

Bangladesh Football Federation General Secretary Havenur Rashid, MP (R) speaking at a press conference in connection with the Keya Football League '99. Abdul Khaleque Pathan, the Chairman of Keya Cosmetics Limited (2nd from R), Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee President Abdur Rahim (2nd from L) and Secretary Shawkat Ali Khan (L) were -Star photo also present.

Sports Reporter

After a season lay-off the two-tier Senior Division football Leagues --- Premier and First Division—begin in the city

Holders Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will take on promotees Mirpur Chalantika Sporting Club in the inaugural match of the Keya Football League'99 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 4

In the other match billed for the opening day, popular Motiiheel outfit Mohammedan sporting Club, who finished runners up in the last league concluded in January 1997, will meet Badda Jagarani Sangsad. The match will start at the same venue at 6 pm.

A total of twenty teamsevenly split into Premier and First Divisions, will take part most colourful domestic all calendar.

First Division matches. lawwever, will start at the Sher-E-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow.

But unlike previous years there would be a major change in the format of the league, which is expected to conclude by the end of August.

Ten teams will play each other in the first round from where top four finishers will advance to the second round. In the second phase the quartet will meet each other thrice and the team earning maximum points from both rounds will be declared champions. The winner will also receive a cash award of Taka one lakh. The runners-up will be richer by

Besides, the most disciplined team will be awarded with the

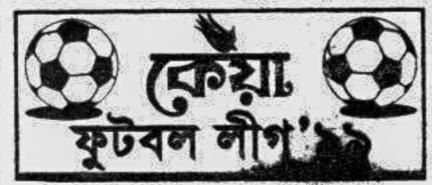
Taka 75,000.

"Fair Play" trophy. According to the new format, the six bottom clubs will play in the relegation league. They will face each other once in the second round from where the bottom three teams will be slated

for the relegation league. At the end of the three-team relegation leagues, bottom two teams from Premier league will be relegated to First Division while the bottom two from First Division will go down to Second Division next season.

Each team will be allowed to register a maximum of four foreign players out of which three will be allowed to play in a match.

There will be two Premier league matches at the Banga-



bandhu National Stadium for most of the days. The first match will start at 4 pm followed by the second match at 6

For the first time, Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC), the organisers of the league are going to introduce a display board for the extra-time play.

Besides, the electronic scoreboard, which was installed at the Bangabandhu National Stadium before the Wills International Cup, might also be used to entertain the spectators during the matches.

Date

June 23

June 24

June 25

June 26

June 27

June 28

The rate of tickets for the Western and Eastern galleries have been fixed at Taka twenty and Taka ten respectively.

Meanwhile, the DMFLC arranged a press briefing at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office yesterday. The general secretary of BFF Harunur Rashid, MP, addressed the briefing.

"We had already discussed with the National Sports Council (NSC) for the use of the electronic scoreboard and the NSC has sent a letter to the firm which is maintaining the

board," said Harun. DMFLC secretary Shawkat Ali Khan Jahangir informed the press that sponsors Keya

Cosmetics Limited is paying Taka 20 lakh. Following teams are taking part in the Keya Football

TEAMS PREMIER DIVISION: Muktijoddha Sangsad KS, Mohammedan SC, Abahani KC, Brothers Union, Farashgani SC, YMC Fakirerpool, Rahmatganj MFS, Arambagh KS, Badda Jagarani Sangsad and Mirpur

Chalantika SC FIRST DIVISION: Agrani Bank, Victoria SC, BRTC SC, Dhaka Wanderers Club, East End Club, Wari Club, Shantinagar Club, Dhanmondi Club, Prantik KC and The Muslim Institute.

FIXTURES

First week's fixture of the Premier League: Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Mirpur Chalantika Mohammedan SC vs Badda Jagarani Brothers Union vs Rahmatganj MFS Abahani KC vs Arambagh KS 6 pm Farashganj SC vs YMC Fakirerpool Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Badda Jagarani Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS 4 pm 6 pm 6 pm Abahani KC vs Rahmatganj MFS Farashganj SC vs Mirpur Chalantika Brothers Union vs YMC Fakirerpool Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Arambagh KS



Australian Mark Philippoussis plays a forehand during his Wimbledon first round match against Belgian Xavier Malisse at the All-England Club yesterday. - AFP photo

## Relishing the carnival

LONDON, June 21 (AFP): For Steve Waugh and his 10 Australian team-mates, one moment above all mattered at the 1999 World Cup.

Steve Waugh's lifting of the trophy completed three years of planning and three of dream-

He held the Cup aloft from the Lord's balcony, accompanied by a huge roar from his fans - and huge groans in Pakistan.

For the neutral fan, however, there have been plenty of other key incidents to store to memory.

The demise of South African Allan Donald, run out with two balls to go of the tied Edgbaston semi-final against Australia, will never be forgotten, ending what many believe was the greatest one-day game of all

South Africa, beaten in the 1992 semi-final and 1996 quarter-final, needed one run off four balls to reach the Lord's

Instead, Lance Klusener hit and ran. Donald failed to hear his call and Australia's players

were soon mobbing each other in celebration.

Donald, his bat abandoned, stood alone. Klusener, the player of the tournament, had not even turned round to watch the inevitable disaster unfold. Steely-eyed, he ran on towards the pavilion and out of

the competition. "It was a moment of madness and total confusion." Donald said later.

One match before, another South African had wished the ground would swallow him up in a moment of horror.

Like Klusener and Denald, he will spend many nights pondering over the fickleness of

Herschelle Gibbs had caught Steve Waugh at short midwicket at Headingley when, in the process of throwing up the ball in celebration, he allowed it to slip from his hands.

Waugh, then on 56, went on to make 120 not out and win the game. Had Gibbs taken that catch to win the game. Australia would have been knocked out and South Africa would have faced lowly Zimbabwe in

the semi-finals.

Gibbs was on the wrong end of another memorable incident a few days later.

Shane Warne, written off by many commentators, spun a ball from almost a foot outside the leg stump past the righthand opener's bat on the way to clipping the top of the off stump in the Edgbaston semi-final rematch between the two sides.

The delivery was a replica of Warne's first ball in a Test in England, which accounted for Mike Gatting in 1993 at Old Trafford and became known as "The Ball of the Century."

Waugh said later that Gibbs' fall, the first of Warne's four wickets, had done such psychological damage to the South African batsmen that it won the game for Australia.

Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar, with 16 wickets, also had his fair share of moments. His first ball of the tourna-

ment - and his first in England for Pakistan - was as dramatic as any that followed. Rearing off just short of a length, it beat West Indian Sherwin Campbell See page 14

# beats in Asia

LONDON, June 21 (Reuters/ Internet): A carnival of cricket was always a dubious marketing gimmick in a country where carnivals are as scarce as rum punches and beach barbecues.

Thankfully, for cricket fans throughout the British Commonwealth the players in the seventh World Cup staged predominantly in England transcended the public relations men and delivered a product of genuine quality.

They also confirmed that the heart of world cricket now beats in the Indian sub-continent and the southern hemisphere. Cricket's future is best

glimpsed in the streets of Lahore, Karachi, New Delhi, Bangalore, Colombo, Kandy and Dhaka.

Street cricket has produced some of the finest players in the Pakistan side, who, although they may have been trounced in Sunday's final against Australia, are still capable of moments of heart-stopping bril-

Mushtaq spent three years as a youth experimenting with a tennis ball, varying his grip and his action. As a result he is now the

Pakistan spinner Saglain

most tantalising off-spinner in the world, capable of bowling a

finger-spun top-spinner and also one which appears to leave the bat.

Some of the strokes played by the sub-continental batsmen defy the coaching manuals, again the result of learning the game in the streets with whatever implements come to hand.

"Technique is over-rated," observed Pakistan's English coach Richard Pybus. "Players in England are over-coached." Those who believe that the

verities of line, length and the straight bat still apply will point to Australia's remarkable run of seven consecutive victories when they seemed down and out.

Australia were ruthless in the final, under their laconic gum-chewing captain Steve

Waugh has refined his game over the years, cutting out the irrelevant strokes and concentrating on keeping the ball mainly on the ground.

His strike bowler Glenn Mc-Grath has an action of classical simplicity and concentrates on bowling relentlessly straight.

South Africa, beaten by Australia in that epic semifinal, have brought to the oneday game the scientific approach they apply to the national sport of rugby union and See page 14

#### Of the charmers and stumblers

LONDON, June 21 (AFP) -When people hark back to the 1999 World Cup, they will probably remember one man above

South African all-rounder Lance Klusener's performances made him the most valuable and the most explosive - player of the tournament.

Sadly for him, he will also be remembered for a disastrous run-out mix-up with Allan Donald against Australia which led to the game being tied and South Africa, for the third World Cup in a row, just missing out on the final.

Klusener ended with 281 runs, a top tournament average of 140.5 and 17 wickets. Only Shane Warne of Australia and Geoff Allott of New Zealand, both with 20, and Australia's Glenn McGrath with 18 - took

It was the power of his sledgehammer shots, however,

and the speed at which he scored which captured the imagination.

The in-your-face style of the 27-year-old man they call "Zulu" was in total contrast to his mild manner off the pitch. He was the World Cup's most complete player, short of just

one thing - one more semi-final Klusener was chased home as the top of the pops by Pakistan bowler Shoaib Akhtar

and Warne. Akhtar, a natural showman enthralled the crowds from day one with his pace on his way to 16 wickets. He didn't quite achieve the 100mph target he set himself, but he surely will.

Warne, meanwhile, had to spin his way back from a bout of moderate form to win over "Save the whole!" they had

See page 14

### Indian delight in Pak plight

NEW DELHI, June 21: India set aside its Asian fervour Sunday and celebrated Pakistan's humiliating defeat in the World Cup cricket final with an explosion of crackers, drum beats, and "happy fire" crackling in war-torn Kashmir, reports

In Kashmir, where Indian soldiers are fighting a battle against what New Delhi claims are Pakistani army regulars and Moslem guerrillas. hundreds poured into the streets to celebrate the arch-rival's defeat.

"I am very happy that Pakistan has lost the game." Jasmit Singh, 28 a government teacher In Kashmir's summer capi-

tal, Srinagar, defence sources said cross-border shelling was "less" when the Australia-Pakistan match was in progress at the Lord's stadium in England. Another source said Indian soldiers fired their weapons in celebrations.

Australia lifted the cricket World Cup after it sent Pakistan spinning to the greatest humiliation in the tournament's history. They won with eight wickets and 29.5 overs to spare.

The victory was delayed by a few minutes after Pakistan fans

ran onto the field with four runs needed for victory.

In the far eastern state of Assam hundreds of people danced on the streets and burst crackers even before the last boundary was scored by the Australians.

"The Australian victory is definitely a cause for celebration. I feel very happy as Pakistan, our arch enemy, has been defeated," Abhijit Das, a college student said.

Some of the hoteliers in downtown Guwahati offered free soft drinks and coffee to its guests.

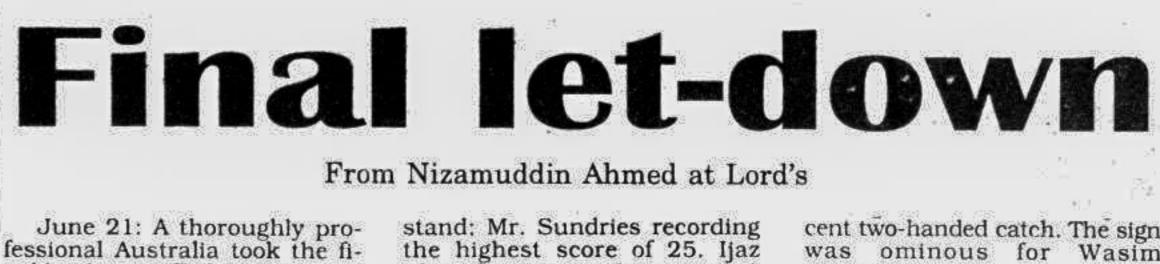
"We feel as if India has won the match. The pleasure of Pakistan losing the match is much more than India getting into the finals," Ramen Sharma, 78, a retired professor told AFP.

"This is because of the recent animosity between the two sides after Pakistani soldiers entered out territory in Kargil," Sharma said. Residents in the southern

city of Bangalore took out a procession along a five kilometere (three mile) route in the downtown Mahatma Gandhi Road to celebrate the Pakistani See page 14

Russia's Tatiana Tcheverda (L) tackling Monica Knudsen of Norway during their Women's

World Cup match at Foxboro Stadium on June 20. Norway won 2-1.



MAGNIFICENT MARK: Mark Waugh executes a typical elegant square cut during the

fessional Australia took the final by the scruff of the neck and stunned Pakistan by eight wickets to lift the cricket World Cup at the game's capital.

The Cup-decider was an anticlimax of the hype and build-up following the contrasting semifinals. Pakistan had beaten New Zealand without any qualms while Australia drew with South Africa but made to the final because of a better Super Six performance.

World Cup final on June 20.

Australian skipper Steve Waugh's prophecy came finally true. The tough modern-day captain had predicted after losing in a Group match to this very Pakistan that they needed only seven wins to lift the World Cup, and that he did from ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya after Sunday's lopsided surprise.

The Australians outplayed their rivals in all departments of the game. In fact, the prematch verbal bout between the two captains was about the most exciting occurrence centring the final. It was Australia from start to finish. There was never a more convincing win in

a final. Two terrific catches by the Waugh twins, the opening bowlers finding unusual bounce, the restoration of the Wizard of Oz Shane Warne and some tidy fielding was enough to compel Pakistan to finish with the ignominy of the low-est-ever total in the seven World Cup finals. Pakistan's paltry total of 132 came off 39 overs, the shortest innings in a final by any losing side.

Australia's match-winning 20.1 overs will go down as the all-time lowest, but for a completely different reason.

West Indies were all out for 140 when they lost the 1983 final to India at Lord's.

Australia were not going to let off Pakistan after having floored them in the morning session. A solid opening stand of 75 in 48 minutes between Mark Waugh and Adam Gilchrist set them on course. They were delighted when Darren Lehman hit the winning shot to give them a flattering. but a victory that was predictable since the early lunch.

Australia lost Gilchrist (54 off 36 balls) and Ricky Ponting (24 off 27), to record an emphatic win that seemed very improbable as the tournament reached it zenith.

Mark Waugh was unbeaten with a very responsible 37 that came from 52 deliveries. Lehmann was at the wicket with 13.

In the morning Wasim Akram was a relieved man to have won the toss, which most agreed was vital, after overnight rain. But there was no cash in then bank. Pakistan were immediately in trouble and lost wickets faster than at any time in the tournament. There was not one single decent

Ahmed came a close second Spin sorcerer Shane Warne.

contemplating retirement from international cricket following attacks on him by a hostile press back home, took the manof-the-match award with a strike of 4 for 33 in nine overs. He was almost unplayable on a wicket that proved unyielding for both Saqlain Mushtaq and Azhar Mahmood. In the morning Wasim

Akram was a relieved man to have won the toss, which most agreed was vital after overnight rain. And the fear that runchasing has become in this tournament. But there was no cash in the bank. Pakistan were immediately

in trouble, losing uncomfortable Wajahatullah Wasti and semi-final's mercurial maestro Saeed Anwar, both for 21 runs. Wasti was unfortunate to bring out the best in Mark

Waugh at second slip. . The captain's brother flew to his right and held a magnificent two-handed catch. The sign was ominous for Wasim

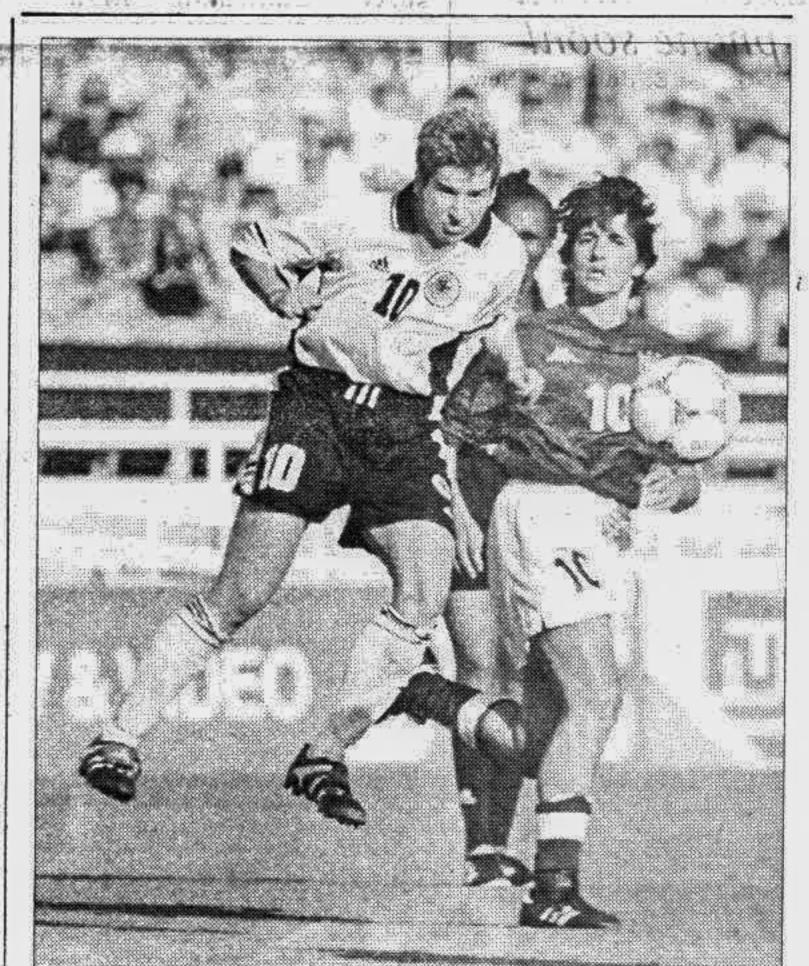
- AFP photo

Akram. Saeed Anwar could also blame misfortune as he found his wickets skittling after a batpad of an inside edge. But credit is due to Damien Fleming for a scintillating delivery.

That first wicket and the third wicket stand of 47 in 61 minutes between Abdul Razzaq (17 off 51) and Ijaz Ahmed were the only fort that Pakistan built on the day. Mr. Sundries came up tops as one would expect recording the highest score of 25. Ijaz Ahmed came a close second with 22. No one could censure Razzaq

for his dismissal. Steve Waugh, who had to roll over to maintain the momentum of his fall. plucked his reasonably good off-drive from between the grass. .

There was a ripple in the crowd as 'Warnie' came on and he was soon in action. He found the stumps through Ijaz's gate, trapped Shahid Afridi leg-before and Moin Khan in his own See page 14



Italian captain Antonella Carta ® being checked by a German defender during their Women's World Cup match on June 20. The game finished 1-1. - AFP photo

# Fatal let-off

LONDON, June 21: In retrospect, it was the most extraordinary thing said during the 1999 cricket World Cup.

Perhaps it was the most extraordinary thing ever said on a cricket pitch. Period.

South African Herschelle Gibbs had just blundered horribly, letting a catch off Steve Waugh slip through his fingers at Headingley as he attempted to fling the ball into the air in celebration.

Waugh, with 56 runs to his

name, knew he had been given a

slim, second chance to save his side's floundering World Cup hopes in the last game before the semi-finals. He turned to Gibbs, one of the best fielders in the world, and told the 25-year-old: "You've

just dropped the World Cup, A couple of hours later Waugh had scored 120 and Australia were still in the competi-

South African re-match in the last four. A week later and Waugh was holding aloft the World Cup trophy on the Lord's balcony.

tion, earning themselves a

Waugh's prescient words at Headingley leaked out later. Whether they had been designed to undermined Gibbs' confidence further or merely bolster Waugh's resolve is hard

The Australian captain, so

- AFP photo

able.

Whether Waugh really be-lieved them himself is debat-

Few men would dare tempt

See page 14

HERSCHELLE GIBBS After scraping through to Lord's via the tied semi-final against South Africa at Edgbaston, he had admitted that his

often presented as impervious

to pressure, admitted he is not

quite "The Iceman" - as he was

nicknamed after the 1987

World Cup - that people imag-

We were s ing ourselves!" Whatever. It still takes an extraordinary confidence and self belief to think of saying what Waugh had said to Gibbs in Leeds.

side has cracked several times

under pressure. "Three or four

times we were down and out," he

said. "We're only human. Calm?