

## Henry available for tri-series

LONDON, June 17: Seamer Henry Olonga has been passed fit and takes his place in Zimbabwe's 16-man squad to play in the triangular one-day tournament against England and West Indies next month, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old missed both Tests of the recent series against England after sustaining an ankle injury in the final warm-up match at Chelmsford prior to the start of the first Test at Lords.

He was again ruled out of the drawn Test at Trent Bridge and returned home for treatment and has now proved his fitness to the selectors and will return to England on June 26 for the opening match of the tournament against West Indies at Bristol on July 6.

Leg-spinner Paul Strang has also been included having failed to prove his fitness for the Tests, but he has been playing regularly in the Lancashire League with Haslingden since.

Opener Trevor Gripper and leg-spinner Brian Murphy have been overlooked after playing in the Tests, while all-rounder Dirk Viljoen and batsman Craig Wishart complete the party.

### SQUAD

Andy Flower (captain/wicketkeeper), Grant Flower, Heath Streak, Murray Goodwin, Guy Whittall, Stuart Carlisle, Mupfelo Mbangwa, Muleki Nkala, Dirk Viljoen, Bryan Strang, Paul Strang, Craig Wishart, Henry Olonga, Gary Brent, Neil Johnson, Alistair Campbell.

## CBI looks for Gupta

NEW DELHI, June 17: Indian bookmaker Mukesh Gupta, named by disgraced former South African skipper Hansie Cronje, had gone underground, the CBI said, adding, attempts to locate him had not yielded any positive result so far, reports PTL.

The agency said a team of its special crime branch had visited Gupta's shop as well as residence but did not find him. However, his father K L Gupta alleged that he had been picked up by the investigating agency.

Gupta is alleged to be a key figure in the match-fixing scandal in which Cronje had admitted having received 80,000 dollars in two installments.

Meanwhile, Delhi police have ruled out any action by them against Azharuddin and alleged bookie Gupta saying the two persons had no links with the case under its investigation. Terming Cronje's submission as a good development for our case, joint commissioner of police (crime) K K Paul told yesterday. The allegations against Azharuddin and Gupta referred to 1996 Kanpur Test which did not come under the purview of the match-fixing case being probed by the city police.

## Arambagh's new committee

### Sports Reporter

Arambagh Kirra Sangha formed a 56-strong committee with Syed Bazul Karim retaining his position as president of the mediocre Premier Division football league outfit.

The new committee was formed yesterday after the biennial general meeting at the club tent of the Motijheel outfit. Zahidul Islam Khokon has been made the general secretary and Dr. Nazrul Islam treasurer for the next two years. The committee includes twelve vice-presidents.

## 2 bookies caught in Calcutta

CALCUTTA, June 17: Two bookies, allegedly involved in cricket betting, have been arrested from the city, police said today, reports PTL.

The two, JRE brothers, were arrested while conducting cricket betting from their Mohammad Ali Park residence in central Calcutta yesterday by the crime branch and detectives department personnel, police said.

Some documents, a huge amount of cash and computer diskettes containing records of cricket matches were recovered from their possession, the police added.

## Behind Lara

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International Cricket Council (ICC) Code of Conduct outlawing such behaviour did not come into force until July 1 that year.

But as Lara prepared for the third day of the opening Test against England at Edgbaston Saturday, manager Ricky Skerritt issued a statement refuting all the allegations and insisting they would not expand on the issue.

"We're assured by Brian Lara that the allegations are without any foundation," said Skerritt. "The West Indies team is in the UK to play cricket and we will not be participating in any further discussion on this matter."

But if it is proved Lara received money for providing information to bookmakers, he could be liable for a five-year ban following new measures agreed at the ICC emergency meeting into corruption last month.

At that Lord's summit, the world's governing body agreed that "anyone receiving money or rewards for information on whether teams, state of ground, status or match outcome" would receive a five-year ban.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (C) handing over the Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship trophy to players and officials of Noakhali at the Noakhali Stadium on June 16.

# Wanting a piece of Figo



ARNHEM, Netherlands, June 17: Feverish speculation over the future of Portuguese soccer sorcerer Luis Figo intensified Saturday after FC Barcelona said any foreign club interested in snapping up the midfield marvel would have to pay a world-record smashing fee of 20 billion pesetas (116 million dollars), reports AP.

Barcelona announced the huge sum in an apparent attempt to calm the whirlwind of rumors of a possible move from the Catalan club after Figo's standout performance Monday in Portugal's 3-2 victory over England.

Transfer talk has speculated on Italian champions Lazio who were reportedly prepared to offer 10 billion pesetas (58 million dollars) for 27-year-old Figo, itself a world record. Reports have also suggested Lazio could also offer Argentine star Juan Sebastian Veron in a star-exchange deal to get Figo.

However, in a statement Friday, the Barcelona management insisted it wants Figo "to fulfill the contract signed just a year ago."

That contract binds Figo to Barca until 2004, and the team said their terms stipulate any Spanish club wanting to acquire his services would have to pay 10 billion pesetas (58 million dollars), but foreign teams must double that.

Such a fee would demolish the current 50 million dollars

world record paid by Inter Milan to Lazio last year for the transfer of Italian striker Christian Vieri. It's doubtful any club would be prepared to pay it even for a player many rank as the world's most creative.

Figo has another chance to show off his skills Saturday against Romania in a match that would guarantee a place in the Euro 2000 quarterfinals for



LUIS FIGO

the talented Portuguese. He and the rest of the Portuguese team insist the transfer mania is not distracting them from the task in hand.

Meanwhile Figo was quoted in Spanish and Portuguese newspapers Saturday insisting he wants to stay at Barcelona, even if Lazio is offering more cash. Just two days earlier his agent Jose Vieira was quoted by Spain's Europa Press news agency announcing negotiations with Lazio were in final stages and it was "80 per cent certain" the player would leave

Barca. "War over Figo," headlined the Lisbon sports daily O Jogo on its front page Saturday as Europe's top clubs maneuvered to around the Portuguese star. English Champions Manchester United and Italy's AC Milan are also reported to be interested in adding Figo to their rosters.

The issue is complicated by the shake up at Barcelona after the Catalans failed to win a major trophy last season. Dutch coach Louis van Gaal and long-serving president Josep Luis Nunez were both forced out. In the campaign to elect a new president, hanging on to Figo has become a major vote winner among Barca fans.

"We must all unite to keep Figo at Barcelona, for both his human and his sporting qualities. His departure would be dramatic for all of us," candidate Joan Castells was quoted as saying the Lisbon sports paper Record.

"No way are we going to let him leave Barcelona," another leading candidate Joan Gaspart was cited telling Portugal's Publico daily.

Figo is not the only Portuguese player attracting attention.

Since winning the thriller with England, media reports in Italy, Spain and Portugal have linked almost every member of the team with a possible club move.

Latest stories Saturday had Lazio and Roma chasing Everton defender Abel Xavier; Napoli after Paulo Bento and Jose Luis Vidigal; Chelsea, Sporting Lisbon and Fiorentina intensifying the hunt for Joao Pinto, and Rui Costa denying reports he wants to leave Fiorentina.

# Indifference worries Waseige



TIELEN, Belgium, June 17: Belgian coach Robert Waseige warned his team on Friday not to be "too Belgian," saying the team was in danger of becoming too relaxed in the run-up to its

## It began like this

LONDON, June 17 (AFP): It was, English fans hope, a portent of things to come when British soldiers beat their German counterparts in an extraordinary football game during World War I on Christmas Day 1914.

In a game that has gone down in military and footballing history, British and German troops stopped trying to kill each other during a Christmas ceasefire and played an impromptu football match in no man's land instead.

On Friday, the folklore was revived when the daughter of the British team captain of the day presented his winning trophy to the Imperial War Museum in London.

Barbara Poole, 77, handed the museum the decorated German beer mug which a German Hussar awarded to her father, Private Bill Tucker.

"The German soldiers did not want war any more than my father did," Poole said of the World War I match.

On Saturday, England and Germany meet again, this time for a crucial Euro 2000 match in Charleroi, Belgium.

After one defeat in their group already, defeat for England would see the players packing for home no matter how they perform in the final game against Romania.

But Germany have an impeccable record in competitive fixtures against England ever since losing the 1966 World Cup final to the host nation.

The Germans won an epic World Cup match in 1970, a World Cup semi-final on penalties in Italy in 1996 and, again on penalties, the Euro 1996 semi-final in England.

The jug depicts German Hussars in battle and gives the names of the teams' players.



ROBERT WASEIGE

bit laid back. In training today I had the impression I didn't really have 22 players on the pitch," Waseige told reporters at the team's training camp near Belgium's border with the Netherlands.

"I've been reasonably satisfied so far, but I hope we can keep things going. This is just a little signal. I'm just saying watch out!"

The most impressive facet of Belgium's play so far has been their passion, drive and determination, Waseige said he was afraid their tournament would end prematurely if they lost that cutting edge.

"It's the first time I've felt it. We need to keep concentrating. If we blow it, the chance won't come back."

Thanks to an impressive run of results in the lead up to Euro 2000 and a winning start to the tournament proper, the coaches believe they can make serious progress.

A master psychologist, the experienced Waseige knows they should take nothing for granted against what is on paper the group's weakest team.

Refreshed after a day off with their loved-ones, the players denied there was any complacency in the squad.

"Speaking personally, I always give 100 per cent," said winger Mbo Mpenza, "other brother of striker Emile. But

I'm sure the coach is better placed to judge which players still have the desire and which don't.

Striker Luc Nilis, who has failed to make a lasting impression in his two appearances as a substitute, said the attitude in the squad came from confidence, not complacency.

"I don't think we're complacent; we're very confident," Nilis told Reuters. "We have just one aim in mind. We know what we have to do and we're going to do it." Turkey's 0-0 draw with Sweden on Thursday evening has put Belgium in pole position to qualify as runners-up in the group, but Waseige insisted there would be no change in tactics against Turkey and no suggestion of playing for a draw.

"The 0-0 result certainly wasn't bad for us, but I'm not going to say it was a good result. The work remains to be done and we don't want half of it to be done by somebody else."

"If we play for a draw, we're less likely to get it. I'm not deviating from my approach. 'We're playing to win. If we say we're playing for a draw, the players will lack the necessary drive', Waseige said.

Mpenza was confident Belgium could get the result they needed as long as they continued to play as they had against Italy, when they had most of the possession, even though they failed to breach the Italian defence.

"We must play like we did against Italy, and must at all costs avoid letting in an early goal. If we continue playing as a team and don't relax thinking a draw's enough, we'll have a great chance," Mpenza said.

Belgium turn their attention on Saturday to analysing Turkey's two games to date and Waseige cautioned that the Turks could still pull a strong performance out of the hat on Monday.

"We know less about Turkey than the other teams. Their coach is still looking for the right balance and it could still arrive," he said. "They've had some good moments and some rather less than good moments."

The Belgian squad has so far remained reasonably clear of serious injury problems.

Left back Nico Van Kerckhoven has recovered from mild concussion suffered against Italy, while his replacement Marc Hendrikx was able to train on Friday, despite taking a knock in a friendly on Thursday.

## Ragib Ali Cup hockey starts today

The Ragib Ali Club Cup hockey tournament, a preparatory meet for the Metropolitan League, begins today at the Moulana Bhasani National Stadium, reports UNB.

Victoria Sporting Club will take on Ajax SC in the inaugural match at 3:30 pm. Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) vice president Ragib Ali will open the third version of the meet.

Out of sixteen metropolis Premier and First Division league teams, 14 teams, divided into four groups, will initially take part on knock out basis matches.

Four group champions will play in the four-team super league, beginning June 25. Two top teams will play the final on July 3.

The participating teams are:

Group 1 — Mohammedan SC, Sadharan Bima and Bachelors Club.

Group 2 — Abahani Limited, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Railways.

Group 3 — Usha KC, Farashganj SC, Wari Club and Mukta Bhanga Tarnu Sangha.

Group 4 — Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club, Ajax SC, Victoria SC and Dhaka Wanderers Club.

## More than just friends

STOCKHOLM, June 17 (AFP): After weeks of speculation and subsequent denials, Sweden's world number two tennis star Magnus Norman has admitted what the media long suspected: That he and Swiss world number one Martina Hingis are an item.

"Yes, we are a couple," Norman told his hometown newspaper Vaermlands Folkblad in today's edition.

"We have been friends and played together in the same tournaments since we were juniors. But in March it grew into something more," said 24-year-old Norman, who lost his number one world ranking to French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten in a four-set final in Paris on Sunday.

Rumours of a romance began when Hingis, 19, was seen watching all of Norman's training sessions and matches during the French Open. But the pair denied the reports at the time, saying they were only "good friends."

## Goodwin hits another century

GLOUCESTER, June 17: Zimbabwe's in-form batsman Murray Goodwin took a depleted Gloucestershire attack apart as he registered a career-best 194 on the opening day of the Gloucester Festival here on Friday, reports AFP.

His chanceless 238-ball innings contained a six over mid-wicket and 30 fours and steered the tourists to 405 for four on a true pitch and quick-scoring outfield.

Goodwin, who scored a splendid century against England in the second Test, was well supported by Trevor Gripper, who contributed 54 to a second-wicket stand of 127, and former captain Alistair Campbell, who made 59 in an opening stand of 191.

Jon Lewis, one of only four regulars from Gloucestershire's championship side, was comfortably the most successful of the home bowlers with a return of three for 62 in 22 overs. Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower opted to bat first when he won the toss and it was easy to see why, as the Gloucestershire attack found little encouragement from the pitch once the shine had gone from the new ball.

Lewis gained the only success of the morning session when he had Craig Wishart caught by wicketkeeper Jack Russell off a defensive edge.

But Goodwin, who took an unbeaten 148 off England in the second Test at Trent Bridge earlier this month, was soon into his stride.

He rarely needed to loft the ball, with the majority of his fours driven or cut crisply through the off-side.

He brought up his century from 148 balls and then accelerated to his next fifty from only 28 deliveries, with five fours taken from a Michael Cawdron over which also contained four byes.

Goodwin eased past his previous best of 166 not out, made in a Test with Pakistan in Bulawayo two years ago, and a double hundred looked certain.

But it was not to be as he shouldered arms to Lewis in the 87th over and was adjudged lbw by umpire Allan Jones.

## Sampras, Hewitt on course

LONDON, June 17: Defending champion Pete Sampras and Australian Lleyton Hewitt remain on course for a final showdown in the 800,000-dollar grasscourt tournament at Queen's Club after both earned comfortable straight-sets victories in the quarterfinals on Friday, reports Reuters.

Second seed Sampras eased past compatriot Bob Bryan 6-4, 6-4, while Hewitt, the sixth seed, won by the same margin against the Frenchman Cedric Pioline, the number four seed.

Hewitt, 19, faces unseeded Italian Gianluca Pozzi in the last four, while Sampras plays another non-seed from Italy, Davide Sanguinetti, who ousted Romania's Andrei Pavel.

# Kapil, Azhar told to stay away



NEW DELHI, June 17: Indian Sports Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa Saturday said all scandal-tainted cricketers, including ex-captains Kapil Dev and Mohammad Azharuddin, should quit the game until cleared of match-fixing charges, reports AFP.

Dhindsa was quoted by the Times of India daily as saying that he felt anybody who had been accused of wrongdoing should distance themselves from Test cricket until cleared to show "moral courage".

"I want all the players, including Indian team coach Kapil Dev, to get their names cleared before returning to the side," he said.

Kapil Dev has denied comments by former Indian cricket chief Inderjit Singh Bindra and former Test cricketer Manoj Prabhakar that he had offered a bribe to play badly in a one-day international in Sri Lanka in 1994.

According to Bindra, Prabhakar said Kapil had offered him 25,000 dollars to underperform.

Sports Minister Dhindsa on Friday said Azharuddin should quit the game until proven innocent after Hansie Cronje alleged that Azharuddin had introduced him to a bookmaker

who offered the former South African skipper around 30,000 dollars to throw a match against India in 1996.



SUKHDEV DHINDSA

Azharuddin angrily denied the charge calling it a South African plot and accused some of his Indian colleagues of launching a witchhunt against him because he was a Muslim in a Hindu-dominated country.

"That is why I am being victimised and targeted, especially by some ex-cricketers who have a personal grudge against me. They can't stand the idea that a

person from a minority community should have been in the saddle of Indian cricket for so long," he said.

Dhindsa told the Times of India he was not passing judgement on either Kapil or Azharuddin.

"I am not saying the allegations are true but when someone like Cronje makes it after owning his part in the unsavoury activities, it is a serious matter."

He also denied that Azharuddin was being victimised simply because he was a practising Muslim.

"These remarks will not help him as laws are not framed to deal with crime on the basis of religion," he said.

However, an official from India's cricket board told newspaper that Dhindsa's comments were "most unfortunate" since he was asking the two men to quit "on the basis of statements by players whose credibility it-self is in question."

The ongoing cricket scandals started when New Delhi police in April charged Cronje with match-fixing.

The Indian police charges relate to five one-day international series South Africa played here between March 9 and 19. India won the series 3-2.

# Warne guides Hampshire



LONDON, June 17: Australian spin legend Shane Warne saw Hampshire to victory inside three days

on Friday, the hosts inflicting a crushing innings and 164 runs defeat on Durham by lunchtime, reports AFP.

Durham, bowled out for just 83 first time around, made just 93 today as they followed on chasing Hampshire's first innings of 340.

The Australian leg-spinner took four wickets in each innings to finish with match figures of eight for 56.

Warne was not the only leg-spinner in the wickets.

A career-best performance from former English international Ian Salisbury, who took eight for 60 helped bowl out Somerset for 190 as the visitors slumped to a three-day defeat by an innings and 213 runs at The Oval.

Salisbury and his partner, Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, dominated the match once Surrey had posted their daunting first-innings total of 548.

Yorkshire also enjoyed victory with a day to spare. Ryan Sidebottom took 'career-best' figures for the second time in the match, his six for 16 improving on five for 27 in the first innings as Yorkshire beat Kent by six wickets for their fourth Championship victory of the season.

Kent, 36 for three overnight, collapsed to 82 all out in their

second innings.

Yorkshire gained 15 points from the victory to go 16 clear of Lancashire at the top of the First Division table, with the



SHANE WARNE

next championship game between the Roses rivals.

In the other Division One match, Derbyshire were forced to follow on against Leicestershire after tumbling to 133 all out in reply to the home side's 310.

Pace bowler James Ormond took six for 50, and another wicket in Derbyshire's second innings as they struggled to 116 for five.

In the Second Division, there was another quick victory

as visitors Sussex put Worcestershire to the sword.

Sussex won by eight wickets after Jason Lewry (five for 29) tore apart the home side, who were out for 110 in their second innings. Sussex made their target of 64 for the loss of two wickets.

Nottinghamshire should secure victory on Saturday after another day of domination against Middlesex at Lord's.

Usman Afsar (127) and Chris Read (56n) helped put Nottinghamshire into the near-unassailable position as they declared on 293 for six, a lead of 392.

Middlesex lost two early wickets in their second innings before Paul Weekes and Owais Shah steered the home side through to stumps, still 324 behind.

Ronnie Irani hit a career-best unbeaten 168 as Essex declared on 410 for seven against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

Glamorgan lost Steve James cheaply and closed on 47 for one in reply.

Northampton were forced to follow on against visitors Warwickshire, chasing a huge target of 568 for nine.

Spinner Ashley Giles did the damage with four for 45 as Northants were bowled out for 266 in the first innings, with only Mal Loye (93) offering resistance.

Giles then took three for 47 as Northants followed on, closing at 160 for four -- still 142 behind -- with Adrian Rollins 71 not out.

# Shane admits to shame



SYDNEY, June 17: Shane Warne Friday admitted making a lewd phone call to a

British nurse but claimed he was being "crucified" for his part in their two-way conversation, reports AFP.

Australia's leading wicket-taker said Donna Smith, 22, who has accused him of harassing her with sexually explicit messages on her mobile telephone, was equally to blame for the embarrassing disclosure.

Admitting the latest chapter in his controversial career would harm his chances of one-day captaining Australia, Warne said his relationship with wife Simone was "fine" despite his involvement with Smith.

Warne said he and Smith had spoken at least twice, ten days apart, in contrast to her claims that he'd only ever left "disturbing" messages for her on mobile phone voice mail.

"It was probably the wrong thing to do but I thought it was a private matter. I didn't think it was going to become public and now that it has become public I suppose it's a mistake," Warne told the Nine Network's A Current Affair Friday.

"If it had have stayed private then it wasn't a mistake."

"She was talking dirty to me on the phone and I reciprocated ... she was reciprocating and laughing with her friends about it but now she's decided to come public with it all and just try to crucify me."

"It's been very disappointing -- the exaggeration, the sensationalism of it all -- and the inaccuracies," said Warne.

Smith, whose mother's maiden name of Wright was used when England's Daily Mirror newspaper broke the story last weekend, says Warne tried to meet up with her at an English nightclub.

She claims he shoved his hotel key and phone details into her back pocket.

Warne denied this, saying he and his Hampshire teammates were unwinding with a beer after a day's cricket when Smith approached him.

"She came up to me and said 'I heard you're famous, can you sign my back?' and bent over in front of me and wanted me to sign her back," he said.