

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Michael Atherton**

(Former England cricket captain)

"There is much talk about momentum in World Cups and Australia have the momentum to win it."

Before the 1999 World Cup final.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition closes at 8 pm

July 2, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

✓ Tick the correct answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

July 2, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?

40 41 42

2 Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by

9 wks 10 wks 53 runs

3 How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?

18 21 20

4 Saqlain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?

Kenya Zimbabwe Bangladesh

5 How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?

120 140 140

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## Shahara Cup uncertain

MUMBAI, June 30: The annual Shahara Cup series between India and Pakistan at Toronto appeared to be in jeopardy today with the Indian board set to discuss former skipper Kapil Dev's demand for snatching all cricketing ties with Pakistan against the background of the Kargil conflict, reports PTI.

Cricketer board president Raj Singh Dungarpur termed Kapil Dev's demand as "deserving of serious consideration".

"Cricket can't remain in isolation. We have to see the sentiments of the people. The matter will definitely come up for discussions at the board's working committee meeting in the middle of next month," Dungarpur told the news agency here.

## Displeased Inzamam

MULTAN, Pakistan, June 30: Pakistan's star batsman Inzamamul Haq, whose house here was attacked after the country's defeat in the World Cup final, on Wednesday voiced his anguish over the "preposterous" uproar, reports AFP.

"It has become a fashion to call us heroes when we win and to brand us traitors when we lose," Inzamam told reporters in his first public remarks since his return home after Pakistan's eight-wicket defeat by Australia in the final.

Inzamam challenged the detractors to provide proof of alleged match-fixing before a judicial commission which has been probing similar earlier allegations since September and is expected to give its report soon.

He said the members of the World Cup squad had decided to take legal action collectively over the match-fixing charges, but did not elaborate.

"The allegations are preposterous," he said.

Inzamam said one major mistake was to bat first after winning the toss. "We made an error in understanding the wicket. Our decision to bat first let us down and it was Australia's day."

Following Pakistan's defeat, the cricketer's house in Multan was mobbed by protesting young men who threw stones. No one was hurt in the incident.

## Farashganj share top spot with Mukti's Mizan's hat-trick boost for Brothers

Sports Reporter

Mizanur Rahman slammed the second hat-trick in the Keya Premier football league as Brothers Union thumped down a 4-0 defeat on Fakirpool Youngmen's Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The lanky forward scored three goals within the space of 20 minutes in the second half to give Brothers their first win after a disappointing opening match against Farashganj, who held the traditional third force in the domestic football to a one-all draw.

The superlative effort from Mizan, who had a lacklustre last season due to chronic injury problems, not only brought him back to the limelight but also provided the much-needed boost to the confidence of the Gopibagh outfit after a few hopeless campaigns in last couple of seasons.

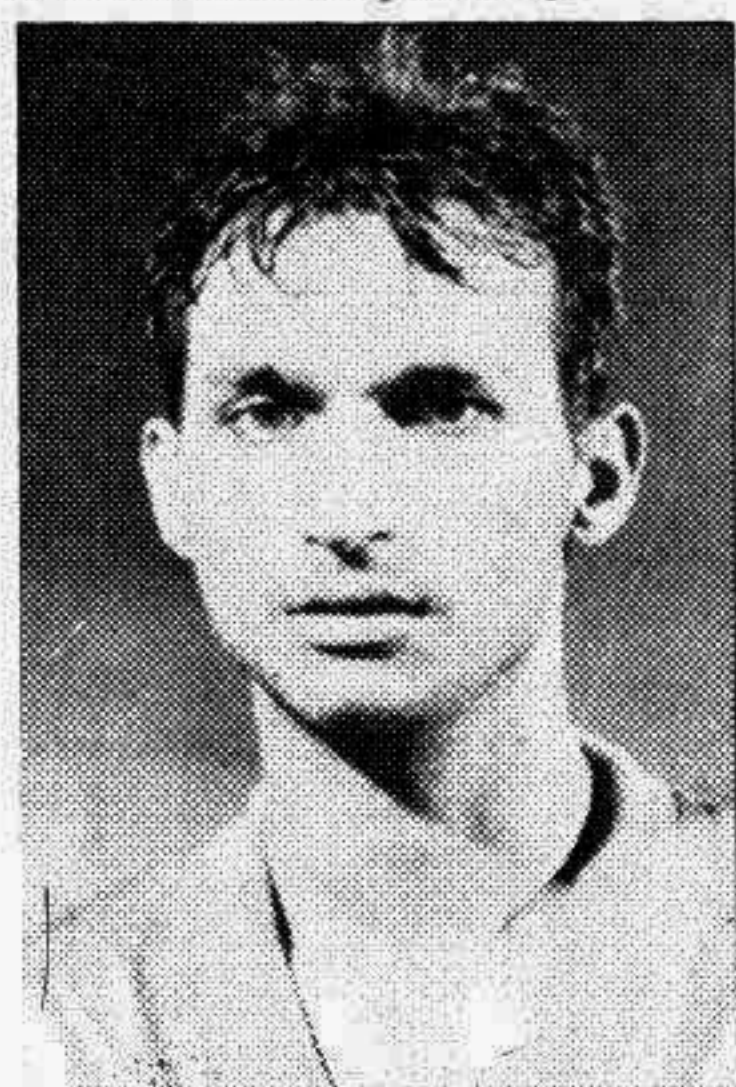
With this impressive victory Brothers moved up to join runners-up Mohammedan and Abahani at the second place, all having collected four points off two matches each.

Defending champions Muktiaddha and Farashganj, who scored their second straight win at the expense of promoters' Mirpur Chalanika at the same venue yesterday, are currently leading the table with full six points each.

In the first match of the day Farashganj, aided by two late strikes from Bidyut and Farhad, defeated Chalanika by 3-1.

Chanchal gave Farashganj a 26th minute lead before Sohagh pulled off the equaliser for Chalanika seven minutes later.

The match, however, decisively swung in favour of Farashganj when Bidyut and Farhad scored two quick goals in the 85th and 88th minute respectively.



MIZAN



But it was Mizan, who stole the spotlight of the evening, scoring the second hat-trick of the league following in the footsteps of Abahani's Zakir in Tuesday's match against Arambagh.

In a top-sided affair, it was however Riaz, who opened the floodgate of goals for Brothers, shooting home a re-bouncer in the 20th minute.

Mizan doubled the margin three minutes into the second session with a neat placing shot after being fed by medio Asad.

The discarded national striker struck his second goal in the 56th minute. Taking the full advantage of a terrible mistake from Fakirpool custodian Khairul, who shot the ball straight to an unmarked Mizan, the opportunist attacker with a lethal right-foot made no mistake to send the ball home.

Mizan however had to wait for another 12 minutes to score his hat-trick with a pile driver.

### TEAMS

**Brothers:** Milon, Chanchal, Barun, Shuvro, Zahid (Manik), Asad, Riaz, Swapan, Fayaz, Jamal and Mizan (Miraz).

**Fakirpool YMC:** Khairul (Kamal), Ibrahim (Shahriar), Nazid Islam, Jahangir Alam, Barua, Tofazzal, Monwar, Tawhid (Ashraf), Jalal (jr), So-hagh and Jalal (sr).

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

**Premier Football League:**

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Muktiaddha vs Arambagh (5.30pm)

**First Division Football League:**

Dhaka Wanderers vs Wari (3.30 pm)

East End vs Muslim Institute (4pm)

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium.



Brothers Union's former national defender Barun Bikash Dewan (R) keeping pressure on a Fakirpool player during their Premier League encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## Test of new English pack



BIRMINGHAM, England, June 30 (Reuters/Internet): A revamped England will be looking for a change in fortune as they go into the opening Test against New Zealand with a new captain but no coach at Edgbaston on Thursday.

Essex batsman Nasser Hussain, who was born in India, has replaced Alec Stewart as captain. But Zimbabwean Duncan Fletcher, appointed David here.

England's youngest wicket-keeper at the age of 20 and Aftab Habib, the son of Indo-Pakistani parents, is likely to bat at number six.

Hussain was upbeat about England's chances. "I'm not worried whether it's someone's first game or their 80th. Everyone's in top form and we want to win back the support of the country by playing good cricket," he said.

He also gave a strong hint that England will play their only specialist spinner, the recalled Phil Tufnell, and that with Darren Gough injured, Alan Mullally will be the

main strike bowler. That would mean two out of the other four pacemen, Andy Caddick, Chris Silverwood, Alex Tudor and Dean Headley, would be omitted.

New Zealand, despite having only won two of the 40 test matches they have played in England, go into the series full of confidence after a successful World Cup in which they reached the semifinals.

The tournament also afforded them valuable experience of English conditions and

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## Asia Youth Cup Bangladesh leave on Saturday

BCB vice-president Kutubuddin Akbar was named team manager and Abdul Hadi Ratan coach of the Bangladesh national youth team which will leave for Singapore on Saturday (July 3) to participate in the Asia Youth Cup Under-19 cricket tournament, reports UNB.

The 16-member Bangladesh youth team comprises of 14 cricketers and two officials. Fahim Muntasir will lead the team while Imran Ahmed will act as his deputy.

The eight-team competition, a qualifying meet for the World Youth Championship, will be held from July 5-11.

The top two finishers will qualify for the World Youth Championship, slated for next January in Colombo.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group A along with Hong Kong, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) while Group B comprises Thailand, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and hosts Singapore.

Bangladesh will play their first match with Hong Kong on July 5, meet Malaysia the following day (July 6) and will play their last group match with UAE on July 7.

### SQUAD

Fahim Muntasir (captain), Imran Ahmed (vice-captain), Hannan Sarker, Sadiq Hasan, Nahidul Haq, Mazharul Haq, Mirul, Golam Mortuza, Imran Rahim, Bikash Ranjan Das, Rezaul Haq Nayeem, Tariqul Hasan, Mohammad Selim, Mosaddik Hossain and Rajan Salah Alam.

**Stand By:** Mohammad Kaleem, Tahmim Bashir, Ashique Majumder and Mahfuz Kabir.

### BRTC, Shantinagar split points

BRTC SC shared points with Shantinagar Club in the lone match of the Keya First Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Jahangir put BRTC ahead in the 47th minute while Sohail Rana of Shantinagar neutralised the margin in the 55th minute.

After the day's match, BRTC secured two points from as many matches while Shantinagar bagged one point from two outings.

East End Club will play the Muslim Institute in today's (Thursday) lone First Division league match at 4 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

## Another Pak body to probe bribery charge

ISLAMABAD, June 30 (AP): A one-man judicial commission was established Wednesday to investigate match fixing and betting allegations against Pakistan's World Cup cricket team, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

The inquiry follows relentless criticism from cricket-crazy fans and government officials that Pakistan's humiliating eight-wicket World Cup loss to Australia was engineered.

The cricket team has denied the allegations and team captain Wasim Akram said the allegations were demoralising for his team.

Earlier this week several World Cup cricketers returned to Pakistan amid tight security. Hundreds of police in riot gear protected the Karachi International Airport to guard arriving cricketers from outraged fans, who had burned portraits of the players and attacked some of their homes.

Lahore High Court Judge Justice Abdul Qayyum has been recruited to conduct the inquiry.

Qayyum also is conducting another inquiry started several years ago into allegations of match fixing and betting by top cricketers, including Akram and batsman Saleem Malik.

The disgraced cricket team also has been called to appear before the National Assembly or powerful lawmaking Lower House of Parliament's Standing Committee on Sports to explain their dismal performance.

As well the team is being investigated by the Accountability Bureau, which is looking into allegations that prior to big matches, like the final, some Pakistani players were drinking at night clubs until quite late.

The players behaved in an "irresponsible" manner and were concentrating on other activities instead of cricket which caused their "embarrassing defeat" in the final, said-ur Rehman, Accountability Bureau chief as reported by saying by several newspapers.

Akram already has denied the charges.

Qayyum has asked the Accountability Bureau to submit a report by July 8 on the allegations of player misconduct.

The report will be used by Qayyum in his inquiry.

Qayyum's second inquiry is expected to be wrapped up sometime in July and that report will be given to Pakistan's conservative President Rafiq Tarar.



BECKER BIDS BYE: German legend Boris Becker raising his hands for the last time before his favourite Wimbledon crowd after losing the fourth round tie against Aussie Patrick Rafter yesterday. — AFP photo

## Kournikova, Becker bow out



LONDON, June 30: Two of the biggest crowd-pleasers at Wimbledon, Boris Becker and Anna Kournikova, bowed out of the tournament on Wednesday but Tim Henman kept British hopes alive with an epic five-set victory over fighting American Jim Courier, reports AFP.

Favourites Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf advanced almost unnoticed to the quarterfinals on a hectic day that saw organisers make up for Tuesday's washout by completing the round of 16 in the men's and women's singles.

Becker's Wimbledon love affair was broken off for good when he slumped out of the fourth round in straight sets to Australian second seed Pat Rafter.

Rafter's accomplished serve and volley game made it a sorry exit for the three-time former champion from Germany, the Australian winning 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 on Centre Court.

The double US Open champion took victory on his second match point when Becker, who won Wimbledon as a 17-year-old in 1985, and again in 1986 and 1989, placed a backhand volley out.

The Australian faces Todd Martin of America, the eighth seed, in the quarterfinals.

Becker, who will retire after an event in Stuttgart next month, received a standing ovation from those in the Royal Box as well as his adoring fans at the end.

"I wish I could have given them a better match," the 31-year-old said. "But I left my serve at home and he outplayed me."

"It's time for me to go," added the German, who retired once before in 1997 after a defeat here by Sampras. "Last time I said it was 99 percent, this time it's 100 per cent."

Graf will face Venus Williams in the last eight after the American sixth seed battled back to beat Russian pin-up Kournikova.

Williams, 19, lost the first set 6-3 at a packed Court 18 against the 18-year-old Russian starlet, who won the first four games.

But the American, a quarterfinalist last year, broke for 1-1 in the second and levelled

the match by taking it also 6-3. Williams quickly opened out a 4-0 lead of her own in the third set and won it 6-2, taking victory with a ferocious backhand volley.

"I was giving a lot away at the start and realised I had to make some shots or I'd be flying home tomorrow," Williams said.

Henman kept British hopes flying after compatriot Greg Rusedski lost to Australian Mark Philippoussis with a

dramatic five sets win over never-say-die American Jim Courier.

The 24-year-old was 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 4-3 ahead from Monday but lost the fourth set to Courier, who was playing his third consecutive five setter, on a tiebreak 7-5.

Courier, the world number 61 who was put on a drip after his third round win over Dutchman Sjeng Schalken, had beaten Henman in five sets in an equally epic Davis Cup match in April and he earned three match points at 6-5 in the fifth but his British opponent bravely saved them all.

Courier finally cracked when a disputed line call helped him lose serve for 7-8, earning a warning for verbal abuse to the umpire, and Henman served out to love to take the match in four and a half hours.

"I'm delighted to get through -- I showed a lot of guts and determination to hang in there -- he doesn't know when he's beaten," said Henman, who next faces Cedric Pioline of France as he bids to become the first British male to win the singles title since 1936.

Sampras, the top seed who is seeking a record sixth singles title, contemptuously brushed aside Canada's Daniel Nestor on Court Two for his fourth successive straight sets win.

The American won 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to set up a quarterfinal against Philippoussis.

"It was a little strange playing on Court Two but I couldn't be happier with the way I'm playing," said the 27-year-old.

Graf needed just seven minutes to seal a 6-3, 6-2, victory over Belgian qualifier Kim Clijsters.

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The 30-year-old seven-time winner, had led 6-2, 4-2 in a match held over from Monday after Tuesday's washout and immediately held serve from 40-all against her 16-year-old opponent.

The German then wrapped up victory on her fourth match point with a forehand winner to take her place in the last eight.