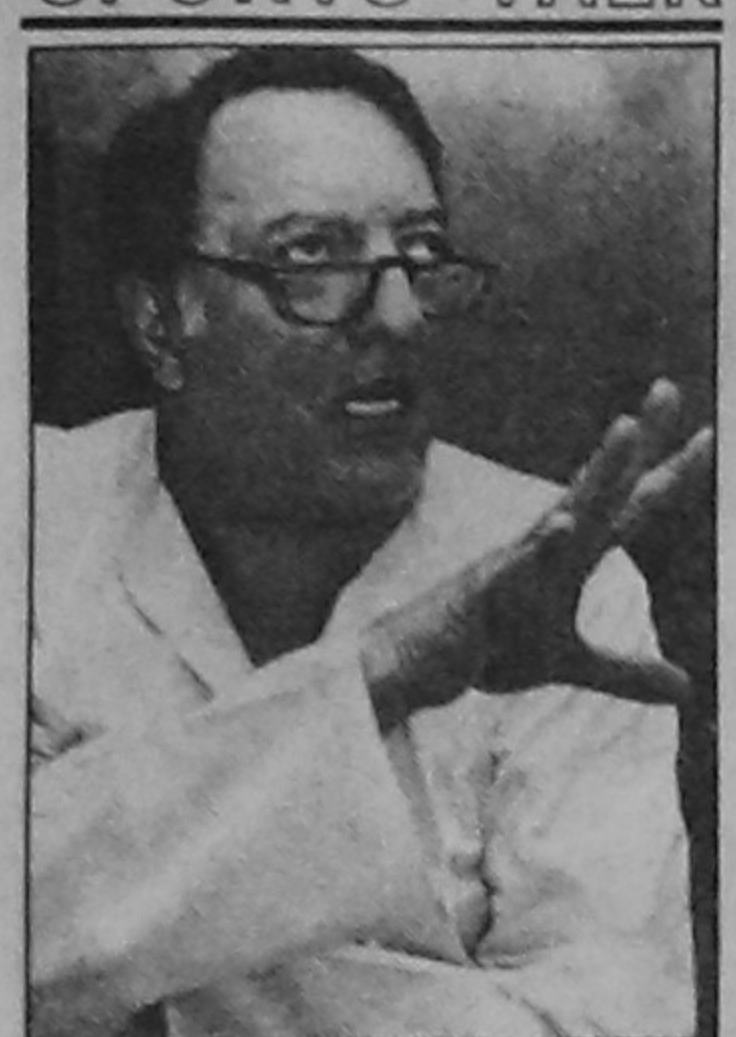


## Column One

### 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.

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### Competition-131

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June 16, 2000 and draw  
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- Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?  
Hings Pierce Williams
- Who won the European Champions League?  
M United Real Madrid Lazio
- Who won the UEFA Cup?  
Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina
- Who lifted national schools cricket title?  
St Joseph Misingh Zila Cig Khastagir
- Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?  
Harrison Van Gaal Shakir

Name .....

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

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 pudgy and very tanned. He had dyed blond 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. "I 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.

Sipho Ngwenia, 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," Ngwenia 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.

Ngwenia 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



HANSIE CRONJE

concede 50 runs from his 10 overs.

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

Alli 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 S'pore Monday

Sports Reporter

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

The talented right-hander, carrying a 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 Mohammedan 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 Ashraf Hossain said that they would definitely come forward to help the national player.

"We will definitely help him. It is our duty to help any cricketer," said Ashraf adding that he was waiting for a response from president Saber Hossain Chowdhury. Mehrab's letter was only intended for the BCB president.



MEHRAB HOSSAIN

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 8665783, 8618392.



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



UNDATED, June 10: A heavy burden of expectation rests on world champions France as they prepare for their opening Group D game at Bruges in Belgium on Sunday against an injury-ravaged Denmark side who no one expects to reach the quarterfinals, reports AFP.

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 Yorri 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.

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.

Team talks, training sessions, physio care of the players and all the other means of preparation will be behind them and only their performance over 90 minutes will count.

The relaxed nature of the Dutch training sessions at Hoenderloo to the north of Arnhem will surely have hidden some anxiousness about their first competitive match since losing to Brazil in the semifinals at France '98.

The cauldron of the 52,000-seater Amsterdam Arena could create yet more butterflies in the stomach of many former Ajax players who have moved to some of the greatest clubs in the world.

Frank Rijkaard, one of the classiest players in the world in the late 80's and early 90's, 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 at 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 Gazzetta dello Sport, after another lack-lustre display on their way to the finals had failed to inspire a nation where patience 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

Holders Dhaka University (DU) defeated Bhola 2-1 in the final round of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship at the Shaheed Bhulu 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.

Azad struck the consolation goal for Bhola.

In another match, Khulna beat Comilla by a solitary goal at the same venue. After the barren first half, Babuzzaman 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.

## Div II kabadi

Maniknagar Unnayan Samity and Suruzzaman Smriti Sanad won their respective matches in the Metropolis Second Division Kabadi League at the Outer Stadium Kabadi ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Maniknagar earned a 47-0 victory over Dhalpur Kirira Chakra with three creditable lonas.

In the other match, Suruzzaman Smriti recorded a massive 113-23 points win over Sat Rawja Club. The winners earned 10 lonas.

## Brian gets his bearings

LONDON, June 10: Brian Lara finally rediscovered his form in the tranquil surrounds of Arundel, as he blasted his way to a half-century today, scoring at a run and ball.

Nearly all his runs came in boundaries as he thrashed eight fours and two sixes to go to 58 off 56 balls in a three-day match against Zimbabwe. Lara had overtaken Sherwin Campbell, who took a staggering 171 balls to reach his 50.

The West Indies were 139 for 2 in the 59th over, and the only Zimbabwe bowler to claim wickets was Neil Johnson. The seamer had Adrian Griffith lbw for six early on, and then accounted for Shivnarine Chanderpaul — who spent 85 deliveries making just 17 runs.

## Dav made selector

COLOMBO, June 10 (Internet report): Dav Whatmore has been appointed a national cricket selector by Sports Minister S.B. Dissanayake after the resignations of Sidath Wettimuny and Asantha De Mel.

He will join former opening batsmen, Brendon Kuruppu, and T.B. Kehelgamuwa in a three-man panel.

The previous committee selected the original 26-man squad for the forthcoming series against Pakistan. The new panel will meet for the first time tonight to select the side for the century Test match on Wednesday. If selected Arjuna Ranatunga will make history as the first player to represent his country in an inaugural Test match and in a century match.

## Shoaib's Notts stint over

LONDON, June 10 (Internet report): The world's fastest bowler, Shoaib Akhtar, has been released from his contract by Nottinghamshire after a recurrence of his career-threatening rib injury.

The county side says he needs rest and time to work on readjusting his bowling action to prevent the problem from occurring again.

The 24-year-old arrived at Trent Bridge last week from Pakistan's tour of the West Indies with what was thought to be a side strain.

The injury prognosis was that the injury would take about 10 days to heal but further tests showed he is suffering from rib-tip syndrome, which causes a rib to jam against his pelvis when bowling.

## Pierce breaks French jinx

PARIS, June 10: Mary Pierce sent a patriotic Centre Court wild on Saturday when she ended a 33-year drought for the host nation and won the French Open women's singles crown by outclassing Spaniard Conchita Martinez 6-2, 7-5 in the final, reports AFP.

The host nation had been waiting for a female champion here since Francoise Durr triumphed over Lesley Turner of Australia in the 1967 final.

Sixth-seeded Pierce won her second Grand Slam singles title and her first since the 1995 Australian Open.

Saturday's win in cool, overcast conditions gave Pierce her second title of the year after Hilton Head and the 15th singles success of her career.

She picked up a winner's cheque for 4,028,000 francs (600,000 dollars) while fifth-seeded Martinez takes home exactly half that sum for her efforts.

Canadian-born Pierce, 25, had hoped to end the poor French run when she made the final six years ago after dropping a record low of just 10 games en route — but she lost to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets having earlier beaten Graf, top seed that year.

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 having 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

The Frenchwoman, far more mobile than her opponent, then squandered a trio of break points before wrapping up the set in 41 min.

With victory looming, Pierce started rushing and two double faults handed Martinez a 2-0 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 lines.

Martinez, who picked up a warning for coaching, broke back and held for 4-3 before requiring treatment for an eye irritation.

Pierce got the decisive break in the 11th game and then held her nerve — and serve — to seal the win on her third match point in 1hr 52min and give France a seventh women's triumph at Roland Garros.

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

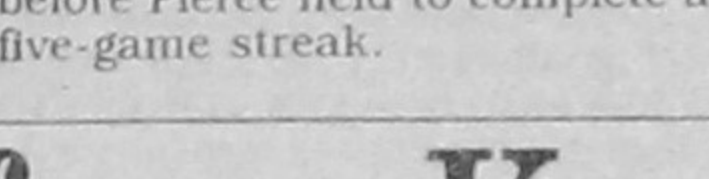
Saturday's win was Pierce's 10th over Martinez in 16 meetings and her ninth in the past 11.

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.

Her religious convictions have been cemented by her relationship with Roberto Alomar, a Major League Baseball star with the Cleveland Indians.

Pierce's Australian Open win in 1995 made her the first Frenchwoman to win a Grand Slam singles title in the Open era and she can also bag doubles glory Sunday when she partners Hingis against 10th-seeded Virginia Ruanoo Pascual of Spain and Paolo Suarez of Argentina in the women's doubles final.



MARY PIERCE ... the champion

points on her own service.

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 early.

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.

## Norman faces Kuerten test

PARIS, June 10 (AFP): Magnus Norman has had enough of the French Open final he can ram the doubts down his critics' throats and prove that he really is number one.

To do so, he will have to lift his first Grand Slam singles crown and that means stopping Gustavo Kuerten bagging a second triumph in four years on the slow, red clay at Roland Garros.

Norman has spent the past few months sitting atop the new 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 Swede steps out onto Centre Court looking to mow down mop-haired Brazilian Kuerten 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 Kuerten 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.

Kuerten staged a similar escape act here three years ago against the same player in the same round on his way to winning what remains his only Grand Slam title.

In Friday's semifinal he looked down and out once more against tough young Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero, trailing by two sets to one and 1-3 in the fourth set before pulling off a Houdini act to pull the match out of the fire and win 7-5, 4-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

As he admitted afterwards, "if you're not mentally prepared you're not gonna win it."

Kuerten says having previously won the tournament will be a big advantage against Norman.

"To have won here that time has helped me to escape some bad situations and turn matches around. I'll draw on the experience of winning here before. I hope this will be an advantage for me," said the Brazilian, who insists he will be fighting fit come Sunday afternoon.

"I'm very strong now — and I'll be stronger in the final."

Two factors look set to work in Norman's favour, however. The first is his dazzling form, as the Swede has been super-efficient all through the fortnight.

Norman, 24, barely broke sweat in his semi, playing what he called "a perfect match" as he crushed unseeded Franco Squill...

lari of Argentina 6-1, 6-4, 6-3, in near flawless, footwork both knockout weapons.

Norman, who has won nine career titles to date, is aiming to be the first Swedish champion here since Mats Wilander won his third title here in 1988.

The second factor which suggests Norman is heading for glory is that there are question marks against Kuerten's fitness.

The Brazilian has spent three-and-a-half hours longer on court than his rival so far — and he has been carrying a back muscle injury for several weeks. He was also suffering from a thigh strain against Ferrero.

Kuerten won his last meeting with Norman in the Hamburg Masters Series quarterfinals last month, going on to take the title and take their career series

to 3-2 in his favour.

But two of those wins — in Stuttgart and the US Open last year — came when Norman had to pull out injured in the early stages of both matches.

The pair split two matches last month as Norman won the final of the Rome Masters Series before losing in Hamburg.

On that occasion he said presently: "I'm glad it happened today and not at the French Open."

With Kuerten coming off two five-setters and his back still ailing the pendulum could swing back once more towards Norman.

The unassuming Swede, who says he's got to be about the most "boring" player on the men's tour, has enjoyed a superb run this year, stacking up titles in Auckland and at the Rome Masters Series.



Sports journalists offering munajat at the end of a remembrance meeting on late Badruzzaman organised by Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association at its office yesterday.

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