

**Column One**  
SPORTS TALK



**Ravi Shastri**  
(Former Indian Test cricketer)  
"India needs a new cricket captain. Azharuddin has had his time."

**Boost sports WHIZZ KID**

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
**Competition-117**

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
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Competition closes at 8 pm  
July 9, '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 wickets 10 wickets 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) .....



**Dungarpur's no comment**

MUMBAI, July 8: The Indian cricket board today refused to react to a Sydney report which said Australia may be forced to find a substitute for India or Pakistan, probably Sri Lanka, for the three-nation one-day series scheduled there later this year because of the Kargil conflict, reports PTI.

"At this stage do not want to react to the report. Things seem to be improving (on the Kargil front). We (the board's working committee) are to meet towards this month-end. We want the dust to settle down a bit," board chief Raj Singh Dungarpur said on Wednesday.

India and Pakistan are scheduled to play three Tests each against Australia this southern summer and then compete in the one-day series. But with the fighting in Kargil intensifying, the season has been thrown into chaos with political pressure dictating that the two countries may not be allowed to play each other, reports from Sydney said.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has been forced to draw up contingency plans. "We're reviewing it on a daily basis and we're seeking advice from Foreign Affairs," said ACB chief executive Mal Speed in Sydney today.

**Active chess**

Sports Reporter  
The Holiday Active chess will begin at the Chess Room of the National Sports Council today.

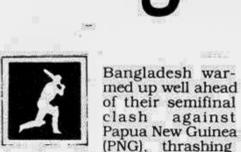
A total of sixty-five local chess players are taking part in the two-day meet, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

The tournament, a seven-round Swiss league meet, has also offered a cash award of Taka 5,000 for the winners.

**Lanka A beat Black Caps**

MILTON KEYNES, England, July 8: Sri Lanka A beat New Zealand by three wickets in a limited-over match on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

## Bangladesh crash UAE



Bangladesh warmed up well ahead of their semifinal clash against Papua New Guinea (PNG), thrashing the United Arab Emirates by nine wickets in their last Group A encounter of the Asian Youth cricket championship at the Kalang Oval ground in Singapore yesterday.

The defending champions, who will meet PNG today, had hardly any trouble to roll up the cricketers from the desert kingdom after Bikash Rana ran riot with the new-ball.

The young right-arm seamer returned with four for only 17 runs in his quota of ten overs as UAE, sent into bat by Bangladesh captain Fahim Muntasir, were bundled out for a meager 59 in 37.1 over.

In reply, Bangladesh raced on to score 61 for one in only 12.5 overs with opener Imran Ahmed hammering an unbeaten 37 off 38 balls.

Although the match left only an academic interest for Bangladesh, who had earlier stormed into the last four as Group A winner with two straight wins, Bikash meant business once the match got started under overcast conditions.

**Sports Reporter**

He ripped through the top-order, leaving UAE tottering at five for 39 from where they could never recover. Only Abdullah, with 11, was the lone UAE batsman to cross the double figure mark. While extras with 17 stood highest in the unimpressive UAE total.

With this win Bangladesh maintained their all-win record in the championship. But they will have to engage in must-win semifinal against relatively strong PNG if they are to get ticket to Sri Lanka.

Asian Youth cricket championship is the qualifier for the World Youth cricket championship to be staged in Colombo in January next year. Top two finishers from this Singapore showpiece will earn the right to play in Lanka.

Earlier, PNG qualified for the cross-over semifinal by virtue of finishing second from Group B. Nepal, who topped the Group B, will take on Malaysia in the other semifinal.

The final will be held on July 11.

**SCOREBOARD**

UAE	D Jabbar c Shaon b Bikash	5
	S Farook b Tariqul	7
	F Abbas b Bikash	0
	M Khaliq b Bikash	0

M Arif c Salim b Hannan	8
Abdullah c Hannan b Bikash	11
Majid b Fahim	2
A Rahman c Fahim b Hannan	2
S Zia c Hannan	1
b Imran Rahim	7
Ali c Salim b Imran Rahim	1
Usman not out	0
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3, w-12)	17
Total: (all out in 37.1 overs)	59
Fall of wickets: 1/6, 2/8, 3/15, 4/27, 5/39, 6/41, 7/45, 8/51, 9/58	

<b>BOWLER</b>	O	M	R	W
Bikash Rana	10	4	17	4
Tariqul Hasan	8	2	9	1
Rubel	5	0	13	0
Fahim Muntasir	6	3	4	1
Hannan Sarkar	4	0	7	2
Imran Rahim	4.1	0	7	2

<b>BANGLADESH</b>	O	M	R	W
Imran Ahmed not out	37			
Salim c Majid b Umesh	16			
Hannan not out	2			
Extras: (lb-2, w-4)	6			
Total: (for 1 wkt in 12.5 overs)	61			
Fall of wkt: 1/57				
<b>BOWLER</b>	O	M	R	W
Danish Jabbar	2	0	10	0
Mehrab Khaliq	2	0	17	0
Sameer Zia	4	0	15	0
Ali	2	0	9	0
Usman	2.5	1	9	1

Result: Bangladesh won the match by nine wickets.

Man of the match: Bikash (Bangladesh)

## Getting over the ennui in Indian cricket

New Delhi, July 8 (India Abroad News Service): The response to India's defeat in the World Cup was surprisingly subdued as compared to the outrage in Pakistan and despair in Sri Lanka.

Some Indian players were even cheered on their return by onlookers at the Mumbai airport. That reaction was probably a mixture of acknowledging the team's wholehearted effort and an awareness that the Super Six format was essentially unfair. Some who were earlier concerned about visceral ease than genuine glory were content with the team's performance against Pakistan.

The persistent feeling for most Indian cricket lovers is that of ennui and fatigue, mingled with a hint of embarrassment that they expected so much from the Indian team in the first place. The Indian public has since realised that they confused the 'high' induced by the marketing blitz with sobered judgement.

Companies lined up with ads well before the Cup wishing the team well.

Countless folks interviewed on the streets by television gushed that India would win. Religious rituals followed to ward off evil spirits and offerings were couriered to the Indian players in England. The atmosphere was quite Olympian in the classical city-state sense. Cricket fans will, on hindsight, wonder, much in the manner of those who mourned for Princess Diana, what came over them in the months of May and June 1999, when the World Cup was on. The recoil from the game is evident in India and it will take a while to recover the passion for cricket.

Most of all, it's clear that India fell short in many cricketing aspects.

Registering the nature of Sachin Tendulkar's failure has further dimmed the expectations from the rest of the team. If he could not play the moving ball in England who else could in the team? (For the record, he can play the moving ball, but failed for other reasons).

The cricketing ennui has much to do with resignation over the Indian cricket board's ability to provide the needed corrective. The Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) should decide whether it will depend on Tendulkar again to shore up Indian cricket or take hard decisions in the long term interest of the game, starting with the captaincy. Mohammed Azharuddin is being reviled by the likes of Bishen Singh Bedi, who have turned Azhar-baiting into a sustainable vocation. Saurav Ganguly lent a sobered thought to the debate by pointing out that Azhar, having scored 9,000 runs in one-dayers and 6,000 runs in Tests, had led India to many victories since he was named captain in 1989 while Ajay Jadeja, the popular choice, has won only two matches for India!

Azhar admittedly lacks imagination but his style has worked as the record suggests. Besides, Sunil Gavaskar, no great fan of Azhar's, stated that he had never seen Azhar lead better than he did in this World Cup.

But what is a genuine grievance is his indifferent batting. Azhar no longer has the hunger for runs and has done little of note since making a hundred in a Test against New Zealand in January. He has not bothered to work out his weakness against the rising ball which he lived with for 15

years. Azhar has to be stripped of his captaincy simply because he cannot hold his own as a player. And yet the irony is that India's reserve cupboard is so bare that an out-of-form Azhar is a better prospect than most prolific batsmen in domestic cricket.

Jadeja has emerged as a front-runner to replace Azhar. While his tactical flexibility and upbeat disposition will enable him to be an energetic captain, Jadeja will struggle to



**MD AZHARUDDIN**

earn the respect of players as a Test captain since he averages a poor 24 runs in Test cricket. The best option is to have separate Test and one-day captains as Jadeja's zest is best served for the latter.

The Test captaincy can be a toss up between Ganguly and Anil Kumble since Tendulkar can be expected to refuse the job to concentrate on batting. Ganguly looks a better option as Kumble is prone to be withdrawn when not bowling well. Ganguly is respected by players the world over, has a fierce will to succeed and, being a batsman, has the freedom to execute operations on the field.

The captaincy debate is small fry when one reckons

with the collective aging of the present team. In the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, India will probably field a team like the one Sri Lanka did in 1999. Tendulkar will be 30, Jadeja 32, Anil Kumble 33, Mongia 34, Fast bowlers Jagadeev Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad can scarcely be effective at 33 years. It's difficult to locate four to five players in the domestic circuit who can substitute these players. Reared on easy batting tracks, they will struggle in international cricket. The call to prepare fast bouncy tracks has been repeated ad nauseam and ignored by curators who prepare tracks to suit local batsmen.

Since the BCCI is not capable of enforcing any pitches policy, the better option is to create separate teams for the Tests and one-day cricket. By doing so, experienced players will get the needed R&R to pace their careers; much like South Africa's Allan Donald who is fielded only in key one-day matches.

Two teams would ensure that new players get necessary exposure and thus preempt the need to train on home wickets. This strategy worked for Australia who had to do it because of the abundance of talent. We need to do the same to cope with paucity. As a sign of revamping things, the selectors could drop two passengers from the team — Azhar and Nayan Mongia. The wicketkeeper has an average of 24 in Tests and 20 in one-days which is dreadful by today's standards. He has batted at number six for India, a position manned by Michael Bevan for Australia who has an average of 61. Surely we can groom someone else.

Unless there is coherent planning, India will embarrass itself when it tours Australia this winter. It might win in the triangular series in Sri Lanka next month involving the Aussies, but the victory will be tainted by the fact that it was orchestrated in familiar subcontinental conditions.



Richard Krajicek (L), the Dutch tennis star, posing with his wife Daphne Deckers after their wedding ceremony at Muidero Castle on July 7.

## PCB wants to probe into WC conduct

KARACHI, July 8 (Reuters/AP): The judicial commission investigating charges of betting and match-fixing in Pakistan cricket has been asked to look into the conduct of Pakistani players at the recent World Cup.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) lawyer Ali Sibtain Fazli said the request had come from PCB secretary Waqar Ahmad.

"This request will definitely delay the submission of the commission report to (Pakistan) President Rafiq Tarar," he said.

Pakistan were beaten by eight wickets by Australia on June 20 in the most one-sided final since the World Cup began in 1975.

They were dismissed for 132 and Australia knocked off the runs in just 20.1 overs.

Five days after the final at Lord's it was announced that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Ehtesab's Accountability Bureau would investigate allegations that Pakistan deliberately lost the final.

An unnamed official of the Bureau was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying "the players went overboard in merry-making during the World Cup, raising suspicions of deliberate surrender by the team in the final".

Fazli said on Thursday Pakistanian head justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum was awaiting government advice as well as documents held by the Accountability Bureau.

"Justice Qayyum has again ordered the Bureau to submit the details as soon as possible," he said. "But in any case the submission of the report is set to be delayed."

Meanwhile, another news report says, a Pakistani cricketer told the Qayyum commission on Thursday that two members of the team took 100,000 US dollars in 1994 to throw a match against Australia.

Salim Parviz told that he was present when 100,000 dollars were given to Salim Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed.

The players were told to throw the game against Australia, he testified, Pakistan lost that game. Parviz said, who played briefly for Pakistan in 1984. The payment was made in a hotel room in Sri Lanka where the tournament was being held.

## Kargil charity soccer tie July 11

NEW DELHI, July 8: Almost the entire Indian cricket team and top Hindi film stars will come together on July 11 to play a benefit football match here to raise funds for the families of soldiers involved in the Kargil operations, reports PTI.

Former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev announced at a press conference on Wednesday that a minimum guarantee amount of one crore rupees would be raised from the event to be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Jadeja, Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly will be part of the team of cricketers while Shah Rukh Khan, Govinda, Nana Patekar, Sanjay Dutt, Anil Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Mithun Chakraborty and Gulshan Grover will be in the lineup of the film stars.

Kapil Dev said, Sahara India — which had earlier pulled out of sponsoring the annual Indo-Pak series in Toronto — will organise the match and entry will be through donor passes and tickets that will be available in all Archie galleries in the capital.

Matinee idols Amitabh Bachchan, Vinod Khanna, Raj Babbar, Jeetendra and actresses Shabana Azmi, Preiti Zinta and Raveena Tandon will be among those present as special guests.

Dev said India skipper Mohammad Azharuddin will not be present as he was recovering in London after shoulder surgery.

The organisers have planned a performance by noted artistes Remo, Shankar Mahadevan, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Sapna Mukherjee during half-time while Shekhar Suman and Durga Jasaraj will be the composers of the programme.

The match, to start at 1830 hours, will be telecast by Doordarshan.

## Hooper close to a decision

ADELAIDE, Australia, July 8: West Indies cricketer Carl Hooper is expected to make a decision shortly on whether he will play for South Australia next summer, reports AFP.

The South Australian Cricket Association Thursday confirmed they were in discussions with Hooper and a decision was expected within the next 10 days.

## Yardley slams Arjuna, De Silva



**BRUCE YARDLEY**

PERTH, July 8: Former Sri Lanka coach Bruce Yardley says Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda De Silva treated their teammates like servants and must be sacked as players following their removal as leaders of the struggling team, reports AP.

Yardley, who spent 16 months in 1996-97 as the team's coach, described Ranatunga as a self-serving captain who faked injuries to bat with a runner and took far too much credit for the 1996 World Cup win.

Yardley, who said he was sacked after trying to have Ranatunga replaced as captain, said the former captain and deputy De Silva should take much of the blame for Sri Lanka's dismal World Cup performance this year.

Ranatunga has been replaced as leader by dashing batsman Sanath Jayasuriya, a former Australian spinner Yardley said Thursday.

"That pretty well ended my career. I thought Ranatunga was a very poor captain and I took

him on — that's why I'm back here. He was quite happy with me until I challenged him.

"Arjuna had to go and I always thought Jayasuriya would make a wonderful captain because he has a great passion for his country and the players like him."

Yardley said there was still enough talent in Sri Lanka for the country to rise again, but it needed a clean break from the

Ranatunga and De Silva regime. "If they retain both Ranatunga and Aravinda as players, nothing much will change," Yardley said.

"The selectors and the cricket board now have to have the courage to make the big change — that is to appoint the new captain and say to the others thanks, but enough is enough."

Yardley took over as coach when fellow Australian Dav Whatmore, who was at the helm during the 1996 World Cup campaign, stood down after his own dispute with Ranatunga.

He was surprised when he arrived in Sri Lanka to see the way Ranatunga and De Silva treated their teammates.

"Ranatunga and De Silva are from the old school — where the players are their servants," Yardley said.

"That was still happening when I got there and I was trying to change it. The players had had enough. I remember telling one player it was time he asked Aravinda to carry his own sound machine around on tour."

"He said it would be the end of his career — that is what it was like."

## Whatmore to start in August

COLOMBO, July 8: Sri Lanka Thursday formally announced clinching a deal with the their 1996 World Cup winning coach Dav Whatmore for a second spell after booting out skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and three coaches, reports AFP.

Sri Lanka's Board of Control for Cricket said Whatmore, who was last week freed by the English county Lancashire, will begin work here from August.

"Players felt there were too many coaches," board official S. Skandakumar said referring to Sri Lanka getting two local coaches and an Australian, Trevor Chappell, ahead of the disastrous defence of the World Cup in May.

Skandakumar said Whatmore, who will begin work with the squad led by new skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, will be fully responsible for the national squad that will prepare for the next World Cup.

Whatmore, 45, who was born in Colombo but played seven Tests for Australia in 1978 and

1979, guided Sri Lanka to their shock World Cup success in 1996 before joining Lancashire the following year.

He will work in blocks of World Cup and train for the next World Cup," said Wetimuni. "In the short term there will be a lot of pain."

Wetimuni who headed the panel that appointed Jayasuriya as the new skipper for the forthcoming triangular series involving Australia and India, said the decision to remove Ranatunga was taken because of the team's decline.

"The team has been declining in the past eight months or so and we felt it was the right time to make changes," Wetimuni said adding "Even if Ranatunga won the World Cup for Sri Lanka, we would have changed him."

Many believe that Whatmore's re-entry was instrumental in bringing about Ranatunga's dismissal. The two men

## Rendezvous with Leander

From Our Correspondent

CALCUTTA, July 8: Leander Paes was still sleeping on Tuesday morning when he was woken up by a phone call from Calcutta.

It was difficult getting the number of the flat that he was sharing with Mahesh Bhupathi. However, a friend obliged. Contacting the French and Wimbledon doubles titles winner became a bit difficult as Leander had lost his mobile a week preceding Wimbledon while playing in the Heinen Open. However, he did not mind one bit for being woken up.

"I knew calls would come from India. That is one of the reasons why I decided to skip the dinner party that follows the last day of the Wimbledon. The other was I had to play three matches on Sunday. The semifinals and finals of the mixed doubles and the final of the doubles. A number of well-wishers had asked me to opt out of the mixed doubles. However, I could not let Lisa Raymond down. She stays very close to me in Florida. She is a good friend. Moreover, I knew that pressure brings out the best in me," said Leander.

Wasn't the statement a bit rehearsed?

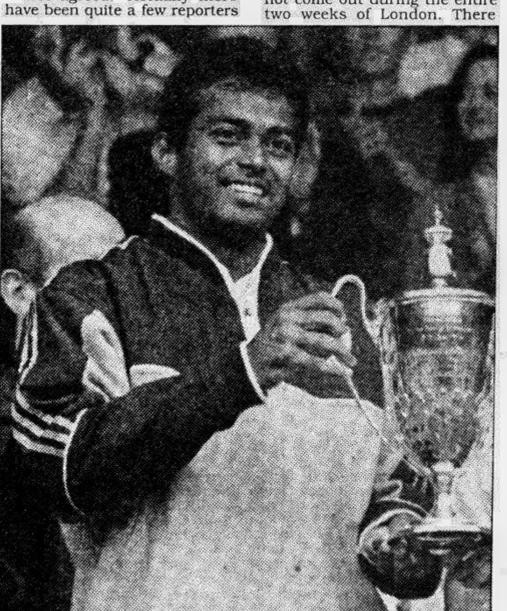
Lee agreed. "Actually there have been quite a few reporters

from Calcutta who have called me. The questions have more less been the same. As a result the answers have also become a bit predictable." The Indian tennis ace feels that more than anything else, the consecutive victories in the French Open and Wimbledon would help in sorting out some of the problems of sponsorship.

"I hope that corporate houses will now come forward to sponsor us in the same manner that they do to the cricketers. People may think that this moment we are very rich. However, let me assure all of you that to reach the top is costly but to remain there is costlier," said Leander.

Leander was grateful to Mahesh for the success. "He played fantastic tennis in spite of a very serious injury. Any other player would have opted out of the tournament altogether. But Hesh just opted out of the mixed doubles to play with me. That is what friendship and understanding is all about."

Talking about understanding between the two Leander mentioned another funny incident. "The moment Hesh came to know that I have lost my mobile he switched off his and locked it in his suitcase. It did not come out during the entire two weeks of London. There



**LEANDER PAES**

were people frantically searching for us. However, Hesh was adamant that the mobile will be switched off during the entire two weeks. He thought of it as a good omen. And as we progressed in the championship his superstition grew."

Talking about the finals, Leander said that the aim was to attack Jarryd Palmer more. "We knew that Paul Hanratty had a wonderful return of serve and was a very experienced doubles pro. So our aim was to put pressure on Jarryd. It worked." When asked whether they were a bit apprehensive of losing a 5-0 lead in the first set and then failing to win it, Leander said, "Our apprehensions vanished the day we came back from two sets down against Sebastian Lareau and his partner. That was the day we knew that we were destined for a title."

The signs of a break up between the two have also disappeared. Maybe because success hides glaring faults. Leander agrees to it. "We both realised that it immature to quarrel over trivial matters and if we stuck together there would be more successes on our way."

For the boy of Calcutta, the senior Wimbledon doubles title is a real dream come true. "When I won the junior Wimbledon in 1989, I started nourishing a dream that I would try and win a senior title. However, each year the dream was being shattered. I thought that this year also, we would not be able to do it. That is the reason why we just looked at one another after the final point. It took time for the feeling of *deja vu* to sink in. We were not just ready to believe that we had achieved the impossible," he concluded.

One could understand his feelings. He had grown up in Calcutta like any other kid playing football and cricket. In fact, had not Anwar Ali spotted his quick reflexes when he was just 10 and playing tennis for fun, Leander could have just become a star footballer for either East Bengal or Mohun Bagan. However, then India would have missed a few Grand Slam titles. After such a resounding success, the Calcuttan has just another dream. To see more players come out from the sub continent.

One should also thank Nareesh Kumar and Jaideep Mukherjee. Two former Indian tennis stars and non playing captains of the Davis Cup team. It was Kumar who spotted Leander's ability as a doubles player and it was Mukherjee who had the vision to bring together Lee and Hesh. For them India or for that matter Asia has some Grand Slam titles.