

French World Cup hero Zinedine Zidane (C) his wife (L) and a friend walk near the exit of the Ibiza Nautic Club at Ibiza on the Baleares Islands, Spain on Friday.

- AFP photo

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Cricket: A Malaysian dream

KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (AP): Pictures of Garfield Sobers, Sunil Gavaskar and other cricketing greats fill a wall of the Long Bar in Kuala Lumpur's Royal Selangor Club.

Bats decorate the mantelpiece of the clubhouse that overlooks a lush green field beyond a pavilion, and one corner is dedicated to Lal Singh, a Malaysian who played for an Indian side against England at Lord's in 1932.

The world of Malaysian cricket sequestered within the portals of the 19th century colonial club has even lost its playing green - now Independence Square.

But decades after it jettisoned the game of its colonial masters, Malaysia is making a comeback to world cricket and even hoping for Test status by 2020. That would put it in the league of teams that play fullfledged, five-day matches and

After Malaysia lobbied and

won inclusion of cricket in this year's Commonwealth Games. to be held in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, the government quickly built eight venues to match international standards. Last year, the city hosted the International Cricket Council

Trophy tournament. Sports administrators are urging more Malaysians to strap on pads and wield the willow so that stands are filled at such tournaments.

This month, an eight-a-side tournament is being held as a run-up to the Commonwealth Games that begin on Sept 11. A national squad is being trained by former Pakistani Test cap Sadiq Mohammad.

Malaysian cricket lovers have watched with dismay as Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe developed Test teams and Kenya and Bangladesh moved into the expanding world of one-day cricket.

"At one time the difference between Malaysia and Sri

HELLO: French World Cup wining captain Didier Deschamps is greeted by a group young

fans at his hometown of Bayonne, southwest France on Friday.

Lanka wasn't great," said Prince Imran, president of the Malaysian Cricket Association, whose office as headquarters of a sprawling business empire displays his picture, in white

flannels with Sobers. "Independence in 1957 saw the decline of cricket. It was taken out of schools and the government ignored the game." said the Prince, second son of Malaysia's King, Tuanku Ja'a-

Lal Singh remains the only Malaysian to have donned a Test cap, but Prince Imran, who this year became the first Malaysian to be elected to the ICC, hopes there will be more in a few years.

Creating a world-class team will be an uphill task from among a generation that knows very little of the game, cricket administrators say.

"It is a complicated game for people who haven't grown up with it. Silly mid-offs and silly mid-ons can sound silly if you

- AP/UNB photo

don't understand cricket," said Karu Selvaratnam, secretary of

Malaysia's national squad of 20 are amateurs. It has created two domestic leagues, but there are less than a dozen teams participating.

the cricket association.

"If there is no club cricket, then boys have nowhere to go after playing school-level cricket," Selvaratnam said.

Cricket was imported by British officers and popularised among rubber planters and their employees from Australia. New Zealand, India and Sri Lanka.

More than 20 clubs nationwide regularly played each other, and a unified Malaya team even won against an Australian Test team that had stopped on the voyage back from an England series in 1926.

At independence, the game lost official patronage because majority Malays preferred football and cricket was seen as a preserve of ethnic Indians, who comprise 10 per cent of the 22 million Malaysians. Ethnic Chinese, the largest minority, also favoured football over cricket.

A few like Prince Imran, who said he played for Nottingham University and was in school with former English captain David Gower, learned cricket in British schools and universities.

"All races now are playing cricket, which is good for cricket and good for the country," Prince Imran said.

Man United spends most

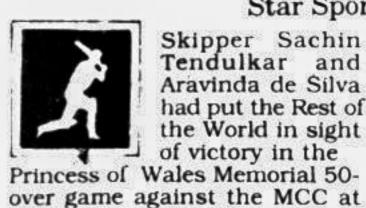
MANCHESTER, July 18: Britain's biggest Premier League soccer club, Manchester United, turns over almost as much money as the top two Italian clubs combined, a survey revealed Friday, reports AP.

A survey by accountancy firm Deloitte and Touche showed the Old Trafford club had an annual revenue of 87.9 million pounds (146 million dollars), compared with the combined turnover of Inter Milan and Juventus, estimated at 90 million pounds (149.4 million pounds).

The survey said merchandising accounted for the major difference in revenue between Britain's best supported club and its rivals in Serie A.

ROW in sight of victory

Star Sport Monitor



Skipper Sachin To bat: Hick, Moody, Flower, Akram, Musthaq. Tendulkar and Cairns. Aravinda de Silva Bishop. of wkts: 1-10 Fall had put the Rest of (Jayasuriya) 2-54 (Anwar). the World in sight of victory in the Bowling 0 McGrath

Srinath

Donald

Kumble

Ganguly

(Incomplete)

Grath (Australia).

TEAMS

MCC: M A Atherton

(England), Aamir Sohail

(Pakistan), S Chanderpaul

(West Indies), M Azharuddin

(India), S C Ganguly (India), B M

McMillan (South Africa,) I A

Healy (Australia), A Kumble

(India), J Srinath (India), A A

Donald (South Africa), G D Mc-

Anwar (Pakistan), S T Jaya-

suriya (Sri Lanka), S R Ten-

dulkar (India), P A De Silva (Sri

Lanka), G A Hick (England), T M

Moody (Australia), A Flower

(Zimbabwe), C L Cairns (New

Zealand), Wasim Akram

(Pakistan), Mushtaq Ahmed

(Pakistan), I R Bishop (West In-

Leics pull off

a thriller
LONDON, July 18: Skipper

Chris Lewis led Leicestershire

to a remarkable four-wicket

county championship victory

over Northamptonshire on Fri-

day, hitting 71 as they made 204

until after tea by the Northamp-

tonshire tailenders, led by 111

task of scoring 204 in 20 overs.

Maddy hit 47 off the first three

overs but when Lewis went to

the wicket in the ninth over

three wickets had gone down for

on 49 for the sixth wicket but

Lewis went on to hit the win-

ning boundary off the first ball

Franklyn Rose was hit for 93

runs in 9.1 overs and 91 came of

in second place in the county

championship but Surrey strengthened their position at the top when they defeated their

near rivals Middlessex by 280

nine overs from Paul Taylor.

Lewis and Ian Sutcliffe put

West Indies fast bowler

The win left Leicestershire

99 and five were down at 118.

from Gram Swan.

of the final over.

runs at Guildford.

Leicestershire were held up

They then faced the daunting

Vince wells (58) and Darren

in 19.1 overs, reports Reuters.

REST OF THE WORLD: Saeed

Sohail

McMillan

Lord's last night. The pair put on an undefeated 173 runs for the third wicket as their side reached 227 in 37 overs. Tendulkar had blasted 121 of 111 balls and De Silva was on almost a run-a-

ball 75. Earlier after MCC captain Michael Atherton won the toss. they made a fighting 261 for four. West Indian southpaw Shivnarine Chanderpaul

LATEST

The Rest of the World beat MCC Eleven by six wickets at Lord's yesterday. Skipper Sachin Tendulkar scored a dazzling 125 off 114 with 15 fours and a quartet of sixes to help his reach victory in 43.3 overs.

The little Indian master was ably supported by Sri Lankan stalwart Aravinda de Silva, who hit a 79-ball 82 embellished with eleven fours and a

Tendulker was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

hammered 127 from 144 balls. Mohammad Azharuddin who is no stranger to the home of English cricket, stroked his way to 61.

SCOREBOARD MCC XI Atherton c sub (H Marshall)

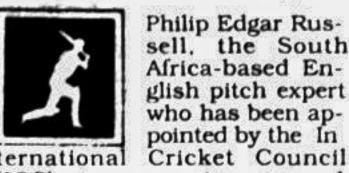
b Cairns Sohail c Flower b Wasim Chanderpaul not out Azharuddin b Bishop Ganguly c Bishop b Moody McMilan not out

Extras: (lb 5, w 5, nb 2) Total: (For four wickets in 50 overs) 261 Did not bat: Healy, Kumble, Srinath, Donald, McGrath.

Fall of wkts: 1-29 (Sohail), 2-57 (Atherton), 3-204 (Azharuddin) 4-226 (Ganguly). Bowling Akram Bishop Cairns Mushtaq 10 Moody

REST TO THE WORLD XI Jayasuriya lbw b Srinath Tendulkar not out Anwar c McGrath b Donald De Silva not out Extras: (lb 3, w 2, nb 4) Total: (For two wickets in 37 overs) 227

Russell, Asif depart



sell, the South Africa-based English pitch expert who has been appointed by the In ternational Cricket Council (ICC) to supervise ground development work of the Dhaka Stadium and other practice wickets for the forthcoming Wills International Cup, has said that the wickets need to be brought up to international standard.

The nine-nation knockout tournament involving all full members of the ICC will be held at the Dhaka Stadium from October 24 to November 4.

The former Derbyshire cricketer, who arrived on July 14, said this to The Daily Star at a hotel on Friday before heading for Durban, South Africa.

"The preparation of the pitch at the Dhaka Stadium is excellent but the practice venues in BUET, Dhanmondi and Women's Sports Complex need

"I have instructed the people concerned how to improve the practice grounds. You have good groundsmen here who produced a nice pitch at the Dhaka Stadium last year and I have full confidence in them that they will also make it this time," he

work," said Russell.

added. "I am not worried about the Dhaka Stadium because it's going to be a superb ground," the

expert said. He also revealed that he will go to England next week to submit his report to the ICC. Meanwhile, Asif Iqbal, the nine-nation tournament manager who came here Wednesday to supervise the preparation, also left the city last morning.

During his four-day stay, Asif inspected installation work of the new floodlights at the Dhaka Stadium and also visited practice venues.

Asif will return in the second week of October and stay till the end of the tournament.

Goodwill Games get underway today

NEW YORK, July 18 (Reuters) World champions Maurice Greene and Ato Boldon have decided for the time being to abandon predictions of a world 100 metres record.

Greene, the world 100 metres champion and Boldon, the 200 gold medalist, meet Canada's current world record holder Donovan Bailey at the Goodwill Games on Tuesday. The fourday athletics competition starts on Sunday.

The Californian training partners have made regular world record predictions this season, so far without a result.

"I was going to the races and thinking, I'm about to break the world record. I'm about to do it now", Greene told a pre-Games

news conference on Friday. "Then the gun goes off and I don't run my technique. There was just too much emphasis on it (the world record).

"Now I'm just going to the race and run the best race I can. "If it comes to us, great. I could care less about it right now. I'm not going to talk about

the world record any more." The men's and women's 100 metres are the elite events of the athletics competition at the 15day games with 40,000 dollar first-place money on offer and

100,000 dollars on the line for a world record. World women's champion me.' Marion Jones heads the women's 100 and 200 with Olympic 400 metres champion Michael Johnson, world record holders

Dan O'Brien in the decathlon, Jackie Joyner-Kersee in the heptathlon and Javier Sotomay or in the men's high jump also taking part.

There is also a high-quality men's high hurdles field containing US Olympic champion Allen Johnson, British world record holder Colin Jackson and American Olympic silver medalist Mark Crear.

Jones will be an overwhelming favourite to win the women's 100m on Sunday, but the men's race on Tuesday may come down to who has the best

Both Greene and Boldon, have come within two-hundredths of a second of Bailey's 1996 world record of 9.84 seconds this season. "The season has just begun,"

said Boldon. "There are a lot of races coming up. When we get back to Europe, we'll take more shots at it there."

A strong headwind, be believes, will make the record dif-

ficult at the Goodwill Games. 'That's going to be a very important factor in the times of these races," Boldon said after observing conditions at Mitchel Field, the Long Island facility that will host the athletics competition.

"It's a strong headwind of very close to two metres per second," said Boldon. "I know what that is going to do.

Yet. Greene still promised: "I'm going to give you something to write about . . . I know I can do it."

Greene and Boldon also steered clear of any overt criticism of Bailey, who set his world mark in the Atlanta Olympic final.

"As the world record holder, he's obviously a great athlete. But he's just beginning to run what we were running at the beginning of the year," said Blodon.

Greene, who said in May that Bailey "had self-destructed"

since Atlanta was also cagey. "For a meet like this, you have to have Donovan Bailey in there because he is the world record holder," Greene said. "It wouldn't be the same without the world record holder. I love running against Donovan Bailey, he just brings out the best in

Schools kabadi

Dolairpar in final

Dolairpar High School moved into the final of the Ali Sports eight school kabadi tournament eliminating Bangladesh Rifles School & College by 96-49 points in the first semifinal at the court near Dhaka Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half by a narrow 33-32 points. Dolairpar earned eight creditable lonas against Rifles'

The second semifinal between Ansar and VDP High and Sharmeen Textiles Mills Model High was abandoned due to heavy downpour in the afternoon.

The match will be held at 9 this morning at the same venue.



Workers disassembling one of the four floodlight towers at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. These towers will be replaced by new ones to facilitate the ensuing ICC knockout one-day cricket tournament involving the nine Test-playing nations in October and November.

— Star photo