

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Inderjit Singh Bindra
(Former Indian cricket board president)

"It gives an impression that we have whitewashed the past." While referring to the decision on match-fixing, taken by the ICC at its special meeting at Lord's on May 3.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID Competition-130

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Competition closes at 8 pm
May 26, 2000 and draw
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- Who replaced David Lloyd as England cricket coach?
Fletcher Woolmer Richardson
- Which country will host the Euro 2004 Championship?
Portugal Germany Spain
- Which Kiwi batsman hit 214 on his Test debut against West Indies?
Stinclair Fleming Crowe
- Which country won the four-nation football tourney in Maldives?
Sri Lanka Bangladesh India
- Who won the national chess title this year?
Rehal Zia Tipu

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



You are not on the elite list
From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, May 17: The organisers of the Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship denied entry passes to the journalists of the three leading English dailies including The Daily Star correspondent of Moulvibazar.

The Moulvibazar District Sports Association, hosts of one of the nine zonal preliminary round matches, refused the journalists on pretext their names were "not on their elite list".

The journalists decided to boycott the tournament after finding the Moulvibazar DC in uncompromising mood.

Meanwhile, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Harunur Rashid, MP, expressed his surprise after being informed of the incident.

"If this is happening then it is very sad," said Harun.

Un-friendly friendly

NEW YORK, May 21: Italy's Roma and Benfica, of Portugal, played a 1-1 draw in a not-so-friendly football match at Giants Stadium on Saturday, reports AFP.

Roma defender Alessandro Rinaldi was shown the red card at the 78th minute as the both teams played aggressively before a crowd of 29,521 on a cool spring night.

A total of eight yellow cards were meted out during the contest, which was played after the New York MetroStars beat the Tampa Bay Mutiny 3-2 in extra time of their Major League Soccer match.

Roma scored first through forward Vincenzo Montella at the 20-minute mark, when he headed the ball by goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli and into the net from point-blank range just inside the penalty spot.

Six minutes later Benfica leveled when midfielder Uribe converted a penalty.

Ctg, Bhola progress



Chittagong and Bhola reached the zonal finals of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla Cup National Football Championship, eliminating their respective rivals at different zonal venues yesterday, reports UNB.

A brilliant hat-trick by Farhad guided the Chittagonians to the final with a massive 7-0 victory over their neighbours Bandarban at the Noakhali Stadium.

Farhad scored in the 15th, 19th, 63rd, 65th and 68th minutes while Tinku netted two more in the 13th and 55th minutes.

Chittagong will play the zonal final with Laxmipur on Tuesday to decide which team will earn the right to play in the 12-team final round.

In Barguna, Bhola booked a berth for zonal final beating Pirojpur by a solitary goal. Gopal scored the match-winner in the 19th minute.

Bhola will take on Barisal in the zonal final on Tuesday.

In other zonal matches, Narayanganj, Rangpur, Pabna, Jessore, Faridpur and Satkhira

won their respective matches at different zonal venues.

In Narsindhi, a fine hat-trick by Liton enabled Narayanganj to earn a massive 11-0 victory over Manikganj in their first appearance in the meet.

Liton scored four times in the 24th, 60th, 70th and 77th minutes. Ritu netted three in the 35th, 52nd and 72nd minutes. Riaz scored twice in the 17th and 23rd minutes while Biddiut and Rinku contributed one each in the 64th and 89th minute respectively.

In Dinaipur, Rangpur outplayed Thakurgaon 4-0 in the day's first match while Pabna outclassed Kurigram 5-1 in the day's other match.

For Rangpur, Haroon, Monayem, Zamirul and Elias scored one each in the 12th, 46th, 83rd and 87th minutes respectively.

In the other match, Tajir scored twice in the 26th, 32nd minutes while Shamsher, Abul and Sohel netted apiece in the 5th, 28th and 65th minute for Pabna.

Rezaul netted the consolation goal for Kurigram in the 60th minute.

In Gopalganj, Jessore defeated Shariatpur 4-1.

Babu netted two in the 9th

and 89th minutes, Zaman and Lucky scored one each in the 42nd and 85th minutes for the winners while Tito netted the face-saving goal for the losers in the 63rd minute.

In the other match of the zone, Faridpur managed a lone goal win over Madaripur at the same venue with Bhola scoring the all-important goal in the 29th minute.

In Bagerhat, Satkhira defeated Magura 4-1.

Zakir put the winners ahead in the 20th minute, Belal doubled the margin in the 44th minute, Islam netted the third goal in the 48th minute and Haq completed the tally in the 77th minute.

Zakir scored the only goal for Magura in the 50th minute.

Besides, Sylhet played out a 2-2 draw with Sunamganj at Moulvibazar Stadium.

Zoha and Nasir netted two first half goals for Sylhet in the 20th and 43rd minutes.

Kahul of Sunamganj reduced the margin in the 49th minute while Russel for Sunamganj in the 62nd minute.

In Naogaon, the day's both matches were abandoned due to heavy downpour.

Fauzia betters 100m mark

Sports Reporter



Fauzia Huda won the women's 100m sprint in an international athletics meet in Pakistan on Saturday.

The sprint queen of the country clocked 12.07 seconds on her way to capture the most coveted gold on the opening day of the three-day meet at Karachi.

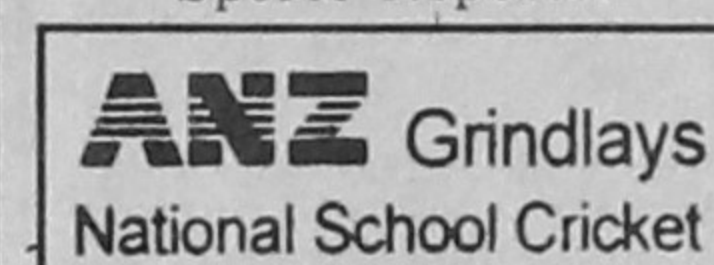
It was .03 second better than her previous record of 12.10 second she earned in the National Athletics Championships last month.

A student of BKSP, Fauzia also claimed the long jump silver on the day with a leap of 5.55 metres.

Fawzia is one of the 11 Bangladeshi athletes taking part in the meet.

R'shahi, D'pur move into semis

Sports Reporter



Rajshahi Zilla School and Dinajpur Zilla School moved into the semifinals of the ANZ Grindlays Bank National School Cricket Championship after winning their respective quarterfinals in Mymensingh yesterday.

At the Mymensingh Stadium, Rajshahi Zilla School eliminated defending champions Bindubashini Boy's High School of Tangail by 27 runs.

Batting first, Rajshahi Zilla School scored 134 all out in 32.2 overs. Sohail scored highest 36 followed by Sohan who added 21.

In reply, the holders were bundled out for 107 in 32.2 overs after Sohail plucked four wickets for 18 runs.

In today's semifinals, Rajshahi will take on Dinajpur Zilla School at the Mymensingh Stadium. Dinajpur defeated Palashpole High School of Satkhira by two runs.

Batting first, Dinajpur Zilla School scored 147 all out in 33.3 overs with Mushtaq hammering highest 47.

In reply, Palashpole High School were all out for 145 in 34.3 overs.

The other semifinal between hosts Mymensingh Zilla School and BKSP will be played at the Circuit House ground.

BRIEF SCORES

Rajshahi Zilla School v Bindubashini Boy's School, Tangail
Venue: Mymensingh Stadium.
Result: Rajshahi Zilla School won by 27 runs.

Dinajpur Zilla School v Palashpole High School, Satkhira
Venue: Circuit House, Mymensingh.
Result: Dinajpur Zilla School won by two runs.

MAGURA CRICKET
From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, May 21: Sonali Swapno club and Akai Smriti Sangsad won their respective matches in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium today.

Sonali beat Challenge Club by eight runs while Akai Smriti were declared winners according to buy-law.

BRIEF SCORES

SONALI SWAPNO CLUB: 123 all out in 25 overs (Biplob 23, Rabin 23, Palash 15, Sumon 15; Babu 2/19, Firoz 2/20, Gita 2/26, Zia 1/21).

CHALLENGE CLUB: 115 all out in 24.3 overs (Firoz 26, Gora 19, Litu 12, Palash 2/12, Biplob 2/21, Uzzal 2/27).

Rookies stars of the day



BRIDGETOWN, May 21: Opening batsmen Imran Nazir and Mohammad Wasim discharged a volley of strokes erase Pakistan's first innings deficit and give them a minor lead over the West Indies on the second day of the second cricket Test on Saturday here, reports AFP.



NAZIR ... 94 n. o.

Imran was unbeaten on a career-best 94 and Wasim was not out on 53 to take Pakistan through to 152 without loss in their second innings at stumps, after they were led by 145 on first innings by West Indies.

Tenager Ramnaresh Sarwan unfortunately ran out of partners 16 short of a maiden Test century on debut, but shepherded the lower half of the West Indies batting to extend his side's first innings to 1-1/2 hours after lunch and lift them to 398, in reply to Pakistan's 253.

With the perfect Kensington Oval pitch now offering little to the bowlers, the West Indies' pace-based attack found lacked menace and the two Pakistan opening batsmen bladed them, much to the consternation of the fair-sized crowd that attended.

Imran's first scoring stroke was a searing cover drive off the evergreen Courtney Walsh's first ball of the second over of the innings for the first of his 14 boundaries, mostly cuts in the arc of backward point and cover.

He batted freely in an innings that has lasted just under three hours and 124 balls in which time he sunk his previous best Test score of 64 vs Sri Lanka in Lahore last year in his debut Test.

Imran will be eyeing his maiden Test century on Sunday to become the third batsman in the match to score a hundred, following teammate Yousuf Youhana's 115 in Pakistan's first innings and Waseem Hinds' 165 in the West Indies' first bat.

The sedate, but equally attractive Wasim has been his partner all the way. Content to let his younger teammate play the attacking role, he offered essential support and struck five fours from his 118 balls.

The batting of Imran and Wasim kept the trend of young inexperienced batsmen starting in the match. Earlier, Sarwan did not have the pleasure of personal achievement, but had the satisfaction of leading West Indies to a sizeable lead.

The 19-year-old Sarwan batted impressively for ten minutes short of 3 1/2 hours in his first innings in Test cricket. He faced 222 balls and struck eight fours to gather 116 runs with the last five West Indies batsmen.

Along the way, he shared frustrating partnerships of 39 for the sixth wicket with Curtly Ambrose, 23 for the ninth wicket with Reon King and 36 for the last wicket with Courtney Walsh, whose big-hitting lefthanded him two sixes and two fours in 22 off 31 balls.

Sarwan however, had to share honours with off-spin bowler Saqlain Mushtaq, who captured three of the last five wickets to end with five wickets for 121 runs from a marathon 51 overs.

It was the tenth time Saqlain had taken five wickets in an innings in 26 Tests. After Wasim Akram had night-

watchman Ambrose caught at second slip for 22, Saqlain bowled Ridley Jacobs, then had King and Walsh removed to close-to-the-wicket catches.

In between Akram claimed his second wicket when Nixon McLean fended a short ball to short leg.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the third day of the second Test be-



SARWAN ... 84 n. o.

tween the West Indies and Pakistan at Kensington Oval on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 253 (Yousuf Youhana 115; Courtney Walsh 5/22)

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 283/5)
Campbell b Saqlain 58
Griffith c Moin b Waqar 4
Hinds c Inzamam b Waqar 165
Chanderpaul c Moin b Razzaq 9
Adams c Younis b Saqlain 8
Sarwan not out 84
Ambrose c Younis b W Akram 22
Jacobs b Saqlain 10
McLean c M Wasim b W Akram 1
King c Mushtaq b Saqlain 2
Walsh c Moin b Saqlain 22
Extras (lb-6; nb-7) 13
Total: (All out in 139 overs) 398
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-144; 3-176; 4-213; 5-282; 6-321; 7-338; 8-339; 9-362.

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ACB to inquire British tabloid claims

Malik will do the rest



LONDON, May 21: Former Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik told undercover reporters from the News of the World that he could fix the result of any match — and had done so before in the past, the newspaper reported today, says AFP.

The weekly tabloid said it had infiltrated an international match-fixing ring headed by Malik. Undercover reporters had video tapes of conversations with Malik who promised to fix matches for up to 500,000 pounds (800,000 dollars) a game the News of the World said.

The News of the World reporters posed as high rollers looking to bet on the results of matches. They quoted Malik as saying:

"It will be very easy for me to fix a match. The players will agree. We've all said together and done it before. It's better than dealing drugs."

"When you've got the main players in your hand you'll have to be really unlucky to lose," he reportedly said.

"You'll have four or five players in hand and they will be playing just for you," Malik was quoted as saying.

He told the News of the World that a controversial match dur-

ing last year's World Cup in which unfancied Bangladesh beat Pakistan had been fixed.

Another match between Australia and Pakistan in 1994 had been doubly fixed, so that both sides were trying to lose in nearly farcical circumstances, he added.

Meanwhile, in Sydney the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) intends to investigate fresh claims from former Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik that a match between Australia and Pakistan in 1994 was a double fix so that both sides were trying to lose.

The ACB's <baggygreen.com> website describes the 1994 match in Colombo as being part of a timeline on match-fixing scandals.

Australian cricket was dragged into the scandal in 1998 when it was revealed the ACB had fined Shane Warne and Mark Waugh for providing weather and pitch information to an illegal Indian bookmaker over a period of five months from September 1994.

The story had been hushed up. "Allegedly, the match upon which this information provided by Waugh and Warne most clearly centres (upon) is the Pakistan-Australia match in Colombo," the ACB website said Sunday.

"Even when the match was being played, the match draws suspicion in some quarters because of the way in which Pakistan collapsed when victory was clearly within its reach."

Cricket has been rocked by revelations of match-fixing following the confession by former South African captain Hansie Cronje that he had taken money from a bookmaker to influence a game.

Malik is the central figure in Pakistan's match fixing controversy, despite having twice been cleared by a Supreme Court judge.



SALIM MALIK

Giant screen, clocks being installed

Beautifying the bog bowl

Sports Reporter

With only six days to go before the Pepsi Asia Cup Kicks off, the Bangabandhu National Stadium is receiving a face-lift.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader visited the stadium yesterday afternoon and expressed his complete satisfaction on the preparations for the four-nation meet starting on May 28.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and general secretary Syed Ashraf Huq accompanied the state minister.

Talking to the reporters at the BCB office, Quader revealed that Sports Ministers of India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan would be present during the tournament.

"They all have assured me of coming," said Quader adding that he was scheduled to leave for Pakistan on May 23 to drum

up support for Bangladesh's plea for Test status in the ICC meeting next month.

Replying to another question, Quader said the National Sports Council (NSC) will spend around Taka 45 lakh for the renovation of Bangabandhu National Stadium for the Asia Cup.

He also informed that NSC was planning to host a grand dinner on June 4 in honour of the participating teams and distinguished guests.

BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Huq disclosed that

teams will start arriving in the capital from May 25.

Defending champions Sri Lanka, who are scheduled to take on hosts Bangladesh in the inaugural match, will be first to reach Dhaka while India will arrive on May 27. Pakistan will fly in on June 1.

Ashraf also revealed that a large TV screen (16 feet x 16 feet) would be erected at the Eastern Gallery to let the crowd enjoy the replays. Besides, two big clocks will also be installed at either side of the big bowl.

Dhara, a local advertisement firm, have earned the right to erect the giant screen.

Ashraf also added that MAM, a local consortium, have bought the right of side-screen.

The BCB general secretary said that coveted Asia Cup, which is named after former PCB boss Noor Khan, will be brought by Sri Lankans.



England's Nick Knight (R) waiting for a decision from the TV umpire regarding a run-out on the third day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Lord's on May 20. On the left is Alec Stewart.

England zap Zimbabwe



LONDON, May 21: England beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 209 runs in the first Test here at Lord's on Sunday to take a 1-0 lead in the two match series, reports AFP.

Zimbabwe failed to recover from their overnight 39-5 in their second innings and were bowled out in the afternoon session for 123 -- with Bryan Strang their top scorer with 37.

Rain had delayed the start of the fourth day until 2.10pm local time (1.10pm GMT).

Zimbabwe resumed on 39 for five, still 293 runs short of an innings defeat, rain their only realistic chance of staying off defeat inside four days. Brian Murphy was 11 not out and Neil Johnson one not out.

Johnson was first to go, when on nine he edged the 16th ball of the day, a good length delivery from Andy Caddick straight to Graeme Hick at second slip to leave Zimbabwe 49

for six.

Bowling initially from the Nursery End, Caddick obtained good lift and sharp swing, while at the Pavilion End, Darren Gough initially struggled to make the batsmen play as much as he would have wanted.

But the introduction of Ed Giddins, who had taken five wickets in the first innings, from the Nursery End provided England with their next breakthrough.

Murphy, who had already edged Giddins short of Hick, offered no stroke against the Warwickshire paceman and was given out lbw for 14 by umpire Peter Willey.

It was a sad way for Murphy's 91 minutes of resistance to end. During his 63-ball innings he had shown good judgement in what to play and what to leave outside his off-stump, which could not be said for all his top-order teammates in either innings.

Two balls later Heath Streak was well-caught at third slip for

a duck by Giddins' county colleague Nick Knight as Zimbabwe slid to 74 for eight. Giddins, completing a double-wicket maiden in the 28th over.

Meanwhile Guy Whittall was playing the occasional stylish stroke, his cover-driven four off Caddick the best of the lot.

After some entertainingly lusty boundaries from Strang, Whittall went next pushing forward to Caddick and caught at second slip by Hick for 23. Zimbabwe 92 for nine.

Now the only question was whether or not Zimbabwe would avoid becoming the sixteenth side in Test history to be dismissed for under 100 in each innings.

A magnificent extra-cover drive from Strang against Gough took them to 99. Neil Johnson gave himself an extravagant amount of room and late cut the Yorkshireman for a single.

Batting much like Gough

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Warne work goes awry



LONDON, May 21: Shane Warne's first five-wicket haul in the County Championship failed to arrest Hampshire's continuing struggle so far this season on Saturday as their Division One match with Leicestershire ended in a draw, reports AFP.

The Australian leg-spinner finished with five for 86 from 43 overs, as Leicestershire posted 289 all out at Grace Road with Aftab Habib (66) and wicket-keeper Neil Burns (67 not out) doing most to give the hosts a 60-run first innings lead in their clash.

Early relegation candidates Hampshire duly made a mess of batting out time in the match and in the end could only scramble to a draw that had long looked a formality.

They finally closed on 123 for eight, captain Robin Smith (31) providing the most resistance to the seam and swing of Phil DeFreitas who finished with four for 41.

Australian Darren Lehmann's first century of the season for Yorkshire levelled out the bonus points in a rain-induced draw between the table-toppers and Derbyshire.

Lehmann's 209-ball ton contained 10 fours, and his 133 was

the cornerstone of Yorkshire's 349 all out.

The Yorkshire batsman's fellow Australian, Matthew Cassar, meanwhile, picked up career-best figures of six for 76 with his medium-pace for Derbyshire.

There was also a first ever championship half-century for Derbyshire opener Steve Stubbs, who made the most of a dead game to reach an unbeaten 84 in company with Tasmanian

Michael di Venuto (81 not out) as the second-wicket pair put on an unbroken stand of 153 out of 209 for one.

In Division Two, Essex captain Ronnie Irani was taking no chances against Warwickshire at Edgbaston -- and he almost ended up with a century to his name in yet another match ruined by this week's rain.

Replying to Warwickshire's 400 for eight declared, Irani was stranded nine runs short of his ton but remained unbeaten as the rains returned yet again to force an early close -- while his team were stuck on 298 for four, just shy of a third batting bonus point despite 83 to the cause from Australian run machine Stuart Law.

Nottinghamshire and Gloucestershire were also in no mood for any last-day excitement at Trent Bridge and allowed another rain-affected match to peter out into a tame draw.

Visiting captain Mark Alleyne's marathon innings finally