

## Column One

## SPORTS TALK



Thomas Muster

(Austrian tennis star)  
That's the first time I've ever done this... I've never played against anyone like this.

(Said of his refusal to shake hands after the French Open match against controversial opponent Jeff Tarango).

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

## Competition-71

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm.

June 13, '97

1	Who lifted the Independence Cup cricket title?	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	India
2	Who won the European Cup football title?	Borussia	Bayern	Juventus
3	How many fours did Saeed Anwar clout in his record one-day innings of 1994?	20	21	22
4	Who was adjudged man-of-the-series in the Independence Cup?	De Silva	Jayasurya	Aaqib
5	Who became champion in the 23rd national chess tourney?	Rakib	Lovlu	Rajib

Name .....  
.....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## Rangers' offer for Ronaldo

GLASGOW, June 1: Scottish champion Glasgow Rangers was reported Saturday to have made an astonishing 37 million pound (59.2 million dollars) offer to sign Brazilian star Ronaldo from Barcelona, reports AP.

The Scottish Daily Mail quoted Ronaldo's agent, Giovanni Branchini, as saying Rangers owner David Murray faxed him Thursday offering a world record 20 million pounds (32 million dollars) transfer fee plus a figure of some 17 million pounds (27.2 million dollars) covering the players salary over four years.

The figure would have shattered the previous world record set by England international Alan Shearer's 15 million pound move from Blackburn to Newcastle last summer.

But the agent said Ronaldo almost certainly would turn it down and, if he was leaving Barcelona, likely would move to Inter Milan.

"Although Ronaldo commands great financial sums, his move is not only about money," Branchini told the Scottish Daily Mail. "If it was he would be going to Rangers, which was the best offer we have ever had."

"Of he really wanted to make money then he would be going there, but Inter is his personal favourite."

"The deal was also good because Ronaldo would have been contracted to play in the Champions' Cup matches," the agent was quoted as saying.

## Thailand hold South Korea

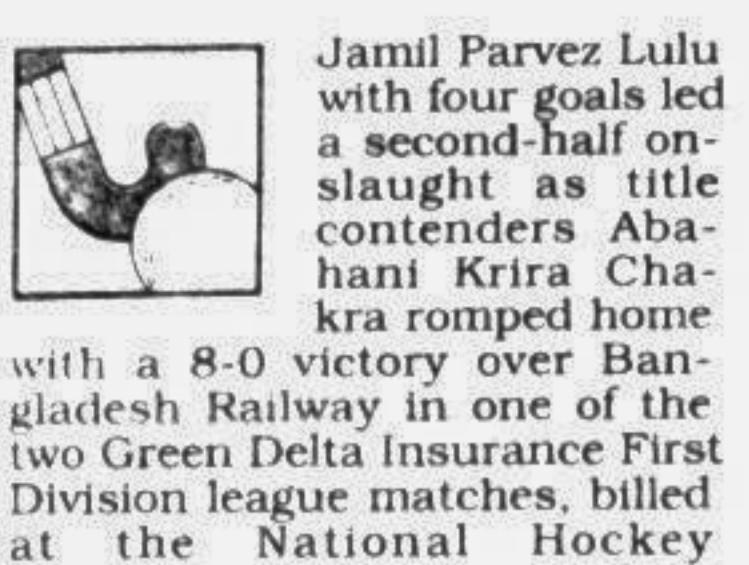
SEOUL, June 1: Already assured of a place in the next round of Asian qualifying for the 1998 soccer World Cup, South Korea played Thailand to a scoreless draw Sunday in the last game of the Group Six tournament, reports AP.

Playing in heavy rain, players repeatedly slipped and fell during the sluggish first half at Chamsil Stadium in southern Seoul. The game picked up speed in the second half with aggressive play by South Korea's Seo Jong-won, but the home team failed to break through Thailand's tight defense.

South Korea beat Hong Kong 4-0 for their third straight victory Wednesday to assure their place in the next round. Sunday's match gave South Korea 3-1-0 against Thailand's 1-1-2 and Hong Kong's 1-0-3.

## Abahani amerce Railway

Sports Reporter



Jamil Parvez Lulu with four goals led a second-half onslaught as title contenders Abahani Krira Chakra romped home with a 8-0 victory over Bangladesh Railway in one of the two Green Delta Insurance First Division league matches, billed at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-0. The Abahani centre-forward struck twice shortly after the breather in a lop-sided affair and then added another couple during the last quarter to complete the Railway rout. But the stocky-built national stalwart missed the elusive hattrick as Raju punched in the sixth goal in between the quartet of Lulu.

With Mahaboob Harun, the nimble centre-half, operating a fluid and attacking brand of hockey, Raju struck his first and Abahani's third goal in the 34th minute and then added his second goal nine minutes into the second session.

But Abahani looked unimpressive at the onset. They had to wait till 22nd minute before Khurshid opened the floodgates converting a penalty stroke.

In the other match of the day, Matuail Udayan Sangha and Rahmatganj SC shared honours to a one-all draw.

Nasir gave a ninth minute lead to Rahmatganj while Khairuzzaman pulled off a late equaliser for Matuail.



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division league encounter between Abahani Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Railway at the National Hockey Stadium. Abahani won 8-0.

— Star photo

## England make no mistake

CHORZOW, Poland, June 1: England beat Poland 2-0 here on Saturday to put themselves firmly in the driving seat to qualify for next year's World Cup, reports AFP.

Skipper Alan Shearer was coach Glenn Hoddle's hero with his fifth World Cup goal of the campaign after only six minutes although he did hit a post with a penalty just before half-time.

The result means that England have 15 points from six games while group leaders Italy have 16 from six. Poland with only four from five games have

little chance of catching the top two.

But England held on dourly in the second half for their third away win in Group Two and clinched the points with Teddy Sheringham's last-minute goal set up by Robert Lee.

Now they surely only need a draw against Italy in Rome next October to qualify for France '98.

They could still win Group Two but easily now qualify automatically as the best of the second-placed teams.

It was rarely a pretty match but was another disciplined display from England who killed off their only other rivals with great efficiency.

It was England's first win in Poland in 31 years when victory was a dress rehearsal for a wonderful World Cup final triumph weeks later.

No-one was more relieved than Paul Gascoigne who suffered a tough challenge after just eight minutes of Hoddle's first win.

The suspect Rangers star was risked despite a sketchy comeback programme and a badly bruised calf in the final seconds of his international return against South Africa last weekend.

This time he twisted into a block tackle with Andrezej Juszkowiak and went down in an agonised crumpled heap, this time his right thigh gashed

It was his 15th goal for his country but only his second away from Wembley following his score in Moldova in Hoddle's first game.

Lee traded passes with Sheringham who cleverly played him into space to round the goalkeeper.

Red shirts threw themselves at his feet but he unselfishly picked out Sheringham to his left and laid his latest England goal on a plate for the Tottenham Ham striker.

It was his 71st points even at 49, but 1860 was 11 goals worse than Karlsruhe in goal differential.

But 1860 could slip in the back door if fourth-place VfB Stuttgart forgo their berth by beating Third Division club Energie Cottbus in the German Cup and enter the Cup Winners' Cup instead.

The Bundesliga will have titleholders Schalke 04, who finished 13th, Karlsruhe, surprise side VfL Bochum and either 1860 or Stuttgart as their UEFA Cup entries.

Dortmund's 3-1 upset in the Champions' Cup final Wednesday gave them the right as the titleholders to enter the competition next season, giving the Bundesliga a third entry in the prestigious competition.

Fortuna Duesseldorf, SC Freiburg and FC St Pauli are relegated, while FC Kaiserstulden and Berlin's Hertha BSC have already wrapped up a spot as their replacements in the Second Division.

Bayern Munich captain Lothar Matthaeus holds the trophy aloft in Monchengladbach on May 31. Bayern won the Bundesliga for a record 13th time. — AFP/UNB photo

Bayern Munich captain Lothar Matthaeus holds the trophy aloft in Monchengladbach on May 31. Bayern won the Bundesliga for a record 13th time. — AFP/UNB photo

## Sport

## 8th SAF Games

## BOA decision under fire

Officials of different national sports federations and organisers yesterday criticised the initiative of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) to host the eighth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games later this year, reports BSS.

The eighth SAF Games is scheduled to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, this year but the hosts have reportedly called for shifting the Games to April next year.

The secretary general of BOA Golam Quddus Chowdhury, however, said following Nepal's inability to organise the regional Games by 1997, Bangladesh showed interest to host the Games in Dhaka for the third time.

The Games is the regional sporting event of SAARC countries — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Criticising the BOA initiatives to host the SAF Games in December, the officials of different sports federations said it would be a very immature decision considering it would involve at least Taka 20 crore.

Some officials said the BOA even did not seek their consent whether the federations are ready or not to organise the Games, they said.

## Cricketers' transfer likely in August

Sports Reporter

The inter-club cricketers' transfer is likely to be held in the first week of August while the Dhaka cricket league may commence from the following month, said Tanveer Haider last night.

The chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) further added that they planning to complete the domestic season by the end of this year. Although a decision regarding the issue could not be reached due to the absence of five CCDM members at the meeting, it was gathered that everything will be finalised in the next meeting, to be held tomorrow.

## Nat'l tennis cricket 2nd leg begins today

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 1: The second leg of the national tennis circuit '97 begins tomorrow (Monday) afternoon at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex.

About 60 players will take part in the competition.

The final game will be held on June 6. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will distribute prizes among the winners.

## Now it's Greg Chappell's turn

SYDNEY, June 1: Former Australian skipper Greg Chappell on Sunday described current captain Mark Taylor as "mentally unfit" for the Rigors of Test cricket, reports AP.

Chappell, who captained Australia from 1975-79, said in the Sydney Sunday Telegraph that Taylor was "in no fit state to be captain of the Australian cricket team."

"If Mark was mentally fit, I know he would have stood down long ago," Chappell said.

"He may not admit it, but people who know about cricket realise that Australia is being hurt by what is going on."

"Mark is in a classic state of denial. I don't believe he is capable of admitting that he has a problem."

Taylor has been experiencing a miserable run as a batsman and there have been calls for him to be dropped ahead of the first Test against England, which starts on Thursday.

Taylor has scored 188 runs in eight tour innings with a highest score of 76 against the Duke of Norfolk's XI in a low-key tour opener at Arundel.

Chappell said Taylor was caught in a "mental whirlpool" and he can only keep going down."

Chappell's brother Ian, another former Australian captain, last week attacked the national selectors for retaining Taylor.

He accused the selectors of lacking guts and abrogating their duty by not dropping Taylor before the tourists' game against Gloucestershire.

## Cute h'ball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars and Old Ideals won their respective Cute Premier handball league matches, played at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Bangladesh Ansars posted an impressive 33-12 goal victory over Narinda Progoti Boys Club.

The winners took an unassailable 22-6 goal lead at the breather. Akram with highest nine goals led the charge for Ansars.

In the second engagement of the day, Old Ideals sauntered past Dhaka Wonders 26-10. The winners led the first session 9-5.

## Army judo on

The first judo championship of the Bangladesh Army got underway at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

Three qualifying bouts were held on the opening day.



WARMING UP WITH THE HIGH-TECH BOWLER: Gordon Greenidge, the Bangladesh cricket coach, operates an electronic bowling machine to shape up his boys for the big occasion — the forthcoming Asia Cup. Mohammed Rafique is seen waiting for his turn at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Devon's long layoff ends

LONDON, June 1: Fast bowler Devon Malcolm returns after a 18-month absence to the England team for the first Ashes Test against Australia starting at Edgbaston Thursday, reports AP.

Discarded in acrimonious circumstances by former manager Raymond Illingworth, Malcolm is back in form for Derbyshire. Though often erratic, the powerfully-built paceman is sometimes devastating with his speed and his inclusion might be regarded as a match-winning gamble by the selectors.

Illingworth, who quit last season fell out publicly with Malcolm after trying to alter the paceman's action on the tour of South Africa during the 1996-97 winter.

The 13-strong squad includes two newcomers from Surrey, opener Mark Butcher and all-rounder Adam Hollioake. Left-hander Butcher, who was leading run-scorer on the England tour of Australia during the last winter tour, replaced Warwickshire's Nick Knight while Hollioake, who starred in England's 3-0 sweep of victories in last week's one-day internationals, probably will bat at No 7.

The squad includes two spinners, Glamorgan's Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell of Middlesex. Seamer Andy Caddick and vice-captain Nasser Hussain, both left out for the one-day international, also return.

But there is still no place for specialist wicket-keeper Jack Russell despite his good performances in the county championship this season for Gloucestershire. Alec Stewart, the No 3 batsman, will keep the gloves.

## SQUAD

Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Nasser Hussain, John Crawley, Adam Hollioake, Mark Ealham, Darren Gough, Andy Caddick, Robert Croft, Devon Malcolm, Phil Tufnell.

BLEWETT ... 121

Harris induced him to play on with his slower ball.

He had hit 19 fours and two sixes in reaching 121, but the knee injury which ruled him out of the last two Texaco Trophy matches and the drawn game in Bristol, threatens his selection for Edgbaston.

"It's the sort of injury that the more you are on it, the more it deteriorates until you get some proper rest," explained the South Australian all-rounder, who scored a century on his Test debut against England in Adelaide two years ago.

"It has to improve over the next four to five days if I am going to play in the Test, but it has improved recently. If the Test was today I would probably be ruled out."

His injury problem makes it all the more important Taylor

had a good tour of the West Indies.

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day tour