

## SPORTS TALK



Dennis Lillee

(Legendary Australian fast bowler)  
"When I first got a glimpse of this lad on television I thought 'If you hit a ball back past him he comes back next ball just as strong, just as determined to get a wicket.' That is as important as speed and accuracy and he seems to have plenty of that too."

On Shaob Akhtar.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

## Competition-116

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star for Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm June 11, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who was the man-of-the-match in the opening match of the 1999 cricket World Cup?

Stewart Jayasuriya Ranatunga

2 How many runs did Anil Kumble score against New Zealand?

14 15 16

3 Who won the cricket World Cup in 1979?

Australia W Indies Canada

4 Who are the current ICC runners-up?

Kenya Scotland Germany

5 Who is the vice-captain of the Bangladesh cricket team?

Mahmud Minhas Naimur

Name .....

Class .....

Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## Hingis in hot water

LONDON, June 9: World No 1 Martina Hingis has been fined 1,500 dollars for crossing the netline in Saturday's French Open final against Steffi Graf, the International Tennis Federation said Tuesday, reports reuters.

Hingis, who lost in three sets to Graf, was also given a warning for smashing her racket and was penalised a point for crossing the line to argue a call with the umpire and lineswoman.

The ITF declined to conform a report in the Daily Telegraph newspaper that Hingis was involved in a "physical incident" with a women's WTA Tour official after the match. The newspaper said the tournament referee would review tapes reported to show the incident with a heavy fine or suspension possible from the Grand Slam committee.

## Dwelling on downfall

London, June 9: (India Abroad News Service): It was the end of a long dream, the dream which close to a billion people in India had shared. Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath woke the Indian batsmen up to face reality and they came down to earth with a thump.

Unless other sides perform so badly that a logjam comes about for one or two spots, India will probably be going home after the Super Six. After the defeat at the Oval, which sported by far the best pitch of the tournament which gave an equal chance for the bat and the ball, India have lost to three of five competitors and the chances of the team squeezing through with two wins and a tie are very remote.

India's downfall had been plotted by a superior think tank. But someone had to find that extra bounce to get batsmen who were in top form out. McGrath's performance was a real standout.

Steve Waugh had got it just right. "The Indians have a few good batsmen and it is a question of getting them out soon," he had said in a pre-match press conference and his primary pace bowler carried out the hit job to perfection.

The match had been built up as a great conflict between Sachin Tendulkar, the world's best batsman, and McGrath; one of world cricket's most lethal new ball bowlers. The contest lasted just a few minutes with the pace bowler getting Sachin to spar at the fourth ball that bounced on him. Very soon the Indians were left only with a theoretical chance of reaching the semi-finals.

With Sachin's dismissal began the procession. The World Cup's highest scorer Rahul Dravid followed suit and Saurav Ganguly chopped Fleming on. There was to be relief only after McGrath, three wickets in a match award winning performance, had brought out a very old chink in Azharuddin's armour by turning him inside out with bounce and getting him to spoon a catch to gully for an ignominious exit.

Bounce was the key. Indians were simply done in because they could not negotiate McGrath's pace and lift. A very old failing in Indian batting had been brought out again by a great fast bowler. And he was bowling in the second half of the day when there was less in the pitch than when Javagal Srinath first topped the radar gun with a strapping delivery of 93 miles per hour.

The Kennington Oval could well have been Wankhede Stadium at Churchnge.

So widespread was the support for India. In such an atmosphere and with light rain falling in the morning, Azhar had allowed himself to commit the error of asking Australia to bat first. But then this was the most successful tactic of the World Cup and who could blame him for allowing himself to be misled into chasing. The sobering thought is had India batted first, they may have been decimated to contain sides.

Although some lost ground was retrieved by Robin Singh who came into the side because Sachin was sent back to the opening slot after ending a long period of confused thinking in the Indian camp, the bowlers were over generous in the end overs. What should actually have been a fair sized total in fine batting conditions became a huge target which India have rarely achieved save in one successful chase of 314 against Pakistan at Dhaka.

To be asked to open against such a target did not mean any additional responsibility being thrust upon Sachin. So accustomed is he to the job that he may have made a match of it had he succeeded in seeing off McGrath's first spell. But then Sachin has not had a great World Cup and India were the lesser side for it. His run of three centuries against

Australia came to an end with a nothng which just emphasises the unpredictable nature of the game.

The disappointment was deeper because the batting had seemed solid in the league even in the matches which were lost. Having turned the corner in their decimation of the West Indies in the league, the Aussies were on a roll and it would have taken an improved performance from India to stay in touch with a fitter side.

Bob Simpson, the man who had trained Australia to a World Cup win, viewed all this with mixed feelings. On the one hand was his country and on the other the team he was coaching. There could only be one winner. And how Bob fared in the Simpson Test of loyalty is a well kept secret. Not so the public reaction to yet another Indian defeat.

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## Champs' Trophy from today



BRISBANE, June 9: Olympic and world champions Netherlands are again the team to beat in the 21st men's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament that gets underway here Thursday, reports AFP.

The Dutch have dominated the sport since their gold medal win over Spain at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and with the next Olympic tournament 15 months away in Sydney they will get a further insight into their chances of successfully defending their Olympic crown.

The Netherlands head into the Brisbane top-six ranked Trophy winners of a unique grand slam of titles — besides the 1996 Olympic gold, they have won the 1998 World Cup, on their own Utrecht pitch and last year's Champions Trophy in Lahore.

The consistent Spaniards loom as the Dutch team's main rivals having finished runner-up to them at the Atlanta Olympics and at last year's Utrecht World Cup.

Hosts Australia will attempt to dislodge their bridesmaid tag in their home tournament having chalked up a frustrating sequence of placings — except for last year's Commonwealth Games gold medal won over Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

Australia finished bronze medalists at Atlanta, fourth at last year's World Cup, third at

the 1998 Champions Trophy and were beaten by a golden goal in extra time by Germany in the final of the 1997 Champions Trophy in Adelaide.

The Champions' Trophy is field hockey's biggest event this non-Olympic and World Cup year.

The Dutch automatically

## SOS sports

SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh will organise a sports competition today in observance of the Village's 50th founding anniversary, says a press release.

Children, mothers and co-workers of the Dhaka Village and co-workers of NCO will participate in the event which will start at 10 in the morning.

## Becker starts in style

LONDON, June 9: Four-time champion Boris Becker opened his farewell London grasscourt championships campaign in style on Tuesday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over 1998 Australian Open champion Peter Korda, reports Reuters.

The 31-year-old German needed one break in each set to dismiss Korda on the Queen's Club centre court and set up a second round clash with defending champion and 15th seed Scott Draper in the 750,000 dollar traditional Wimbledon warm-up event.

On Thursday, Argentina open the Women's tournament against the Netherlands, with Australia and New Zealand make up the six.

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qualify on three fronts — the winner of the 1996 Olympics, 1998 World Cup and Champions Trophy, while Australia get a berth as hosts.

Spain, Pakistan, England and Korea, through their rankings at the Utrecht World Cup, make up the top six nations.

England and Korea will launch the tournament in the opening match Thursday, with Pakistan, winners of 20 of their 31 matches, keen to put their form to the test against the powerful Spaniards later in the day.

While the Dutch dominate the men's tournament, Australia holds the whip hand in the adjoining 7th women's Champions Trophy.

The superbly drilled Hockeysters, under the control of Australia hockey icon Ric Charlesworth, are the reigning Olympic, World, Champions Trophy and Commonwealth champions and have been voted Australian sports team of the year six times in the last decade.

Putting the Hockeysters to the test will be World Cup runners-up Netherlands, the 1997 Champions Trophy beaten finalists Germany and Olympic silver medalists Korea, Argentina and New Zealand make up the six.

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