

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Dickie Bird, the legendary cricket umpire, who will call it a day after the current Lord's England-India Test, is one of sports' most favorite characters. But, Harold Dennis Bird, as he is officially known, has his favourites too.

This cricketing heroes do not come as surprises. They include Sobers, Lillee, Viv, Gavaskar and Richards. Among current players he (obviously) admires Lara, Warne and Sachin.

His favourite magazine is 'The Cricketer,' of course. He admires Muhammad Ali, loves fish and Ford cars.

This Dickie can be naughty. In his wildest dreams he would most like to spend a day or night with Barbara Streisand. Where? Well, the Oberoi in Bombay is a good guess, because that's his favourite hotel.

How's that for a bird?

SPORTS TALK



Jim Courier

(US tennis superstar)
"I don't feel old. I'm 25 and I'm in the best shape of my life."

After being described as a 'clay court veteran'.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-43

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes 8 p.m. June 28, 1996)

1	The fastest woman of the 1995 Madras SAF Games is	Susmita	Dhammavathi	Shyla
2	Sprinter Gwen Torrence is the current Olympic champion in	100m	200m	400m
3	The captain of the Croatian football team in the Euro '96 is	Boban	Suker	Bokic
4	Bangladesh Ringers have won the premier volleyball league title	5 times	6 times	7 times
5	The surname of English cricket umpire Dickie Bird is	Harold	William	Henry

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Shutters' camp

Sports Reporter

The under-14 badminton training camp, organised by the Bangladeshi Badminton Federation, will resume at the Indoor Stadium, Mirpur, from this afternoon.

All the participants are instructed to report at the Stadium by 4 pm.

Siemerink, Stolle in final

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 22: Dutchman Jan Siemerink defeated Briton Greg Rusedski on Friday 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 to reach the final of the Nottingham Open where he will meet Sandon Stolle of Australia, reports AFP.

Siemerink, seeded five, has been watching the European Championships and beating Rusedski was especially welcome after England's 4-1 Wembley win over Holland.

His victory over Rusedski completed a double over British players as he also knocked out British No.1 Tim Henman in the quarter-finals.

'I've heard enough in the last couple of days about England beating Holland so it was nice to get my own back a bit,' Siemerink said.

'But it wasn't really revenge. I like Tim and Greg and you just try to beat the other player - whoever he is,' he added.

Siemerink's triumph over Rusedski qualified him for his sixth ATP Tour final. Stolle beat compatriot and sixth seed Todd Woodbridge, 6-2, 6-4, to clinch his place in the final.

Howzzat! Reza-e-Karim?

Sports Reporter

With the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) reportedly facing a serious cash crisis, local umpires have demanded their dues, worth about Tk 2,50,000, before the forthcoming tour of USA and Canada by the national team, due to leave for New York on June 24.

It was learnt that the BCCB is yet to pay the aforesaid amount it owes to the local umpires as payments for officiating in various domestic matches.

'We have been requesting the concerned authorities to pay our match-fees for the last month. But we are not going to tolerate the dilly-dallying attitude of BCCB any longer,' said the secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Umpires Association (BCUA) Sallab Hossain Tutul. He further added that the chairman of the Umpires Board Reza-e-Karim must do something before leaving for the United States. Reza-e-Karim, who is also the treasurer of the BCCB, is accompanying the team to USA and Canada as tour manager of the 20-member Bangladeshi team.

While elaborating, Tutul

said that BCCB is yet to pay the match-money of almost all the domestic meets including the Premier cricket league, and

the existing body.

A spokesman for the robed men of the most thankless job Tutul, however, said the Reza-e-Karim has assured them of paying a handsome amount within the next couple of days.

But insiders in the BCCB revealed to this reporter that various sponsors owe the BCCB almost Tk two crore. Reza-e-Karim, the jack of all trades in BCCB, was not available at the stadium office last night to confirm or deny the claim.

Whatever said and done, Reza-e-Karim should not leave for the tour without pacifying the umpires in cash as he is also their Chairman, pointed out one umpire.

Besides being the umpires chairman and the BCCB Treasurer, 'Mr Efficient' is also Secretary of Selection Committee, Chairman of Ground Committee, something of the league committee, and so on.

Sports lovers wonder how a personality like Reza-e-Karim whose poor Treasurship has landed BCCB in this mess with dedicated local umpires can be selected once again to manage the national side, and that, too, on a foreign tour. Does BCCB always reward the inefficient?

REZA-E-KARIM

the Nirman School cricket championship.

The BCCB told us that they are unable to pay our money before July, but we want it right now. We don't know whether the present ad-hoc committee will continue that long, said Tutul while expressing his fear of a change in

England have also gone for a personality like Reza-e-Karim whose poor Treasurship has landed BCCB in this mess with dedicated local umpires can be selected once again to manage the national side, and that, too, on a foreign tour. Does BCCB always reward the inefficient?

While elaborating, Tutul

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 22: Pat Rousseau, the new president of the West Indies Cricket Board, says WICB wants to host the 2003 limited overs World Cup already awarded to South Africa, reports AFP.

The WICB has had an assurance on more than one occasion at International Cricket Council (ICC) meetings — and it is actually recorded in minutes — that when we wish to host the World Cup we had to raise our hands and say, 'Our time now, and we are ready,' Rousseau said after the close of two days of WICB meetings.

'We have also had it reaffirmed by the ICC that it was discussed in the meetings, and they have offered to confirm that in writing.'

'We are going to take the position that we have always said we have the right to hold it and we now want it, and South Africa must, therefore, wait four years to the year 2007.'

England will host the next World Cup in 1999, the fourth time the event will be staged there. Neither South Africa nor West Indies has hosted the competition.

The sports boycott of nearly three decades prevented South Africa from hosting international events, while limited finances have blocked

the first order of business will be to help choose the team for the tour of Australia later this year, but ultimately he hopes to be of the most use to West Indian bowlers.

'Especially the younger bowlers, by passing my knowledge on to them,' he said. 'Try to help them cut down on noballs, because I think we do bowl quite a fair amount. Actually, I have been helping out with that at Hampshire (the English county cricket club) and we've only bowled four noballs for the season.'

'I will also try to impart my knowledge to the younger batsmen,' he added. 'Getting them to believe in themselves and their ability much more and help with the finer points of the game.'

The Barbados-born Marshall has been contracted to coach Hampshire until 1998 and Natal, the South African provincial side, for a similar period. However, he and the WICB negotiated his release from the Natal contract and have reached an agreement with Hampshire.

'My Hampshire contract is for the summer and most of the time West Indies will be involved in winter tours,' he said. 'We only make summer tours to England, and our next one is in 1999 and my contract with Hampshire ends in 1998, so it will not be affected.'

Marshall enters at a critical stage in West Indies cricket, after the chaos of the previous year. The task does not appear too great to him, and he thinks captain Courtney Walsh is an exceptional talent.

'With a binding resolution, you have to give six weeks notice of the resolution and you have to get two-thirds vote of the full membership, so we need a minimum of six (of the nine Test-playing countries) votes to do it,' Rousseau said.

Meanwhile, Malcolm Marshall's appointment as West Indies cricket coach was confirmed by Rousseau.

'There is an understanding between the two parties and we would like Warwickshire to keep to that,' Bacher said.

Warwickshire chief executive Dennis Amis responded with a pledge that the matter would be discussed at top management level.

Amis said: 'We are concerned that we don't wear him out because he is only 22 but at the same time he is our main strike bowler. We have to try to find the right balance between the two.'

Olympic prize for scientists

ATLANTA, June 22: Two scientists whose work spearheaded the fitness revolution will share a 250,000 dollar Olympic prize in sport science. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Friday, reports Reuter.

British Jeremy Morris and American Ralph Paffenbarger pioneered separate studies demonstrating the relationship between physical activity and the risk of coronary heart disease, the Lausanne-based IOC said in a statement.

Their research changed the practice of medicine and inspired the fitness revolution, the IOC said in the statements released in Switzerland and Atlanta, host city of next month's Olympic Games.

Morris, 86, and Paffenbarger, 74, will receive their prize at the International Olympic Committee's 105th session in Atlanta next month.

Morris is emeritus professor of Public Health at London University and was an adviser to the World Health Organisation for four decades. Paffenbarger holds epidemiology posts at Stanford and Harvard Universities and at the University of California, Berkeley.

'While especially important to premier athletes, the contributions made by this research help to improve the lives of all humankind,' said IOC vice-president Prince Alexandre de Merode.

American Mary Joe Fernandez plays a backhand against her Spanish opponent Conchita Martinez during their international ladies tennis championship encounter at Eastbourne on June 21. Fernandez won 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

— AFP/UNB photo

Pakistan go for peace

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 22: Wasim Akram and Pakistani tour manager Yawar Saeed stressed on Friday that there will be no souring relations during their tour which begins on June 27 against an England amateur XI, reports AFP.

Relations, which were strained to the limit four years ago during the 'cheat' allegations, were played down by Saeed and test and County Cricket Board cricket secretary Tim Lamb.

Saeed said: 'We intend to play the game in its best traditions - we are hoping for a trouble-free tour.'

'Our team are friendly with and all know the England team well, so we expect better relations between the sides.'

Lamb added: 'One can only question the motives of those who wish to reopen old wounds. The relationship between the TCCB and the Pakistan Cricket Board has never been better.'

Akram, meanwhile, explained the on-field aspects which Pakistan are currently stressing, saying: 'Fielding has been one of the main criteria for selection on this tour.'

'England have also gone for good young players who are good in the field. They have looked at young blood for the future and that is also what we are aiming towards.'

'Our fielding has let us down in the past and it is something we have been working on for the last three or four years. Some days we do well but on others we lose our concentration and drop catches.'

'But now we are improving and all the boys have great enthusiasm. The management team have done a good job and I am satisfied with the fielding and the selection of this squad.'

Akram will inevitably be competing against a number of his Lancashire teammates - England captain Mike Atherton, Peter Martin and possibly John Crawley and Glen Chapple - in the forthcoming three Tests and one-day international series.

'It will be difficult playing against my former teammates. But it is not Lancashire I am playing against. It is like playing against your friend and I am sure it will be a healthy contest.'

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France's Nathalie Tauzat, beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Seles in the semifinals, said afterwards she would be surprised if the joint world number one won Wimbledon, which starts on Monday.

Seles, 22, had earlier beaten Argentine qualifier Ines Gorrochategui 6-3, 6-1 in a morning quarterfinal after rain washed out play on Thursday.

Asked to assess the left-hander's chances at Wimbledon, the 28-year-old Tauzat said Seles was mentally very tough but could struggle against a number of serve-and-volley players.

In the final Seles meets seventh seed Mary Joe Fernandez, who spent over four hours on court in winning her two matches on Friday.

The 24-year-old American upset world number two Conchita Martinez 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a two-hour quarterfinal and then overcome Jana Novotna 6-1, 2-6, 8-6 in a thrilling semifinal lasting two hours and 12 minutes.

— AFP/UNB photo



BIRD'S EYEVIEW: Standing in his last Test match, umpire Harold (Dickie) Bird is turned into a mere onlooker as India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar fails to clear Alec Stewart at close who sways back to hold on to the stumps on the second day of the second Cornhill Test.

— AFP/UNB photo

at the end of the second day's play.

Russell was last man out for 124 in the England innings of 344 and then watched from behind the stumps as Dominic Cork and Chris Lewis took a wicket each as India moved to 83 for two at stumps, still 261 runs behind.

Cork made the initial breakthrough when Vikram Rathor, on 15, edged to Nasser Hussain who snapped up a fine catch going low to his left at the third slip.

Nayan Mongia, promoted to open in this Test ahead of Ajay Jadeja, batted stubbornly for just over