

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

#### Competition-131

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

Competition closes at 8 pm  
June 23, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?  
Hings Pierce V Williams

2 Who won the European Champions' League?  
M United Real Madrid Lazio

3 Who won the UEFA Cup?  
Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina

4 Who lifted national schools cricket title?  
St Joseph M Singh Zila Cig Khastagir

5 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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#### NOTICE

Due to some technicalities draw of the WHIZZ KID-131 could not be held last night. It will now take place on June 23. — Sports Editor

#### SPORTS TALK

##### Gianluca Vialli

(Chelsea manager)

"I feel relieved because this win allows me to have a break to re-charge the batteries and comeback next with even more desire to be more successful."

After winning the FA Cup.

##### Malik dismisses Cronje's claim

KARACHI, June 16: Former Pakistan cricket captain Salim Malik, who was recently banned from cricket for life because of match-fixing, on Thursday said South Africa's Hansie Cronje was trying to save his neck by implicating players from other countries in match-fixing allegations, reports AFP.

"Cronje's own players have named him and he has himself confessed to having links with bookies and now he is trying to save his neck," Malik told this news agency.

In a statement to the King Commission of Inquiry Cronje also said Malik once asked him to have talks with a bookie.

A judicial commission which probed match-fixing allegations in Pakistani cricket last month imposed a life ban on Malik and fines on six other players including another former skipper, Wasim Akram.

Malik said Cronje and South African officials were trying to divert attention from their own predicament.

##### Rashid Latif's revelation

KARACHI, June 16: Former Pakistani cricket captain Rashid Latif said Friday the 1995 Nelson Mandela Trophy final between Pakistan and South Africa was fixed and disgraced teammate Salim Malik was involved.

"I am the first cricketer who said in 1995 that the Nelson Mandela Trophy match was fixed but at that time I did not know that Hansie Cronje was also offered money," Latif told AFP.

Former South African captain Cronje on Thursday confessed before Edwin King's commission that during the Nelson Mandela Trophy series he was offered money to throw a match against Pakistan, but he turned it down.



A combo picture showing injured national opener Mehrab Hossain (L) receiving Janakantha award from poet Shamsur Rahman and the members of Bangladesh 1999 World Cup team (R) at the reception which was held at the Mahanagari Natya Mancha at Gulistan yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

## Cronje points at Azhar

CAPE TOWN, June 16: Hansie Cronje implicated former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin when he confessed Thursday to receiving four bribes during his cricket career, and promised to quit the game for good as punishment, reports AFP.

Cronje told the King Commission of Inquiry into match-fixing that he had repeatedly lied to cover his tracks, and then went on to detail a five-year flirtation with bookmakers that yielded tens of thousands of dollars though he never actually threw a match.

"I was not honest and I apologise unreservedly," he said, adding that he felt shame and humiliation at having heaped misery on the game, his teammates and his family.

"I've also decided to sever my connections with the game and will not again play cricket at representative level again."

Cronje admitted that he had pressured teammates Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams to lie and conceal bribe offers and appealed to the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) to keep them in the national side.

"Herschelle, forgive me," he said emotionally to the young batsman who was sitting a few rows behind him.

He said he had received a total of 80,000 dollars on two separate occasions in 1996 and 1997 from a Mukesh Gupta, who he was introduced to by

Azharuddin, then the Indian captain. He also accepted 50,000 rands (7,221 dollars) for manufacturing a result in the rain-hit fifth Test against England at Centurion Park in January 2000.

Cronje also confessed to accepting between 10,000 and 15,000 dollars from Sanjay Chawla in January in exchange for information on matches.

A repentant Cronje said his only consolation was "the knowledge that, despite my inexcusable behaviour, South Africa has in fact never thrown or fixed a match."

Cronje said he was introduced to Gupta, also known as MK, by Azharuddin in a hotel room during the third Test of South Africa's tour of India in Kanpur in December 1996.

"On the evening of the third day of the third Test against India in Kanpur I received a call from Mohammed Azharuddin. He called me to a room in a hotel and introduced me to Mukesh Gupta. Azharuddin then departed and left us alone in the room," Cronje said.

"MK asked if we would give wickets away on the last day of that Test to ensure that we lost. He asked me to speak to the other players and gave me approximately 30,000 dollars in cash to do so."

"I led him to believe that I would."

Cronje said he did nothing of the sort, but South Africa lost the Test anyway. "I had effectively received

money for doing nothing and I rationalised to myself that this was somehow acceptable."

Gupta then offered Cronje a bribe to lose a one-day international in Mumbai the following week.

Cronje confirmed testimony of teammates that he put the offer of 200,000 dollars to the team and they rejected it.

Gupta then travelled to South Africa for a home series against India, during which Cronje said he gave him information on matches. In return Gupta paid 50,000 dollars into a bank account in Bloemfontein.

The information included the team selection for Durban, daily forecasts and an indication when he would declare an innings during the Cape Town Test.

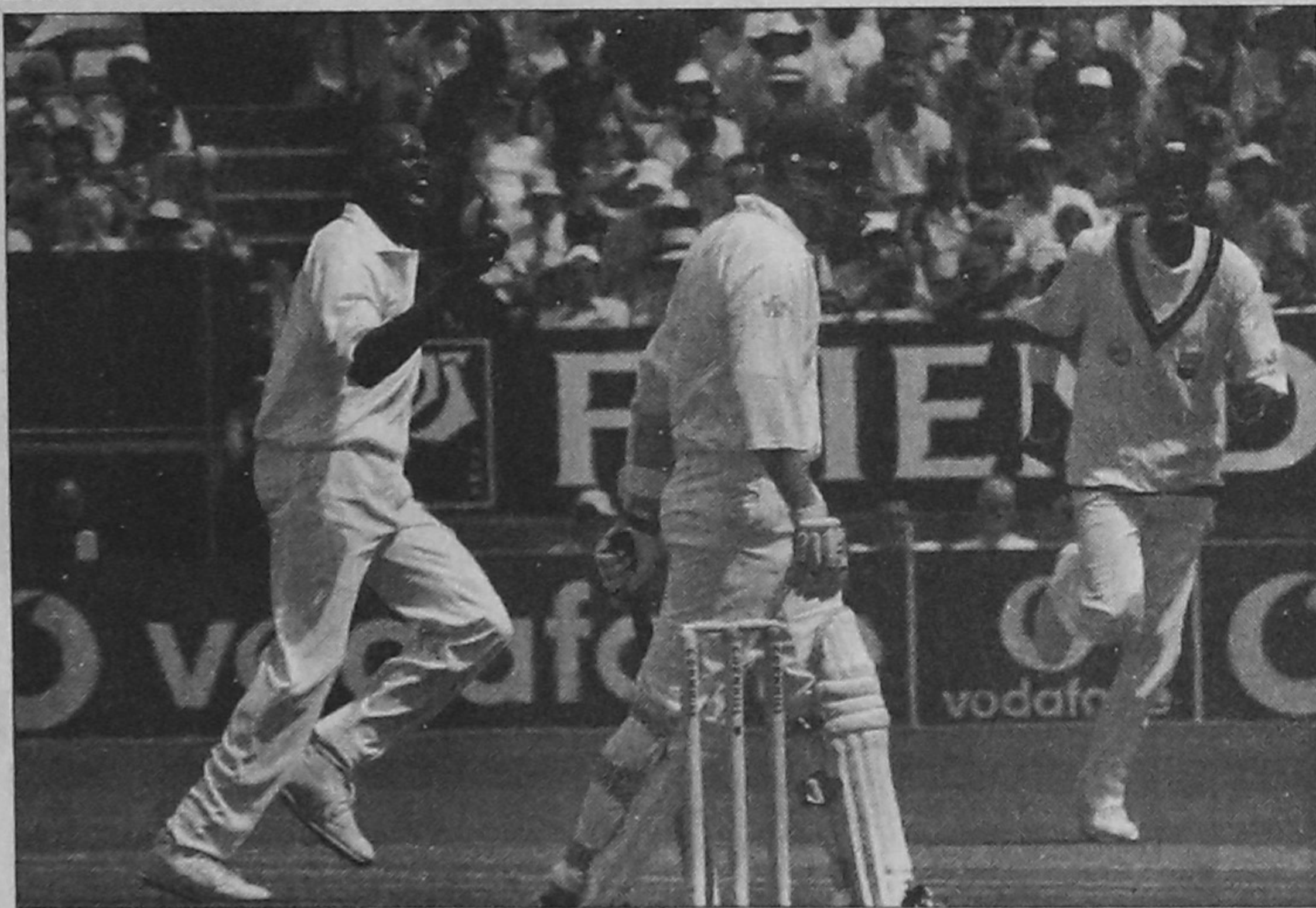
Cronje said he received money from a Marlin Aronstam for contriving a result in the rain-hit fifth Test against England at Centurion Park in January 2000.

After three days had been lost to rain, there were negotiations with England to play a one-day match, but they failed because of a clash of sponsors.

That evening Aronstam, who worked for a company involved in sports betting, offered Cronje 500,000 rands (72,210 dollars) for a charity of his choice as well as an unspecified gift "if we made a game of it".

Cronje said he negotiated with England captain Nasser Hussain who initially was not keen on a deal to forfeit in-

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West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh (L), who captured five England wickets in the first innings, is euphoric after having opener Mike Atherton on the first day of the inaugural Test at Edgbaston on June 15. —AFP photo

## Courtney crosses 450-wkt mark

## England tumble on first day

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 16: West Indies were 50 for two at the close of play on the opening day of the first Test of five here on Thursday — 129 runs behind England's 179 all out, reports AFP.

Courtney Walsh was the West Indies hero in the field, the Jamaican taking five wickets in an innings for the 20th time in Tests, his innings figures of 21-9-36-5 another masterpiece in fast bowling.

At the close Sherwin Campbell was 28 not out and Brian Lara, making his return to Test cricket after three months out recovering from mental stress, six not out.

After their batsmen had been easily dismissed by the tourists fast bowlers it was vital England made a good start in the field.

Darren Gough gave his side hope having Chris Gayle, who had been brought in for the out of form Adrian Griffith, lbw for nought in the left-handed opener's first Test innings in England to leave West Indies five for one.

Then Somerset paceman Andrew Caddick induced a false stroke from Wavell Hinds (12), the batsman chipping the ball to mid-off where England captain Nasser Hussain took the catch leaving West Indies 24 for two.

Earlier England had no answer to the tourists quartet of fast bowlers and were all out for 179, Caddick unbeaten on 21.

England's top score of 26 from Nick Knight said much about their inability to cope with pace bowling.

At tea England were 129 for seven and when Robert Croft (18) edged Walsh to wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs they were 234 for eight.

Gough struck some classy shots on his way to 23.

But then he edged the ball behind his stumps, did not respond quickly enough to Caddick's call and was brilliantly run out by Jacobs' direct hit on the stumps at the bowler's end.

The keeper was in the action again when Ed Giddins (nought) mishooked a Reon King delivery and Jacobs took a good running catch to end the England innings.

After West Indies captain Jimmy Adams had woy the toss England openers Mark Ramprakash and Michael Atherton were soon confronted with the familiar but difficult problem of how to combat Walsh's pace and bounce.

Edgbaston also lived up to its reputation as a seamer's pitch, Walsh in particular making the ball move sharply in both directions.

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## Noakhali nat'l soccer champs

Sports Reporter

A golden goal by mercurial midfielder Arman Mia helped hosts Noakhali clinch the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship title with a 2-1 win over Bangladesh Army at the Majdee Stadium yesterday.

Arman, the former national footballer, struck in the 25th minute of the 30-minute sudden death extra time after the match was tied 1-1 in the allotted 90 minutes.

Ace forward Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib put Noakhali ahead in the 54th minute after a barren first half while Rafiqul Islam of Army levelled the margin at the stroke of the final whistle.

Arman was later adjudged man-of-the-final. Noakhali defender Jewel Rana received the man-of-the-championship award while Pabna's Rabiul Islam received the award for the highest scorer.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed prizes. Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harunur Rashid, MP, was also present as special guest.

## BFF names 20 for U-16 team

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday named 20 players for the under-16 team which will take part in the Group 4 qualifiers of the ninth Asian Youth Championship next week.

The five-nation qualifying round will be held in Jamshedpur, India from June 20 to 30.

Only the top team of the robin league qualifying round will book a berth in the final round which will be held in Vietnam in October.

Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in the opening match on June 21. Their next three matches are against Pakistan, India and Bhutan scheduled for June 24, 26 and 28 respectively.

#### SQUAD

Amjad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Mashiur Rahman, Mohiuddin Ibnul Shirajee, Mahbubul Alam, Mohammad Tareque, Nafizur Rahman, Rafiquzzaman, Rafiqul Islam, Aminul Islam, Mizanur Rahman, Rashid Ahmed, Khaled Saifullah, Masud Parvez Kaiser, Abdullah Al-Parvez, Masudul Islam, Mehdi Hassan, Anwarul Karim, Syed Hossain and Masud Alam.

## Ragib Ali Gold Cup hockey from June 18

Sports Reporter

The Ragib Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament will begin at the Moulana Bhashani Stadium from June 18 under the auspices of Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF).

Fourteen Dhaka based clubs, including 12 from the Premier Division, will split into four-groups for the knock-out first round which will end on June 23. The group champions will qualify for the 'super-four' league which will run June 25 to July 1. The final, to be held on July 3, will pit the top two teams of the 'super-four'.

Ragib Ali, a vice-president of BHF, is sponsoring the tournament considered as the curtain raiser to the local hockey season.

The following teams will take part in the tournament: Group A: Mohammedan SC, Sadharan Bima KS and Bachelor's SC.

Group B: Abahani KC, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Railway.

Group C: Usha KC, Farashganj SC, Vairi Club and Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha.

Group D: Mariner Young's Club, Ajax SC, Victoria SC and Dhaka Wanderers Club.

## Day belongs to Akram



COLOMBO, June 16: Former Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram displayed his all-round skills when he hit a defiant 78 to take his team within seven runs of Sri Lanka's 273 and then came back to claim his 400th Test wicket, reports AFP.

Akram dismissed Sri Lanka's Russel Arnold for one to end the third day of the first Test here at the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds on a spirited note.

He is the fourth bowler in Test history to join the elite 400-wicket club which has only three other members.

Courtney Walsh of West Indies with 454 wickets in 86 Tests, Kapil Dev of India with 434 wickets in 131 Tests and Sir



WAQAR... 300 wkts

Richard Hadlee of New Zealand for his 431 wickets in 86 Tests are the other three. Sri Lanka playing in their

centenary Test finished the day at 53 for two wickets, an overall lead of 60 runs.

Akram and last man Arshad Khan frustrated the Sri Lankan bowling for the entire afternoon session adding a record 90 for the tenth wicket.

Using his experience of 96 Tests, the 34-year-old veteran cricketer lifted Pakistan from a hopeless 176 for nine to 266 all out in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings of 273.

Akram came in to bat at the fall of the sixth wicket with the score at 160 and blended caution with aggression to hit two sixes, one of which was a towering one off Chaminda Vaas into the press box.

He also hit six fours in his innings of 78 which took him 245 minutes and 204 balls. He was lucky on occasions when several mishits fell short of advancing fielders.

Akram shielded last man Arshad who offered excellent support making a career best nine runs which was vital in not the number of runs he made but in the time he consumed at the wicket — 167 minutes.

The pair erased the previous tenth wicket record set by Moin Khan and Amir Nazir who put on 65 at Sialkot in 1995-96.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan who ran through the Pakistan top order failed to break through the partnership and it was left to debutant fast bowler Dilhara Fernando to break the stand when he bowled Akram through the gate, shortly after tea.

Muralitharan ended with figures of five for 115, the 19th occasion he had taken five wickets or more in an innings.

Earlier on Thursday, Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis became the 14th man in the history to take 300 Test wickets.

Waqar started the day with 299 wickets and had Muralitharan caught by Akram at mid-on for 18, to reach the milestone in his 65th Test match.

He became the third Pakistani bowler to join the elite club, behind Akram and Imran Khan who has 362.

At close of the second day, opening bat Saeed Anwar was unbeaten on 56 and skipper Moin Khan on 31 in a 55 run partnership, after Muralitharan had reduced Pakistan to 75 for three with two wickets off successive overs.

Before that, Sri Lanka lost their last seven wickets for 97 runs after starting the day at 15.

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## PREVIEW

## England v Germany: Mother of all European battles



SPA, Belgium (Reuters/Internet): Rarely in the 34 years since England last beat Germany in a competitive match can the great rivals have been such welcome opposition for each other.

The two meet on Saturday in Charleroi in an eagerly-awaited Euro 2000 group A game and both are desperate to make up for poor starts to the tournament.

Germany, the defending champions, have recent history firmly on their side — twice in the past decade a penalty shoot-out has helped them beat England in a major championship.

Erich Ribbeck's side were badly embarrassed in the first half of their opening 1-1 draw with Romania and, with a side showing three changes, they will fancy their chances of ex-

plotting England's lack of fitness and psychological "block" about playing Germany at international level.

For Kevin Keegan's team Germany offer a familiar, northern European style of play after they were unable to deal with a quicksilver Portugal side who came from 2-0 down to win 3-2 in their opening game.

With Oliver Bierhoff off injured, Germany will play Carsten Jancker and Ulf Kirsten up front and these two present Sol Campbell and his probable partner Martin Keown with the sort of challenge they deal with every week in the premier league.

Lothar Matthaeus, 39 and under fire after a poor showing against Romania, has retained the support of Ribbeck, and his place, but Michael Owen will be confident of tearing past the only sweeper in the tournament

England captain Alan Shearer could outpace.

England were overwhelmed by Portugal in midfield and Keegan seems set to introduce Dennis Wise for the injured Steve McManaman to stiffen up the middle.

Keown will replace Tony Adams, also injured against Portugal, but Keegan is expected to keep faith with the rest of the side.

"We defended badly as a team against Portugal and have taken steps to make sure it doesn't happen against Germany," Keegan said on Thursday.

"They will pose different threats. We have to counteract what they are good at without losing what we are good at."

"We have the players and definitely the spirit to beat them. It's our best chance to beat them."

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## Bierhoff's tournament finished

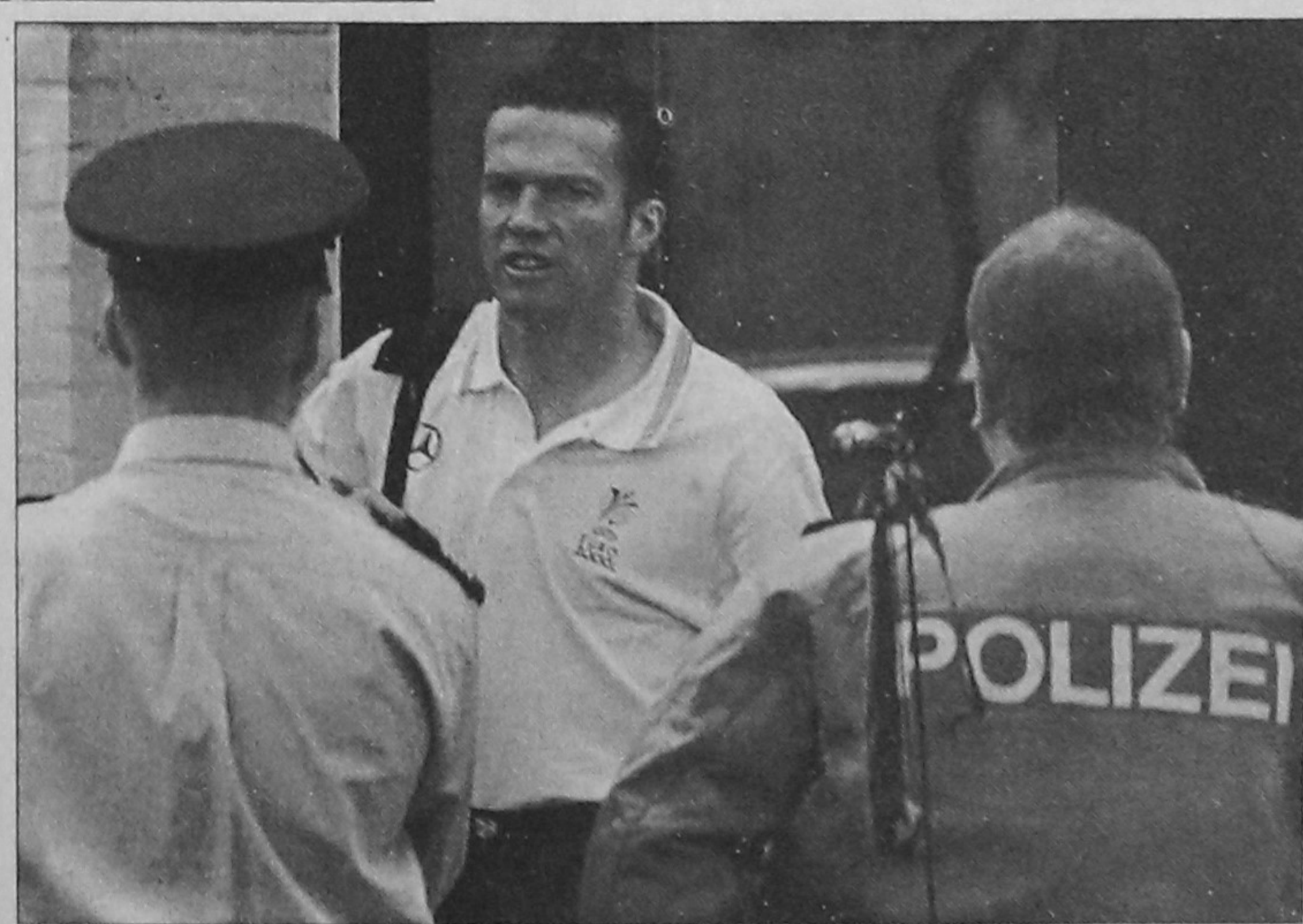
VAALS, Netherlands, June 16: German striker and captain Oliver Bierhoff will miss the rest of the Euro 2000 finals after injuring his right calf muscle, team spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach said here Friday, reports AFP.

"The injury is worse than we thought. Oliver will not be able to play again in the tournament," Niersbach told a news conference.

"It's a heavy blow for us. Oliver is not only an attacker, but also our captain," German coach Erich Ribbeck said.

The 32-year-old Bierhoff tore the muscle during an open training session Wednesday. At first it was thought the AC Milan player would be out for around eight days, but scans then showed the injury was worse than at first thought.

Bierhoff was the hero for Germany at the last European championships in England four years ago when his "Golden Goal" in the final against the Czech Republic won the title.



German superstar Lothar Matthaeus leaving the team hotel in Vaals to board a Charleroi bound bus yesterday. —Internet photo