

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Viv Richards

(West Indies legend)
"Sachin deserves everything he gets, because he takes everything out on the field."
On Sachin Tendulkar.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-130

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 26, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- 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?
Siddharth Fleming Crowe
- Which country won the four-nation football tournament in Maldives?
Sri Lanka Bangladesh India
- Who won the national chess title this year?
Rezaul Zia Tipu

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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EN-VITS
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New faces in Indian side

PEPSI ASIA CUP

NEW DELHI, May 22: Promising left-hand batsman Hemang Badani was on Monday picked in India's 14-man squad for the four-nation Asia Cup cricket tournament in Bangladesh, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old from Tamil Nadu forced his selection ahead of favourite Vinod Kambli after piling up huge scores in domestic cricket, besides being an excellent fielder.

With the seasoned pace duo of Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad not considered for selection, Delhi's Amit Bhandari will share the new ball with Ajit Agarkar and the Dennis Lillee-trained Thiru Kumar.

Skipper Sourav Ganguly will have Rahul Dravid as his deputy for the May 28-June 7 limited-overs tournament against arch-rivals Pakistan, defending champions Sri Lanka and hosts Bangladesh.

David and leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who are both playing county cricket in England, will join the rest of the squad in Dhaka on May 28.

India play Bangladesh in their opening match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 30.

SQUAD

Saurav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid (vice-captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh, Hemang Badani, Saba Karim (wicketkeeper), Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Nikhil Chopra, Ajit Agarkar, Thiru Kumar, Amit Bhandari.

Cosch: Kapil Dev.

Bangladesh team named

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 14-man national squad for the seventh Asia Cup, scheduled to kick-off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 28.

There were no surprises in an otherwise predictable line-up with young all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman being the only new face.

The skilful right-hander from Rajshahi performed exceedingly well for his club Kalabagan in the just concluded Premier League. The steady Mushfiq showed tremendous maturity as a dependable middle-order. He is also a good fielder and a handy medium pace bowler.

Mushfiq is all set to throw up a challenge for veteran all-rounder Khaled Mahmud for a place in the playing eleven.

Mushfiq apart, left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique is back in the elite fold after being left out in the cold for quite a while. The temperamental cricketer almost dug his own grave when he announced a premature retirement immediately after the 1999 World Cup. The southpaw however changed his mind later and got a deserving recall after a successful domestic season. Rafique captured 25 wickets in this year's league. His pinch-hitting is also an avenue Bangladesh can exploit.

Rafique's return means Bangladesh reverting to their old ploy of attacking with two left-arm spinners from both ends.

The team consists of five batsmen, as many bowlers and three all-rounders. Wicket-keeper Khaled Masood, fresh from a fantastic season with the willow, can be promoted up the order to give the batting more beef. Shahriar Hossain will open the innings with Javed Omar, who got a lucky break after Mehrab Hossain withdrew himself with a knee injury.

Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan and skipper Aminul Islam will form the backbone of the Bangladesh batting. The three-pronged seam attack will once again be spearheaded by Hasibul Hossain.

Azharul Rahman Sinha, the treasurer of BCB, will manage the team. The tournament will also open up an exciting prospect for Sarwar Hossain, who replaced an ailing Eddie Barlow as coach of the national team.

Bangladesh, who are yet to win a match in their previous five Asia Cup appearances, will take on defending champions Sri Lanka in the opening encounter.

They will take on India on May 30 and Pakistan in their last league match on June 2.

SQUAD

Aminul Islam (captain), Javed Omar, Belim, Shahriar Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Akram Khan, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Masood (wk), Mohammed Rafique, Enamul Hossain, Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahman, Saifuddin Ahmed and Khaled Mahmud.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow

The tickets for next week's Pepsi Asia Cup will go on sale tomorrow at seven branches of Al Baraka Bank.

Six branches -- VIP Road, Gulshan, Mirpur Road, Islampur, Karwan Bazar and IDB Bhaban -- will sell gallery tickets while the Dikusha branch will only deal in the VIP, Club House, International Gallery, Special and Club Enclosure tickets respectively.

The branches will remain open on Friday and Saturday.

RATE OF TICKETS

VIP Gallery	Tk 2,000
Club House (East)	Tk 1,000
International Gallery	Tk 800
Western Gallery	Tk 125
Eastern Gallery	Tk 100



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being presented with a crest during the opening ceremony of the two-day National Women's Sports Conference yesterday. — Star photo

PM opens women's confce

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said all-out support and assistance would be given by her government for the promotion of women sports in the country, reports agencies.

Like other socio-economic sectors, participation of both men and women in various sports and athletics activities is essential to achieve name and fame for the nation," she said yesterday while inaugurating the "Jatiya Mohila Krira Sammelon" (national women sports conference).

Held at the Sultana Kamal Krira Complex in the city, the grand two-day conference is being organised by Bangladesh Mohila Krira Sangstha.

"We are sincerely working for overall improvement of sports giving due importance to this field," she said informing that the government had taken long-term plans for elevating the standard of sports to international levels.

She said, the government is trying heart and soul to ensure more participation of women in sports and achieve more success as well as to create dedicated sportswomen and organisers.

All steps have been taken to upgrade BKSP in Savar as Asian Cricket Development Centre, she said reiterating that separate stadium will be allocated for cricket and football very soon.

About the development of sports infrastructure, she said the government had already increased sports budget to Tk 72.25 crore from Tk 52.45 crore. It also sanctioned a lump allocation of Tk 10 crore for sports development.

The Prime Minister further said the government is constructing two more physical education colleges in Dhaka and Chittagong to meet the demand of sports trainers.

In addition to setting up electronic scoreboard and modern air-conditioned press box at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the government has constructed Tennis Complex in Chittagong, Women Sports Centre in Khulna and expanded Osmani Stadium at Narayanganj.

Hasina told the function that the government had also completed the construction of eight stadia and 20 swimming pools in different district headquarters.

Bangladesh Women's Sports Association has arranged this national conference to organise women sportsmen, sports personnel and sports-lovers on national plane, regional, district and grassroots levels and to assure more participation of women in games.

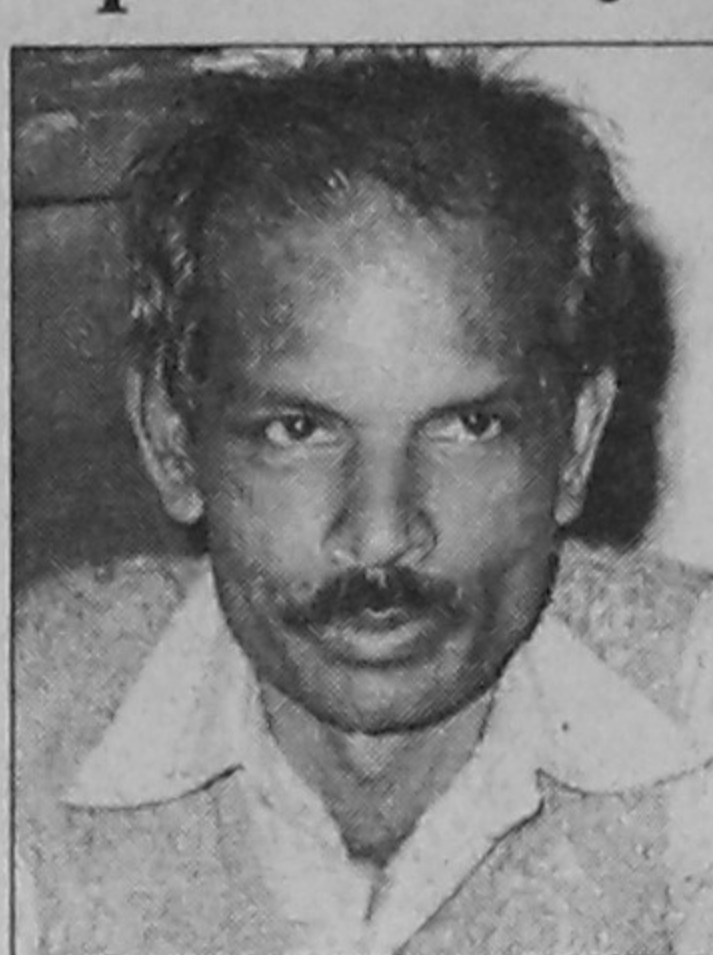
The Prime Minister was accompanied by...

See page 14



Schoolgirls dancing during the inaugural function of the National Women's Sports Conference at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Badi-Uz-Zaman passes away



Badi-Uz-Zaman, Sports Editor of the Daily Ittefaq, died of complicated diseases yesterday at his Ram Krishna Mission Road residence in the city. He was 63, reports BSS.

Zaman had been working in the Ittefaq since 1972. He is survived by his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death. He had been suffering from different diseases including diabetes for a long time.

Zaman, the founder Editor of the country's leading sports magazine Kirirajapat, started his career in journalism in the now defunct Daily Azad. He was also Editor of "Samabaya," a publication of the Directorate of Cooperatives.

He had two books on music to his credit. Besides, he was a film actor.

His body was taken to the Ittefaq House, where the first namaz-e-janaza was held.

Chairman of the editorial boards of Ittefaq and New Nation Barrister Moinul Hossain, Acting Editor of Ittefaq Rahat Khan, journalists, employees and workers of Ittefaq House joined the janaza.

He was buried at the Gopibagh graveyard after the second namaz-e-janaza at the Gopibagh Jamie Mosque.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader condoled the death of Badi-Uz-Zaman.

The state minister said the country has lost an courageous sports journalist. He also offered sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association, Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association and National Sports Council also condoled the death of Zaman.

Saber rejects Salim's story

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury has declined to make any comment on a claim by former Pakistan captain Salim Malik that the last year's World Cup clash between Bangladesh and Pakistan was fixed.

"We cannot accept his (Malik) accusation because to us he is nobody. Had Pakistan Cricket Board made the claim we would have reacted," said Saber at his BCB office yesterday.

Malik, in a conversation with undercover reporters from the British tabloid News of the World said that the Bangladesh-Pakistan match was fixed and also claimed that he could fix the result of any match.

"I don't believe that Bangladesh team was involved in any fixed match," Saber added.

When asked that how ICC would react Saber said that he has requested ICC chief executive David Richardson to check the facts in London.

"I have asked Richardson to convene an emergency meeting within next 24 hours if Malik's statement is true," added Saber.

D'pur, Chuadanga move into zonal finals

Dinaipur and Chuadanga advanced to the zonal finals of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship eliminating their respective rivals at different venues across the country yesterday, reports UNB.

At Dinaipur, a brilliant hat-trick by Khokon helped the hosts to earn a massive 5-0 goals victory over Panchagarh to book a berth in zonal final with all win records.

Khokon scored in the 48th, 51st and 86th minute while Imam and Amin scored one each in the 20th and 81st minute.

At Bagerhat, Chuadanga reached the zonal final with an unbeaten record after playing a one-all draw with Meherpur. Zakirul put Chuadanga ahead in the 52nd minute while Shafiqul equalised in the 71st minute.

In the day's other matches, Bagerhat, Gazipur, Jhenidah, Kustia, Moulvibazar and Bogra won their respective matches at different zonal venues.

At Bagerhat, the home side outplayed Narail 8-0 with Prince scoring four goals to record yet another hat-trick in See page 14

Truce in the cricket board

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in a meeting yesterday finally approved the idea of re-constructing the board and appointing a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The move ushers in the exciting prospect of a fully professional set up for the country's cricket ruling body.

A five-member committee, headed by BCB member Kutubuddin Akshir, has been formed to make necessary recommendations in this regard. Two joint-secretaries of BCB -- Mahmud Ul Haq and Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutil, and two BCB members Jalal Yunus and Sheikh Nizamuddin Ahmed are the other members of the committee.

They will submit their suggestions to the board before mid-June. The BCB is expected to pass them at its AGM on June 15.

The meeting also gave BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Hossain the responsibility to short-list the candidates for CEO. A total of 25 applications have been submitted so far.

The general secretary will

later consult with the president before making a final choice immediately after the Asia Cup.

The meeting approved terms and conditions of the CEO who will be directly accountable to the president. The CEO will oversee activities of the board with the consent of different sub-committees. His areas of responsibilities are finance and accounts, cricket operations and administration.

A visibly happy looking BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, who's idea to re-vamp the board suffered a big blow when a majority of executives vetoed it earlier this month, said he had a positive meeting with the members yesterday.

Saber was talking to the press immediately after the meeting.

"It was a positive meeting where we have outlined our next course of action," said Saber.

"We have also approved the national team today after a lengthy discussion," he added.

Saber also revealed that the meeting okayed the draft constitution of Bangladesh Cricket Development Foundation (BCDF) which will host and run

the official website of Bangladesh cricket.

Apart from approving the 14-member Bangladesh squad for the Pepsi Asia Cup the board also nominated Golam Faruk Suru and Alok Chakrabarty as coaches of the under-17 and under-15 teams respectively. They will take part in Asian under 17 and under-15 championships in Pakistan and Malaysia next July.

BCB members Saibul Hossain Tutil and Alam Chowdhury have been appointed as managers.

A budget of one and a half crore taka has also been approved for hosting the four-nation meet starting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on May 28.

The meeting also decided to invite six former national captains -- Shamim Kabir, Rouqibul Hasan, Shafiqul Haque Hira, Gazi Ashraf Hossain, Minhazul Abedin and Faruque Ahmed -- as guests of honour during the six first round matches. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to be the chief guest of the June 7 final.

Malik says it's baseless

KARACHI, May 22: Former Pakistan captain Salim Malik, named by a British newspaper as the central figure in a match-fixing controversy, on Monday rejected the allegations as baseless and pledged to tell his side of the story soon, reports AFP.

"How can a man already so embroiled in false allegations come out with things like that?" Malik told this news agency from Lahore, referring to previous claims made about him.

His comments came after Britain's News of the World newspaper claimed on Sunday that Malik had told their undercover reporters he could fix any match for the right sum of money.

The 37-year-old former batsman was scheduled to clarify his position at a press conference in Lahore on Monday, but postponed it at the last moment.

"I will come up with my side of the story in the next four or five days," he claimed.

"I am not going to be quiet, but at the moment I can't say anything more," he said.

The News of the World, claiming to have infiltrated an

international match-fixing ring, said Malik told their reporters his side and Australia had taken bribes to lose an unspecified match in 1994.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) on Monday questioned Malik's credibility, while at the same time announcing that the first job of its special investigator would be to

look into the Pakistan batsman's claims.

"Instead of questioning the paper's credibility they are questioning my credibility," Malik said, refusing to elaborate further.

"Just wait for a few days more and every question will be answered."

The findings of a judicial commission last year into match-fixing in Pakistan, led by Lahore high court judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum, are due to be published imminently.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman General Tauqir Zia said the report would be made public in the next few days.

General Zia said last week no planned match-fixing was found in Qayyum's report and that all the members of the Pakistan team currently touring the West Indies would not be affected by its outcome.

Press reports had said earlier the Judge had recommended life bans be imposed on Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed, with fines for Wasim Akram, Saad Anwar, Inzamamul Haq, Waqar Younis and Akram Raza.

We are sorry that we wrote bog instead of big bowl yesterday. The mistake is regretted. — Sports Editor

Second Test nicely poised

BRIDGETOWN, May 22: Toiling all day on an unresponsive Kensington Oval pitch, West Indies bowlers bowled their hearts out to bring their side back into the second cricket Test against Pakistan on Sunday here, reports AFP.

When opening batsman Imran Nazir completed a maiden Test hundred and was at the height of 219-run first-wicket stand with Mohammad Wasim, it appeared Pakistan might have run away with the match.

Another lion-hearted performance from the West Indies however, restricted Pakistan in the final two periods of the fourth day and limited them to 345 for seven in their second innings at the close.

It means the visitors lead by exactly 200 with three second innings wickets standing.

Teenager Nazir and Wasim had carried Pakistan to 152 without loss the previous evening. They continued from where they had left off on Saturday and had given their side the base for a sizeable total that should set up an absorbing last day challenge for West Indies.

Once they were separated, the rest of the Pakistan batting were unable to sustain the effort, so though they had raced to 253 for three at lunch, they could only progress to 298 for five at tea before crawling to their position at stumps.

Nazir, whose 131 lasted nearly 270 minutes, faced 180 balls and struck 20 fours. He and Wasim returned on Sunday to again bully the West Indies fast bowlers after a sedate start against the ailing warriors, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

They again blossomed to play sparkling strokes and take advantage of the glorious conditions that have blessed this match, but Nazir was fortunate not to have been adjudged lbw when 116.

Ducking from what he thought would have been a short-ball from Walsh, he was struck on his right ankle by a slow, full-pitch, but was given the benefit of the doubt by umpire Eddie Nicholls.

After Nazir and Wasim started to explode, West Indies

captain Jimmy Adams called on Reon King for his first spell of the day. As he has done over the last two innings, he made the breakthrough and captured three wickets in the space of 19 balls to set back Pakistan.

First, he gained an lbw verdict against Wasim, whose 82 off 164 balls lasted 250 minutes contained eight fours, then had Nazir caught by Adams at cover, and Younis Khan caught behind for 23 to a top-edged cut after hitting five fours in his brief knock.

Bowling with a lot more purpose and direction, the West Indies' fast bowlers restricted the Pakistanis in the afternoon period. They were less obliging to the opposition batsmen than in the morning period, when the line and length was all wrong.

The evergreen Courtney Walsh put in a long, tireless spell of 12-2-18-1 and was well supported by young bucks Reon King and Nixon McLean, who shared 13 overs between them in the period and conceded 21 runs.

For their efforts, the West Indies were rewarded with the wickets of Inzamamul Haq, caught and bowled by Walsh, and Younis Youhana, caught at cover by Jimmy Adams for 19 off McLean in the space of five balls in the final half-hour before the break.

After four overs in the evening period, West Indies claimed the second new ball

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between West Indies and Pakistan at Kensington Oval Sunday:

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

WEST INDIES: First innings (Wavel Hinds 165; Saqlain Mushtaq 5-121)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 152/0)

M Wasim lbw b King 82
Nazir c Adams b King 131
Younis c Jacobs b King 23
Inzamam c and b Walsh 29
Youhana c Adams b McLean 19
Razaq not out 32
Moin b Adams 14
W Akram c Hinds b Adams 0
Saqlain not out 2
Extras (lb-4; w-1; nb-8) 13
Total (For 7 wks in 123 overs) 345

To Bat: Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed.
Fall of wickets: 1-219, 2-232, 3-248, 4-294, 5-294, 6-341, 7-341.

Bowler O M R W
Ambrose 30 13 49 0
Walsh 28 4 76 1
King 23 7 62 3
McLean 23 4 107 1
Adams 17 6 34 2
Cpaul 2 0 13 0



NAZIR ... 131