

Star Sport

DHAKA, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One SPORTS TALK



Jonty Rhodes
(South African cricketer)
"People regarded me as more of a one-day player, but I am a better Test batsman these days."

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1	When did ICC recognise Bangladesh as the tenth Test playing nation?	June 25	June 26	June 22
2	Who is the new ICC president?	Gray	Blue	Green
3	When did Bangladesh become ICC's associate member?	1977	1987	1997
4	When will the next cricket World Cup be held?	2002	2003	2005
5	Which country will host the next cricket World Cup?	Zimbabwe	New Zealand	South Africa

Name:
Class: Roll No.
School Address:
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Windies 232/7

BRISTOL, England, July 6: Brian Lara and Ricardo Powell provided the batting fireworks as international one-day cricket under floodlights came to England for the first time on Thursday, reports Reuters.

With rock music pounding out a celebratory beat at the fall of a wicket or the striking of a boundary, Lara lashed 60 off 63 balls and Powell blasted 36 off 23 deliveries for West Indies against Zimbabwe in the opening match of the triangular limited-overs series which also features England.

West Indies, gathering momentum after a slow start, made 232 for seven from their 50 overs in an innings that was briefly interrupted by a swarm of bees flying round the ground, prompting most of the players to lie flat on the ground until they had passed.

However, the real buzz came from Lara and Powell, who matched each other stroke for stroke in a fourth-wicket stand of 56 in eight overs. The Trinidadian left-hander stroked six fours and one six while all-rounder Powell struck five fours and one six.

They gave the innings timely impetus following an uneven batting performance initially after West Indies captain Jimmy Adams had won the toss on a fine though cloudy afternoon. Zimbabwe, despite fielding an attack weakened by the absence through injury of Heath Streak, their main strike bowler, as well as fellow pacesmen Henry Ologa and Pommie Mbangwa, restricted West Indies to 10 runs in the first eight overs.

Left-arm seamer Bryan Strang and Mureki Nkala were responsible for this commendable start before Chris Gayle broke the shackles by driving and cutting the latter for three fours in the 10th over.

Wavell Hinds, who made his one-day best of 116 not out against Zimbabwe in a triangular tournament in the Caribbean last March, drove productively through the off side and struck Gary Brent's medium pacer for a straight six as he and Gayle began to lift the tempo by adding 68 for the second wicket in 17 overs.

Bangladesh face Maldives

Asian Youth qualifiers kick off today

From Hasan Masood

RAJSHAHI, July 6: Bangladesh will take on Maldives in their opening match of the 32nd Asian Youth (under-19) Football Championship Group Four qualifiers at the floodlit local stadium here tomorrow.

This is the first time a match of any kind will be played under lights in the northern divisional headquarters.

The game kicks off at 7pm following the match between Iraq and Nepal. Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will provide live coverage.

Both Bangladesh and Maldives, who arrived here on Tuesday, underwent practice sessions in the afternoon.

Bangladesh trained at the local Police Lines ground while Maldives players warmed-up at the main venue of the qualify-



ASIAN YOUTH U19 CHAMPIONSHIP 2000

ing round.

"This is going to be a crucial match for Bangladesh," said coach Arif Hussain.

"Emulating the success of under-16 team in Jamshedpur last month is going to be tough task for my boys."

"Bangladesh has a reputation of doing well in the age-

group tournaments and so the expectations are very high," added the former national defender.

"Our mission here is to qualify for the final round," said Yusuf.

"We will first have to deal with the games against Maldives and Nepal before thinking about Iraq."

"However, some niggling injury problems has hampered our tactics and formation for the game."

Although, I prefer to go with a 3-5-2 formation, but it may be changed to a 4-3-3 if situation demands," Yusuf said.

First-choice goalkeeper Tiumeer Chowdhury Tito hurt his nose and midfielder Firaz Mahmud Hossain Tito twisted an ankle during the warm-up.

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Shomak takes solo lead

Sports Reporter

Shomak Palit took the solo lead of Group A in the second Standard Chartered Bank Schools' Chess Tournament at the end of the fifth round at the NSC chess room on Thursday.

A student of Mitra Institute in Calcutta, Shomak defeated fellow-Calcuttan Joydev Dutta for his fifth straight win.

It was Joydev's first defeat after four successive victories. A student of Kumar Ashotosh School, Joydev now slipped to third position behind Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Yanur Rahman, Nazir Salehin and Debayan Mojumder. The quartet shared second position with four and a half points each.

In Group B, Sheikh Ahmed of Calcutta Modern School continued to lead the board with maximum five points on completion of the fifth round.

The colour is black

LONDON, July 6: Black stumps and balls will be used for the first time in England during the 10-match one-day international series involving England, West Indies and Zimbabwe, reports Reuters.

The tournament starts today in Bristol with a game between West Indies and Zimbabwe in what will be the first day-night international staged in England.

Organisers say music will form an integral part of the entertainment package at all the games.

2006 World Cup

Germany made it favourites

LONDON, July 6: Hosts Germany are joint 6-1 favourites with Brazil to win the 2006 World Cup, according to British bookmaker William Hill, reports Reuters.

Soccer's world governing body FIFA announced today that Germany was chosen ahead of South Africa, England and Morocco to host the 2006 finals.

Hill had quoted Germany at 3-1 to win the right to host the 2006 World Cup with South Africa the 10-11 favourites.

United boss tries to be brave

LONDON, July 6: Martin Edwards, the chairman of English Premiership champions Manchester United, on Thursday expressed his disappointment over England's failed 2006 World Cup bid, reports AFP.

And he also denied suggestions that his team's withdrawal from the FA Cup last season - a move which was hoped would improve England's bid - was pointless.

FIFA, football's governing body, awarded the most glittering prize in football to Germany over pre-race favourites South Africa, while England and Morocco fell by the way side in the early rounds.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter gave the verdict of his 24-man FIFA executive committee to a packed Press conference Thursday at the Hallenstadion in Zurich.

United pulled out of the FA Cup to compete in FIFA's inaugural Club World Championship in Brazil after the British government and the Football Association made it clear that England's chances would be harmed by their non-participation.



Players and officials of the victorious Usha Krira Chakra, who retained the Ragib Ali Gold Club Cup, pose with the trophy after their win over Abahani in the final at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Usha keep their Cup

Sports Reporter

Shuvo however had a fair share of chances to win a hat-trick, but he had only to blame himself for missing the mark on a couple of occasions. Besides, Abahani custodian - also denied the powerful reverse shot from the nimble forward few minutes before the penalty stroke.

Still, Shuvo's delightful double earned him the highest scorer in the season's curtain-raiser with 12 goals.

The former BKSP student gave Usha the lead midway through the first session from an imaginative penalty corner. The 20-year-old centre forward then sealed the fate of the match with a close-range drive from a combined attack down the middle - seven minutes after the lemon break.

But the score line hardly reflected Usha's total dominance over Abahani in the anticlimactic final where their Pakistani recruit, Saqlain, missed a penalty stroke in the last quarter of the match.

Umpire Aslam awarded the penalty after Abahani and national defender Mamunur Rashid brought down a menacingly poised Prince in the forbidden zone. But a bearded Saqlain, a member of the Pakistan national team, could only manage to hit the left-side post much to the agony of his teammates.

The audience could not believe when Saqlain stepped up to take the penalty instead of Shuvo, for whom a treble and that too against Abahani was beckoning.

Although Shuvo stole the limelight, it was his BKSP mate Prince who captivated the sparse crowd with brilliant stick work, superb running and imaginative crosses.

The linchpin of every Usha attack, Prince was later adjudged player-of-the-tournament. His authoritative presence in the up front even overshadowed his more illustrious

captain Kamal, who appeared to have lost much of his speed and guile in recent past.

Abahani on the other hand were remained behind the ball for most of the proceedings. With the age showing in former national playmaker Mahabub Haroon and their two Pakistani recruits failing to make any impression, Abahani had hardly created any planned move throughout the match. The unimaginative and lackluster Abahani players were seen waiting for their chances to come by.

It did come early in the first half, but veteran striker Alamgir Alam muffed up the opportunity. With the Usha custodian at his mercy, Alamgir tried the difficult way to go round the keeper instead of taking a first time shot. He eventually ended up sending the ball wide off anybody's reach from an acute angle.

Besides, Abahani were also found nervous in converting penalty corners. They got half a dozen short corners against Usha's couple. Interestingly, they came closer to scoring in their fifth attempt but only to be hooked out by Moksed.

Usha, certainly the deserving victors, won a cash award of Taka 20,000 apart from the glittering champion's trophy. Abahani, who won the inaugural edition, were richer by Taka 10,000.

Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Mustafizur Rahman, BB gave away prizes among the winners after the final that drew only a few hundred crowds.

MOUDUD...highest scorer

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Cubs thrash Thais

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh recorded a massive 210-run win over Thailand in their penultimate league match of the ACC Under-15 Cricket Championship at the Kilat Kelab ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The apex of an otherwise one-sided affair was a brilliant century by opener Hasibul Haq. The BKSP (Bangladesh Krira Shikha Prothistan) student hammered a swashbuckling 103 off 108 balls as Bangladesh, sent into bat, piled up a huge 244 before being all out with four balls to spare. In reply, Thailand were shot out for only 34 in 20.5 overs of the 40-over-a-side contest.

The wicketkeeper-batsman showed a telling maturity on his way to the magical three-figure mark. He kept his cool despite wicket fell at regular intervals at the other end. Interestingly, Hasibul owed a lot to his BKSP mate Rubaiyat who played a perfect foil after the top six batsmen perished quickly, nibbling at deliveries better to be left alone.

It was a sorry figure at the

haul against Hong Kong on Wednesday with yet another fantastic spell of 4/3. His 23 deliveries had the Thai batsmen wobbling for clues about how to counter the art of leg breaks.

Arif was however once again supported well by Mahmudullah. Claimed four wickets in the previous match against Hong Kong, Mahmud ran over the Thai top-order to finish with fantastic figures of 7-2-8-3.

Besides, new-ball bowler Rubaiyat captured two wickets, giving away only 8 runs in his 4 fiery overs. One of the three BKSP students in the team, Rubaiyat also proved his mettle as a useful long-handled bat. He scored a breezy 33 while batting at number eight.

For Thailand, opener Dhanuul top-scored with nine and extras contributed highest 12 to their total.

It was Bangladesh's second successive victory after three defeats against India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Already out of the title race, Bangladesh will play their last league match of the seven-nation meet against hosts Malaysia on Saturday.

A predominantly football-crazy nation, Thailand, who are yet to take up cricket seriously, however could show hardly anything when they began their chase. Thailand batsmen were never at ease against the pace and spin bowling of Bangladesh.

Leg-spinner Arif Hossain followed up his four-wicket

well as in Rajshahi.

"The tickets have put on sale from today. But there is hardly any response so far," lamented Shams, adding that they would be able to give the exact figure of the sale of tickets after the opening day.

Shams was however counting on charm of floodlights. "Still, I am hopeful of a full house because the people of Rajshahi will

successfully.

Favourites Iraq will take on Nepal in the opener at 5 pm while hosts Bangladesh will face Maldives in the next match at 7 pm.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will provide live coverage of the proceeding till July 11.

Three foreign teams - Iraq, Maldives and Nepal - are staying at the Parjatan Motel while Bangladesh team checked in a local hotel.

The DSA general secretary also revealed they have estimated a budget of Taka 39 lakh for the tournament, which includes a 45-minute colourful opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony starts at 4 pm. Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil will attend occasion as chief guest.

Meanwhile, a meeting of four managers of the participating teams was held at the stadium this evening with Match Commissioner Alexander Rego in the chair.

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About the preparations, he said all the things have been taken care of to make meet

Response not good yet

From Hasan Masood

RAJSHAHI, July 6: The Group Four qualifiers of the 32nd Asian Youth (under-19) Football Championship begin at the local district stadium here tomorrow.

This is the first major international football extravaganza to be held here since the Asian Under-16 qualifiers way back in 1992.

Although this time the tournament offers better teams, magnificent floodlights and a more competitive football, local soccer buffs here in the northern headquarters showed half the interest they showed 20 years ago.

In 1992, football was at the peak of everything. We could not accommodate crowd here at this stadium and lot of spectators had to remain outside the stadium that time after not being able to manage tickets," said Rafiq Shams Paddy, the acting general secretary of Rajshahi District Sports Association (DSA), to The Daily Star Sport this afternoon. "But the whole scenario has now been changed. Football has lost its charm in the whole country as

well as in Rajshahi."

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Venus v Lindsay

LONDON, July 6: Fifth seed Venus Williams ousted younger sister Serena 6-2, 7-6 here Thursday to reach the Wimbledon women's singles final, reports AFP.

Venus beat her eighth-seeded sibling in 1hr 27min and in Saturday's final will face defending champion and fellow-American Lindsay Davenport, who beat Australian teenager Jelena Dokic 6-4, 6-2 in the other semifinal. Top seed Davenport won in just 51 min.

Venus won a tension-filled, heavy-hitting encounter as she hung tough when it mattered, although neither sister played their best tennis.

The end when it came was an anti-climax as Serena served up a sixth double fault.

Afterwards, Venus said the joy of making her first final had been tempered by whom she had had to beat.

"It's not really so much fun. A final would have been different."

"It could have gone either way. In the end I was able to hang tough," the 20-year-old Venus told BBC television.

Venus revealed with a grin that as the older sibling she normally got her way when

they were younger.

"I was always able to get things first - got my car first."

She added that if Serena complained, their parents stepped in to ensure "the younger one gets the ice cream."

Venus preferred to take the match and leave the candy to the loser.

Serena was in tears at the end as the pair walked off with Venus striding purposefully ahead having vanquished her sister for the fourth time in five meetings.

However, Serena put one over 'big sis' by landing the US Open crown last year while Venus has yet to lift a Grand Slam singles title.

"The only reason I was able to play so well was because she played so well," added Venus, who put her arm around Serena as they briefly embraced at the net.

"We get on so well. For me it's more like I have the big sister role. I've always taken care of Serena. That's the way it's always been."

Thursday's match was the first time sisters had met on Centre Court here since 1884 and it was the first time in the Open Era that sisters had faced each other in the main draw at the All England Club.

S Africa in depths of despair



JOHANNESBURG, July 6 (Reuters/AFP): South Africa sighed with grief and hit out at European soccer powers today after losing out to rival Germany in its bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Parties planned across the country were cancelled or fizzled out, leaving most South Africans to think of what might have been - the biggest sporting event ever to grace Africa.

Packed bars in the sprawling former township of Soweto groaned after the news while crowds in the Indian Ocean city of Durban were stunned into silence by the announcement.

"I am devastated," said 48-year-old Hendrick, choking back his tears in one of Soweto's bars.

Television pictures showing joyous German officials in Zurich did not help lift the feeling of gloom.

Even the magic of former president Nelson Mandela had not been able to swing the FIFA executive in their final deliberations to choose the venue for soccer's showcase.

Mandela, 81, was visibly disappointed when the news broke.

Mandela's successor, President Thabo Mbeki, called it a tragic day for his country but vowed that South Africa would win the 2010 World Cup bid.

"Of course the disappointment we're experiencing today is set back to our efforts at gaining the recognition that Africa deserves in the international sporting community," Mbeki said in a live television address to a depressed nation minutes after FIFA announced in Zurich

that Germany would host the cup on a 12-11 vote.

"We are confident that our bid was sound in all respects but a few of the final arbiters, from their unique vantage point, clearly had their own view different from ours," Mbeki said.

He added: Once more, our best wishes to the winning nation. Next time we will win."

South African soccer stars denounced the decision, saying it was unfair for Europe to again hold the competition.

"It is very disappointing I thought it was 100 per cent that we would get it. It's very sad that Europe is getting it again," said Quinton Fortune a South

smacking their lips at the prospects of hundreds of thousands of foreign soccer fans wanting to combine the games with visits to world-renowned game parks and beaches.

"Next time we will win," he added.

Earlier the thousands of disappointed fans who had crammed into the Good Hope Centre left immediately after the announcement.

The same happened at the Sports Caft at Cape Town's Waterfront. Public figures who attended the festivities at the Good Hope Centre included Minister Kader Asmal, Saliwe Mowzer of the City of Cape Town, Cape Metropolitan Council mayor William Bantam and Western Cape premier Gerald Morkel.

Mowzer said although South Africa had lost "We are proud of the bid team."

Screaming headlines in South Africa's Thursday morning newspapers voiced the nervous anticipation and excitement gripping the country ahead of the announcement.

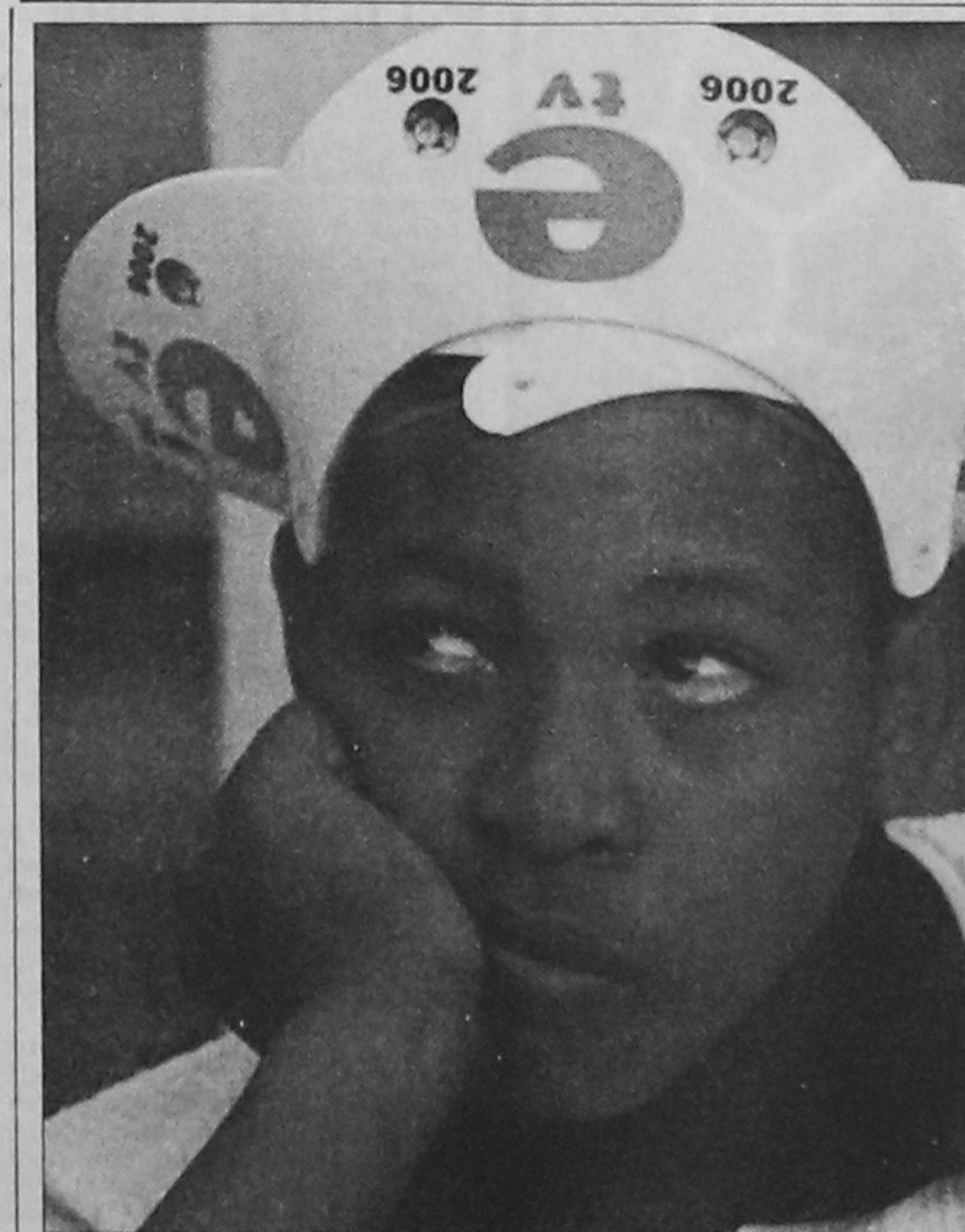
The looming decision took up several pages in all dailies and was the topic of discussion on several radio talk shows.

Restaurants and taverns were expecting to rake in the rands with office-workers downing pens to watch the live broadcast - due at 2:00 pm South African time (1200 GMT) - of FIFA's decision on big screen television sets.

"Hold your thumbs, hold your breath, close your eyes... and HOPE," instructed the Star newspaper on its front page, its masthead in the colours of the South African flag to mark the occasion.

"Give it to us!" the Sowetan newspaper shouted, adding that it was convinced the Cup would come to Africa for the first time in its 70-year history.

"When FIFA this afternoon declares South Africa the appropriate candidate to host the 2006 World Cup finals - and we believe it will - it will have answered the prayers of about 840 million people in Africa and



DEJECTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: A soccer fan in Cape Town is in despair after his country's failed bid to become hosts of the World Cup 2006 yesterday. —Internet photo

PREVIOUS VENUES

- UNDATED, July 6 (AP):
- 1930: Uruguay
- 1934: Italy
- 1938: France
- 1950: Brazil
- 1954: Switzerland
- 1958: Sweden
- 1962: Chile
- 1966: England
- 1970: Mexico
- 1974: Argentina
- 1978: Argentina
- 1982: Spain
- 1986: Mexico
- 1990: Italy
- 1994: United States
- 1998: France

African who plays for English league champions Manchester United.

Benny McCarthy of Spain's Celta Vigo said: "I am disappointed as the millions of South Africans. I know we did enough. Europe stuck together and that's not fair."

Hope that the continent would land the 2010 tournament after a well-received bid for 2006 was scant comfort for the thousands of South Africans who had prepared for one of the biggest nights of celebration since democracy in 1994.

The loss of a potential tourist boom also hit the country's rand and stock market which had strengthened in the run up to the decision.

Tour operators had been