

## Sport

**BVF picks 25 for SAF Games**

Bangladesh Volleyball Federation initially selected 25 players and two coaches for the forthcoming 8th SAF Games to be held in Kathmandu in September, reports UNB.

The selected players have been asked to report at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex on May 18 by 6 pm.

Selected players are Akherunnesa, Sultana Akhter, Janatul Ferdous Diana, Shahnaz Akhter, Jesmin Khan, Syeda Asma Begum, Jharna Rani Sarker, Mahmuda Khan (BJMC), Putul Rani Ghosh, Lubu Akhter, Nasima Akhter, Rahima Akhter (Ansar), Selina Khan, Sohel Nasrin Shammi, Nargis Nasrin Nimmu (Khulna DSA), Shahnai Parveen (Dinajpur DSA), Aleya Khatun, Farhida Akhter (Rajbari DSA), Rawshana Ara, Asma Begum (Comilla DSA), Rangpur DSA, Krishna Raber, Merry Samad and Duluri Halder (Pabna).

Selected coaches: National coach Shamim Al Mamun and Farida Begum.

### Pallima cricket coaching

Sports Reporter

Pallima Cricket Centre, a cricket coaching programme for under-17 cricketers organised by the Malibagh-based Pallima Sangsad, will begin functioning from June 15, says a press release.

Interested youngsters have been asked to enrol any day at the Pallima Sangsad in Malibagh Chowdhury Para from 4 to 8 pm.

Former national captain Roquibul Hasan will act as the coaching director of the centre.

### Zidane needs surgery

STRASBOURG, France, May 11: World footballer of the year Zinedine Zidane will undergo a knee operation on Wednesday, the player revealed on Tuesday, reports AFP.

"My season is over but my health comes first," the Juventus and French playmaker said.

The 26-year-old, whose two goals put France on the way to a 3-0 World Cup final win over Brazil last July, will miss his country's European Championship qualifiers with Russia on June 5 in Paris and Andorra on June 9 in Barcelona.

Zidane, who damaged the meniscus, a piece of cartilage which acts as a shock absorber inside the knee during their Champions League quarter-final tie against Olympiakos in Athens in March, recently confirmed he would stay with outgoing Italian champions Juve for another season after speculation that he would move to Spain.

### Asian youth women's v'ball from June 4

SINGAPORE, May 11: Eight teams will participate in the Asian Youth Women's Volleyball Championships held here from June 4 to 9, the Singapore officials said, reports Xinhua.

Besides the host country, China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia and Chinese Taipei will compete for the top four in order to qualify for the World Youth Women's Volleyball Championships to be held in Portugal in September.

The officials of the Singapore's Volleyball Association said their team will cherish the event as a learning opportunity.

Their target is to grab a medal at the 2001 East Asian Games.

### Kafelnikov ends losing run

ROME, May 11: Newly-crowned world number one Yevgeny Kafelnikov broke a depressing six-match losing streak to beat American Chris Woodruff in the Italian Open on Monday, reports Reuters.

Kafelnikov, who rose to the top of the rankings courtesy of an injury to Pete Sampras despite losing every ATP match he has played since late February, triumphed 7-6 (7-1) 5-7, 6-4 in a gruelling first round tie on Rome's red clay.

He had to fight back from 4-0 down in the first set and his overall performance was less than spectacular but he was nevertheless relieved when he came off court.

"I'll take any win I can get at this stage," said the Australian Open champion, whose last win on the circuit was against Zimbabwe's Byron Black in the last-16 of an indoor tournament in London in February.

"When I lost 6-2, 6-1 in Monte Carlo (last month) I was quite depressed and upset with myself."

"When the newspapers of the world are saying 'Who the hell is Yevgeny Kafelnikov? It's an embarrassment to have him as world number one' it feels really bad, believe me."

Kafelnikov appeared destined for another immediate exit when Woodruff broke serve twice in the first three games.

The Russian vented his frustration on a ball, smashing it into the crowd to earn a warning from the umpire.

"When you've not won for two months and you're 3-0 down and then 5-2 down in the first set you think it's never going to end and you're just going to keep losing and losing," he said.

Despite the bad start he took the set and then, after dropping serve in the 12th game of the second set to lose it 7-5, fought back in the third with breaks for 3-2 and 5-4.

# Packer transformed face of cricket



LONDON, May 11 (Reuters/Internet): On a warm Sydney evening back in 1978, the cricketing world tilted on its axis.

Night cricket had come to the Sydney Cricket Ground and nothing in the game has ever been quite the same.

Kerry Packer, outraged when his bid for exclusive television coverage of Australian Test cricket was contemptuously rejected, had bought the best players in the world for his own World Series Cricket tournament.

But the public in the summer of 1977-78 stayed away from his Superstars, preferring instead to watch the official Australian side play India in a riveting series.

In the following season Packer threw an audacious counter-punch at the establishment.

The Australian media millionaire had six floodlight towers built around the Sydney Cricket Ground and staged the first limited overs day-night match between Australia and West Indies on November 28, 1978.

World Series Cricket officials hoped for 20,000 spectators. Around 50,000 poured into the famous old ground to celebrate an Australian win. Thousands more stretched out at home after work and watched on television.

Packer knew he was on to a winner and by the time he reached a truce in the following year with the game's authorities so did the players and public.

One-day cricket had been introduced in England in the 1960s in an attempt to counter declining gates at county matches, although it was regarded by the traditionalists as an inferior version of the real thing.

International one-day cricket began in 1971 when 46,000 spectators gathered at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to watch Australia beat England in a one-off match hastily organised to appease fans after the first three days of the third

KERRY PACKER

night match was a marketing man's dream with his aggression, perfect fast bowler's action and flowing black hair and the West Indians were equally exciting and equally successful.

Paradoxically, Ian Chappell's Australians had been slow to embrace one-day cricket but soon adapted when became clear that this was what attracted the crowds and generated the money needed to pay the significantly higher salaries they were to command.

Nearly all the innovations which have made one-day cricket a distinctive game in its

own right, bearing increasing affinities to baseball and its intense concentration on every ball, came from the Packer series.

By the end of the 1970s, Australia was evolving into a vibrant, cosmopolitan society looking more to the west coast of the United States for its entertainment and inspiration than to Britain.

Night cricket appealed to a young audience looking for instant entertainment and Packer's Australian side of the era - rebellious, irreverent and successful - were perfectly equipped to deliver.

Dennis Lillee, man of the match in the inaugural day-

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### Lara's European Cup dreams shattered!

LONDON, May 11: West Indian World Cup captain Brian Lara has been refused permission to take a break from the tournament to watch the European Cup football final in Barcelona later this month, reports AFP.

Lara wanted to cheer on his friend Dwight Yorke of Manchester United against Bayern Munich on May 26, a day before West Indies play Scotland in a World Cup preliminary round tie at Leicestershire.

But team manager Clive Lloyd has turned down Lara's request, according to media reports.

The World Cup starts on Friday.

Lara, sacked then reinstated as West Indies captain at the end of last year, has a history of taking breaks from his teams.

He was fined by county Warwickshire when he failed to return for a match after taking time off to visit his home in Trinidad and he walked out on the West Indies touring England in 1995 after a dressing-room row before being persuaded to return.

They failed to win a third World Cup in 1983, losing unexpectedly to Kapil Dev's Indian side, an upset which sparked a cricketing revolution on the Indian sub-continent.

One day tournaments proliferated and it was now the one-day internationals rather than traditional test matches which began to attract the crowds in India, Pakistan and New Zealand.

The game even spread to the desert when Sheikh Abdul Rehman Bukhshai, built a stadium in the Emirate of Sharjah, to provide entertainment for the masses of labourers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh working in the Gulf.

"Of course there will be absenteeism," said Vijay Kalantri, at the All India Association of Industries.

"But then one can't really expect much else, as so many companies here have contributed to the hype through World Cup advertising and sponsorship," Kalantri said.

Bombay feels it has a special stake in the World Cup in the form of local boy Sachin Tendulkar, who is widely regarded as the world's best batsman and the lynchpin of the Indian side.

Scores of Bombay firms have spent small fortunes on advertising campaigns and contests around the event, offering prizes ranging from trips to watch the matches to free television sets.

"I can't imagine what would happen if the matches were starting in the morning and lasting the whole day," Rajan said.

"As it is, there will be lots of people playing hockey, arranging to leave work early, or just not concentrating on their work."

You are judged by what you do on the stage at international level and there have been a lot of players who have had greater records playing international cricket than the domestic game.

"We are starting from a position where we have to rebuild the innings, but I don't think that's going to be a unique situation in the World Cup," explained Graveney.

Hussain has already indicated he would prefer to play closer to the top of the order rather than disrupt the emerging middle order trio of Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Andrew Flintoff, and it is clear Graveney is confident he can switch to that role successfully.

Pressure was increased on the pair by Nasser Hussain's superb 82 opening for Essex on Sunday after England gave him permission to play for his county in an attempt to give it an improved performance in the final warm-up match against Hampshire at Southampton.

The failure of both players to emerge from a disappointing sequence of scores during England's victories over Kent and Essex during the last few days has fuelled speculation the selectors may be considering a change for the World Cup opener against Sri Lanka on Friday.

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