

Column One SPORTS TALK



Dr Ali Bacher (ICBSA managing director) 'It will be unfortunate if Kenya and Bangladesh are not given direct entry.'

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

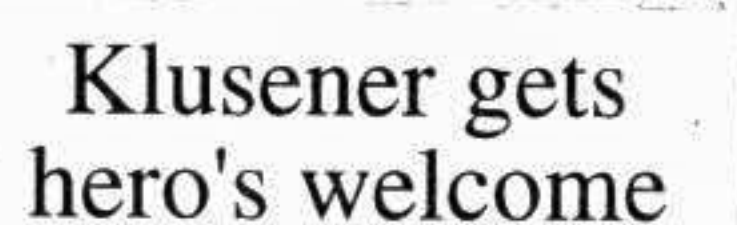
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-117

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Table with 2 columns: Question, Answer. Contains 5 questions about the World Cup.

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Klusener gets hero's welcome

JOHANNESBURG, June 23: A dejected Lance Klusener, the cricket World Cup player-of-the-tournament, got a hero's welcome from hundreds of South Africans when he arrived home at Johannesburg airport today, reports AFP.

Waugh derives joy from the victory

MELBOURNE, June 23: Australian captain Steve Waugh Wednesday vowed South Africa would be reminded about its devastating loss in the World Cup semifinal whenever the teams meet, reports AFP.

Test status in year 2000?

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in London

June 23: Bangladesh's chances of gaining Test status over the next two days of meetings of the International Cricket Council (ICC) are 'feeble', but it will certainly be accorded by June 2000, disclosed a reliable source here today.

Test status for Bangladesh goes on trial today at the Lord's at a meeting of the Executive Board of the ICC. Although the issue will be 'finally' decided at ICC's annual general meeting tomorrow, matters are known to be finalised at the more exclusive Executive Board meeting.

It was learnt today that, barring the reservation of one or two full members, who require perhaps more information, all the others were heavily in favour of granting Test status to Bangladesh now. There was all round compassion and respect for Bangladesh's cause.

BCB members in London wait anxiously for news from the ICC boardroom, which has been known to come up with pleasant surprises. Understandably topping the BCB strategy for long has been gaining Test status, as it will be a great boost to this already hugely popular sport that has unbounded potentiality. Also, a full member does not have to qualify to play in the World Cup.

The BCB has used all its resources in the past year, maintaining the right liaison and visiting relevant people, to evince its Test case. The efforts were geared up after the country earned the One-Day International status in June 1997, following the momentous ICC triumph.

For several years now BCB has been advocating the vast popularity of the game in the country, availability of grounds, large and increasing number of cricketers, performance in international

matches, government and public support, positive role of the media, and its own ability to administer competition at all levels, as justification for Test status. But, its new ace has to be Bangladesh's mammoth victory against Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup.

The only reason for which the ICC may leave the matter in the fridge for another year is the lack of a first class structure in Bangladesh which demands domestic competitions in the longer version of cricket. But, BCB has already started to look into that shortcoming from the last season.

Representatives of the ICC Development Committee visited Bangladesh in the last six months to assess the right of the ICC champions to obtain the much-guarded Test status. If Test status is granted today, the victory against Pakistan will account for influencing much of the votes.

Also on the ICC agenda is the development of the game world-wide. ICC governs cricket in only 53 countries, considerably a smaller domain than football's governing body FIFA, which is truly global.

Apart from the nine Test-playing countries, who are full members, the ICC has 25 associate members, including Bangladesh and 19 affiliates. Defending the limitation, chief executive Barry Richards says ICC is a genuine world body, not separate countries pulling for themselves. Moreover, it's an expanding body.

Top in the ICC agenda is the globalisation of the game. Almost half of the projected 32 million pounds World Cup profit plus the presumed 8 million pounds from the Wills International Cup held in Dhaka last year, an event to be repeated every two years, will be funnelled for the development of cricket world-wide. Bangladesh are expected to get part of the windfall. It is this globalisation scheme that may also tip the scale in favour of Bangladesh today.

Saber was re-elected ICC Executive Board member and

Ashraful ICC Cricket Committee Management member in polls held yesterday. Both have been holding the posts for the past two years.

The BCB general secretary has also been elected member of the ICC Trophy Committee, chaired by Kenya's Jimmy Rayani. Other members are: Harilal Shah (Kenya), Stanley Partman (Israel), Geoff Edward (Canada) and Jorgen Holmen (Denmark).

The ICC 2001 tournament will be held in Canada.

Football resumes today

The Keya Metropolis Premier Division Football League resumes today at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, reports UNB.

Brothers Union will take on Rahamatganj MFS in the first match at 4 pm while Federation Cup champions Abahani will face Arambagh KS at 6 pm at the same venue.

Both matches were scheduled to be held yesterday but postponed due to the non-availability of police personnel.

Youth Asia Cup team unveiled BCB's over-aged U-19

Sports Reporter



The irony of Bangladesh's sporting history is that no one learns from the past. Two years ago cricket officials of the country came under severe criticism for selecting over-aged players for the World Youth (U-19) Championship. That syndrome seemed to have surfaced again with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) naming 20 players for the

forth-coming Youth Asia Cup, scheduled to begin in Singapore from July 5.

Although the board, presently functioning without a selection committee, is yet to make the team list public, the inclusion of a number of players of dubious age is sure to spark widespread resentment among keen followers of the game.

The list surprisingly includes players like Fahim Muntasir Sumit and Sabbir

Khan, two of the four survivors of the Bangladesh Youth team that won the plate title in South Africa in 1997.

Sabbir, the gangling off-spinner, who had a disastrous last season in domestic cricket, is a final year honours student of Jahangirnagar University while Fahim, many feel, is too old to be considered for selection even.

"If Sumit (Fahim) is under 19, I'm also under 19", said Nadir Shah, a former national cricketer now in his mid 40s.

Also contentious is the selection of Gulam Murtoza, the reserve wicket keeper of the national team, Rezauul Hoque.

Former national leg-spinner Wahedul Ghani, who was one of the selectors of the of the controversial World Youth Championship team of 1997, said, "none of the selected players are below the age of 20."

It is not understandable how the board included players like Sabbir Khan and Fahim Muntasir for the tournament", said Ghani.

We are talking about Test status. But our deeds hardly reflect our desire for the ultimate target. I firmly believe it was not in the national interest to pick up over-aged players.

Tournaments of this kind always provides the opportunity of finding budding talents. But I don't understand picking of players who are over-aged and have already played in the national team.

This unhealthy practice not only hinders our progress but also deprives the youth to unearth their talents", said Ghani adding that they should be an acceptable yardstick to stop the 'manipulation' of a vested quarter.

Lamenting on the weird wisdom of his fellow national cricketers Wahid said: "No doubt, we the cricketers are in the selection procedure. But until we think beyond our self-interest, cricket will never progress."



WELCOME TO MELBOURNE: Australian World Cup winning captain Steve Waugh (L) and his deputy Shane Warne ride in an rooftop vehicle during a ticker-tape parade through the streets of Melbourne after their return from England yesterday.

Tourists take command

OXFORD, England, June 23 (AFP/Reuters): New Zealand fired a warning shot to England by pun-

ishing the British Universities here Tuesday just nine days before the first Test match between the countries.

Skipper Stephen Fleming, opener Matthew Horne and Nathan Asle made centuries as the Kiwis finished the second day on 513 for six - a lead of 282.

Fleming struck 127 from 159 balls which included 20 fours. Horne was dismissed moments later for 133 off 221 deliveries. He hit 17 fours and a one six. The tourists having resumed on 56 for one.

Nathan Asle, who scored only 80 runs in nine World Cup games, boosted the tally with a speedy century.

The batsmen were particularly harsh on compatriot Greg Loveridge, who has already played Test cricket for his country, the leg-spinner finishing with figures of 32.4-1-158-1.

Daniel Vettori followed up his fine bowling figures of five for 80 in the Universities first innings total of 231 with an unbeaten 70.

SCOREBOARD

Second day's scoreboard of the three-day match between New Zealand and British Universities: BRITISH UNIVERSITY: First innings

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like Roberts, Imran, Hughes, Wilson, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like Hicks, Lawrence, Francis, etc.



HORNE ... 133

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Lists players like Doull, O'Connor, Vettori, etc.

Conquerors come home

MELBOURNE, June 23: Tens of thousands of sports-mad Australian fans crammed into the main street of Melbourne on Wednesday to welcome home their World Cup cricket winners, reports Reuters.

Shredded phone books and green and yellow cards and streamers rained on to the Australian team, which crushed Pakistan by eight wickets in last Sunday's final at Lord's after being written off early in the limited overs tournament.

Australians were heady with sporting success on Thursday, the parade for their victorious cricketers coming just hours after teenage qualifier Jelena Dokic crushed world number one tennis player Martina Hingis in the first round at Wimbledon.

The flag-waving Melbourne crowd saved their biggest roars for captain Steve Waugh and hometown hero Shane Warne, the man of the match in the cup final.

The pair brought up the rear of the parade which saw the team driven in open-top sports cars through the heart of Australia's second largest city.

"I'm proud of all the guys and how they played," Waugh said after thanking the thousands of fans.

Many in the crowd had lined the streets for hours in anticipation of the cricketers, who arrived back in Australia at about 1:30 a.m. (1530 GMT).

Some of those who could not see gathered outside a window of Melbourne's Twon Hall, beckoning for their heroes to come out from a Lord Mayor's reception.

One by one the players answered the chants of "War-ney, War-ney", "Ooh-ah Glenn McGrath" and "We want Steve" and appeared briefly on a balcony to hold aloft the World Cup.

"I've been here since bloody nine this morning. I'm not going till I see everyone," said one supporter as the players emerged after each long cheer, gave a thumbs up and then disappeared.

Fans said they never lost hope for the Australians, even when Waugh and his team came close to being knocked out of the tournament in the first round and again later against the talented Pakistanis.

"Of course they were going to win," said fan Jyoti Rahman.

Wait and see: Warne



MELBOURNE, June 23: Shane Warne will decide on his cricketing future in the next few weeks, but has hinted his wife and new-born son will take priority over the



game that has made him a star, reports AFP.

The leg-spinner's future has been the subject of intense media speculation lately, with his retirement being touted.

But in his newspaper column in The Times newspaper in London Tuesday, Warne said he was "thinking more in terms of

taking a break from the game rather than packing up completely."

Fresh from Australia's triumph at the World Cup in London, the 29-year-old faced up to the media and questions about his future in Melbourne Wednesday.

"I will take the next few weeks to decide which way I will go and have a good think about everything and enjoy winning the World Cup," Warne said.

He met his new-born son Jackson for the first time Tuesday night and said it made him reflect.

"To be home last night and see him makes you realise that there are important things in life and where your priorities lie and my priorities lie with my family," he added.

"Some things affect your family and when they start to affect your family then that is when you have to assess what you are doing."

The Australian vice-captain said he had been thinking about his future a lot over the past couple of weeks.

"I went out there in the last few games and said 'who knows what the future holds, this could be it', he said.

"I basically made up my mind 10 days ago and until the last week it was probably 50-50". Australian coach Geoff Marsh said he believed Warne needed nothing more than a holiday to revive his spirits.

"The thing with Shane is that he's a famous person. You go out with him and people never leave him alone. People love him," said Marsh.

"There are always people going up to him and eventually it just wears you down. He's been on the road for 120 days. Shane needs to go home."

"His wife has had a son he has never seen. He needs a break."

But Marsh said Warne had proved he was still the world's best spin bowler and "I think he loves the game too much to contemplate not playing."

Captain Steve Waugh said he and other members of the team would not try to influence Warne's decision.

Warne was dropped from the Test team in the West Indies in March and criticised in the early stages of the World Cup for his form but he bounced back with match winning performances in the semi-final against South Africa and the final against Pakistan.

Div III soccer

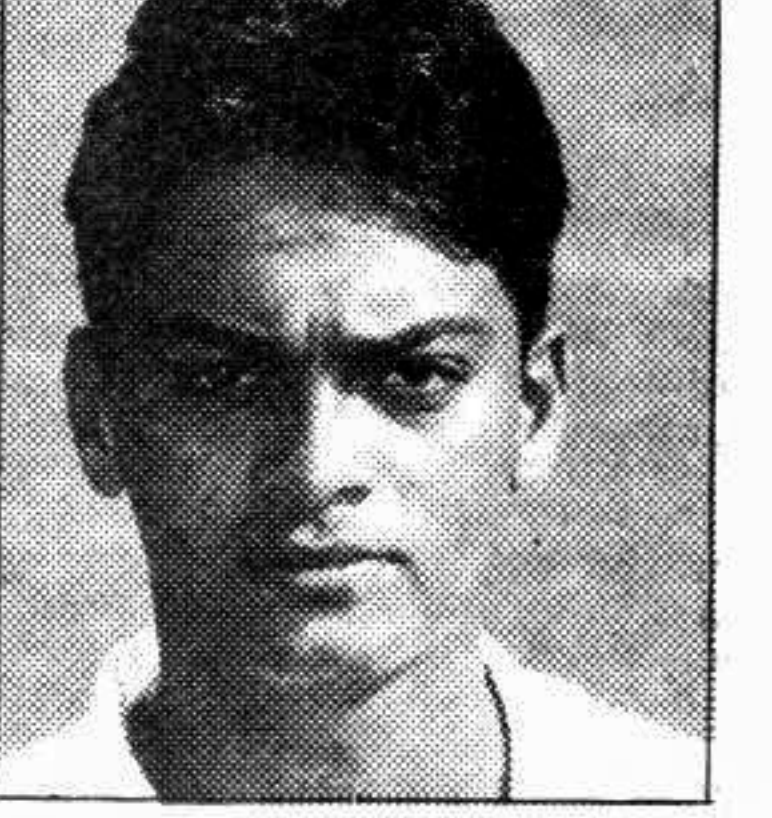
Purbachal Parisd defeated Kadamtala Sangsad 4-2 in the Third Division Football Super League at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.



FAHIM MUNTASIR

per in our country". But who cares. The BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, who loves to exercise his supreme authority, has already given his consent.

Alam Chowdhury, a BCB member and presently the lone spokesman in an almost barren office with general secretary Syed Ashraful Haq and both joint-secretaries --- Dewan Shafiu Arefin and Mahmudul



SABBIR KHAN

Haq - in long hibernation - said that they have sent the players list to the ACC chairman Anil Kalaver after getting approval from the president.

"The team was selected jointly by the three development officers and two coaches", said Alam.

Replying to a query Alam said: "we have considered the SSC certificate as a yardstick of age for the newly selected players. But for the old ones we opted to consider their passport". But Alam carefully avoided to elaborate the reasons for this double standard.

It is well known that in our country tampering with age in the passport is a easy and popular exercise. It seems that the BCB is encouraging youngsters(?) to step in this unholy practice forgetting the value of sporting spirit.

The selected players are:

Hannan Sarker, Imran Ahmed, Khandaker Sadiq Hasan, Rajin Salah, Fahim Muntasir, Nahidul Haq, Mazharul Hoque, Golam Murtoza, Tariqul Hasan, Bikash Ranjan Das, Imran Rahman, Rezauul Hoque, Musaddak Hossain, Mohammed Kalim, Mohammed Salim, Mahfuz Kabir, Sabbir Khan, Aslam Parvez, Ashiqur Rahman and Tahmim Bashir.

Kournikova, Coetzer cruise



LONDON, June 23: Russian starlet Anna Kournikova and South African Amanda Coetzer marched into the third round of the women's singles on Wednesday at Wimbledon with

comfortable straight sets victories, reports AFP.

There was something of a shock, however, in the men's singles when French Open finalist Andrei Medvedev, 31, went out to 87th-ranked Canadian doubles specialist Daniel Nestor 6-1, 7-5, 6-3.

Pin-up teen Kournikova, the 17th seed, shrugged off spells of inconsistency to move past Venezuela's Maria Alejandra Vento, ranked 104 in the world, 7-5, 6-4 on Court Two.

The glamour girl next faces Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina, who beat Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-2, 6-2.

Coetzer, who has never been past the fourth round, had bowed out in the second round in seven of her last appearances at the All England Club, but this time she had little difficulty

booking her passage, ousting Japan's 116th-ranked Miho Saeki 6-4, 6-1.

Coetzer next meets Belgian Kim Clijsters, who thrashed Karen Cross, one of two British survivors, 6-2, 6-0.

Japan suffered a second reverse when Ai Sugiyama lost to Elena Likhovtseva of Russia.

Likhovtseva won 7-6, 6-1 to make it to the third round for the second year in a row.

Hard-hitting Croatian teenager Mirjana Lucic, ranked 134 in the world, thrashed Mariana Diaz-Oliva 6-2, 6-1 for her third win in as many meetings with the Argentine.

Sandrine Testud of France, the 13th seed, ousted world number 47 Barbara Rittner of Germany 7-6, 6-1 and will next face Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Maureen Drake of Canada.

Kournikova struggled to find her form against Vento in the first set and found herself having to save three set points at 4-5, 0-40.

Vento, however, let her out of jail as she sprayed three returns wildly off target. A relieved Kournikova quickly rattled off five straight points to level at 5-5 before breaking the Venezuelan's serve and serving out for the first set.

Special Olympians off to New York

A 40-member team, including 31 special athletes and nine coaches left for New York on Tuesday to participate in the 1999 Special Olympic World Summer Games, reports BSS.

Ashraf-Ud-Dowla, Chairman Special Olympics, Bangladesh is leading the squad.

The Special Olympics will be held from June 26 to July 4 in North Carolina, USA.

More than 7000 disabled athletes from 150 countries across the globe will participate in the Games.



South Africa's Amanda Coetzer plays a forehand against Miho Saeki of Japan at the Wimbledon yesterday.