

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Sir Robert Gilbert Bannister (b. 1929), an English neurologist, was the first athlete to run a mile in less than four minutes.

While a student at the University of Oxford and at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, Bannister won British (1951, 1953-54) and Empire (1954) championships in the mile run and the European title (1954) in the 1,500-metre event. He broke the four-minute barrier with a time of 3 min 59.4s in a dual meet at Oxford on May 6, 1954. Breaking the world record (4 min 1.3s), held for nine years by Gunder Hagg of Sweden, was almost incidental to his successful defiance of the "psychological" barrier, the general belief in the impossibility of running a mile in less than four minutes. Bannister is said to have achieved his speed through scientific training methods and thorough research into the mechanics of running. He recounted his experiences in the book *The Four Minute Mile* (1955).

Who said brain and brawn did not go together?



Players of Badda Jagarani and Farashganj Sporting Club battle for the ball during their Premier Division football league match yesterday. —Star photo

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-118

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

July 30, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who is the new England cricket coach?

Fletcher Hussain Marsh

2. Brazilian footballer Rivaldo plays for

Lazio Barcelona Arsenal

3. Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?

Simone Batistuta Ayala

4. How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?

22 23 24

5. Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?

Sampas Moya Agassi

Name _____

Class Roll No. _____

School Address _____

Phone: (If any) _____

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Manik's maturity matters

Sports Reporter

TEAMS

Arambagh: Abir, Firoz, Chotton, Mizan, Mithu, Shamim, Asif, Manik (Shahid), Taj (Saifullah), Ritu and Johny.

Farashganj: Hasan, Ibrahim, Babu (Nasir), Mintu, Anupam, Tofazzal, Jhanu, Abhijit (Kader), Jalal Jr, Sohag and Jalal Sr.

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

BADDA WIN

Earlier in the day's first match, Badda, one of the two newcomers in the top echelon of local football, defeated Farashganj by an identical margin.

Forward Khokon netted the all-important match-winner in the 22nd minute.

The win raised Badda's tally to 11 points from seven matches while Farashganj, with their fourth defeat, have nine points.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatganj MFS vs Mirpur Chalantika (5:30 pm, Bangabandhu National Stadium)

New PCB chief defends team



ISLAMABAD, July 23: Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) ad hoc committee chairman Mujibur Rehman on yesterday favoured an early end to the match-fixing controversy around the national team, but said it was too early to say anything on skipper Wasim Akram's fate.

The ad hoc panel would not take any step in probing the betting and match-fixing allegations around Pakistani players since the matter was being investigated by a judicial commission, Rehman said.

But he appealed to the Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum commission to release its report before the start of the next season to enable the team to take up new assignments.

Rehman said that he did not agree with allegations of match-fixing at the World Cup and strongly defended the Pakistani team for reaching the final.

I don't agree with that [allegations] we must give credit that this team has gone up to

the final," Rehman, who was named as head of the interim panel after the PCB was dissolved by president Mohammad Rafiq Tarar in the wake of betting and match-fixing allegations following the World Cup final debacle said.

Rehman's defence of the team came as a surprise as PCB dissolution is said to have come in the wake of widespread allegations of match-fixing and betting against the team and the team's defence by outgoing chairman Khalid Mahmood.

Asked whether Akram, who is still in London, had got in touch with him or he had tried to contact him, Rehman replied in the negative. The PCB interim panel chief who was in Doha, Qatar when his appointment was made arrived home only Wednesday.

Rehman, however, said he will call all the players and listen to their side of the story. "I will make my impression about the senior players once I talk to them," he said.

Rehman said he might take the help of former Test players to run the board and that he would include three of four

more members to the committee in 10 to 15 days and also constitute the new selection committee by then.

The new PCB chief denied reports that the Ehtesab (accountability) bureau headed by his brother Saifur Rehman was also inquiring into allegations that Pakistani players indulged in objectionable activities during the World Cup.

He said the Lahore High Court has only asked the bureau to help in the probe.

Rehman, whose appointment is said to have taken place because of his brother's proximity to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, dismissed criticism that he has never played top level cricket.

"I am not going to play (for Pakistan)," Rehman said, and added that his job was to professionally manage PCB.

The committee also includes Javed Zaman Khan, a close friend of Nawaz Sharif and cousin of cricketing idol Imran Khan and Majid Khan.

Majid Khan, whose contract as PCB chief executive ended only last month, is widely expected to make a comeback.

Rehman refused to reveal his goals but said it was only the second time in his career he had set them. "I have set those and they are over a period of 12 months and if I achieve them I'm sure we'll win too."

Rehman also praised surgeons who operated on his shoulder last year, saying they were stunned at the speed of his recovery and form at the World Cup.

Rehman told reporters today he did not expect a public backlash over the row when Australia undertake a tour of Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe next month.

"Myself and Arjuna have obviously had a bit of a slanging match over the years but I think it's all in good fun," said Warne, who earlier this month abandoned thoughts of early retire-

Warne has nothing to fear



MELBOURNE, July 23: Australian leg spinner Shane Warne said today he held no fears about touring Sri Lanka despite his strong criticism of Arjuna Ranatunga at the cricket World Cup, reports Reuters.

Warne said in a column in London's Times newspaper in May that the sport would be better off without Ranatunga because of his on-field behaviour.

The Australian was subsequently reprimanded, fined and handed a suspended two-game ban.

Ranatunga has since been axed as Sri Lanka captain but said last week he had no objection to playing under new skipper Sanath Jayasuriya.

Warne told reporters today he did not expect a public backlash over the row when Australia undertake a tour of Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe next month.

"Myself and Arjuna have obviously had a bit of a slanging match over the years but I think it's all in good fun," said Warne, who earlier this month abandoned thoughts of early retire-

ment.

When it gets on the field we're both crafty people, we like to use anything to try to get an edge. Arjuna has been sacked as captain, I don't know whether

he'll play or not, but playing Sri Lanka over in Sri Lanka is going to be tough."

Warne's excellent form during the World Cup has resulted in his selection as vice-captain for both the Test and one-day squads on the forthcoming tour, despite having been dropped for the final Test match of Australia's tour to the West Indies.

He said he was hopeful he could win back his Test berth from fellow leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and his time away from cricket after the World Cup had fired his desire.

Warne refused to reveal his goals but said it was only the second time in his career he had set them. "I have set those and they are over a period of 12 months and if I achieve them I'm sure we'll win too."

Warne also praised surgeons who operated on his shoulder last year, saying they were stunned at the speed of his recovery and form at the World Cup.

The Sri Lanka tour lasts from August 22 to October 3 with the Zimbabwe leg running from October 8 to October 24.

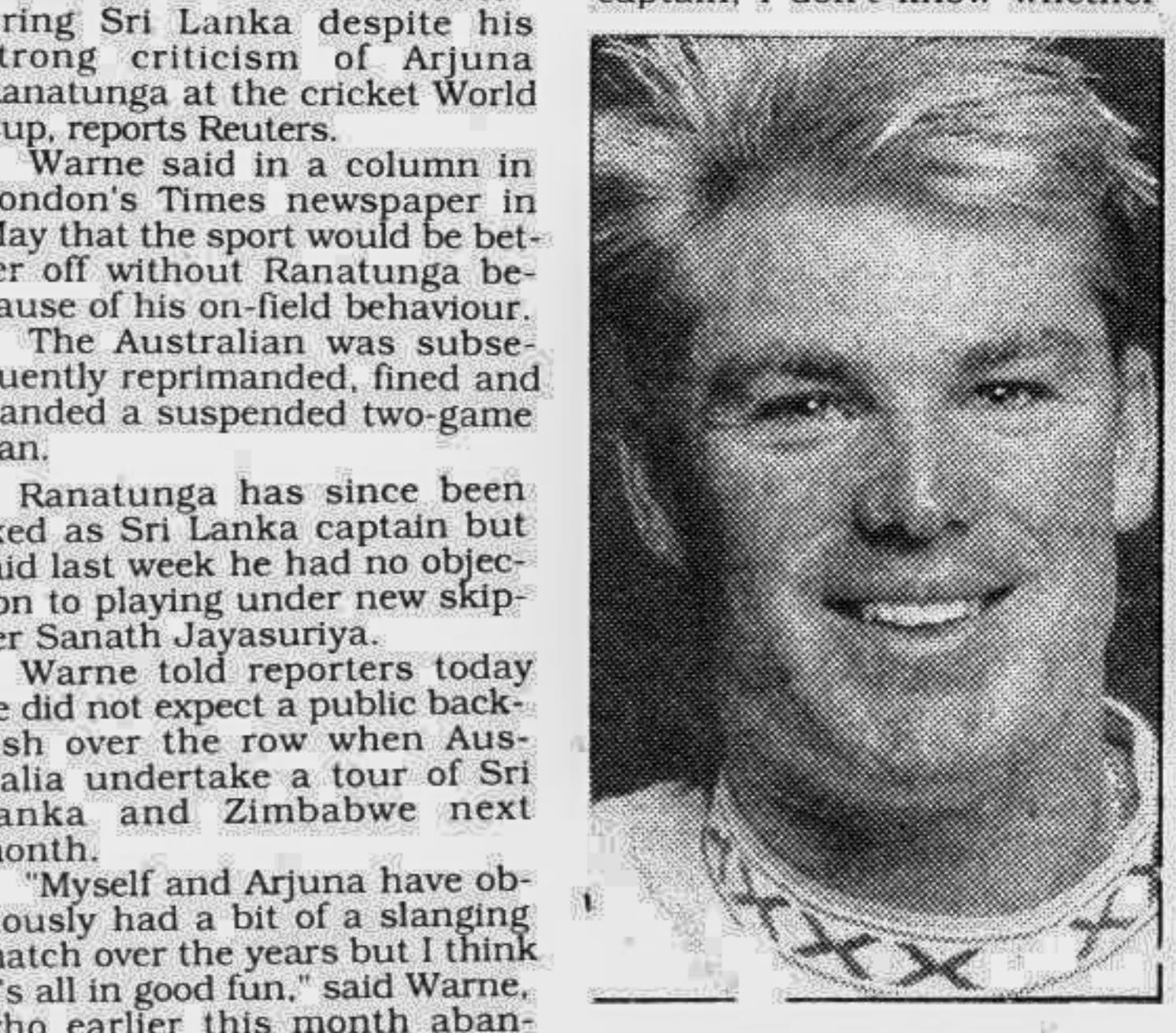
SHANE WARNE

Perec returns Wednesday

PARIS, July 23: France's triple Olympic champion Marie-José Perec looks set to make her long-awaited return to competition at a low-profile meet in Lahti, Finland, on July 28, her agent said on Friday, reports AFP.

The 31-year-old, who has been suffering from Epstein-Barr virus, a type of glandular fever, last competed on August 6, 1997, in the quarterfinals of the 200m at the World Championships in Athens.

The Guadeloupe-born runner, who is currently training in Sweden with her coach John Smith, is a two-time Olympic champion at 400m and also winner of 200m gold in Atlanta.



NZ 197/3

Sports Reporter

New Zealand were 197 for three in their first innings after tea at Lord's yesterday.

Opener Mathew Horne was 81 not out and Roger Twose was 36 on 36 at the time.

England left-arm seamer Allan Mullally was the most successful bowler taking two wickets.

AFP adds: Dean Headley and Alan Mullally gave England some cheer with a double breakthrough early in the New Zealand first innings in the morning.

After Chris Cairns took his sixth wicket to bowl the hosts all out for 186 within the space of two overs, the Black Caps reached lunch at 75 for two in reply.

A fine diving catch from wicketkeeper Chris Read helped the home side reduce New Zealand from 43 to no wicket to 45 for two in the space of six balls.

Headley struck in his third over, then Mullally removed New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming for a single in the next over.

The tourists were steadily reducing the home team's total when Headley fired a ball through Matthew Bell's defence and umpire Mervyn Kitchen upheld the lbw appeal after a few moments of deliberation, although it looked a shade high.

Then Fleming glanced at a ball swinging down the leg side and Read launched himself to pick up a low catch to his right.

Nathan Astle arrived to raise New Zealand's 50 from 103 balls with two boundaries off Mullally, stretching for a third England wicket.

The first was steered to backward point but the second was risky and edged wide of Nasser Hussain at second slip.

Hussain, and not Phil Tufnell, had been the man dismissed by Cairns with just three runs added to England's miserable overnight score of 183 for nine.

The captain added two runs to his unbeaten 59 when he was caught behind down the leg side by keeper Adam Parore.

That success gave Cairns final figures of six for 77 and England had recorded their lowest total against New Zealand at Lord's.

England, who lead the four-match series 1-0, had collapsed on Thursday under heavy cloud cover when the overcast conditions were bowler-friendly. On Friday the sun shone brightly under a blue sky, ideal weather for batting.

TOODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatganj MFS vs Mirpur Chalantika (5:30 pm, Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Fitness test for Azhar!



MUMBAI, July 23: Mohammad Azharuddin might be asked to provide a fitness certificate by the BCCI prior

to the national selection committee's meeting on July 28 at Nagpur to choose the Indian skipper for the forthcoming series in Sri Lanka.

"Suppose so. The board secretary (Jaywant Lele) will be in action on that issue," BCCI president Raj Singh Dungarpur told PTI here today when queried on the matter.

Azharuddin, who led India's unsuccessful campaign in the World Cup before staying back in London to get his injured shoulder operated upon is yet to return home after his surgery, according to sources close to him.

"I spoke to him 10 days ago and his shoulder was still tender. I do not know how it feels now," Dungarpur said.

Speculations are already rife in the media that Azhar is likely to get the boot and Sachin Tendulkar installed in his place on the hot seat of India cricket by the selectors.

There have been calls for Azhar's head from some former Indian skippers, including

Bishen Singh Bedi, Dilip Vengsarkar and Ravi Shastri, through their newspaper columns.

Meanwhile, the working committee of the BCCI will review the scheduled international calendar, including the Sahara Cup series against Pakistan at Toronto.

"We (the Board's working committee) are meeting on August 3 (at Calcutta) when the matter will be discussed", Dun-

garpur said. Dungarpur was reacting to the proposal of Pakistan playing with India in Toronto in September which had been cancelled in the wake of the Kargil conflict.

Urge the Indian board to respond to the proposal immediately, PCB's interim chief Mujibur Rahman said in an interview at Islamabad yesterday that he was for reviving the Sahara Cup since the Kargil crisis was over.

Affirming that he favoured continuation of cricketing ties with India, Rahman had said "I am for it (Sahara Cup). If the sponsors are ready, I am ready."

The series was called off after Sahara India, the sponsors, pulled out in the wake of the Pakistani intrusion in Kargil.

The BCCI working committee would also review India's forthcoming tour to Sri Lanka, tri-series tours to Singapore and Nairobi in September (to play in triangular and quadrangular tournaments, visit New Zealand in October-November followed by India's tour to Australia, visit by South Africa in February-March and India's tour to Sharjah in March-end).

before tea he was run out going for a third by a boundary throw from Matthew Horne and England dined to 156 for seven at tea.