

DHAKA THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2000

Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Greg Rusedski**

(British tennis star)  
"What I have learnt is that I need to be more professional in the way I take care of my body."

After coming back from a long injury lay-off.

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

#### Competition-127

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

March 10, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who won the tri-series down under?  
India Pakistan Australia

2 How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test?  
49 50 51

3 What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthews, father?  
Jack Stephen Bill

4 Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?  
Ronaldo Raul Vieira

5 Who is the captain of Bimes cricket team?  
Amnul Faruque Athar

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

### Dalmiya plans to honour Saurav

From Our Correspondent  
CALCUTTA, Feb 29: Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of the ICC and the

Cricket Association of Bengal is planning to felicitate the new Indian captain Saurav Ganguly.

Dalmiya, who returned to Calcutta on Sunday, said that discussions were on at the CAB to honour Ganguly. Sitting in his chamber at the Eden Gardens, Dalmiya said, "I am happy for Saurav. He has virtually grown up in front of us. He deserved the Indian captaincy. I am sure that he will do quite well in his new role."

Ganguly in fact made his mark in Bengal cricket playing for Rajasthan club, which incidentally is still run by Dalmiya. He has truly played a very important role in the development of Saurav Ganguly.

### Graf's denial

BERLIN, Feb 29: Steffi Graf swamped by congratulations, posted a message Tuesday on her Web site saying she doesn't plan to marry fellow tennis star Andre Agassi on her June 14 birthday, reports AP.

"Please be nice and stop bombarding us with mails and faxes," the message read. "It is an invention of the press to increase their circulation."

German and British media had quoted anonymous friends close to the couple as saying the marriage would take place on that date.

Steffi got so many questions and congratulations that our Internet site was overloaded. That's why she wanted to clear up the matter," Graf's manager, Hans Engert, told the German newspaper Bild.

"Please be so kind as to stop bombarding us with e-mails and faxes on the subject of 'Marriage on 14.6.2000', a message on the website said.

"It's a press 'Discovery' and is used to increase their circulation," Graf said in the German text of the message.

The two tennis stars first began seeing each other after last year's French Open in early June, where both won titles. Graf has since retired and is often seen cheering Agassi from the stands when he plays.

## It's not cricket

Al-Amin

Is our cricket going the football way? Few might disagree. But many observers feel that the cricket has already come down with the fix-match virus that the way our football did in recent past.

It was however remained unnoticed until an umpire's report exposed the free-style exercise of the arranged affair in the Second Division Cricket League.

Although there were lots of funny stories being cooked up and circulated around the sports arena all the time, Dhaka cricket created an unwanted record when umpires, for the first time in the world, branded a match as the arranged one on Sunday.

It was a classic example of how a match can be rigged when Nabin Sangha overhauled Tejgaon's paltry 82 in just 4.5 overs.

The 29-ball drama was also marked by an amazing 21 wide deliveries by one bowler, who did not have to even complete his second over as the opponents reached the victory mark. To make things funnier, Tejgaon wicketkeeper stood behind the stumps like a statue and when a ball slowed down to the boundary, the generous fielders used their feet to help the ball roll over the rope.

"It's an open secret. The players, club officials and umpires are all involved in this wicked game," said a cricket official to the Daily Star yesterday, preferring anonymity.

The cricket world is already aware of ball tampering, chucking and even unconfirmed match-fixing by the players.

Books are accused of being the playmaker in rigging a match. But here in Dhaka leagues, a section of so-called cricket promoters of clubs are involved in an off-the-field manipulation that ranges from forfeiting a match to deciding a championship.

It's however nothing on record until the two honest umpires let the cat out of the bag. Since then the accused clubs and players are busy in passing blame on the organisers.

"If we are held responsible for match-fixing then what about the other match on the previous day where Azad Sporting Club scored 199 runs in just

17.1 overs. Besides, they also made 85 runs in just five overs which is quite amazing," said Arif, captain of the Nabin Sangha.

If that was a fair play then why the umpires are now setting a standard? There are a lot of suspicious things being happened not only in the Second Division but also in the First Division cricket," said a former international football captain Monem Munna.

The umpires knowingly or unknowingly are making mistakes. The game's rule is itself erroneous. We have repeatedly appealed to the organisers to omit the run-rate provision in deciding the championship. But it fell on deaf ears so far," lamented Arif.

When Arif was critical about the way things are going on in cricket a club official went deep down to the root of all evil acts.

"There are a few umpires who are involved in fixing matches. It is unfortunate for Wanderers not to make a place in Sri Lankan off-spinner Kumara Dharmasena from the accusation of illegal bowling action.

He will play his first match for the Mohammedan Sporting Club against the Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the Premier Division League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium to make it to the Super Six," said the official on condition of anonymity.

"It is easy to catch a small fry like Nabin Sangha. But there is hardly anyone to brand Eskaton or even Khelaghara as cheats since they are rigging the result of a match under the umbrella of a BCB high-up," said the officials.

"It is a strange world where the protector of the law turn predators", quipped the official.

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