playing really well."

The victory marked his third career Lipton title, having collected the top prize in 1990 and 1995.

There looms the French championship, which Agassi has never won, followed by Wimbledon. The world's hardest groundstroke has a lot to be thinking about.

The 1992 champion says he will arrive one week before the start of Wimbledon, although some attributed the success of last year's champion Sampras to much longer pre-tournament preparation.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Primary course of study
  - 2 Fact
  - 3 Actress
  - 4 Donor
  - 5 Precursor
  - 6 Rib
  - 7 Blueprint
  - 8 Girl in an Everly song
  - 9 "Impossible"
  - 10 Profound
  - 11 Talley
  - 12 Dangling locale
  - 13 In a strange way
  - 14 Wild
  - 15 Football
  - 16 Pince-glasses
  - 17 Bands
  - 18 Layer of the atmosphere
  - 19 Unyielding
  - 20 Minor
- DOWN