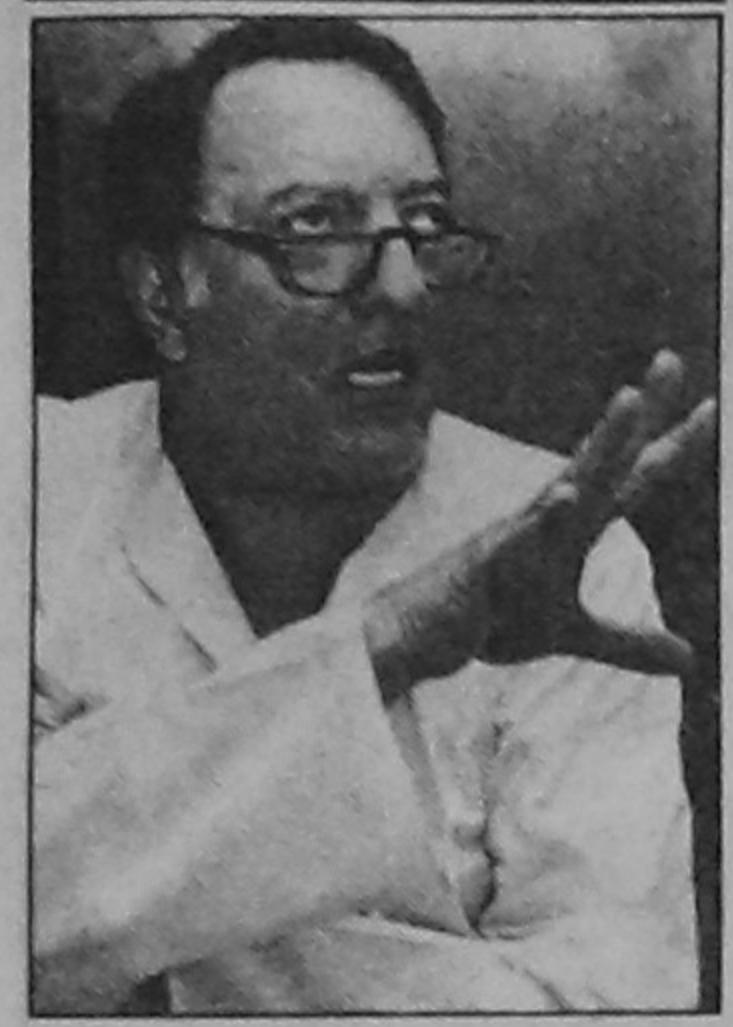


# Star Sport

DHAKA, SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi**

(Former Indian cricket captain)

"I don't think it is necessary to be formally educated at all. But it helps if you read about the game or go through old books and read about other people's experiences."

His vision about the role of education in making of a good captain.

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID Competition-131

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

Competition closes at 8 pm June 16, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?	Hingis	Pierce	V Williams
2	Who won the European Champions' League?	M United	Real Madrid	Lado
3	Who won the UEFA Cup?	Vakaderi	Galatasaray	Flamengo
4	Who lifted national schools cricket title?	S Joseph	M Singh Zila	Cig Khasgari
5	Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?	Harrison	Van Gaal	Shakir

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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### Is it true, Warne?

LONDON, June 10: A 22-year-old nurse said she received 'Obscene' telephone calls from Australian cricket player Shane Warne after she said she spurned his advances in a Leicester nightclub. The Mirror reported Saturday, says AP.

In a front-page story, the tabloid newspaper said nurse Donna Wright met Warne on a night out and didn't know who he was.

"I had no idea who he was," she said. "I'm not a cricket fan and I had never heard of him. He was really unattractive. He was podgy and very tanned. He had dyed blonde hair and I could see the roots. He seemed to permanently have a cigarette hanging out of his mouth."

Wright said she left the club but when she got home she found Warne had slipped his hotel key into her pocket accompanied by his mobile telephone number.

She said she sent a text message to him asking what she should do with his key.

"That was the worst mistake I ever made," she said.

She said Warne, who is married, began to leave sexually explicit messages on her telephone.

"He was very forceful," she said. "He was very direct, it was as though I would just do whatever he wanted. He was the Mr. Big and assumed I would jump at the mere mention of his name ... It seemed weird and a bit desperate."

The newspaper said it confronted Warne about the calls when his Hampshire team arrived a few days ago in Liverpool to play Lancashire.

"I don't want to talk about this now," the newspaper reported the 30-year-old Australian saying. "I'm doing my job. I'll talk to you after the match, mate."

When confronted afterward he answered, "No, no, no" and drove off.

## Cronje offered immunity



CAPE TOWN, June 10 (AFP): Disgraced former South African captain Hansie Cronje has been offered immunity from criminal prosecution in South Africa if he makes a full disclosure about his role in cricket match-fixing.

Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams, who confessed to accepting offers of 15,000 dollars each from Cronje to under-perform in a one-day international in Nagpur, India, on March 19, were also offered immunity before their testimony.

The offer from the South African government will not affect any action the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) might take against Cronje, who has been the subject of damaging disclosures on the first three days of the King Commission in Cape Town, and the other two players.

Siphi Ngwema, spokesman for the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions, on Saturday said the gesture was aimed at ending corruption in South African cricket as soon as possible.

"We want to make sure that each person who participated in match-fixing is exposed," Ngwema said.

He said it was hoped that the offer to Cronje, Gibbs and Williams would result in other people possibly involved, but who have not been called by the inquiry, being summonsed before the commission.

The condition is that Judge Edwin King must be happy that the testimonies (of the three) were frank and honest and that they participated with the commission fully," he said.

Ngwema said if other individuals came forward with information, their cases would be dealt with individually.

Gibbs and Williams shocked the cricket world when they revealed at the King Commission this week that Cronje had offered them 15,000 dollars each to under-perform in the last one-day international against India in March.

They both accepted the offer, but neither received any money. Gibbs claimed he forgot about the deal and went on to score 74 runs instead of the maximum of

20, while Williams left the field injured before being able to

concede 50 runs from his 10 overs.

Cronje's legal advisers were considering the offer Saturday. Cronje's lawyer, John Dicker, refused to comment.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the UCB, said the players would still face action from the board if they have contravened the codes of conduct of the UCB and the International Cricket Council.

Gibbs was dropped Friday from the South African team which tours Sri Lanka and Australia in July and August.

There is no indication yet when Cronje, who was sacked in April after admitting he took up to 15,000 dollars from a bookmaker for forecasting and predicting matches, will testify.

## Mehrab to go to Spore Monday



Sports Reporter

National opener Mehrab Hossain is likely to leave for Singapore on Monday to undergo knee surgery.

The talented right-hander, carrying meniscus injury on his right knee, however needed a helping hand from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for a second operation abroad.

He had earlier gone through a successful operation by Professor Ruhul Haque, who advised him to go either India or Singapore for further treatment.

It was learnt that Mehrab, who got injured while playing for Abahani in a Premier League match against Mohammadpur two months back, would require about Taka five lakh.

Although the BCB is yet to respond to Mehrab's plea for a financial support, general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq said that they would definitely come forward to help the national president.

Meanwhile, the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB), in a press release, urged the BCB to provide the air fare for Mehrab. Besides, the CWAB has appealed to the public to make their donations at two branches of Inter Sports in the city.

They are Elephant Road Branch and Stadium Branch. The phone numbers are 9665783, 8618392.



MEHRAB HOSSAIN



RARING TO GO: Dutch team members practise at Hoenderloo on June 9 ahead of their opening Euro 2000 fixture against Czech Republic which is today. —AFP photo

## France-Denmark tops the bill



final of France '98.

In Fabien Barthez they have a goalkeeper many regard as the best in the world while Lilian Thuram, Marcel Desailly, Bixente Lizarazu and Laurent Blanc make up a highly experienced and formidable rear-guard.

Zinedine Zidane, one of the greatest players of his generation, will be the creative fulcrum in a midfield alongside three from Emmanuel Petit, Didier Deschamps, Djorkaeff, Patrick Vieira and Robert Pires.

### HOLLAND'S FIRST TEST

Co-hosts Holland face their first real test since the World Cup at the Amsterdam ArenA tomorrow in their opening clash against 1996 runners-up the Czech Republic.

Denmark are considered the weakest team in the so-called 'group of death' which also includes co-hosts and pre-tournament favourites Holland and 1996 finalists the Czech Republic, currently ranked number two in the world behind Brazil.

A Danish victory would be a major upset against a French side which rivals the Michel Platini-inspired team of the 1980s as the greatest in the country's history.

"Our biggest problem is that we are clear favourites," says midfielder Youri Djorkaeff. "After winning the World Cup everyone wants to beat us. It is an extra motivation for all our opponents."

It is hard to see a weakness in the French line-up which is likely to feature eight of the players that powered Les Bleus to a 3-0 win over Brazil in the

final of France '98.

Frank Rijkaard, one of the classiest players in the world in the late 80s and early 90s, has his reputation on the line as a coach. Since taking over from Guus Hiddink, he only had one win in 12 matches up to the end of last year, though a victory over Germany in late February restored morale.

ITALY VS TURKEY

Italy kick off their campaign in Arnhem, also in the Netherlands, on Sunday against Turkey — and if the form book is anything to go by the Azzurri may have to wait another four years for the chance to get their hands on the trophy they last won back in 1968.

Since coach Dino Zoff took over as coach, the Italians have failed to live up to the expectations of their demanding public and the media have showed little restraint in their hostility towards their illustrious manager — the 1982 World Cup winning captain.

"Poor Zoff, poor Italy," wrote the daily sports newspaper Gazetta dello Sport, after another lack-lustre display on their way to the finals had failed to inspire a nation where

interest is in short supply.

Italy were twice held by minnows Belarus in reaching the tournament and in their second encounter against Denmark — a game in which all they required was a point to guarantee automatic qualification — they gave away a two goal lead to lose 3-2 at home to Denmark.

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup Wins for DU, Khulna



PARIS, June 10: Holders Dhaka University (DU) defeated Bhaba 2-1 in the final round of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship at the Shaheed Bhuiyan Stadium in Noakhali yesterday, reports UNB.

Moni put DU ahead two minutes after the kick-off while national striker Mizanur Rahman Dawn doubled the margin in the 18th minute.

Asad struck the consolation goal for Bhaba.

In another match, Khulna beat Comilla by a solitary goal at the same venue. After the barren first half, Babuzaman scored the all-important goal in the 13th minute of the second half.

The day's other match between Tangail and Rajshahi was postponed due to rain and rescheduled for today.

## Nat'l age-group swimming June 22

Sports Reporter

The 13th national age-group swimming championship under the aegis of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) will begin on June 22.

About 400 natants from across the country are expected to take part in the three-day meet, to be held at Banani Swimming Pool of Bangladesh Navy.

Meanwhile, the BSF has asked all the participating teams to report and undergo a medical test at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex on June 20 at 4 pm.

This time she made no mistake.

"I can't explain how I feel. It's just incredible. I'll never forget this," gasped Pierce, who raised both her arms to the air in triumph after sealing the title. She buried her head in her towel then rose, crossed herself and saluted the crowd.

"I'll never, ever forget this day. It's fabulous. I'm lost for words. This was a dream today. It's truly incredible."

"It was a really difficult match for me today, especially in the second set, which was very close."

Martinez, in contrast, was distraught after failing to add to her 1994 Wimbledon title.

Thereafter she folded in the teeth of an onslaught as Pierce put away almost every ball, taking the vast majority easily.

Pierce broke to love for 2-1 and 28-year-old Martinez then netted a forehand to gift her opponent a second break for 4-1 before Pierce held to complete a five-game streak.

## Pierce breaks French jinx

ing come here on the back of a German Open title -- her 32nd singles triumph.

A super-confident Pierce dominated the opening set, during which she managed two breaks and lost just three second set lead.

But the French player soon got back to 2-2 and clicked right back into her early form before breaking for 3-2 as she opened her shoulders and began finding the set lead.

Martinez, who picked up a warning for coaching, broke to serve and held her nerve to seal the win on her third match point in 1hr 52min and give France a seventh women's triumph.

There were emotional scenes among the 15,000 crowd as she lifted the trophy.

Saturday's win was Pierce's 10th over Martinez in 16 meetings and her ninth in the past 11.

Pierce would have been glad to win in two sets after ending up on a drip after ousting top-seeded Martina Hingis in a marathon semi-final on Thursday.

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.

Martinez, in contrast, showed signs of nerves from early on and had difficulty holding serve to take the opening game.

Thereafter she folded in the teeth of an onslaught as Pierce put away almost every ball, taking the vast majority easily.

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Norman has spent the past few months sitting atop the ATP Champions Race -- yet critics have queued up ever since to tell him he's really not in the same league as Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras and co.

The moment of truth will come when the Swedes step out onto Centre Court looking to mow down mop-haired Brazilian Kuerden in his first ever Grand Slam final.

Third-seeded Norman has dominated his opponents to date, dropping just one set when Russian 12th seed Marat Safin pushed him to four sets in the quarterfinals.

But he will come up against an opponent who never says die.

That's because fifth seed Kuerden has managed to come back from the brink in both of his last encounters.

He was on the ropes against Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarterfinals, trailing the Russian by two sets to one, 4-2 and 40-15 before starting his comeback.

Kuerden staged a similar escape act here three years ago against the same player in the same round on his way to winning what