

Star Sport

DHAKA, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Kevin Keegan

(England soccer coach)
"I've got no doubts that my squad is as strong as that available to any England manager, including Sir Alf Ramsey. After all, no-one thought the squad was that strong in 1966!"

On the strength of his Euro 2000 squad.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID Competition-131
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
June 15, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?
Hingis Pierce Williams
2 Who won the European Champions League?
United Real Madrid Lazio
3 Who won the UEFA Cup?
Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina
4 Who lifted national schools cricket title?
St Joseph Msingh Zila Ctg Khastagar
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

NOTICE
Due to some technicalities draw of the WHIZZ KID-131 could not be held last night. It will now take place on June 16.
— Sport Editor

WI win but at a price

CARDIFF, June 9: The West Indies pulled off a remarkable 20 run win over Glamorgan here on Thursday but the good news was tempered by the revelation that in-form batsman Wavell Hinds is a doubtful starter for next week's first Test with England, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old Jamaican, who scored a sparkling century in the first innings and only recently scored his maiden Test century in the series with Pakistan, suffered a nasty bang on his left ankle as Glamorgan were dismissed for 113, with Nixon McLean taking five wickets, chasing a victory target of 134.

ATTENTION SOCCER BUFFS

As you have already noticed, Daily Star Sport has started its extensive coverage of the European Football Championship 2000. The tournament, popularly known as Euro 2000, is the world's second biggest football competition after the World Cup.

As part of our coverage, we have started publishing group-by-group detailed analysis of the teams, players, managers and other interesting aspects.

Yesterday we focused on Group B as teams from this section play on the opening day today. We are highlighting Group D today as two sides of this group will be in action the day after (June 11). Accordingly we will publish Groups A and C tomorrow and June 12 respectively.

We are also suggesting you to follow the Star Sport pages for all the spills and thrills of this mega event.

— Sports Editor

ACC under-15 cricket tourney

Bangladesh-India opener

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take on India in their Asian Cricket Council (ACC) under-15 tournament opener at the Royal Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 1, according to a fixture sent by Malaysia Cricket Association yesterday.

The seven-nation inaugural meet involving Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia, will begin on June 30.

Teams will face each other on late Baduizaman will be held at the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) library at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 11 am.

The Sports Editor of Daily Ittefaq, Baduizaman was also a life member and former president of BSWA.

Bangladesh will face Hong Kong on the following day while Thailand in July 6. The last match against the hosts will be held on July 8.

On the strength of his Euro 2000 squad.

Remembrance meeting

Sports Reporter

A remembrance meeting on late Baduizaman will be held at the Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association (BSWA) library at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 11 am.

The Sports Editor of Daily Ittefaq, Baduizaman was also a life member and former president of BSWA.

Members' sportswriters and sports organisers have been requested by BSWA to be present at the meeting.

It will be followed by a mi-

member Alam Chowdhury, who is the manager of the team, said they would short-list them to 20 by June 15.

He revealed that the team, which will include 14 cricketers and two officials, is likely to fly to Kuala Lumpur on June 27.

Apart from this tournament, Bangladesh will also take part in the inaugural under-17 Asian Championship which will start in Karachi from July 15.

The camp is also at the BUET ground with former national cricketer Golam Faruque Suru supervising as coach.

SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Venue
July 1	Bangladesh v India	RSC
July 2	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	STC
July 4	Bangladesh v Pakistan	Kilat Club
July 5	Bangladesh v Hong Kong	Club Aman
July 6	Bangladesh v Thailand	Club Aman
July 9	Final	Club Aman

Chittagong defeat Pabna

Sports Reporter

Chittagong got off to a good start in the final round of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship with a 3-2 win over Pabna at the Maledi Stadium in Noakhali yesterday.

The winner led the first half 2-1.

Ace forward Farhad, Surajit Das and Yousuf scored one goal apiece for the Chittagongians while Rabiu reduced the margin twice for Pabna.

With yesterday's win, Chittagong have almost confirmed their semifinal berth from Group C having raised their tally to three points. They will need a draw from the last group match against Narsingdi who were held 4-4 with Pabna in their first match. A win for Narsingdi will also ensure their passage into the last four.

On the other hand, the defeat put Pabna out of the championship.

A total of 12 teams, split into four groups for the robin league, are taking part in the final round. Top teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

The day's other match between holders Dhaka University and Bholia was washed out.

The Group D clash has been rescheduled this morning.

Euro 2000 on Ekushey TV

Sports Reporter

Ekushey Television (ETV) will show 14 matches of the European Championship 2000. The opening game between Belgium and Sweden will be available on DD National from 12.45am (BST) on Sunday.

Both players have won just the one Grand Slam singles title to date, Pierce capturing the Australian Open in 1995 and Martinez winning Wimbledon in 1994.

Pierce will have the crowd behind her as they have rallied to support a player who has infuriated them with her inconsistency in the past.

The Frenchwoman also leads their head-to-head series 9-6.

Martinez revealed after ousting Sanchez-Vicario that she had dreamed of lifting the trophy here.

She now has to make sure that nerves do not get the better of her because the hopes of a nation could weigh very heavily upon the shoulders of the 25-year-old Canadian-born blonde.

The host nation has been waiting for a female champion here for 33 years, since Francoise Durt triumphed over Lesley Turner of Australia in the 1967 final.

Pierce hoped to end the drought when she made the final six years ago -- but she bowed to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets.

On Saturday, she intends to put another Spaniard firmly in her place -- unless 28-year-old Martinez, finally through to a final here after three consecutive losing semis from 1994, can make her choke again.

It's exciting to be in the final again and I'm really happy. Conchita is playing really well lately and it's gonna be a tough match. Every Grand Slam is special but this one is different," said Pierce.

Facing Hingis appeared to

have put the Frenchwoman off her food as she only took breakfast and no lunch before their clash, leaving her mineral levels dangerously low afterwards and necessitating a visit to the doctor following severe cramps.

Thursday was not the first time Pierce had been ill after a match as the Montreal-born star had similar problems at the Australian Open in January.

Pierce, who puts her success here down to her rediscovery of God and Catholicism, has had an up-and-down career, though her religion and her closeness to her brother and coach David have settled her down recently.

When she first reached the final here aged just 19 she was still beset by family problems owing to a well-publicised and awkward relationship with her father.

Her religious convictions have been cemented by her rela-

last year, she insisted she took creative very infrequently.

She now intends to let tennis and tennis alone do the talking for her.

Martinez has also had her low moments - and is, like Pierce, surfing a new wave - in her case aided by work with psychologist Guillermo Perez.

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Mary Pierce of France celebrates after beating Martina Hingis of Switzerland in the semifinal match of the French Open on June 8.

— AFP photo

"I dreamt I won Roland Garros. But I can't remember who my rival was in the final," she smiled.

Martinez says working on her mental preparation had made her a new player.

"Sometimes it's very difficult when you play 13 years on the circuit to have the same level of desire. Right now I'm just having fun."

"I'm playing great tennis. I'm really focused. Even if I lose the final I'll have still had a great tournament."

Hingis ended a seven-match losing streak against Sanchez-Vicario. Martinez must now set the form book again as she has a dismal record against Pierce, who has won eight out of their last 10 meetings.

National coach Kapil Dev, a key figure in the ongoing probe, wanted India not to play international matches till the investigations were over.

The cricket board, however, overruled his suggestion and sent the team to the recent Asia Cup in Bangladesh where it failed to qualify for the final.

Lele said India will play in the annual Sahara Cup one-day series against Pakistan in Toronto in September, pending clearance from the government.

The CBI inquiry will dominate the off-season with senior cricketers like Kapil Dev, Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja expected to testify.

There will, however, be no respite for the cricketers once the new season starts.

ROAD TO THE FINAL

CONCHITA MARTINEZ

1st rd: Alina Jidkova, 6-2, 6-3
2nd rd: Cara Black, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4
3rd rd: Silvia Farina, 6-1, 6-0
4th rd: Ai Sugiyama, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4

Quarterfinals: Marta Marrero, 7-6, 6-1

Semifinals: Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, 6-1, 6-2

Sets won: 12 of 14

Games won: 83 of 120

Tiebreakers: 1-0

MARY PIERCE

1st rd: Tara Snyder, 6-3, 6-1

2nd rd: Barbara Rittner, 6-1, 6-1

3rd rd: Virginie Razzano, 6-4, 6-0

4th rd: Asa Carlsson, 6-2, 6-1

Quarterfinals: Monica Seles, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4

Semifinals: Martina Hingis, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2

Sets won: 12 of 14

Games won: 81 of 120

Tiebreakers: 0-0

Swedish squad members

Roland Nilsson (C), Magnus Hedman (2nd from L) and Jorgen

Pettersson boarding the team bus on their way to the training ground from their hotel in Oisterwijk yesterday. Sweden take on co-hosts Belgium in the opening match of the Euro 2000 at Brussels today.