

# Star Sport

DHAKA, MONDAY MAY 29, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-131

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

Competition closes at 8 pm June 9, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?

Hings Perce Y Williams

2 Who won the European Champions' League?

M United Real Madrid Lazio

3 Who won the UEFA Cup?

Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina

4 Who lifted national schools cricket title?

St Joseph M Singh Zila Ctg Nhasagar

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?

Harrison Van Gaal Shakir

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## SPORTS TALK



Mike Atherton

(Former England cricket captain)

"I've been involved with the England team for many years and I've not known of any wrongdoing."

While turning down the allegations of match-fixing levelled against English players by former all-rounder Chris Lewis.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina releases a first day cover and a stamp commemorating the Pepsi Asia Cup at her Bangladesh Secretariat office yesterday.—PID photo

### 'Pakistan free of match-fixing'

LONDON, May 28: Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum, who investigated allegations of corruption in Pakistan cricket, said today he thought his country was now free of match-fixing, reports Reuters.

"So far as Pakistan is concerned I don't think there is any match-fixing now," Qayyum said when interviewed by BBC Radio Five Live.

The recommendations of the judge's report led to Pakistan's former captain Salim Malik and discarded Test pace bowler Aftab Rehman being banned for life by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) last Wednesday.

Six other Pakistan cricketers, including ex-skipper Wasim Akram, were fined either for bringing the game into disrepute or failing to co-operate with the inquiry.

Qayyum was asked during the interview if he thought matches involving England players had escaped bribery attempts.

The judge said: "The evidence which was presented to me didn't speak of any Pakistan-England match being fixed, except for one match which was a one-dayer in England."



Indian coach Kapil Dev (L) and veteran batsman Mohammad Azharuddin, both of whom are going through a difficult time following match-fixing allegations brought against them, resting at the lounge of the Zia International Airport on arrival in Dhaka yesterday.

— Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Playing India's priority Ganguly's men here

Al-Amin

Saurav Ganguly led a 14-member Indian team that arrived in Dhaka by British Airways in the afternoon.

The four-time champions will play their first match of the Pepsi Asia Cup against host Bangladesh on May 30.

Caught in the grips of a match-fixing controversy, the Indian team management however said that they have left behind the sticky issue behind and have come here only to play cricket.

"We have dumped those things at Delhi. We are here to play the game," said team man-



ager Samiran Chakraborty on arrival at the Sheraton Hotel. "The team is in good spirits. And we are definitely here to win the Cup," he added.

The Indians without veteran fast bowlers Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad, still boast the best possible side with the likes of master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, in-form

Ganguly and experienced Mohammad Azharuddin. Vice-captain Rahul Dravid also flew into the city straight from England where he is playing for county side Kent.

Although the manager was press-friendly, the rest including coach Kapil Dev, who had been in the eye of a storm, remained tight-lipped.

Kapil led his boys into the hotel like a general going into a battle. Only Saurav, the flamboyant southpaw, appeared very casual and didn't even miss an opportunity to wave to

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TAKING WATER SAMPLES? Grounds staff at the Bangabandhu National Stadium making fools of themselves by filling a small can in a bid to drain the water-logged outfield yesterday.

— Star photo

## Aminul wants action

Sports Reporter



Talking to the reporters at the Hotel Sheraton yesterday afternoon, Aminul said that it was a rare opportunity for Bangladesh to play one-day internationals and it will be very unfortunate if that chance is missed because of rain.

"I wanted to earned our first point from a win," said Aminul. "We are very eagerly waiting to play. The rain situation is very frustrating. This also cre-

ates problems in our concentration," he said.

"We seldom get a chance to play against big teams. It is a big occasion for us," Aminul added.

He, however, agreed that earning one point from an abandoned match might prove worthy at the end.

"If there is no match tomorrow and we get one point, that will be vital because if we can pull of an odd win from the remaining two games, we might well be in the final," said Aminul.

He also revealed that his team would include an additional batsman in the side omitting a bowler if there was a curtailed match.

Aminul's Sri Lankan counterpart Sanath Jayasuriya was at a practice session inside the indoor facilities at BKSP and could not be reached for his views on today's match.

The Sri Lankan team left their hotel for BKSP immediately after learning that the match was deferred.



AMINUL ISLAM

### BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

## Asia Cup: How can it be wow now?

By Shakil Kasem



Purely on the grounds that we want to avoid the spectacle of a horde of organisers suffering multiple and collective cardiac arrests, let us fervently hope that the Pepsi Asia Cup not only gets underway but also gets completed on schedule.

Otherwise, the cumulative and untiring (albeit misplaced) efforts of all and sundry involved with this elaborate pipe dream, will have been literally washed away through the overflowing drains of Dhaka.

Strange as it may well be, the Pepsi Asia Cup is meant to be, or at least touted as such, as the single most important cricket event, next to the World

Cup. Strange, you ask? Well, the second most important cricket event still does not a specified timeframe when it should be staged. The last time it was staged was in 1997, before that in 1995. Three years have elapsed since the last ball was bowled in anger in this tournament. One would expect that the second most important event would have a fixed (pardon me) time and date for

each successive edition. The venue and a convenient date should not be drawn out of a helmet, as is now customary.

Strange, I hear you ask again? Well, ahem...uh...which country takes it seriously? India was not interested to play at one stage last year, citing other supposedly more important commitments. Then Pakistan did not have the dates. Pakistan now would be arriving after the tournament has already begun from the West Indies, tired and fatigued after a hard tour and sans most of its key players. A group of recalcitrant if-it-is-Tuesday-this-must-be-Cairo

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## Wasim, Anwar in Pak squad

Sports Reporter



The Dhaka showpiece will not miss the antics of Wasim Akram and Saeed Anwar in the Pepsi Asia Cup affair.

This was confirmed when the Pakistan Cricket Board named a 14-man squad for the tournament with both the stars included in the team list. There was wide-spread speculations that Akram, the highest wicket taker in one day internationals, and the dazzling Anwar may not come to Dhaka.

Besides, all-rounder Azhar Mahmood has been recalled. The only notable absentee in the side was batsman Yousuf Youhana who has been in wonderful form in the ongoing Test series against the West Indies.

Wicketkeeper Moin Khan will lead the side which is due to arrive in the capital from the Caribbean on Thursday.

Pakistan will take on hosts Bangladesh in the first match on June 2. They will face arch rivals India the following day before meeting Sri Lanka in their last game on June 5.

**SQUAD**  
Moin Khan (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (vice-captain), Imran Nazir, Saeed Anwar, Mohammad Wasim, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razzak, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Akram, Sabir Ahmed, Shahid Afridi, Arshad Khan and Shoaib Malik.

**Officials:** Brig (ret'd) Khwaza Mohammad Nasir (manager), Javed Miandad (coach) and Dr. dan Kiesel (physio).

## Amritto Lal Dey Chess begins

Sports Reporter

The Amritto Lal Dey International Rating Chess Tournament organised by Barisal Chess Club began at the Mukti-joddah Auditorium yesterday in Barisal, says an e-mail message.

A total of 63 players, including one International Master and two Fide Masters, are participating in this tournament. Four out of 22 rated players are from India. The first round winners are: International Master Abdullah Al Rakib, Fide Master Enamul Hossain Razib, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Iman, Fide Master Rezaul Haque, Taibur Rahman Sunon, Arghaydip Das, Sawkat Hossain Pollab, Prodip Gosh, Abu Sufian Sakil, Kh. Aminul Islam, Dewan Shahidul Amin, S. Nasir Ahmed, Saiful Islam Masum, Feroz Ahmed, Subhan Das, Ruhul Islam Boby, Devraz Chatterjee, Soham Das, Zakia Sultana, Amir Hossain and Mehdi Hasan Porag.

The 9-round Swiss-league meet offers Taka 30,500 prize money for winners.

Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, general secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation declared the meet open as the chief guest while Enayet Pir Khan, president of the Barisal Chess Club, presided over the ceremony.

**Manoj's bid to substantiate allegations**

NEW DELHI, May 28: Former Indian all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar has taped a secretly filmed videotape of senior officials and cricketers which he said supported his allegations of widespread match-fixing in India, reports Reuters.

Prabhakar said at a news conference yesterday he had taped the conversations with cricket officials, police officials and former cricketers without their knowledge.

The tape, titled "Fallen Heroes: The Inside Story of a Nation Betrayed", was screened for the media on Saturday.

In the tape, the officials and cricketers told Prabhakar and a reporter for an Indian website they were aware of incidents of alleged match-fixing, but none said they had proof.

"I know after having done this, I will have no friends left in the cricketing circle," Prabhakar told the news conference.

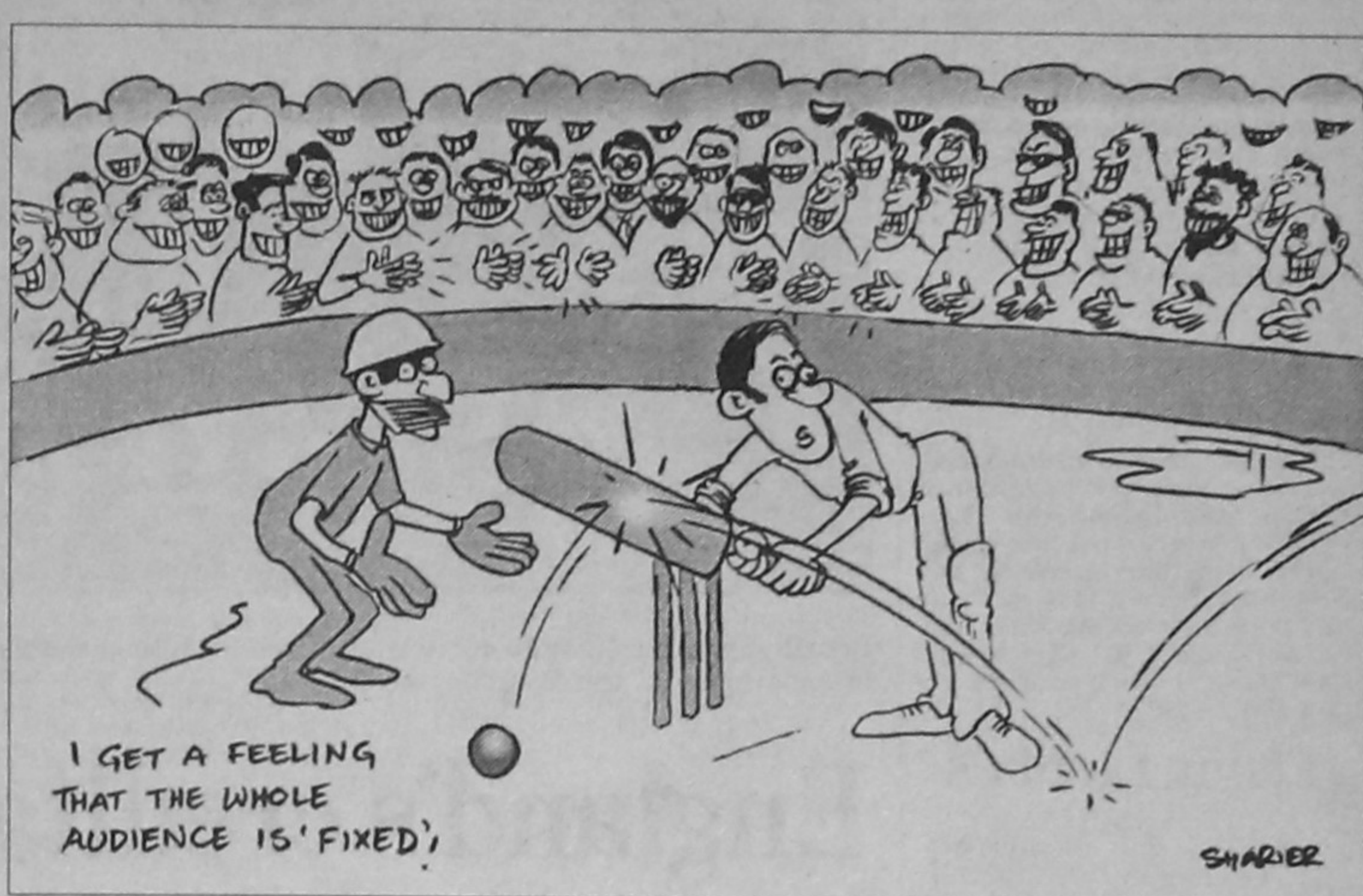
"But this will help at least to clean up the system. I also urge the media to co-operate in this."

Earlier this week, India's coach and former captain Kapil Dev repeated and earlier denial of match-fixing allegations made by Prabhakar and said he was planning legal action against him.

The cricketing world has been rocked by controversy over match-fixing since South African Hansie Cronje, Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom were charged by Indian police on April 7 "with cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy", relating to a one-day series in India in March.

They have all denied match-fixing.

Cronje was subsequently sacked as South Africa's captain after admitting taking up to 15,000 dollars from a bookmaker for information during a one-day series in South Africa last January.



I GET A FEELING THAT THE WHOLE AUDIENCE IS 'FIXED'!

SHARPER

## Singles from the Gallery

Lenin Gani



The match-fixing scandal that has rocked the foundation of cricket has made players apprehensive when approached by the media. Umpires too are not immune.

Srinivasaraghavan Venkataraghavan, is a respected figure in the middle but unfortunately he declines to entertain interviews. The former Indian spinner made it quite

**HIGH SPIRITS**

Maybe Bangladesh's opening match against holders Sri Lanka was deferred by a day, but there is nothing wrong with their enthusiasm. Just before they left for lunch at the Dhaka Club yesterday, the bubbly bunch was busy signing autographs, posing for photographs. Some were even catching up on the day's headlines.

**A LITTLE MORE CARE PLEASE**

Congratulations Bdworld Limited for joining the cyber world! The Dhamondi-based internet company's website

<www.bdcricke.com> went into operation yesterday after nearly a week or so of trials. Unfortunately, some of the articles, taken from various newspapers in the city, are displayed without properly mentioning the authors' name. The write-ups of The Daily Star Sports were also carried without mentioning the credit line. When contacted over cell phone, Fahim Mashroor, CEO of Bdworld, however promised to look into the matter.

**RAIN, RANJIT & A JOKE**

Former Sri Lankan Test cricketer Ranjit Fernando feels Bangladesh have a good a good

**chance to make it to the final. But that can only happen if rain continues to persist!** Ranjit, who is now in the town as member of the TVI commentary team, cracked the joke at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

"If all the Bangladesh matches are washed out, who knows they might play in the final with three points. Because, we have such examples from the past," said Ranjit, who last visited Dhaka as the manager of the Sri Lankan team during the Asian Test Championship final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in March 1999.

**WASTING TIME FOR NOTHING**

A group of intrepid cricket fans turned up at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon braving the heavy morning showers.

The group, who came all along from Mirpur, well equipped with food and water, was seen sitting in front of the gate at the Western Gallery throughout the afternoon with a hope that there would be some play in the end.

"I woke up early in morning to enjoy the game. So it's very difficult for me to return home without seeing the match," said Nazrul, a member of the group, who works in a garments buying house.

"I took the day off for this match. Now I can not take another day of leave. Rain has spoiled everything," said Nazrul.

Another member of the group, Taslim said that BCB should not have arranged the Pepsi Asia Cup in May when it only rains.



Today when a batsman hits a Six... YOU score 24!



When the batsman hits a 6 in today's Bangladesh vs. Sri Lanka match, you get a chance to win one crate of PEPSI! Call the following numbers the moment a 6 is hit and leave your name, address and telephone number: 011 809001, 011 809002, 011 809003, 011 809004, 011 809005, 011 809006, 011 809007, 011 809008, 011 809009, 011 809010.

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