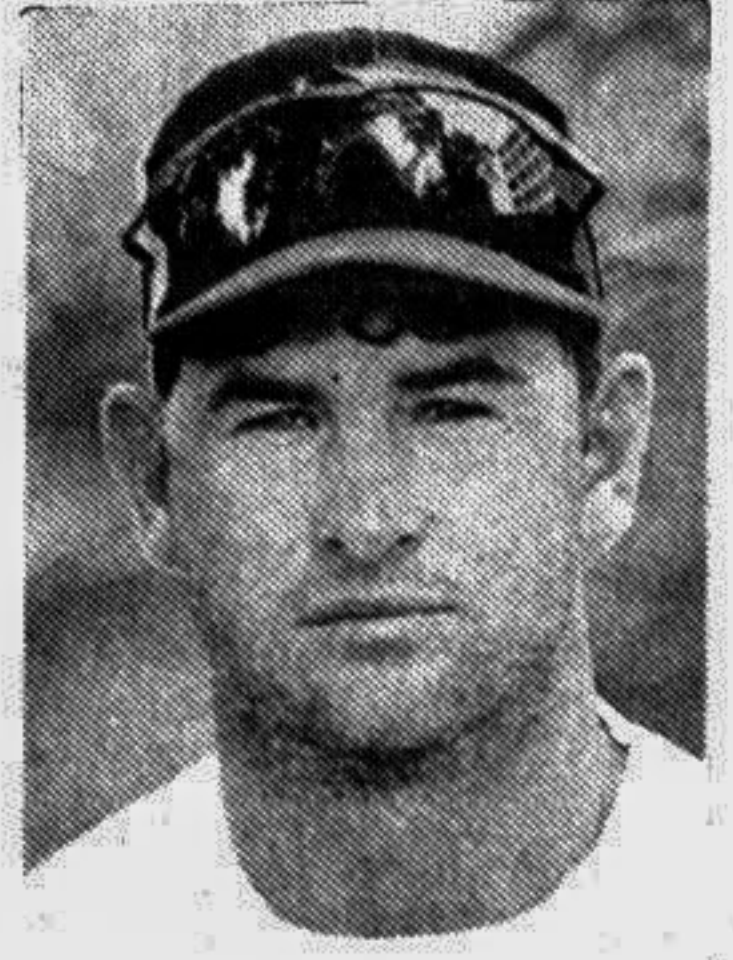


Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK

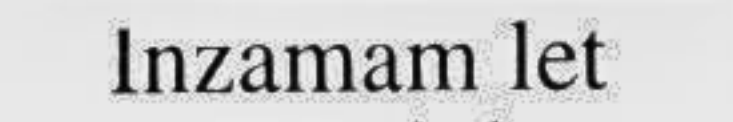


Alistair Campbell (Zimbabwe cricket captain) 'The more you win, the more you learn to win. We haven't won that much. When we get in winning positions, we haven't been sure how to finish them off.'

Boost sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-93 Tick the Correct Answers Post to Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm on May 2, 1998

- 1 Who is leading Warwickshire county this season? Donak Lara Akram 2 The second man to score 8,000 runs in One-Day International cricket is? Border Azharuddin Kapil Dev 3 National cricket all-rounder Minhazul Abedin hails from? Barisal Chittagong Dinajpur 4 The top scorer in the 1997-98 Premier football league was? Nikib Alfaz Don 5 The father of tennis star Steffi Graf is? Peter Andre Boris

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (If any)



Inzamam let off lightly

CAPE TOWN, Apr 24: Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq has been penalised for failing to walk immediately after a questionable decision in the triangular series championship match against South Africa, reports AP.

After scoring 21 runs Thursday, Inzamam was ruled caught by South African umpire Cyril Mitchley even though the ball appeared to graze his sleeve and not hit his en route to wicket-keeper Mark Boucher.

He stood in the crease for several moments before finally walking away. South Africa won the match by nine wickets after holding Pakistan to just 114 all out.

Match referee John Reid said later Thursday that Inzamam was fined half of his match fee and suspended for one match, but the penalties were suspended until the end of the year.

That means he would avoid the penalties if he stays out of trouble the rest of the year. Asked about the suspension, Reid said there was a fine line between dissent and disappointment. He also noted potentially extenuating circumstances, apparently referring to the controversy over the call.

Bangladesh demoted again



Bangladesh were berated again when FIFA, the world football's governing body, published its Coca-Cola World Ranking for the month of April on Wednesday.

Bangladesh, at 142nd place in March, was pushed down to 148. It was the country's worst demotion in the FIFA ranking in last six months. Bangladesh, who did not compete in any international matches in last few months, occupied the 141st slot in December.

Among the other SAARC countries, Maldives and Sri Lanka posted significant gains while India, Pakistan and Nepal lost points. Bhutan, a non-football playing nation, has not been enlisted by the FIFA.

India, still the leaders of the SAARC countries in the ranking, were demoted to 114th place from the 111th. Maldives, placed at 162nd in March, gained maximum points in this South Asian region, climbing up to 158th spot.

Meanwhile, world champion Brazil have further consolidated their lead by virtue of Germany in a friendly match in March. Spain however made the most spectacular jump, which landed them back in the top ten after their convincing 4-1 win over Sweden (9th, up 16). Israel (40th, up 6), who managed to beat two much higher ranked teams in the shape of Argentina and Romania, soared to their best position since the world ranking began.

Among the other triumphs, those of the Caribbean islands, Haiti (109th, up 17), St Lucia (133rd, up 16) and the Netherlands Antilles (149th, up 10). (Thirty-six friendlies were taken into account for the current world ranking, a figure that will probably increase in the run-up to the World Cup preparations over the next few weeks).

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Star Sport Monitor

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World's Top Ten

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Country, Points. Lists top 10 countries in world ranking.

SAARC Scene

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Country, Points. Lists SAARC countries in ranking.

Asian U-16 soccer Bangladesh beat Nepal

Sports Reporter Favourites Bangladesh were almost certain of a berth in final round of the eighth Asian Youth (under-16) football championship when they defeated hosts Nepal by a solitary goal in their second Group Five game in Birganj yesterday, according to a telephone message received here last night.

Striker Masud Khan Johnny, who was instrumental in Bangladesh's 4-0 win over Sri Lanka with a hat-trick in their opening match on Tuesday, struck in the 74th minute with a penalty.

Even half a dozen players from the national team failed to inspire the Nepalese players. The Bangladesh team was later awarded Tk 10,000 by team manager Abdul Gaffar for their heroics.

With yesterday's second consecutive victory, Bangladesh are now leading the four-nation table with full four points. In their last match tomorrow, Bangladesh will take on lowly rated Guam who have already suffered two humiliating defeats at the hands of Nepal (0-10) and Sri Lanka (0-8) in their previous two matches.

A win in the match will give Bangladesh a passage into the final round which will be held in Qatar next September.

BANGLADESH: Abu Sayeed, Tito, Biplab, Jet, Jahangir, Gul Mohammad (Azad), Sujon, Hanif, Dablu (Echo), Dipu and Johnny.

BBF calls up 16 shuttlers Sports Reporter Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) yesterday called up 16 shuttlers to form a Bangladesh under-19 team which will participate in the Second Asian Junior (under-19) championship scheduled to be held in Malaysia from June 15 to 21.

The players have been asked to report at BBF office on April 28 at 4 pm. The shuttlers will have to produce their birth certificate authenticated by the heads of their respective educational institutes.

The players are: Javed, Nikhil (Chittagong), Maruf, Raju, Anis, Raisuddin, Ifat (Dhaka), Hamid, Tayef, Tanque (Sylhet), Alamgir, Osman (Joybarhat), Mashrafi, Parash (Bogra), Saiful (Tangail) and Taslim (Feni).

JU cricket trial Apr 27 Sports Reporter Jahangirnagar University (JU) will participate in the 24th national cricket championship qualifiers in Bogra zone from May 1.

According to a JU press release yesterday, a trial will be held at the central sports ground on April 27 to form the university team which will face Gaibandha in their opening match on May 3.

Interested cricketers have been asked to report to the team manager Dr Syed Kamrul Hasan and coach Mohammad Nurul Haque at the ground at 11 am on April 27.

Ajax's merry ride on AMSTERDAM, Apr 24: Ajax Amsterdam, playing at home for the first time since clinching the Dutch title, celebrated with a 6-1 thrashing of Willem II Tilburg 6-1 on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Willem II, sixth in the standings and still fighting for a place in next season's UEFA Cup were out of their depth as Ajax raced into a 5-0 halftime lead, Ronald de Boer and Shota Arveladze each scoring twice.

Ajax are still on track for two league records. If they win their three remaining games they would top the 30 victories the Ajax side of the 1971-72 season walked up and a goal in each of those matches would see them become the first Dutch side to score in every fixture.

New-look Ctg Stadium opens today CHITTAGONG, Apr 24: The newly built floodlights and expanded two-storied gallery of Chittagong Stadium will be inaugurated tomorrow evening, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will inaugurate it chief guest.

Prize giving ceremony Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman yesterday handed over prizes among the winners of Queen's Cup golf tournament 1998 at Kurmitola, reports BSS.

Aussies put on 272/9



SHARJAH, Apr 24: Skipper Steve Waugh and Darren Lehmann hit timely half-centuries to help a tottering Australia post 272-9 in the Sharjah Coca-Cola Cup final against India here today, reports AFP.

Australia, sent in to bat, slipped first to 23-3 and then 121-5 before the sixth wicket pair of Waugh and Lehmann put on 103 off 96 balls to boost the score.

Waugh, who came in at 85-4, hit a run-a-ball 70 with the aid of four boundaries and a six. Left-hander Lehmann also made 70, but from only 59 balls. A sell-out holiday crowd of 23,000 cheered lustily as wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia caught the first four batsmen.

Australia, however, slammed 140 runs in the last 20 overs to set India a tough victory target of 5.46 runs an over under lights.

India became the first team in the tournament to field first when winning the toss, but the move paid immediate dividends.

Young pacer Ajit Agarkar, returning to the side after a groin strain, had Mark Waugh caught behind in his second over and removed Tom Moody in controversial fashion in the third.

Moody was unlucky to be dismissed for television replays showed the ball miss the bottom edge before carrying to the wicketkeeper.

West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor upheld a half-hearted appeal by the Indians after consulting third umpire Ian Robinson on the walkie-talkie whether Mongia had taken the catch cleanly.

Between Agarkar's two successes, new-ball partner Venkatesh Prasad forced Ricky Ponting to edge a simple catch to Mongia.

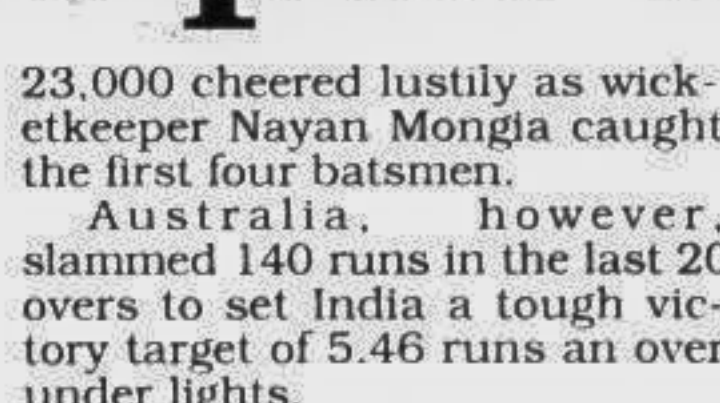
Adam Gilchrist struck six boundaries in 45 off 60 balls when he became Mongia's fourth victim, edging an intended cut against off-spinner Hrishikesh Kankar.

Australia's biggest blow, however, came in the 27th over when a well-set Michael Bevan was run out for 45.

SCOREBOARD Scores of the Sharjah Coca-Cola Cup final between Australia and India Friday: AUSTRALIA: M Waugh c Mongia b Agarkar 7, Gilchrist c Mongia b Kankar 45, Ponting c Mongia b Prasad 1, Moody c Mongia b Agarkar 45, Bevan run out 45, S Waugh c Agarkar b Kankar 70, Lehmann c Sanghvi b Kumble 16, Waugh not out 6, Kasprovic c Kankar b Prasad 0, Fleming not out 1, Extras: (b-4, lb-3, nb-1, W-2) 10, Total (for 9 wickets) 272, Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-19; 3-26; 4-85; 5-121; 6-224; 7-255; 8-263; 9-264

Bowling: O M R W Prasad 10 1 32 2, Agarkar 8 0 61 2, Kumble 10 1 46 1, Kankar 10 0 58 2, Sanghvi 1 0 12 0, Laxman 1 0 11 0 (Incomplete)

Super 'Super 8s' in October



PERTH, Apr 24: The world's nine leading cricket nations will compete for the biggest prize money in the game's history in a Super 8s tournament in Perth in October, the Australian Cricket Board announced today, reports AFP.

Board chairman Denis Rogers said the winner of the three-day event at the WACA ground would pocket 400,000 Australian dollars (260,000 US) out of the total of 500,000 Australian dollars up for grabs.

It will be the first Super 8s international contest to bring together all the sport's top countries - Australia, England, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the West Indies.

The tournament will probably be held from October 2-4, its director will be former Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee, who said he had been delighted with the initial response from overseas players.

"I am confident we will have 50 of the world's best players here," he said. "We are offering a bigger winners' purse than has ever been available in the sport before."

"Each of the players in the winning team will take about 40,000 Australian dollars for only six hours' involvement. They will need to play in only three games to snatch the big money."

There will be four two-hour games - some under lights on each of the first two days and a semi-final and final on the third.

Apart from the reduction from 11 to eight in the number of players, the Super 8s format allows each team only 14 overs batting. The ground area is reduced and hits over the bound-

ary, which earn six runs in normal cricket, count for eight. Lillee said television would carry the event to a potential 188 million people in 52 countries.

"That will be a great exposure for the third generation of cricket (after Tests and one-day internationals) and I can see this brand of the game, because it is so fast and exciting, being introduced into schools in such distant places as China and America," he said.

Schools cricket scores

Nabakumar Institution, Graduates High School, Mohammapur Govt High School, Natun Kuri, Rahmatullah Model High School and Loreto moved to the next round in the Dhaka zonal qualifiers of the 16th national schools cricket championship winning their respective matches played at different city venues yesterday.

Nabakumar Institution posted a six-wicket victory over Khilgaon Model High School in a Group Three match at the City Club ground.

In a reduced 20-over-a-side affair, Nabakumar, chasing a paltry Khilgaon total of 72, reached 76 in just 14.3 overs with six wickets in hand.

Middle order Rafique top-scored with an unbeaten 28 while Iqbal was undefeated on 12.

The winners will play the group semifinal on April 29 against Loreto who outplayed Model Academy by ten wickets at the Dhaka Stadium.

Chasing 53 in 20 overs, openers Sajid and Sakib took only 8.4 overs to reach the target. Sajid contributed 37 while Sakib scored 11.

Away at the Uttara Friend's Club ground, Graduates High School defeated Sher-e-Bangla High School by five wickets in a Group Two match.

Batting first in a Sher-e-Bangla School managed 74 for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs.

In reply, Rajib hammered an unbeaten 27 as Graduates reached 75 for five with just a over to spare.

In their next match on April 30, the winners will meet Nazrul Shikhyalaya who earned a walk-over against KL Jubilee High School at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Natun Kuri School handed Mirpur Bengali Medium High School an eight-wicket defeat at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Opener Shakil scored an unbeaten 73 as Natun Kuri, chasing a competitive Bengali Medium total of 132 in 25 overs, reached 134 in 21.4 overs losing only two wickets.

The winners will take on Maple Leaf in their next match on May 3.

In the other two matches of the day both in Group Three, Mohammapur Govt. High School registered a comfortable five-wicket victory over Shaheed Selim School while Rahmatullah School defeated Kadamtala Purbo Basabo High School by one wicket.

The winners will face each other in the next round on April 30.

Santorino stuns Sampras MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Apr 24 (AP): After suffering his worst defeat in eight years, there is little else for Pete Sampras to do except regroup.

A 6-1, 6-1 loss to Frenchman Fabrice Santoro left Sampras dazed. "I'm pretty stunned," Sampras said.

"It's not great for the confidence. I mean, it's definitely not great for the confidence," Sampras said. "There is still a lot of room for improvement. All I can try to do is move on and learn from this and go from there."

It was his worst loss since a 6-0, 6-1 defeat in 1990 to Jonas Svensson of Sweden.

About the only positive thing about the defeat is that Sampras still has a chance to return to the top spot in the tennis rankings.

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Marcelo Rios, who took over from Sampras last month, has an injured elbow and is not playing at this tournament, meaning the Chilean will forfeit the top spot.

However, Petr Korda, ranked No. 3, could leapfrog No. 2 Sampras and No. 1 Rios to the top if he makes it to the title match. The Czech beat No. 14 seed Albert Costa 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 in another third-round match. Korda, the second seed, wasted a 5-0 lead in the first set.

If Korda loses before the final, Sampras returns to the top spot.

"At this point, sure, it would be nice to get back up there. But I know, and deep down that it comes down to the end of the year," Sampras said, who has ranked No. 1 at the end of the last five years.

But if Sampras continues to play like he has over the last three tournaments, No. 1 at the end of the year is far away.

It was the third consecutive tournament Sampras has lost before the quarterfinals and does not bode well for next month's French Open on clay

on the clay courts. He dropped six straight games in the first set and lost his serve five of seven times in the match.