

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Aamir Sohail

(Pakistan cricketer)

The ICC and Test playing countries should generate more revenue and pass it down fairly to the players.

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?	United	Real Madrid	Lazio
3	Who won the UEFA Cup?	Valencia	Galatasaray	Fiorentina
4	Who lifted national schools cricket title?	St Joseph	McSingh Zila	Ctg Khastagi
5	Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?	Harrison	Van Gaal	Shakir

ICC meet in Paris

Sports Reporter

The all-important Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) got underway at Paris yesterday.

The ICC is expected to go through a roller-coaster ride for the next seven days of its annual meeting in the wake of wide-spread match-fixing scandals in the cricket. Although it is not clear yet whether the Hanisite Cronje-Salim Malik issue tops its agenda, but this is for sure that these embarrassing disclosures would dominate the proceedings.

Besides the 'fix' issues, the game's governing body would

reach a decision on Bangladesh's application for Test status on June 26. Bangladesh had earlier won five out of the required seven votes from the nine Full members in last year's AGM. But this time around the Test-aspiring nation has already earned the vote of confidence from all but England.

Although a questionably conservative section of British press is currently very active in running campaign against Bangladesh's bid, it is almost certain that ICC would approve their application and make them as the tenth Test-playing nation with immediate effect.

The Cricket Committee meets today and, in all proba-

bility, will pass their positive recommendation on to Executive Committee meeting on June 29.

The ICC delegates, now in France to meet the TV rights bidders for the 2003 and 2007 World Cup, move to game's headquarter at Lord's after finalising the financial aspect.

The 2003 event will be held in South Africa and the next one of the quadrennial cricket extravaganza will play in the West Indies in 2007. It was learnt that among the short listed bidders TWI, who won the TV rights of the 1999 England World Cup, have dropped out, leaving Zee TV and World Sports Group in the race.

Bangladesh face Malaysia today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take on Malaysia in the second semi-final of the Asian Hockey Federation Under-16 Hockey Championship in Singapore this evening.

The first semifinal is between India and Thailand.

Bangladesh finished second in Pool B behind India in the first round. They beat Japan in the opening match 5-1 and then lost to India 0-1 in the second match.

However, Bangladesh confirmed their berth in the last four defeating Oman 2-1 in their final match on Wednesday.

The winners of today's semifinals will lock horns in Sunday's final.

BKSP natants dominate

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protis-than (BKSP) made an impressive start in the Keaya Cosmetics 19th National Age-Group Swimming Championships which began at the Bangladesh Navy swimming pool in Banani yesterday.

On the opening day of the three-day long meet, BKSP led the medals table with highest nine out of 24 golds decided.

Bangladesh Ansars followed them with seven golds while Kushita were in the third spot with five golds. Dinajpur, Narayanganj and Chapainawabganj earned one gold each.

Following are the winners on Day One:

BOYS' GROUP

100m freestyle (11-12 years): Romeo Siddique (BKSP)

100m freestyle (15-17): Nazrul Islam (BKSP)

100m breaststroke (18-20): Tanjil Islam Khan (BKSP)

100m backstroke (13-14): Rabiu Alam (BKSP)

100m butterfly (11-12): Romeo Siddique (BKSP)

200m individual medley (15-17): Neeyamul Haque (Ansars)

200m freestyle (18-20): Saiful Islam (BKSP)

200m breaststroke: Mashirul Rahman (Dinajpur)

200m individual medley (10): Miazanur Rahman (Chapainawabganj)

400m freestyle (15-17): Wasil (BKSP)

200m butterfly (18-20): Abdur Rahman (BKSP)

200m freestyle (13-14): Monirul Islam (BKSP)

GIRLS' GROUP

100m freestyle (11-12): Laboni Akhter Jui (Kushita)

100m freestyle (15-17): Doly Akhter (Ansars)

100m breast stroke (18-20): Merina Akhter (Kushita)

100m back stroke: Sobura Khatoon (Kushita)

100m butterfly (11-12): Runu (Ansars)

200m individual medley (15-17): Doly Akhter (Ansars)

200m freestyle (18-20): Lipi Akhter (Ansars)

200m breast stroke (13-14): Sobura Khatoon (Kushita)

200m individual medley (10): Rozina (Narayanganj)

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Wasim the best'

KARACHI, June 22: Pakistani paceman Wasim Akram is the best in the elite club of bowlers who have taken 400 wickets in Tests, cricket great Imran Khan said Thursday.

"I rate him higher than Courtney Walsh, Sir Richard Hadlee and Kapil Dev," the former Pakistani captain told AFP.

"Yes, he is number four as far as tally is concerned but he has more quality," said Imran, who led Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup and is Wasim's self-confessed mentor.

Wasim took his 400th wicket in the first Test against Sri Lanka at Colombo last week. He is the only bowler in cricket history who also has 400 wickets in one-day internationals.

"He is like Hadlee but has more variety than any of the other three greats of world cricket," Imran said.

West Indian Walsh is still the leading wicket-taker in Test matches with 454 scalps, followed by former Indian skipper Kapil Dev with 434 and New Zealand legend Hadlee with 431.

Wasim, 34, was mistakenly introduced as Imran Khan when he was named man-of-the-match after the Colombo Test, which Pakistan won.

"I don't mind being called Imran," said Wasim in a post-match interview. "I learnt a lot from him and he is a person I respect a lot."

Imran said he believed Wasim still had time to become the highest wicket-taker in Test history.

Shortly after reaching the 400 milestone Wasim said he would like to play for another year.



A goalmouth scramble during the Rajib Ali Gold Cup match between Abahani and Sonali Bank at the Moulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Usha, Abahani advance

Sports Reporter

Usha Krira Chakra and Abahani Krira Chakra moved into the super four of the Rajib Ali Gold Cup, Hockey Tournament winning their respective first round group finals at the Moulana Bhashani Stadium yesterday.

On the opening day of the three-day long meet, BKSP led the medals table with highest nine out of 24 golds decided.

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the 58th minute while Moon made it 8-0 after three minutes.

Prince compounded Wari's misery with the last goal in the 62nd minute.

In the other match of the day, the half-strength Abahani edged past Sonali Bank in the shoot-out.

The match was locked 2-2 in the regulation 70 minutes with Abahani enjoying a 2-0 lead in the first session and Sonali Bank levelling the margin after the breather.

Veteran defender Mirajul Islam scored both the goals for Abahani from short corners in the Group B finale.

Shuvo, the lanky centre forward who put five past Mukta Bihanga, continued his prolific streak with four goals.

National forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal and Ariful Haque Prince struck two each while Minhalaz Aziz Moon completed the rout.

The winners led the first half 3-0.

Prince, who also completed a hat-trick against Mukta Bihanga, opened the Usha account in the very first minute and Shuvo doubled the margin after 15 minutes. Kamal sealed the first half in 20th minute.

Usha confined Wari to their own half for much of the second session. In the process they pumped in six more goals, including a hat-trick by Shuvo. Kamal scored his second goal in

the 27th and 32nd minute. On the other hand, Shimul scored the first goal for the bankers in the 38th minute while Mamun equalised in the 67th minute.

In the tie breaker, Miraj, Naikib, Alamgir and Rajib scored for Abahani while Mamun and Monir found the net for Sonali Bank.

Abahani, the popular Dhakmohindi-based outfit, missed the services of four regular faces—Mamun, Rashid, Hidayetul Islam, Rajib, Asiq Abed and Moksed Alam.

Mamun is set to join Usha Krira Chakra on mutual understanding while the other three are now performing national duty with the under-16s in Singapore.

Abahani had to borrow three players—Mizanur Rahman Rubel, Zakir Hossain and Shahidul Islam—from Bangladesh Sporting Club. Besides, they also brought in Jashimuddin Kanchan from Mariner Youngs Club under mutual understanding to make up the required numbers.

Apart from Usha and Abahani, Mohomedan Sporting Club have also booked their berths in the super four. The winners of tomorrow's Group D final between Mariner Youngs and Victoria Sporting Club, will be the other team in the second phase robin league which is likely to start from June 27.

Holland bring France down

AMSTERDAM, June 22: Holland earned a rousing 3-2 fightback victory over second-string France here on Wednesday night meaning they play in their own country for the rest of this Euro 2000 tournament, reports AFP.

Boudewijn Zenden scored the winner, shortly after a blistering free-kick goal from skipper Frank de Boer, as the co