

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

(Pakistan all-rounder)
"You can achieve a lot only when you enjoy your work. There is no point if you feel taking wickets is a burden."

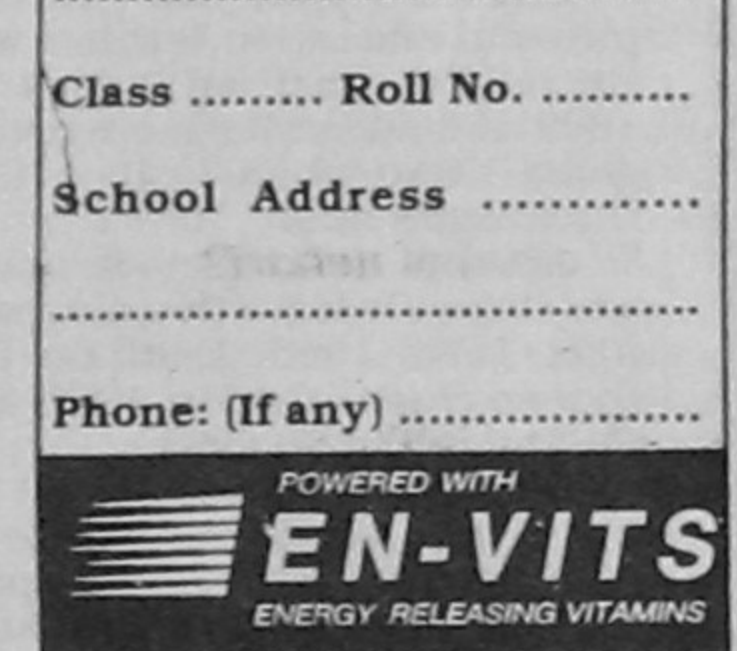
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Competition-132

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

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



NatWest Trophy Surrey storm into qtrs

LONDON, July 7: Surrey clinched a home tie against Lancashire in the NatWest Trophy quarterfinals with a seven-wicket victory over Sussex in a rain-delayed fourth round fixture at The Oval yesterday, reports Reuters.

Australian left-hander Michael Bevan (60) and Richard Monger (53) steered Sussex to 192 for nine in their 50 overs. But ex-England opener Mark Butcher (87 not out), backed up by Alec Stewart (31) and Ian Ward (29) saw Surrey home with 14 balls to spare.

Middlesex reached the last eight with a crushing 165-run victory over Somerset at Southampton to earn a home date against Hampshire.

Paul Weekes (71 not out) helped Middlesex to post a challenging 223 for four as rain prevented a first-day finish on Wednesday.

Somerset were skittled for 58 in only 28.3 overs, their lowest total in the competition. They lost their first four wickets for just nine runs.

Paceman Tim Bloomfield took four for 17 in eight overs, well supported by Aaron Laraman (three for six) and Angus Fraser (two for 19).

In the other delayed tie, Keith Newell carried his bat for 62 as Glamorgan duly completed a five-wicket win over Kent at Canterbury.

The Welsh county resumed at 65 for one, needing only another 56 from 37 overs to overtake Kent's 121.

PTI adds, in another splendid performance on English soil, Saurav Ganguly missed century by just three runs but led Lancashire to victory in their NatWest Trophy match against Essex.

Lancashire won the Wednesday's toss and notched up 251 for five, with a 163-run opening partnership between Ganguly and Michael Atherton (70) providing an ideal launch pad for a challenging score. They then restricted Essex to 183 in 42.3 overs to win the game by 68 runs.

Iraq enjoy goal feast

From Hasan Masood

RAJSHAH, July 7: Favourites Iraq blanked Nepal 7-0 in the opening match of the 32nd Asian Youth Football Championship Group Four qualifiers at the local stadium today in the evening.

The runaway leaders comfortably led the first half 5-0. After going close to taking the lead on several occasions, Iraq broke the deadlock in the 15th minute through a free-kick from the left flank. Mohammad Shiltag found Jassim Kilam who rose above the defenders to head home.

Ahmed Adwan doubled the margin after two minutes with a well-placed shot while Emad Ridha made it 3-0 tapping in the rebound after Adwan's shot hit the cross-piece in the 35th minute.

Haider Razik added the fourth goal for the marauding Iraqis after receiving a neat pass from the right by Abul Hasan in the 37th minute. A second goal just before half-time for Ridha completed the demolition.

Iraq switched off in the second session and only added two

more goals. Substitute Alaa Jabbar found the net after sloppy work by the Nepalese defenders in trying to deal with a corner in the 59th minute. Another substitute Lawe Hassan grabbed the last goal of the game -- a rasping shot from just outside the box in the last minute.



Iraq will now meet Maldives in their next match on Sunday before facing home side Bangladesh on Tuesday.

Earlier, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil inaugurated the five-day tournament after a 45-minute colourful ceremony.

The divisional headquarters was decorated at various points. The stadium and its surrounding areas had posters, banners and also flags of the four participating teams.

During the course of the game the minister also turned on the floodlights.

Yellow cards: Shiltag and Razik (Iraq) and Naresh Shrestha (Nepal).

TEAMS

IRAQ: Ahmed Jabbar, Emad Ridha (Alaa Jabbar), Hassan Atea, (Lawe Hassan), Samech Amir, Basim Kati, Ahmed Adwan, Jassim Kilam, Abdul Hassan Khudhair, Munaim Ibrahim and Mahmud Shiltag (Arkan Shamoun).

NEPAL: Lalit Chand (Ujjal Manandhar), Raj Kumar Gurugan, Rabin Man (Fatta Thapa), Naresh Thapa, Shree Ram Shrestha (Kalayan Khagdi), Parna Bahadur, Sal Bahadur, Naresh Shrestha, Rajendra Tamang, Hari Thakuri and Bibek Shrestha.

Referee: Anura De Silva (Sri Lanka) Man-of-the-match: Abdul Hassan Khudhair (Iraq)

Johnson jolts Windies

BRISTOL, England, July 7: Zimbabwe, led by the dependable bat of Neil Johnson, finally saw the light against West Indies here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Beaten in the Trinidad Test they should have won back in March, and nowhere near winning any of their previous eight one-day matches against West Indies, Andy Flower's determined team finally got off the mark in the razzmatazz of Bristol's historic day/night match.

It was a fitting way to finish the first international to be played under floodlights in Britain and they won by six wickets with 30 balls to spare for their first triumph over West Indies in any form of cricket.

And it added some early spice to the Triangular Series, which also features England. Time eventually ran out for Johnson to follow the hundred he took off Australia in last year's World Cup at Lord's.

The left-hander made a measured 95 not out from 128 deliveries, including nine fours, and was denied the chance of aiming for a six to reach three figures when West Indies captain Jimmy Adams bowled a wide with his first ball to bring the formalities to a close.

Man-of-the-match Johnson, normally a dashing performer at the head of the innings, knuckled down to play an anchor role and only began to become expansive once the game was in the bag.

For Flower it was particularly satisfying result, having played in all Zimbabwe's 139 internationals since they gained Test-playing status in 1992.

He said: "We hit the ground running. Johnson held it together, he's a strong player. He was brilliant today."

And, until this special occasion, West Indies were the only country Zimbabwe had never defeated in a one-day game.

Flower made an important 42 from 59 balls, adding 70 with Johnson in 18 overs at the heart of the innings. And later brother Grant stayed with Johnson until the end, making 26 from 25 balls.

West Indies, for their part, would have welcomed victory so soon after coming second in the photo-finish Lord's Test last

Saturday. While captain Jimmy Adams remains a philosophical character, two important international defeats inside a week is hardly the ideal situation.

They must return to Lord's on Sunday for their second match of the three-nation tour.



JOHNSON ... m-o-m

nament against England, but 24 hours earlier Zimbabwe will be in the right frame of mind to repeat their success against the hosts at The Oval.

By virtue of their controlled cricket, Zimbabwe managed to stay in a solid position throughout, restricting West Indies to a regulation score of 232 for seven, and suffering few setbacks in their own solid and sensible batting effort.

But it will be a match more remembered by the 8,000 locals for its rock music to greet boundaries and signal dismissals, the 'rollerball' event between innings and the fact that the six glowing though temporary pylons gave their ground an international first in this country.

All that on the pasture on which the legendary W.G. Grace played his cricket for Gloucestershire. Traditionalists were left to wonder what the famous Doctor would have made of all this, runs.

Zimbabwe lost Craig Wishart in the sixth over when a ball from Franklyn Rose lifted awkwardly and flew of the splice to Ricardo Powell at point.

Murray Goodwin, 23 from 15 balls, stroked the ball too flu-

ently for West Indies' comfort and it must have come as a relief when Wavell Hinds pulled down one of his drives at short cover in the 10th over, soon after Zimbabwe had moved purposefully past 50.

Then ex-captain Alistair Campbell (17) nicked a catch behind off a rapid delivery from Merv Dillon in the 18th over at 90.

Brian Lara top-scored for West Indies with 60 from 63 deliveries after earlier taking cover from a swarm of bees.

At Cardiff in early June, Lara and his team-mates were similarly disturbed by an influx of humming intruders and this time Lara, fellow batsman Hinds and the Zimbabwe's fielders stretched out on the turf until they buzzed off to annoy somebody else.

The great left-hander, though, was outstroked in a stand of 56 with the clean-hitting Powell (36 in 23 balls).

Powell was eventually well taken on the run by Grant Flower at wide long on, a good catch which may have saved Zimbabwe from a real bout of leather-chasing in the final overs with the young right-hander looking so switched on to the situation and demands of his side.

Chris Gayle struck 41 from 87 balls before being run out in a mix-up with Hinds, again Grant Flower was involved in the dismissal after both men ended up at the same end.

Hinds, 51 from 74 deliveries, failed to clear the straight boundary and was caught by Wishart sighting his second six.

scoreboard

Scoreboard in the NatWest triangular series match between West Indies and Zimbabwe on Thursday:

WEST INDIES	
Griffith c Brent b Nkala	10
Gayle run out	41
Hinds c Wishart b G. Flower	51
Lara c Johnson b G. Flower	60
Powell c G. Flower b Brent	36
Jacobs not out	16
Rose lbw b Brent	0
McLean run out	2
Adams not out	2
Extras: (lb-4; w-7; nb-3)	14
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	232
Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-101, 3-135, 4-191, 5-222, 6-223, 7-225	
Did not bat: Mervyn Dillon, Reon King	

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End of Agassi

LONDON, July 7: Andre Agassi shrugged off his second Grand Slam disappointment in six weeks on Friday after losing 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the semifinals to surging Australian Patrick Rafter at Wimbledon, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old 1992 Wimbledon champion felt the sting of missing out on a second straight final at the All England Club as much as he did when he crashed out as defending champion in the second round in May at the French Open but he was fulsome in his praise of his opponent.

The second-seeded showman, whose mast major title came in January at the Australian Open, tried hard to hide his disappointment at losing in 3 hours 16 minutes.

"At the biggest moments of each set he continued to put away the shots and I fell off a bit," said the six-time Grand Slam champion.

"I was always behind. He stepped it up and played quality shots at the right time," he added.

The win brings 27-year-old Rafter, a two-time US Open winner, to four wins and seven defeats in his matchups with

Agassi.

"Pat's gone through a tough stage with his (shoulder) injury," Agassi said.

"He's had some disappointing times over the last year. But it looks like he's found his game. He was playing well. But at crucial times of the match, he was playing tough," he added.

Agassi found it impossible to look ahead in the immediate aftermath of defeat to the American Davis Cup semifinal date in Spain in two weeks.

"I'm not quite ready to think about clay just after this match," he said.

The second seed continued to pile on the praise for Rafter, winner of a Dutch grass-court event the week before Wimbledon began.

"I've always thought Rafter was a good enough athlete to win on any surface. On grass courts, he can really keep the pressure on," Agassi said.

"If he's healthy and has been playing some matches, he's right up there with the best of them," he added.

But the loser could still feel his own pain after the futile effort on Centre Court.

"The match sucked as far as I'm concerned. I have no objective right now," he bluntly admitted.

Shomak's solo lead persists

Sports Reporter

Shomak Palit maintained his solo lead of Group A with maximum six-points in the second Standard Chartered Bank Schools' Chess Tournament after the sixth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the round, Shomak from Mitra Institute of Calcutta defeated Yanur Rahman of Ararat Scientific school.

Golan Mostafa Bhuiyan of Mymensingh City Collegiate School was holding the second place with five and a half points. He outdid Debayon Mojumder.

Seven players — Dhanmudi Govt's Naeem Arifin, Rownok Ehsan of Aga Khan, Palaniapan Aravinda from Chennai, India, Joydip Dutta of Mitra Institute, Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla's Omar Faruq, Dhaka School for Deaf's Oaidul Islam and Min-hazuddin Ahmed of Hajrat Shah Ali — were sharing the third position with five points each.

Syed Ejaz Hossain, Yanur, Nazir Salehin, Palaniapan, Tonmoy Pattanayak, Debayon, Mohammad Ali and AKM Moinuddin were in fourth spot, all having four and a half points.

Meanwhile, in Group B (for the students of class One to Five) Calcutta Modern High School's Sheikh Shahid Ahmed became champion at the end of sixth round with one match yet to be played. He outwitted Obaidul Islam in the round.

Sayema Almas was trailing him by half a point.

The seventh round will start at 3:00 pm today at the same venue.

BFF might not take over BNS!

From Sports Reporter

RAJSHAH, July 7: Bangladesh Football Federation may not takeover the Bangladesh National Stadium if it is allowed only three-months use. BFF assistant general secretary Badal Roy revealed the fact to a group of reporters at his hotel room here today.

"We are likely to get the Bangladesh from July 10. But if NSC grants us only three months that will serve no use," said the Bangladesh under-19 team manager.

He said that the national team will go to England on July 21 and return on July 31. After that Mohammedan Sporting Club will tour England from August 5 to 15.

"You see these tours will take up more than a month to complete. So we expect to hold the league within two months," Badal said it was essential the NSC allot the stadium for at least six months otherwise the season could not be completed on time.

"Also the clubs will not play anywhere other than Dhaka Stadium."

Galfione back in action

NICE, France, July 7: French Olympic pole-vault champion Jean Galfione, who underwent surgery on a collapsed lung in May, returns to action in tomorrow's Grand Prix meet at Nice, reports AFP.

"Jean will be there at Nice," his trainer Maurice Houvion told AFP. "He'll only make one jump out of three or four as he obviously lacks both physical fitness and technique."

Houvion insisted that the crowd should not expect a great performance from the 1996 Olympic gold medalist.



Scene from the sixth round of the second Standard Chartered Bank Schools' Chess Tournament at the NSC yesterday.

Crucial tie for Pakistan, SA

COLOMBO, July 7: Pakistan and South Africa clash in a key Singer Cup triangular cricket match here on Saturday desperate to make amends for a disastrous opening against hosts Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

Both teams need a win in the day-night game at the Premadasa Stadium to stay in contention for the final after Sri Lanka jumped to the top of the leaderboard with two successive wins at Galle.

While the hosts revel in their changed fortunes — few gave them a chance after being thrashed 2-0 in the recent Test series against Pakistan — the rivals were left to rue their reverses.



MOIN KHAN

South Africa are clearly short of match practice, while the Pakistanis have had too much of it.

South Africa's clash against Sri Lanka on Thursday, which they lost by 37 runs, was their first international outing since the one-day series against Australia at home in April.

Pakistan, on the other hand, have been on tour since March, playing two Test series and four one-day tournaments across the globe.

It's a problem rival coaches Javed Mianid of Pakistan and Graham Ford of South Africa

are aware of and determined to rectify before it is too late.

"It was a good wake-up call," Mianid said of the five-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in Wednesday's opening match.

"It's important we don't start losing interest now, because if we can't win this tournament, it will be a disappointing end to such a good tour for me, the team and the people back home."

Pakistan went into the tri-series chasing their fourth successive one-day title after winning in Sharjah, the West Indies and Bangladesh.

Sony Max's live transmission on the match will start at 1:50 pm BST.

South Africa, on their first overseas tour since the match-fixing scandal which cost former captain Hansie Cronje his career, turned certain victory into an embarrassing defeat on Thursday.

Chasing 250 to win, the South Africans lost all 10 wickets for 62 runs after an opening stand of 150 between Gary Kirsten and Andrew Hall.

Ford, however, was more concerned about the bowling attack, which gifted easy runs to the Sri Lankans, including 24 wides and seven no-balls.

"We were worried about the bowling going into this game and it showed," Ford said.

"All we've got to do is keep persevering and it will pay off. We will give the bowlers a chance to get their rhythm going. There are a few technical problems which we also need to sort out."

After the first 25 overs, the South African bowlers had conceded 24 extras, all from no-balls and wides.

Fast bowler Mortantau Hayward was the main culprit with four no-balls and six wides from five overs. He was also the most expensive, going for 40 runs from his first four overs.

South Africa's 36 extras, which in effect gave Sri Lanka six extra overs, was only one short of the world record of 37

conceded by Pakistan against the West Indies in 1988.

Shaun Pollock's men are clearly missing pace spearhead Allan Donald, who opted out of the tour to play county cricket for his English club Warwickshire.

Pakistan, meanwhile, were hoping fast bowler Waqar Younis will be fit for the match after suffering cramps in his legs against Sri Lanka.

Waqar, the mainstay of the attack in the absence of Wasim Akram, was his team's most impressive bowler on Wednesday with 2-11 from five overs.

His fitness is crucial for Pakistan who play back-to-back matches against South Africa on Saturday and Sri Lanka on Sunday.



SHAUN POLLOCK

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Wasim, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Youhana, Moin Khan (captain), Abdur Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Mohammad Akram, Arshad Khan, Shabbir Ahmed.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Gary Kirsten, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Kullinan, Jonny Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock (captain), Nicky Boje, Mortantau Hayward, Makhaya Ntini, Paul Adams.

Zimbabwe want to keep it up

LONDON, July 7 (AP/AF): Skipper Andy Flower paid tribute to Zimbabwe's resolve in beating West Indies for the first time in a one-day international.

The Africans, plagued by ordinary form and injuries to key players, produced one of their better limited-overs wins as they hammered a bewildered West Indies by six wickets in the floodlit tournament curtain-

raiser in Bristol.

And it is time for Zimbabwe to avenge the recent 1-0 series loss to the home side in June when they take on England in the second match at the Oval on Saturday, in May at Lord's.

Zimbabwe were humiliated by England and beaten by an innings and 209 runs in the first Test.

The visitors arrived in England in May after a Test series loss to the West Indies and losing all four matches in a triangular series in the Caribbean to

Heath Streak and Henry Olonga — the others had to step in and we did that really well and we kept up the pressure all the way along. We didn't give them anything in the field," Flower said.

"We hit the ground running. This is testament to how hard the guys have worked and how much character they have shown."

"It ranks very highly with our one-day wins and its the first time we've beaten West Indies. But excitement? It wasn't



West Indies' Wavell Hinds drives through covers during the opening match of the NatWest Trophy tri-series against Zimbabwe in Bristol on July 6.



ALEC STEWART

winners Pakistan and the home side.

Since October last year, Zimbabwe had lost seven of their 10 Tests to Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and England. In the past 12-month period, they had won just eight of their 34 one-day internationals and had lost eight in a row going into the series.

Thursday's victory was an important morale-booster because it was achieved without injured strike bowlers Heath Streak (shoulder), Henry Olonga (ankle) and Mpuemelelo Mbangwa (shoulder).

The win was Zimbabwe's first in nine matches against the West Indies.

With our strike bowlers out



ANDY FLOWER

that exciting because it was fairly comfortable in the end. When we win usually we are used to having a real tight one.

"We stayed in control quite well, even when we were bowling. This is very important for me and for the country."

Zimbabwe and England will clash on level terms after sharing six wins each from their previous 12 outings. But England secured a hat-trick of wins when the two sides last met in Zimbabwe in February.

"If we continue to play this sort of cricket I don't see that there is any reason why we can't win more than this

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