

Star Sport

DHAKA, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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? Hingis | Pierce | 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 Kastagur

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team? Harrison | Van Gaal | Shakir

Name



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 Mahanagar Natya Mancha at Gulistan yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain



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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 Viali

(Chelsea manager)
"I feel relieved because this win allows me to have a break to recharge the batteries and comeback next with even more success."

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.

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 pressurised 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 on two separate occasions in 1996 and 1997 from a Mukesh Gupta, who 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 1999.

"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 fed 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 an

innings.

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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 9-36-5 another masterclass 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.

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.

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 start 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.

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 Majdebar 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.

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