

## Column One SPORTS TALK



**Aravinda de Silva**

(Sri Lanka's master batsmen)  
"I want to be remembered as a run-scoring and successful batsman and want to go on while I'm fit enough to play and to perform."

## 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?  
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 M Singh Uda Crg Khastag
- 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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**EN-VITS**  
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## Harrison calls it quits

BFF turns to temperamental Samir

Sports Reporter



Mark Harrison resigned as the coach of national football team on June 9, according to a belated disclosure of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday.

The British coach, who joined in April and went on vacation immediately after the dismal performance of his boys in a four-nation tournament in Maldives, faxed his resignation letter from London Friday.

Having kept the news into the fridge for three days, the BFF officials decided to break its silence only after a report titled 'Mark where are you?' got published in The Daily Star Sport on Tuesday.

The BFF made it public after discussing the matter on Monday night in its technical committee meeting, chaired by its general secretary Harunur Rashid, MP.

Mark has resigned citing family problems, read the official press release of BFF yesterday. But BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy said it was the monetary factor that prompted him to resign.

"He thinks he will not be able to maintain his family in Bangladesh with the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) allotted 3,000 dollar per month. That's why he has resigned," said Badal yesterday. "We have already informed AFC about Harrison. The Harrison chapter is over."

With the sudden resignation of the AFC-sponsored coach, the baffled BFF officials are now considering the prospect of hiring again the temperamental Samir Shakir, who inspired Bangladesh to their maiden SAF Games football gold last October.

Although the bespectacled Briton promised a day since he took over from Samir, he hardly could make it into reality. Mark's one-off stint with the national team produced only a disastrous performance. Bangladesh were eliminated

from the preliminary round in the Maldives meet.

With Bangladesh national team due to tour England next month, the BFF finds it very hard to get a foreign coach immediately.

The possibilities of bringing Samir back were seriously discussed in the technical committee meeting. Finding no other alternatives at the moment, the federation has decided to re-



**SAMIR SHAKIR**

quest the Iraqi World Cupper, who is now working with the BKSP kids in Savar, to take over the team.

"We don't have any choice other than bringing Samir back. The technical committee has asked me to contact Samir personally and offer him the job. I will go to BKSP tomorrow (Wednesday) to meet him," said Badal. "We might have a lot of differences in our thoughts in the past but I think Samir would not turn down our request seeing us in crisis."

However, Samir, who had a bitter-sweet relationship with Bangladesh football, does not have the coaching qualification that requires to be an AFC coach. So, if Samir is hired as national coach, the BFF will have to pay his salary.

Samir has also had a dubious reputation of leaving his team in a lurch. During his tenure, the volatile coach left Bangladesh twice without giving any prior notice. He had abruptly left from Kathmandu after inspiring Bangladesh to their first ever SAF Games gold.

It was reported then that Samir had differences with the team management. Samir, who was lured back by the NSC chairman, deserted the team again from Abu Dhabi after two months. He returned to Bangladesh again and took over the job of a football coach at the BKSP.

Meanwhile, the primary camp of the national team starts at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from June 18 under the supervision of Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu, who assisted Harrison in Maldives. Thirty-one footballers have been called up for the camp.

Bangladesh will tour England from July 20 to 30. Apart from the scheduled exhibition match against India, Bangladesh will play a few matches against some minor club sides.

## PLAYERS

Goalkeepers: Aminul Haque, Nizam Majumder, Biplob Bhattacharya and Sheikh Saifuddin Ahmed Himu.

Defenders: Rajani Kanta Barman, Faisal Ahmed, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Hasan Al-Mamun, Sourav Majumder, Monwar Munna, Anwar Hossain, Kingshuk Chakma, Aminur Rahman, Papal Mahmood, Firoz Mahmud Hossain Tito.

Midfielders: Iqbal Hossain, Monwar Hossain, Matur Rahman, Tanvir Chowdhury, Rokunuzzaman Kanchan, Mohammad Selim, Asif Yousuf, Sajedur Rahman Tushar and Mustafa Anwar Parvez.

Forwards: Alfaz Ahmed, Saidur Rahman Moni, Zulfiqar Mahmud Mintu, Mizanur Rahman Dawn, Mujibur Rahman Ritu and Shahajuddin Tipu.

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup Army reach final

Sports Reporter

Holders Dhaka University were eliminated from the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship when they conceded 3-1 tie-break defeat against Bangladesh Army in the first semifinal at Majddee Stadium in Noakhali yesterday.

The regulation time ended in a one-all draw.

The star-studded DU team led the first half by a 22nd minute striker from Partho. But the soldiers staged a turned around in the second session with Rafiqul Islam notching the equalizer six minutes after the breather.

The power play of Army eventually forced Dhaka University to go into the shootout, where national midfielder Iqbal converted from the spot for DU. Army, on the other hand, showed their remarkable accuracy in converting from 12-yards with Mizanur, Faruq and Nasir finding the net.

Bangladesh Army will take on the winners of the second semifinal between hosts Noakhali and Chittagong in the final on June 16.

The second semifinal will be held at the same venue today.

## BFF's 26-man pool

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday announced a 26-man pool for the next season's Premier Division League.

Former national captain Jewel Rana and his long-standing partner in defence Masud Rana head the elite list. Although both the experienced booters announced their retirement after leading national team to glory in the Kathmandu SAF Games last year, they have been retained for the year 2000 as part of the standard norm followed by the BFF.

The twenty-six, chosen following their performance at the national as well as domestic level last season, would be the centre of attraction in the inter-club booters' transfer this year. Each Premier outfit is allowed to win the services of a maximum five players from the list.

The intriguing transfer market is scheduled to begin on June 20. But it might be shifted by a week for the players' convenience, since they will be engaged in the second National Football League.

The players are: Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Alfaz Ahmed, Rajani Kanta Barman, Nazrul Islam, Sourav Majumder, Iqbal Hossain, Monwar Hossain, Matur Rahman, Tanvir Chowdhury, Rokunuzzaman Kanchan, Mohammad Selim, Asif Yousuf, Sajedur Rahman Tushar and Mustafa Anwar Parvez.

## Inter-varsity hockey from June 30

DU Correspondent

The five-day long inter university hockey competition will begin at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) ground on June 30.

Players of the Dhaka University have been asked to be present at the Central Gymnasium of the university on June 17 at 11:00 am, said a press release.

"We will ask for the report if it is required to help our investigations," the spokesman said.

## Special occasion for Arjuna, Wasim

## Colombo Test from today



COLOMBO, June 13: Two of the most controversial figures in Test match cricket Wasim Akram and Arjuna Ranatunga have a lot to play for in the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka starting Wednesday, reports AFP.

Pakistan's former captain Akram, who arrived here Tuesday for the tour, requires only two wickets to become only the



**ARJUNA RANATUNGA**

fourth bowler in Test history to take 400 wickets.

Ranatunga, a contemporary of Akram in many battles between the two countries, will become the first cricketer in the history of the game to appear for his country in its inaugural and centenary Tests.

Akram, who is the only bowler to take over 400 wickets in one-day internationals, goes into the Test against Sri Lanka with 398 wickets from 95 Tests.

He has a very good chance of joining the elite company of West Indian Courtney Walsh (449), India's Kapil Dev (434) and New Zealand's Sir Richard Hadlee (431) as the only four bowlers to cross the mark at the highest level of the game.

Ranatunga made his Test debut against England in February 1982 as an 18-year-old schoolboy and is currently the world's longest serving cricketer.

He has represented his country in 87 Tests during that time, and it will be a memorable occasion for him if he can celebrate his country's 100th Test with a good knock on his home ground.

The match however had been in danger of following Sri Lanka's 50th Test which saw only 11.5 hours' play over the five days against the West Indies, but Tuesday the weather turned for the better with brighter skies.

Pakistan are determined to erase the defeat they suffered at home against the Sri Lankans early this year.

"We have a defeat by the Sri Lankans at home in our minds. The boys are focussed on it now. If the weather permits, I can assure that it will have great significance. We are keen to put the record straight," said Pakistan captain Moin Khan.

Although Pakistan's two-day tour opener against a Board XI was washed out without a ball bowled due to rain, Moin said that his boys were in good touch and they didn't need much practice.

Sony Max will provide live coverage of the Test starting from 10:20 am BST.

"We are ready for the Test matches," said Moin.

"It is a big occasion for Sri Lanka cricket playing the 100th Test match. I am very happy to be the captain of such an occasion. Everybody is keen to play in this Test especially Arjuna," said Sri Lankan skipper Sanath Jayasuriya.

"Everyone is happy for him and the entire team is supporting him and wish him good luck," Jayasuriya said.

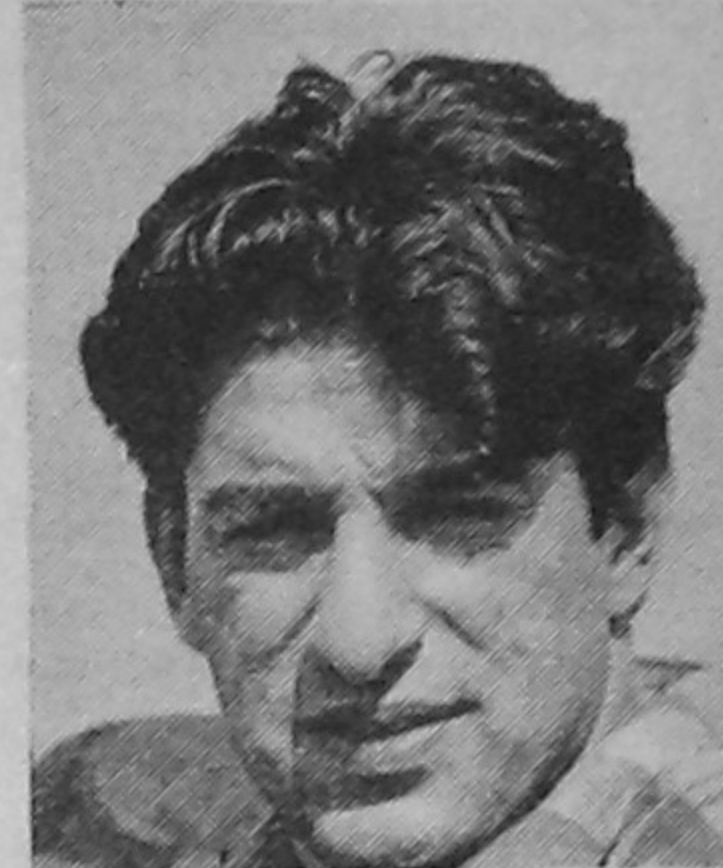
He said the loss in the Asia Cup final to Pakistan in Dhaka was only a temporary setback and it was excusable because his team had been playing so well for the past ten months.

"We want to continue playing the way we have been doing by supporting each other. Pakistan are anyway a tough side whether they play at home or

away. But if we stick to our basics instead of trying to do too much, we can do well against them," said Jayasuriya.

Sri Lanka have still to decide their starting eleven with a choice to be made between fast bowler Randhir Dillara Fernando, a newcomer to the side, and left-arm spinner Rangana Herath.

Pakistan will name their side on the morning of the Test after having seen the state of the pitch which has seen a lot of



**WASIM AKRAM**

rain over the past week.

## TEAMS

**SRI LANKA** (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Mahela Jayawardene, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Rangana Herath.

**PAKISTAN** (from): Moin Khan (captain), Saeed Anwar, Mohammad Wasim, Imran Nazir, Younis Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Mohammad Akram, Arshad Khan, Azhar Mahmood.

**Umpires:** Bulathsinghalage Cooray (Sri Lanka) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies).

**TV umpire:** Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka).

**Match Referee:** John Reid (New Zealand).

## PREVIEW

## Confident 'Devils' ready for Italy

BRUSSELS, June 13: Hosts Belgium and Italy square off in the Euro 2000 finals here Wednesday with

both managers warning against any sense of complacency after opening wins, reports AFP.

Both sides won 2-1 in their first matches - Belgium against Sweden and Italy against Turkey - although neither were entirely convincing.

"Mentally and physically my players showed against Sweden that they are in top form and that is important," Belgian coach Robert Waseige said Monday as the 'Red Devils' prepared for the Italy game.

"Certainly we did beat the Italians away 3-1 (in November)

but that was only a friendly game. In competitive matches, the Italians are always much stronger," he added.

The Belgians are likely to want to field an unchanged side, although injuries to Johan Walem (ankle), Philippe Leonard (groin) and Marc Wilmots (knee) were causing concern.

The only Italian injury doubt is Juventus midfielder Gianluca Pessotto who strained his right calf muscle, but he is expected to be back in training on Tuesday.

Zoff, under scathing criticism for Italy's poor form coming into the Euro 2000 finals said it would be wrong to read too much into the win over Turkey which came after a dubious penalty call by Scottish referee High Dallas.

"Belgium are a tough side. We will have to be at our best again and I am just taking things one day at a time, so do not ask me if I am going to make any changes to the team," he said.

Alessandro Del Piero's impressive cameo as a substitute will give Zoff food for thought although Inzaghi is certain to keep his place as - the penalty controversy excepted - he was a danger throughout against the Turks.

Francesco Totti could miss out should Zoff decide to go with Del Piero against Sweden but there is also the option of a three-pronged attack.

## CBI to look into Bacher's claims

NEW DELHI, June 13: India's premier police agency Tuesday said it would investigate a claim that India's win over rivals Pakistan in the 1999 World Cup was fixed, as the cricket world here reacted with horror to the charge, reports AFP.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also said it would ask for the report of South Africa's King Commission probing the biggest scandal in cricket history involving disgraced South African skipper Hansie Cronje.

CBI official spokesman S.M. Khan, however, said the disclosures made by South African cricket chief Ali Bacher that the 'Super-Six' game between the South Asian arch-rivals was fixed, was still an unproven allegation.

"We will ask for the report if it is required to help our investigations," the spokesman said.

## Rating chess

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 13: Robul Islam emerged champion and Biplob finished runner-up in the international open rating qualifying chess competition at the Kajirganj Office here today.

Both Rajibul and Biplob will now represent Rajshahi in the final phase of the competition in Dhaka.



Bangladesh under-17 cricketers doing some stretching during a practice session at the BUET ground yesterday. The team is to take part in the Asian Under-17 Championship to be held in Karachi from July 15.



Bangladesh under-17 cricketers doing some stretching during a practice session at the BUET ground yesterday. The team is to take part in the Asian Under-17 Championship to be held in Karachi from July 15. — Star photo



South Africans, former wicketkeeper Dave Richardson (L) and all-rounder Jacques Kallis during the King Commission hearing in Cape Town yesterday. —AFP photos

## Kallis joins the choir



CAPE TOWN, June 13 (Internet/AFP): All-rounder Jacques Kallis has become the latest South African player to accuse former captain Hansie Cronje of offering him money to throw a match in India.

Kallis confirmed evidence previously given by teammates Lance Klusener and Mark Boucher that Cronje had approached them in their hotel room before a game in Bangalore three months ago.

He told the King Commission here: "I thought it was another one of his jokes. With the benefit of hindsight, it could have been his way of approaching us."

Kallis and former wicket-

keeper Dave Richardson gave evidence on Tuesday before the hearing was adjourned at the request of state prosecutor Shamila Batohi.

The surprise adjournment came after two of the day's scheduled four witnesses — Richardson and Kallis — had given evidence.

King adjourned the hearings until Thursday for further preparation and investigation, adding that a resumption on that day was provisional.

With Friday being a public holiday in South Africa, a further delay would mean no more hearings until next week.

Lawyers for Cronje, the State and the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) refused to comment on whether the adjournment was linked to a possible appearance by Cronje, who was sacked as South African captain in April after admitting to taking money from an Indian bookmaker.

Earlier, Richardson in his testimony confirmed that a current foreign international cricketer made a bribery offer to teammate Pat Symcox in India in 1996.

Richardson told commission that he knew the identity of the player, but refused to name him.

He said he had recently held discussions with Symcox, who testified on the first day of public hearings by the commission last Wednesday that he had been made an offer by the mystery player.

Richardson said that if See page 15

## India in a state of shock



NEW DELHI, June 13: Indian cricket reacted with shock and horror on Tuesday at suggestions their cherished World Cup win over Pakistan last year may have been fixed, reports AFP.

With Indian players and officials themselves under scrutiny of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), few were willing to comment on South African cricket boss Ali Bacher's sensational disclosure to the King commission that the Super-Six game between the arch-rivals was fixed.

But Indian cricket board secretary Jayawant Lele rubbished Bacher's statement — just as he

had dismissed claims by Delhi Police in April that former South African captain Hansie Cronje was involved in match-fixing.

"How can a match between India and Pakistan be fixed when both teams are out to get one another," the irrepressible Lele said.

"Pakistan was keen on beating India because they had never beaten us in the World Cup."

Anshuman Gaekwad, India's coach at the World Cup, said he did not believe his team's 47-run win at Old Trafford was tainted.

"It was a very competitive game," Gaekwad said. "Pakistan fought hard before going down."

"I went into the Pakistani dressing room after the match and the players were very depressed by the defeat."

That was India's only success in the super-six stage of the tournament, depriving the 1983 champions a place in the semifinals. Gaekwad was sacked as coach after the tournament and replaced by Kapil Dev.

Pakistan, who had earlier crashed to an astonishing defeat by Bangladesh, went on to reach the final where they were swamped by Australia by eight wickets.

Cricket observers in India, not wanting to be identified See page 15