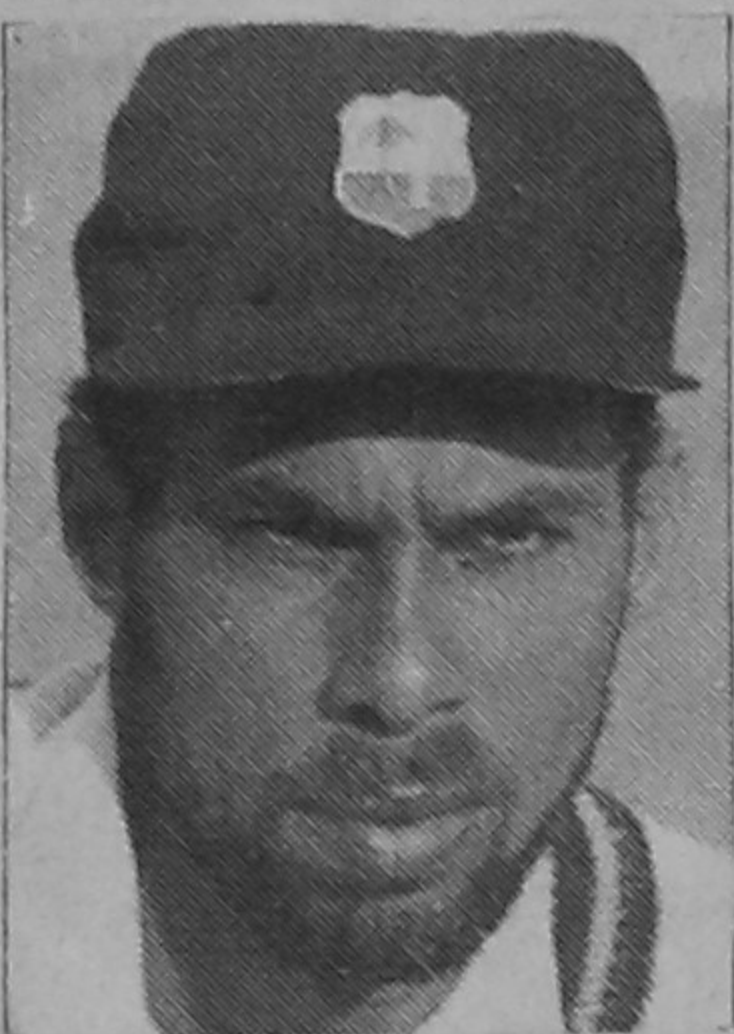


# Star Sport

DHAKA, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**James Adams**  
(West Indies cricket captain)  
"I have every confidence that they will make a big impression on the English tour."  
On Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

## 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

- Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?  
Hingis 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's M Singh Zila C/O Khosla
- 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

## Sumathipala wins one-man race

COLOMBO, June 11 (AFP): Thilanga Sumathipala was elected president of the Sri Lankan Cricket Board on Sunday after all his opponents withdrew. Sports Ministry officials said.

And for the second time in a row, Sumathipala's election, held here under unprecedented security, is likely to be challenged.

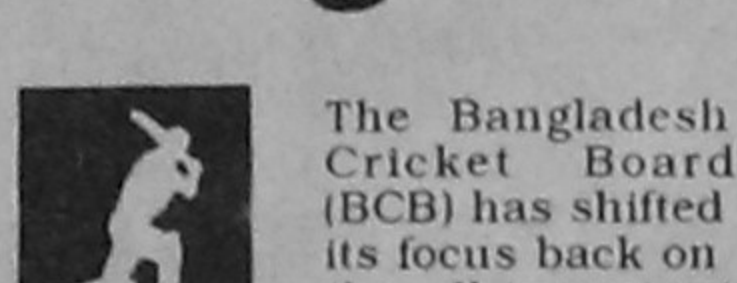
## Gentleman George dies

LONDON, June 11 (AFP): The death of Brian Statham, one of England's greatest fast bowlers was announced here on Sunday. He was 69 and had been suffering from leukaemia.

Statham, who played county cricket for Lancashire, made his England debut in 1951 against New Zealand and went on to play 70 Tests, the last in 1965, taking 252 wickets at an average of 24.84.

The great days included a total of 559 Test wickets between them, a figure few of today's Test bowlers could match even though they play far more games. Statham, nicknamed 'Gentleman George' because of his modest demeanour and chivalrous approach, used his bouncer sparingly, content to take wickets without any macho posturing.

## Fingers crossed for June 26



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has shifted its focus back on the all-important meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the successful completion of the Pepsi Asia Cup.

The ICC will give its final verdict on Bangladesh's application for Test status when the governing body of world cricket meets for its Annual General Meeting at the Lord's in London from June 22 to 28.

The weeklong meeting is also of paramount importance to the ICC which is facing the biggest credibility and image crisis in the wake of the match-fixing scandals. The sensational confession from erstwhile South African captain Hansie Cronje regarding his involvement in betting has only added fuel to the growing suspicion about the proper running of a game already in serious disrepute. But Bangladesh's interest will solely lie on the happenings of June 26, the day the

ICC will ask for votes from its nine full members on Bangladesh's appeal.

Bangladesh however, have reasons to be more confident than ever to win the necessary seven votes out of nine this time.

President of the BCB Saber Hossain Chowdhury and his able deputy Syed Ashraf Hossain have decided to reach England a few days before the meeting starts. It was learnt that the general secretary will leave Dhaka for London on June 17, while Saber, who is also a member of the ICC executive committee, is expected to be there on June 19.

Bangladesh who fell short by only two votes in the previous meeting last year, got a real shot in the arm this time around when Australia, South Africa and New Zealand put their weight behind the South Asian nation in joint declarations last month. The vote of confidence from the three aristocrats of cricket, who had opposed Bangladesh's plea in the last meeting, has now left the conventional England as the

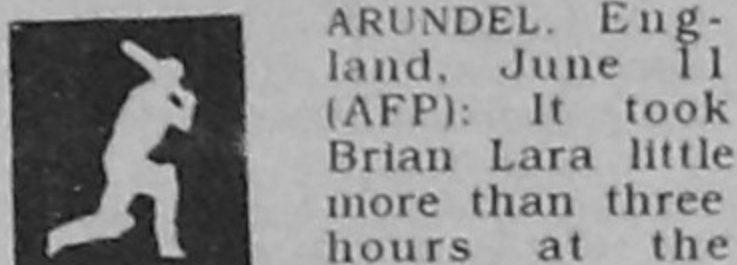
only country among the nine Test playing nations to be maintaining a hard-line approach.

Earlier Bangladesh's plea was proposed by Pakistan and seconded by India, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Test babes Zimbabwe have also given full assurance of their support for Bangladesh's case.

Meanwhile, the BCB has suspended its first AGM which was scheduled for June 15. Re-constituting the board is the main topic of the AGM. Talking to the reporters yesterday, Ashraf Hossain revealed that it has been postponed for the Eid-e-Miladunnabi and a new date will be announced later.

Although, Ashraf did not give a fresh date for the AGM, it is almost sure that it will not take place before the ICC meeting. Besides, the board is yet to come out with any positive developments regarding appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). It was also supposed to be finalised immediately after the Asia Cup as assured by Saber last month.

## Lara lashes terrific ton



ARUNDEL, England, June 11 (AFP): It took Brian Lara little more than three hours at the crease here on Saturday to put England's bowlers on red alert ahead of Thursday's first Test against the West Indies at Edgbaston.

The Trinidadian left-hander, who had made just 13 runs in four previous innings on this tour, fired a superb 176 off just 163 balls including 25 fours and five sixes to put his side in charge on the opening day of their three-day match with fellow tourists Zimbabwe.

Runs flowed from the other end too, opener Sherwin Campbell unbeaten on 141.

At the close West Indies were 364 for six, Mahendra Nagamootoo seven not out.

The 25 fours and five towering sixes, Lara blasted around the beautiful West Sussex ground made a mockery of recent doubts about his form and confidence.

The stage was perfectly set for Lara when he emerged shortly after lunch with his side struggling on 55 for two from 40 overs.

Zimbabwe's accurate swing and seam attack were on top, with opening bowler Neil John-

son having taken both wickets, Adrian Griffith lbw for six and Shivnarine Chanderpaul well caught low down at second slip by Alistair Campbell for 17.

Johnson put down a sharp caught and bowled chance off Campbell when the Barbados batsman was on 30 and also

sixes off Pomme Mbangwa and had reached his 50 in just 43 deliveries.

By tea he had made 110 and continued the assault as the shadows lengthened before left-arm swing bowler Brian Strang removed his off-stump as he wound up for another big hit.

Lara's near flawless display also brought the best out of team-mate Campbell.

It was a dogged effort by the opener, who was dropped twice but went on to strike 20 fours and enjoy a third wicket stand of 276 with Lara.

There will be some cause for concern among the tourists given that their other top-order batsmen failed to make runs ahead of the first Test.

And a late flurry of action following Lara's departure saw four wickets fall for just seven runs.

They included skipper Jimmy Adams who went third ball for nought as he edged Strang straight to gully.

However, by then most of an estimated 3,000 crowd were heading for home, having already witnessed the innings they had come to see from Lara.

Now England will be hoping it is not the first of many on this tour.

## Confusion over Cronje offer

CAPE TOWN, June 11: Confusion reigned on Sunday over an offer of indemnity from criminal prosecution made to former South African captain Hansie Cronje.

John Bacon, secretary of the King commission investigating match-fixing allegations, told Reuters on Saturday that Cronje had been offered a guarantee by commission advocate Shamila Batohi that he will not be prosecuted on criminal charges if he comes clean to the commission.

Bacon said Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams, who have confessed to accepting offers of bribes from Cronje to perform badly, had been made the same offer.

But the Cape Town Sunday Argus quoted ministry of sport spokesman Graham Abraham as denying any guarantees against prosecution had been promised.

"There will be no horse-trading," Abraham told the newspaper. "There is no chance that any person will be offered immunity."

Batohi said the minister of sport, Ngconde Balfour, had been told of the offer, the paper reported.

Retired judge Edwin King, who is presiding over the commission of inquiry in Cape Town, told BBC radio by telephone that he had learned of the indemnity offer only through media reports.

"I have only just learned this

myself over the weekend," King said. "It is not my decision. This is the decision of the prosecuting authority."

King, who is expected to hear from Cronje by itself this week, said he was not against the idea of granting the player indemnity.

"I am in favour of any steps that are taken which will enable me to get to the truth of the matter," he said.

"All the indications are that Hansie will be giving evidence this week. I am on the road to getting the truth, but whether it will be the full truth remains to be seen."

"I am looking at certain specific incidents which occurred during the South Africa, Zimbabwe, England one-day series earlier this year and the England Test tour also forms part of my terms of reference," he said.

"I have no power to order anyone from outside South Africa to give evidence. I can only request that they do."

The South African authorities are still trying to get copies of the tapes held by Indian police which are believed to confirm Cronje's guilt in the New Delhi criminal investigation which exposed the whole affair.

Although King feels the tapes could prove crucial to his own inquiry, it is becoming increasingly unlikely they will be made available.

And Cronje has no chance of being afforded the same immunity as the South Africans have granted.

The Johannesburg Sunday Times meanwhile led its front page with news of the proposed indemnity under the headline, "Hansie's secret deal."

The Sunday Times said Cronje's lawyers had approached justice minister Penuell Maduna and national prosecutions director Bulelani Ngwenya asking for an arrangement in terms of which he (Cronje) would be spared prosecution if he told the whole truth.

The Sunday Argus also carried a report in which Gibbs' father, Herman Gibbs, criticised the way the United Cricket Board's (UCB) legal team had handled the hearings.

"I have the impression that the UCB lawyers are on a mission to exonerate the UCB," Herman Gibbs was quoted as saying.

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup DU, Ctg in last four

Sports Reporter

Holders Dhaka University and Chittagong moved into the semifinals of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship after winning their last robin league matches at the Majid Stadium in Noakhali yesterday.

In the day's first match, Dhaka University defeated Jessore 2-0 in their last Group D match.

Midfielder Iqbal put the defending champions ahead in the 44th minute while Milan doubled the margin in the 61st minute.

Dhaka University, who beat Bhola in their first match 2-1 on Saturday, emerged group champions with full six points from two matches. Bhola finished second with three points while Jessore lost both their matches.

The holders will now take on Bangladesh Army in the first semifinal tomorrow. Chittagong handed Narsingdi an identical defeat in the other match.

Paran put the Chittagonians ahead in the ninth minute while Manik added a second goal after 30 minutes.

Chittagong finished atop the three-team Group C ahead of Pabna and Narsingdi having full six points from two matches.

Chittagong will meet hosts Noakhali in the second semifinal on June 14.

The final is scheduled for June 16.

## Asian jr. hockey Bangladesh go to S'pore June 15

A 20-member Bangladesh youth team will leave for Singapore on Thursday to participate in the first Asian Hockey Federation Cup under-16 tournament beginning on June 16, reports UNB.

Rightwing back Hedayetul Islam Rajib of BKSP will lead Bangladesh in the eight-team meet, being organised for the first time. The team comprises 16 players and four officials.

Bangladesh have been placed in Pool B along with India, Japan and Oman while the Pool A consists of Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and hosts Singapore.

In group matches, Bangladesh will play Japan on June 17, India on June 19, and Oman on June 21.

Team: Hedayetul Islam Rajib, Mahabubullah Chowdhury, Golam Shahriar, Yamin Hossain, AKM Shamsuddin, Golam Sarwar, Rajibul Hasan, Abdul Haq Shahedi, Ashiq Abedin, Rahul Kanti Roy, Shawkat Ali, Mazharul Islam, Ashrafur Islam, Maksudul Islam, Russellud-din and Hosne Mobarak.

Officials: Manager — Haji Manwar Hossain, Asstt Manager — Yousuf Ali, Coach — Nurul Islam and Asstt Manager — Kawwar Ali.

## Double delight for Pierce

PARIS, June 11: Mary Pierce collected a second French Open title in less than 24 hours on Sunday when she combined with Martina Hingis to win the women's doubles trophy, reports AFP.

The third-seeded French-Swiss combination beat 10th-seeded Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain and Paolo Suarez of Argentina 6-2, 6-4 in the final.

On Saturday afternoon, Pierce scored a 6-2, 7-5 victory over Conchita Martinez of Spain to become the first French women's singles champion at Roland Garros for 33 years.

The doubles win took Pierce and Hingis just an hour.

## Woodies enter record books

PARIS, June 11: Australian pair Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde on Saturday collected the only Grand Slam that had previously eluded them and became the most successful doubles team in history in the process, reports AFP.

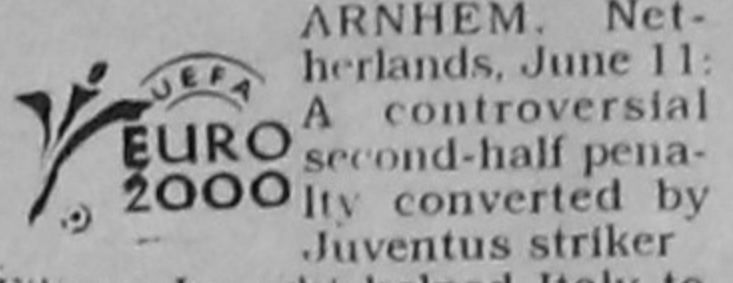
The second-seeded Woodies beat the third-seeded pair of Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands and Australian Sandon Stolle 7-6, 6-4 in the French Open men's doubles final.

The Woodies won their fifth title of the season and their 58th career title as a team.

The 1hr 53min triumph saw Woodbridge, 28, and Woodforde, 34, pass the Open Era record of 57 which they had shared with South African pair Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan and Americans Peter Fleming and John McEnroe.

American star McEnroe greeted both Australians in the locker room before the final and wished them: "Good luck. Sort of."

## Lucky penalty saves Italy



ARNHEM, Netherlands, June 11: A controversial second-half penalty converted by Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi helped Italy to a 2-1 win over Turkey in their Euro 2000 Group B match at the Gelredome here Sunday, reports AFP.

Dallas awarded the penalty the Turks reacted with fury and supporters behind the goal hailed missiles at the official.

Inzaghi had to wait until the penalty area was cleared of debris and Turkish and Italian players squared up to each other as tempers flared.

The whistles and jeers failed to distract Inzaghi who made no mistake with his penalty, firing low into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

The controversy over the penalty did not worry Zoff, who told Rai Uno: "The team played well and we hit the woodwork two or three times, and that means we were creating chances."

Italy should have taken a firm grip on the match when they were 1-0 up and Roma striker Francesco Totti almost doubled their lead but his powerful header smacked against the crossbar with Inzaghi's follow-up scrambled away by Ogun.

Turkey did well to battle back only to be foiled by the dubious decision by Dallas.

Clearly shocked the Turks seemed to lose composure and three times Italy substitute Alessandro Del Piero, on for an ineffectual Stefano Fiore, went close.

First he rattled the bar with a freekick, then he shot just wide after a solo dribble and

When Scottish referee Hugh

then Alpay scrambled his shot off the line.

In injury time Del Piero then set up fellow substitute Angelo Di Livio who scored but his shot was ruled offside by Dallas in another marginal decision.

Zoff admitted that the finishing needed to be improved, saying: "Let's hope we take them (chances) later on (in the tournament). The important thing is that we managed it, and that's no mean achievement."

Turning to his opponents, Zoff added: "Turkey have a good team and they showed it. They were very, very good and they were very dangerous. But we created a lot of chances and that's a good sign."

Inzaghi had been a controversial choice but in spite of the controversy that will surround the penalty he was a thorn in Turkey's side and helped set up Conte's goal as well as constantly keeping the Turkish defence busy.



Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi (Top) is lifted by teammate Mark Juliano after the former had scored from a penalty against Turkey during their Group B match or the Euro 2000 at Arnhem yesterday.

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## Asian U-19 soccer qualifiers July 7

Sports Reporter

The Group Four qualifying round of the Asian Youth Under-19 Football Championship will be held at the Rajshahi Stadium from July 7.

Iraq, Maldives, Nepal and hosts Bangladesh will take part in the qualifiers which will be held on league basis. All the matches will be played under the newly-installed floodlights.

The winners will book their berth for the final round which will be held in Tehran from November 12 to 26.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has already announced eleven officials for the Group 4 qualifying round which will end on July 11.

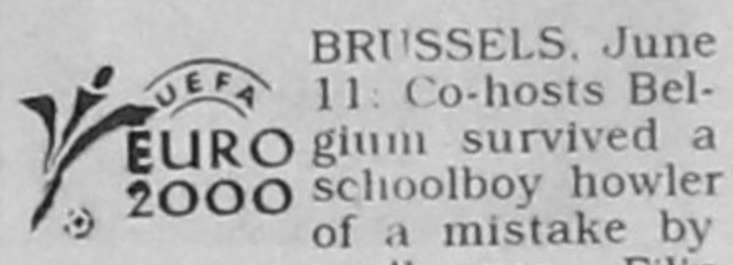
Alexander Rigo of Macau has been appointed as the Match Commissioner while JSN Anandaraaj of Sri Lanka will be the Disciplinary in-Charge of the qualifying round.

MG Subarna of India will be the Referee Inspector.

The referees who will officiate matches are: T Ekachai (Thailand), S Suresh (India), Anura de Silva (Sri Lanka) and AS Sultan Mohamud (Oman).

The four assistant referees are: S Somsak (Thailand), Krishna Avatara Chaulhan, S Gausena (Sri Lanka) and ARM Abdullah (Oman).

## Ideal start for Belgium



BRUSSELS, June 11: Co-hosts Belgium survived a schoolboy howler of a mistake by goalkeeper Filip De Wilde to beat Sweden 2-1 in an exciting, incident-filled match that kicked off Euro 2000 in grand style on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The match will best be remembered for De Wilde's error which allowed Johan Mjallby to walk the ball into the net after 53 minutes, bringing the Swedes back into the game after going 2-0 down.

But it will also be remembered for a stunning 46th minute powerdrive from Emile Mpenza that effectively sealed all three Group B points for the home side after Bart Goor had seized on a mistake by Swedish defender Roland Nilsson to strike home an unstoppable

shot after 43 minutes.

Sweden, however, appeared to have some reason to feel cheated of a share of the spoils as television replays indicated Mpenza had handled the ball just before scoring.

Nilsson, who was making his 112th appearance for his country, did not re-appear for the second half after his slip.

He was not the only Swede who failed to see out the 90 minutes as his long-term partner in defence, Patrik Andersson, was shown the red card nine minutes from time after picking up his second caution from German referee Markus Merk.

Andersson, who had a match he would rather forget, met Goor with a desperately late scything challenge and will miss Sweden's next match against Turkey in Eindhoven on Thursday.



Belgium's second goal also had a clumsy genesis as Branko Strupar appeared momentarily to have lost control of the ball before awkwardly playing off a flick to Mpenza.

The 27-year-old Schalke striker, albeit with the apparent help of an outstretched arm, managed to create a silk's purse from a sow's ear of a pass to blast home a powerful right foot drive which flew past Hedman and would probably have ended up in Amsterdam but for the net.

Six minutes later Sweden were back in the game as Philippe Leonard played a perfectly good back-pass to De Wilde who trod on the ball and lost control of it. The ball ran away from him and Mjallby came through to grab possession and plant into the empty net.

Sweden replaced the energetic but unproductive Jorgen Peterson with Henrik Larsson three minutes earlier, and his substitution, together with the goal, seemed to give Sweden renewed heart.

They went close several times but De Wilde held firm and redeemed himself with an outstanding save from Fredrik Lundberg, who seemed set to equalise three minutes after Mjallby's goal. De Wilde stood his ground and deflected the shot away for a corner.

SWAN LAKE! Belgium's heroes of the night Emile M'penza and Bart Goor take to the air to celebrate M'penza's winning strike against Sweden in the opening match of the Euro 2000 at Brussels on June 10.

—AFP photo

## Gloucesters' Lord's treble



LONDON, June 11 (AFP): Gloucestershire became the first side in history to win three successive Lord's finals by claiming a seven-wicket victory over Glamorgan to take the Benson and Hedges Cup here on Saturday.

Chasing Glamorgan's 225, Gloucestershire reached their victory target with 3.1 overs remaining, opener Tim Hancock top-scoring with 60 from 85 balls including seven boundaries.

Matt Windows with a fine 53 not out off 59 balls including eight boundaries and captain Mark Alleyne with an unbeaten 40 off 56 balls steered Gloucestershire home.

Their achievement eclipses the success of Lancashire in 1990-91 and Warwickshire in 1993-94, who both lost their third finals to miss out on the hat-trick, and confirms Gloucestershire as the outstanding one-day side in English cricket.

They made early inroads into Glamorgan's batting lineup. Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey dismissing openers Robert Croft and his fellow Victorian Matthew Elliott during a new-ball spell of 2-17.

But Glamorgan captain Matthew Maynard became only the fifth player ever to score a century in a Benson final, winning the man-of-the-match award for his efforts, and shared a 137-run partnership with Michael Powell to steer his

side out of trouble after Harvey's early breakthroughs.

Maynard was finally dismissed with three balls remaining of the innings, having hit 104 off 118 balls including 10 boundaries after Harvey claimed three of the last four wickets to fall to finish with five for 34.



Gloucestershire captain Mark Alleyne holding aloft the Benson and Hedges Cup.

— Internet photo