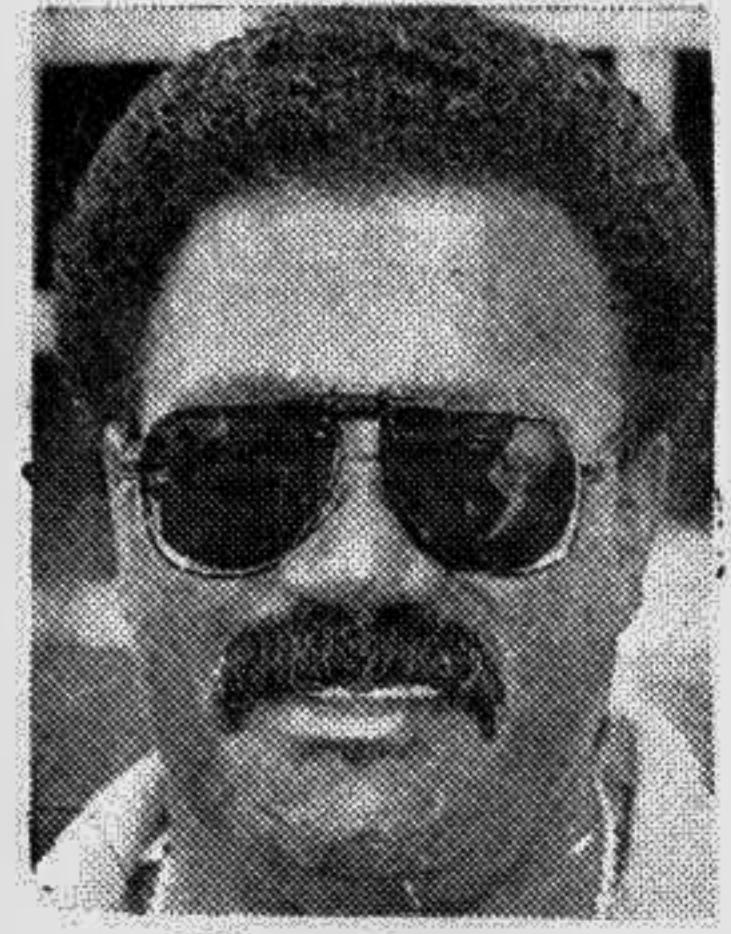


SPORTS TALK



A sigh of relief for Wimbledon

LONDON, June 17: Last year soccer's World Cup ran roughshod over the Wimbledon tennis championships, much to the disapproval of those who prefer blazers and Pimm's to replica shirts and lager, reports AFP.

This year, however, cricket's World Cup will politely end on June 20, allowing tennis at the All England Club the centre stage it deserves.

For once the weather looks set fair for the 113th championships with the mercury touching 27 degrees Celsius in the week before the tournament, which starts next Monday. Never mind the cricket's Barmy Army, that is just plain balmy for June in the English capital.

Wimbledon, of course, features as high on the social calendar as the sporting one.

In all, well over 400,000 spectators, officials, media and players will come through the Club gates over the next fortnight, consuming some 27,000 kilos of strawberries, 7,000 litres of cream and 12,500 bottles of champagne.

The continuing modernisation of the venue means 2,000 extra seats will be available this year, giving a new capacity of 35,000 and some London agencies are charging a wallet-busting 1,600 pounds (2,400 dollars) for a Centre Court seat at the final on July 4.

The tournament's ever-increasing popularity has much to do with the resurgence of British tennis, spearheaded by sixth seed Tim Henman and his Canadian-born compatriot Greg Rusedski.

Clive Lloyd

(West Indies manager)
"Brian Lara has done extremely well but he can't bat for the whole team. There is nothing wrong with his captaincy. We are not far off from being a decent side."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-116

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm June 18, '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 Aminul Islam score against New Zealand?

14 15 16

3 Who won the cricket World Cup in 1979?

Australia Windies 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

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Class Roll No.

School Address

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Phone: (If any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

FedEx speedster launched

LONDON, June 17: Some of cricket's "fastest deliverers" — India's Javagal Srinath, Australia's Gleen McGrath and former Australian player, Jeff Thomson, holder of the speed record at 99.7 mph — have launched the FedEx Speedster, a radar device used to measure bowling speeds during the remaining matches of the World Cup, says a press release.

Sponsored by FedEx, and accurate to within 2km/h, the FedEx Speedster has already begun measuring bowling speeds at the World Cup, starting with the Super Six match between India and Australia.

A header by Morientes after eight minutes following a cross from the left gave them their opener and Mijatovic side-footed home a penalty to the keeper in the 63rd minute for their second.

Madrid looked motivated as players wrenched the ball from the Valencia keeper and ran back to the centre circle to save time for more goals.

No more goals came from the 1998 European Cup champions however, and Lopez shot home left-footed between the keeper and the near post to earn Valencia a welcome, if meaningless goal.

Someone on the Real Madrid bench voiced their frustration minutes before the end and the referee showed a yellow.

Real were worried that sup-

FIFA rankings
Bangladesh now 148th

Sports Reporter

Despite finishing runners-up in the South Asian Football Federation Championship in the Indian resort of Goa last May, Bangladesh slipped two places in the monthly third FIFA world rankings released on Wednesday.

In February, Bangladesh was ranked at 146 out of 201 member countries.

South Asian powerhouse India also dropped from 112 to 113. Except for Sri Lanka and Pakistan who remained unchanged at 142 and 178 respect-

tively, the other countries of this region also fell further.

Looking at the top order four-time world champions Brazil remained number one with World Cup holders France in second place 27 points behind. The Czech Republic moved into third place after qualifying as the first team for Euro 2000. They replaced Germany who now lie in fifth.

World Cup 2002 co-hosts South Korea and Japan also nose-dived to 38th and 42nd spot.

TOP TWENTY

Current Rank	Country	Points	Previous Rank
1	Brazil	808	1
2	France	781	2
3	Czech Republic	753	5
4	Italy	750	4
5	Germany	733	3
6	Spain	732	8
7	Croatia	723	6
8	Argentina	716	7
9	Romania	704	10
10	Netherlands	700	9
11	Norway	699	12
12	Portugal	685	15
13	England	684	11
14	Mexico	672	13
15	Sweden	668	14
16	Yugoslavia	645	16
17	Denmark	642	18
18	Morocco	637	19
19	Austria	632	17
20	Slovakia	614	24

SAARC COUNTRIES	Country	Points	Rank
113	India	319	112
142	Sri Lanka	191	142
148	Bangladesh	181	146
161	Maldives	139	159
163	Nepal	134	161
178	Pakistan	79	178

Some solace for Real

MADRID, June 17: Fernando Morientes and Predrag Mijatovic earned battling Real Madrid a 2-1 victory against Valencia here on Wednesday but lost this Spanish Cup semi-final 7-2 on aggregate, reports AFP.

At least Madrid supporters, who had threatened to stay away from the 106,500-capacity Santiago-Bernabeu stadium in protest at poor results, did turn out to cheer on their team although they had the near-impossible task of trailing 6-0 from the first leg.

Argentina's Claudio Lopez shot home an equalizer for the east coast club with five minutes remaining.

Madrid, who must beat Deportivo La Coruna at the weekend to ensure European Champions League football next season, ironically play Deportivo in the June 26 final.

A header by Morientes after eight minutes following a cross from the left gave them their opener and Mijatovic side-footed home a penalty to the keeper in the 63rd minute for their second.

Madrid looked motivated as players wrenched the ball from the Valencia keeper and ran back to the centre circle to save time for more goals.

No more goals came from the 1998 European Cup champions however, and Lopez shot home left-footed between the keeper and the near post to earn Valencia a welcome, if meaningless goal.

Someone on the Real Madrid bench voiced their frustration minutes before the end and the referee showed a yellow.

Real were worried that sup-

porters might boycott the match. This year, arch-rivals Barcelona have won the league title, Madrid are now out of the Spanish Cup, and they lost 3-1 to city rivals Atletico Madrid at the weekend.

Trailing massively from the first leg, the match was clearly not going to be a major drawing card for fans however the snub never happened.



— AFP photo

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