

## 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 Merc V 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 Khastagir

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh  
football team?

Harrison Van Gaal Shahr

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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

## SPORTS TALK



**B C Cooray**

(Sri Lankan cricket umpire)  
"Perhaps may be officiate in  
Bangladesh's first-ever Test  
match at home."

He says in an interview  
when he was asked about his  
last wish before retiring.

### Pallab lifts Amrita Lal chess title

BARISAL, June 4: Shawkat  
Hossain Pallab of Bangladesh  
Ansar emerged unbeaten champion  
in the Amrita Lal Dey Inter-  
national Chess tournament  
here today, reports UNB.

Pallab and Syed Ruhul Kabir  
Shiplu of Titus Club bagged  
seven points each after the last  
round matches, but in the pro-  
gressive score Pallab emerged  
champion and Shiplu finished  
runner-up.

In the last round match, Pal-  
lab drew with Abu Sufian  
Shakil while Shiplu beat Ma-  
sum.

Firoz Ahmed (Uttara),  
Rezaul Haq (Biman), Prodip  
Ghose (Ansar), Abu Sufian  
Shakil (Ansars) and Solaim  
Das (India) bagged 6.5 points  
each to share third to seventh  
position.

Deputy Commissioner of  
Barisal Alhaj Mohammad  
Alauddin distributed prizes  
among the players as the chief  
guest at the closing function.

### Prabhakar's negation

NEW DELHI, June 4: Former  
cricket all-rounder Manoj  
Prabhakar yesterday broke his  
silence on the allegations about  
his involvement in defrauding  
people through cliff fund com-  
panies in Uttar Pradesh, saying  
the was not associated with them, reports PTI.

His reaction comes after the  
UP police was reported to have  
registered four cases against the  
former Test cricketer for cam-  
paigning in Nainital to con-  
vince people to invest their  
money in the Apace Group of  
Companies of which Prabhakar  
is claimed to be one of the direc-  
tors.

"I am neither a co-promoter  
nor on the board of directors of  
any Lucknow-based company,"  
Prabhakar told reporters after  
meeting the CBI officials for  
nearly one-hour.



Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly being escorted out of his hotel by security personnel yesterday. —Star photo

## Singles from the Stadium

Al-Amin



The mentally and physically  
bruised Indian team left Dhaka  
yesterday. The four times  
champions came to a place that  
over the years proved to be a  
happy hunting ground for them.  
But they made a premature exit  
from the Pepsi Asia Cup conced-  
ing a 44-run defeat against their  
arch-rivals Pakistan on Satur-  
day.

Their unexpectedly short  
spell at the tournament  
shocked its strong band of sup-  
porters here. Heartthrob  
Sachin Tendulkar departed the  
scene without captivating the  
audience, a wristy Azhar gave  
an impression that his lumi-  
nous career heads to a point of  
no return and a charismatic  
Ajay Jadeja fought without any  
success.

Only Indian captain Saurav  
Ganguly, who will certainly  
want to forget the worst-ever  
bowling attack he was carrying,  
stayed back in Dhaka for a  
while along with manager  
Samiran Chakraborty. The  
'Prince of Calcutta' will fly  
straight to England where he is  
playing for Lancashire.

### FUNNY FANS

For the last few days, the

Sheraton Hotel remained as the  
centre of attraction for the au-  
tograph hunters, who virtually  
captured every nook and corner  
to get hold of their heroes.

A curious onlooker will find  
it quite interesting to see rest-  
less ladies roaming around the  
health club, splashing the water  
in the swimming pool for long  
or chirping all the time at an  
otherwise serene coffee corner.

The reason was quite obvi-  
ous. They were waiting to have  
a glimpse of Sachin. Akram,  
Saurav, Saeed or Sanath. But  
those icons of Asian cricket  
could not be seen so easily.

"I'm waiting to have a  
glimpse of Sachin for a long  
time", said a 22-year-old fe-  
male, who occupied a table of  
the coffee shop for longer than  
expected.

"Will he not come out for a  
minute even", asked the Sachin  
follower in an emotion-choked  
voice.

### TOUTS SAD

Business was no good for  
them this time. Ticket touts  
dreamed of a huge profit from  
the ongoing cricket carnival but  
it got shattered once the tour-  
nament started after remaining  
under the threat of being  
washed away for nearly a week.  
Unlike the past, the Dhaka au-  
dience was not packed like sar-  
dines, mainly because of the  
'uncricketing' weather and the  
buy-all or leave-it sale policy of

the organisers.

Clouds were seen forming in  
the faces of the blackmar-  
keters throughout the tourney.  
They found no other way but to  
sell tickets at much less price  
than the face value. An 800 taka  
international gallery ticket was  
sold even at 200 while the  
gallery tickets of 125 taka were  
on offer at 60 taka.

"Man, how come the selling  
is so bad? Like yesterday (for  
India-Pakistan match) I am  
also going to lose another three  
thousand bucks tomorrow (for  
Pakistan-Lanka match)," said a  
grim-faced Mohsin with ten  
tickets in his hand. His pal in  
the same trade echoed the same  
words of frustration.

### DALMIYA IN DHAKA

The President of the Interna-  
tional Cricket Council (ICC)  
Jagmohan Dalmiya arrived in  
Dhaka yesterday. He will chair  
a meeting on the proposed  
Asian Cricket Foundation  
(ACF) at a local hotel today.

The meeting, originally  
scheduled for yesterday, has  
been deferred due to the late ar-  
rival of the ICC chief.

Meanwhile, the chairman of  
the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)  
Lt. General Tauqir Zia, who is  
also the president of the Pak-  
istan Cricket Board (PCB), and  
Abdur Rahman Bukhatir, the  
pioneer promoter of cricket in  
Sharjah, are already in the city.

## Manoj gives tapes to CBI



NEW DELHI, June 4: Manoj  
Prabhakar Saturday gave federal  
investigators video  
recordings of wh-

at he said were interviews with  
cricket officials, players and  
politicians to back his claim  
that match-fixing and betting  
existed in the country's most  
popular sport, reports AP.

Prabhakar, who has accused  
several of his cricket colleagues  
of taking bribes to underper-  
form, met with officials of the  
Central Bureau of Investigation  
and handed them eight to 10  
cassettes, the United News of  
India reported.

"I have given the tapes to the  
CBI," Prabhakar told reporters,  
according to UNI. "It is for them  
to see it themselves."

Prabhakar stunned Indian  
cricket last month by alleging  
that cricket icon Kapil Dev had  
offered him a 57,340 dollar  
bribe to underplay against  
Pakistan in a 1994 match.

Kapil is now the coach of the  
Indian team.

Prabhakar later showed re-  
porters what he said was a se-

cretely filmed videotape in  
which former cricketers and  
officials named Indian players  
allegedly involved in match-  
fixing.

The cassettes handed to the  
CBI were the unedited version of  
the interview shown to re-  
porters last month. Prabhakar  
said UNI reported.

Prabhakar said he had made  
the tape with a hidden camera  
without the knowledge of the  
participants. Players and for-  
mer players on the tapes in-  
cluded Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi  
Shastri, Navjot Singh Sidhu,

Ajit Wadekar, Sandeep Patil,  
Bishen Singh Bedi, Nayan  
Mongia and Prashant Vaidya.

The cricket officials in the  
recordings include Interna-  
tional Cricket Council presi-  
dent Jagmohan Dalmiya, and  
ACC Muthiah and Jaywant Lele,  
the president and secretary,  
respectively, of the Board of Con-  
trol for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The names that came up in  
conversations on the tapes are  
those suspected of match-fix-  
ing: Kapil Dev, Mohammad  
Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja and  
former cricketer Ajay Sharma.

Prabhakar has already  
given the CBI a sworn statement  
on his allegations. Details of  
his talks with investigators  
were not known.

Meanwhile, PTI adds:  
Sharma, who is currently play-  
ing in England yesterday  
termed as false all allegations  
about his involvement in the  
sensational match-fixing case  
and said he was ready to dis-  
close all his assets.

"All the allegations levelled  
against me are false. I am ready  
to disclose my assets," Sharma  
told Star TV over telephone.

Sharma, however, said he  
was not in a position to return  
to India at present because of  
contractual obligations in  
England, where he is playing  
minor county cricket.

CBI has so far examined  
seven persons including former  
BCCI chief S Bindra and Delhi  
District Cricket Association's  
sports secretary Sunil Dev,  
former Indian cricket team  
manager Wadekar and crick-  
eter-turned commentator Sidhu  
and scores of bookies in Mum-  
bat, the sources said.



NOTHING LEFT TO DO: Nayan Mongia (L), the Indian wicketkeeper, waiting for the elevator along with teammate Robin Singh in the lobby of their hotel yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

### NSC honours Asia Cuppers



National Sports Council  
(NSC) hosted a reception for  
the participants in the four-nation  
seventh Pepsi Asia Cup cricket  
tournament at a city hotel yes-  
terday, reports BSS.

All players from  
Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri  
Lanka and India skipper  
Saurav Ganguly and team man-  
ager attended the reception.

NSC president and State  
Minister for Youth and Sports  
Obaidul Quader, State Minister  
for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan  
Chowdhury, State Minister for  
Information Prof Abu Saeed,  
International Cricket Council  
(ICC) president Jagmohan  
Dalmiya, president of  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)  
Saber Hossain Chowdhury and  
PCB and ACC chairman Lieut-  
enant General Tauqir Zia at-  
tended the function.

The NSC chief presented the  
team managers with crests  
while BCB president handed  
over crests the skippers of the  
participating nations.

### Again Brian out for one

WORCESTER, England, June  
4: Brian Lara's dismal form on  
his return to cricket from a self-  
imposed exile continued today  
when he was out for one in West  
Indies' second innings in the  
match against Worcestershire,  
reports Reuters.

Lara faced just two balls be-  
fore being caught by wicket-  
keeper Steven Rhodes off Stuart  
Lampitt to leave the touring  
team on 89 for four, just 21  
ahead.

The Trinidadian left-hander  
was also dismissed for one,  
scored off four balls, in his first  
innings of the tour on Friday.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul  
was unbeaten on 65 out of 132  
for four at lunch on the final  
day of the three-day match.

Earlier on Saturday, West  
Indies lost openers Sherwin  
Campbell and Adrian Griffith  
cheaply at the start of their sec-  
ond innings still 23 runs be-  
hind on the first innings.

The pair, who scored five  
and 13 respectively, fell to fast  
bowler Duncan Catterall before  
bad light stopped play.

The touring side kept Lara  
out of the firing line until today  
and at the close were 45 for two  
with Chris Gayle and Chander-  
paul at the crease.

The West Indies, playing  
their first match of a five-Test  
England tour, failed to dislodge  
an obstinate Worcestershire  
side despite taking the first  
three wickets for 24 on a pitch  
offering plenty of movement.

Vikram Solanki scored 51,  
including eight fours, and Ryan  
Driver 47.

With Curtly Ambrose and  
Courtney Walsh resting in  
preparation for the first Test  
starting on June 15, Franklin  
Rose took four for 63 and Corey  
Collymore three for 59.

### Videos needed authentication

HYDERABAD, June 4: Union  
Information and Broadcasting  
Minister Arun Jaitley refused  
to comment on the 'usefulness'  
of the recorded video tapes sup-  
plied by former cricketer  
Manoj Prabhakar in the on-  
going match-fixing controversy,  
reports PTI.

Newly appointed chairman  
of Bar Council of India (BCI) DV  
Subba Rao, however, said, au-  
thenticity of the tapes should  
first be established to consider  
the material as evidence.

Jaitley and Rao were speak-  
ing to reporters here today after  
a function where the union  
minister facilitated the latter  
on being nominated chairman  
of BCI.

Refusing to answer any ques-  
tions on the match-fixing con-  
troversy, Jaitley said, "I have  
nothing to say on the scandal.  
An investigation is on and it's  
up to them."

Subba Rao, who is also asso-  
ciated with Andhra Cricket As-  
sociation and was manager of  
Indian team touring West In-  
dies recently, said, "Normally  
recorded versions do not stand  
legal scrutiny. Since this is a  
video tape, first its authenticity  
should be established."

"It should be first estab-  
lished that the tapes were gen-  
uine and not doctored in order  
to become evidence material,"  
he added.

### Crawford runs career best

DURHAM, North Carolina,  
June 4: Shawn Crawford, whose  
dream is to make the American  
Olympic team next month, ran  
a lifetime best 20.09 seconds to  
win the men's 200 metres at the  
US collegiate championships  
on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Crawford, a student at Clems-  
on University, led the entire  
race in upsetting fellow Ameri-  
can Coby Miller, who competes  
for Auburn University. Miller  
finished in 20.12 seconds.



MOIN JUNIORS: Pakistan captain Moin Khan at the lobby of Hotel Sheraton yesterday with his two children. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Sunil not out of probe?



MUMBAI, Jun 4  
(Internet report):  
An Indian news-  
paper says that  
police in Mumbai  
are probing sus-  
pected undisclosed assets of  
Sunil Gavaskar's wife,  
Marshnee, following claims by  
a high-ranking police official  
that match-fixing in India be-  
gan during the legendary open-  
er's time as skipper.

"Things started when  
Gavaskar was the captain. The  
system was well developed  
when Kapil Dev became the cap-  
tain and peaked during  
Azharuddin's time," Rajesh  
Maria, a former head of Mum-  
bai's crime bureau, told the pa-  
per.

Gavaskar, who retired in  
1987 as the most prolific bats-  
man in Test history with 10,122  
runs and 34 centuries, was In-  
dia's captain in several separate  
spells between 1978 and 1986.

The official was speaking  
during a secretly-taped conver-  
sation with a journalist work-  
ing with Manoj Prabhakar, the  
former India all-rounder who  
recently claimed that Kapil  
once offered him money to play  
badly, a charge Kapil denies.

Gavaskar, who represents  
India on various International  
Cricket Council committees, is

believed to be among 10 Indian  
players whose financial affairs  
are being scrutinised by India's  
Central Bureau of Investiga-  
tion.

He was further embarrassed,  
claims the Sunday Times, when  
the Bombay Gymkhana club, of  
which he is a member and  
where he regularly plays bad-  
minton, was recently renovated

and lockers pulled down. Inside  
his locker was approximately  
400,000 rupees (about \$6,000).  
His wife insisted it was "only  
80,000 rupees or maximum  
125,000" and was kept there as  
their house was under repair.

"He practically lives out of the  
club," she added.

Sarfraz Nawaz, the former  
Pakistan fast bowler, was the  
first to bring Gavaskar's name  
into the controversy when he  
claimed in a television inter-  
view that Gavaskar had been  
involved with bookmaker Raj  
Bagri, once the most prominent  
figure in India's large and un-  
regulated betting industry, and  
linked to a former Pakistan  
captain. Gavaskar denied the charge.

"There may be an odd rotten  
apple in the pack, but others are  
clean and they deserve the cloud  
of suspicion be taken out over  
their heads," Gavaskar told  
Star Sports on Sunday in an in-  
terview in Dhaka, the venue of  
the four-nation Asia C up tour-  
nament.

Gavaskar hoped greater good  
and common sense will prevail  
in all this, but said if there was  
any suspicion, if somebody has  
said something, "media has to  
be the best judge and should not  
get carried away by their own  
likes and dislikes."

SUNIL GAVASKAR

## Lara's call for patience



LONDON, June 4:  
Brian Lara says  
his best as a  
batsman is yet to  
come following a  
self-imposed five-month exile  
from the game, reports AP.

Lara arrived in England last  
week with the rest of the West  
Indies squad for a five-Test se-  
ries against the home side and a  
three-way, one-day series also  
involving Zimbabwe.

The world-record holder for  
highest individual innings in  
both Test and first-class  
cricket, the gifted left hander  
quit as West Indies skipper after  
a disastrous tour of New  
Zealand in February.

Since then the 31-year has  
seen a psychologist after sitting  
out of the twin homes series  
against Zimbabwe and Pak-  
istan.

Lara's return is expected to  
strengthen the fragile and in-  
experienced West Indies batting  
over the summer.

"I have set my heart not just  
on matching the standards I  
have reached so far but on sur-  
passing them," Lara in The  
Mail on Sunday.

"I genuinely feel I have it in  
me to make the second half of  
my international career even  
better than the first. If I did not  
believe that, I wouldn't be in  
England with the West Indies."

Lara justified his time away.  
"Not a moment of my break

has been wasted. On a personal  
level, I've spent meaningful  
time with my family and my  
three-year-old daughter, Syd-  
ney," Lara added.

with any problems that may  
come my way."

"Now I am starting out  
again," he went on. "There are  
danger signs I will be looking  
out for and I have a plan to cope  
should they appear again."

Skipper Jimmy Adams has  
made it his duty to welcome  
Lara back and the former  
Warwickshire batsman ac-  
knowledge it.

"The welcome I have been  
given by my teammates has  
also helped enormously," Lara  
said. "They have reinforced my  
desire to be part of their future.  
The response I received from  
everyone — the board, the play-  
ers and Jimmy Adams, my suc-  
cessor as captain — was wholly  
supportive."

Lara, who contemplated giv-  
ing up cricket and play trying  
professional golf during his  
time away, said playing for  
West Indies was special.

BRIAN LARA

"The many hours I spent on  
the golf course helped me to re-  
lax and kept my mind alert and  
competitive. My session with a  
New Jersey psychologist were  
extremely beneficial, too. I  
didn't just want to resume  
cricket in the same frame of  
mind I was in when I quit the  
captaincy."

"I wanted my edge back. I  
now feel better equipped to deal

### Sher-e-Bangla Cup Final round begins today

The 12-team final round of  
the 21st Sher-e-Bangla Cup Na-  
tional Football Championship  
begins today at the Noakhali  
Shaheed Bhulu Stadium, re-  
ports UNB.

On the opening day, Tangail  
will take on Bangladesh Army  
at 2 pm while Comilla will play  
hosts Noakhali at 4 pm.

Food Minister Amir Hossain  
Amu is expected to be the chief  
guest in the inaugural function  
while BFF General Secretary  
Harun-ur Rashid, MP, will be  
the special guest.

On Wednesday, Narsingdi  
will encounter Pabna at 2 pm  
while Jessore will face Bhola at  
4 pm.

The participating teams are:  
Group A: Tangail, Rajshahi  
and Bangladesh Army.

Group B: Comilla, Khulna  
and Noakhali.

Group C: Narsingdi, Chit-  
tagong and Pabna.

Group D: Jessore, Bhola and  
Dhaka University.

The group champions will  
play the semifinals on June 13  
and 14 while the final match  
will be held on June 16, all at 3  
pm.

### No cellphones in SA dressing room

JOHANNESBURG, June 4:  
Mobile phones have been  
banned from the South African  
team's dressing room. United  
Cricket Board (UCB) managing  
director Al Bacher confirmed  
today, reports Reuters.

The Johannesburg Sunday  
Times reported that Bacher had  
urged the move as part of an ef-  
fort to assure the public that  
members of the South African  
cricket team are 'above board.'

Hansie Cronje, sacked as  
South Africa captain after ad-  
mitting taking money from  
bookmakers, allegedly com-  
municated with bookies via a  
mobile phone given to him for  
that purpose.

—Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Sunil not out of probe?

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