

Column One SPORTS TALK



Ishita Arun

(Indian model)
"He's a winner. If he aims at something he gets it. He has drive and a great zeal for the game which helps him always carry the crowd with him. Whenever he is out there he creates havoc."
About Sachin Tendulkar.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-133
Tick the Correct Answers
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Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
July 28, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1	Which country will host 2006 football World Cup?	South Africa	England	Germany
2	When did Germany host its last World Cup?	1968	1974	1978
3	Who led the German bid for 2006 World Cup?	Beckenbauer	Matthaus	Muller
4	Where did the voting for 2006 World Cup take place?	Italy	Belgium	Switzerland
5	Who conducted the voting?	UEFA	FIFA	AFC

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Perec pulls out

GATESHEAD, England, July 15: France's triple Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec pulled out of the European Cup Super League meeting here Saturday after complaining of thigh pains just half an hour before her scheduled appearance in the 400 metres.
"I felt a pain just behind my left thigh and thought it was best not to run and take a risk," Perec told AFP.
"I already had cramps during the night and the cold didn't help," added the reigning 200 and 400m Olympic champion.
The 32-year-old from Guadeloupe has been battling for fitness since the Atlanta Olympics but clocked 50.32 at the IAAF meet in Nice last week securing her spot on the French team for the Sydney Olympics which kick off in September.

Noah edges Borg

MARIEHAMN, Finland, July 15: Bjorn Borg lost a decisive tiebreaker to Yannick Noah in the Alands Classic 2000 on Friday that may have spoiled the Swede's chance of making the final of his last seniors event in the Nordic countries, reports AP.
After splitting the first two sets, Noah won the tiebreaker 10-7 used in senior events. Noah, a Frenchman, won the first set 7-5 and Borg the second 6-4 on the hardcourt surface.
Noah is 2-0 in the round-robin portion after beating Sweden's seven-time Grand Slam winner Mats Wilander in straight sets Thursday.
Borg, 1-1, must beat Wilander in straight sets Saturday coupled with a Noah loss against Mansour Bahrami of Iran to reach the final from Group A.
The 44-year-old Borg, who also won an unprecedented five straight Wimbledon titles for a total of 11 slams, two behind Pete Sampras record, will retire from the Senior Tour after this season.

Football's 'no' to Quader

BFF postpones inter-club players' transfer

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Friday rejected the offer of National Sports Council (NSC) to use the Bangabandhu National Stadium for two and a half months.
Terming it an insufficient time limit for running the domestic football as well as international events this season, the BFF blasted the governing body of local sports for its "stepmotherly attitude towards football".

A dejected BFF also questioned the role of State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, who extended the compromised offer in a bid to diffuse the dispute between football and cricket over the possession of a perennial apple of discord - the BNS, a venue once exclusively built for cricket.

Quader, also the chairman of the NSC, in a circular declared recently that the Federation should take over BNS from July 15 and the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) would get it back after September 30. But his diplomacy to strike a temporary balance among the two rival parties has eventually backfired.

"We are deeply hurt and feel neglected by the way the NSC turned down our appeal to award us the possession of the stadium for at least six months, which was a prior promise of the sports minister," read the BFF press release issued yesterday.

"We had a meeting with the minister (Obaidul Quader) where he assured us of reconsidering his decision. We had waited for his generous gesture. But that never happened. Since it is not possible for us to complete the Metropolitan League, Federation Cup, Ganga-Jamuna Cup and Bangabandhu Cup during the NSC-given time, we have been compelled to discard the proposal," it said.

The BFF decision at the onset of the football season cast a gloom shadow over the Dhaka League, the transfer of which was scheduled to begin on July 17. It also dealt a severe blow to hundreds of footballers, who earn their bread and butter playing in Dhaka League.

"Dhaka clubs were agreed to start players' transfer on condition that the league matches would be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. But the unholy activities behind the

scene forced us to suspend the transfer."

Over the years, football organisers however refused to play at the second National Stadium in Mirpur citing 'lack of security and poor turnout' of spectators there. The BFF assistant secretary Sirajul Islam however said that the four of the national team to England would go ahead despite the uncertainty over domestic football.

The national football team is scheduled to leave Dhaka on July 24 to play an exhibition match against India. The one-off match will be held at Filbert Street, the home of Premier Division Leecester City, on July 29.

Despite Sirajul's assurance, future of any imminent tour remains uncertain as most of the national booters expressed their reluctance to make the trip unless their issue of bread and butter is solved first.

Although the BFF did not announce its next course of action to press home their demand, it was learnt that the governing body of local football might resort to a tougher stance once its president Mayor Mohammad Hanif returns from abroad.

Pakistan pulls for Lee

KARACHI, July 15 (Internet report): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) threw its support behind Australian paceman Brett Lee on Thursday and said it was not happy with ICC procedures for dealing with "chucking" allegations.

"I strongly feel that Lee is as exciting a bowler as Shoaib Akhtar. By keeping him out, we are not serving the cause of Test cricket," PCB chairman Tauqir Zia said.

"I am not a technocrat to decide if his (Lee's) action is really suspicious. What I know is that you just can't keep that man out because he is a crowd-puller and his place is in the team and not on the bench," Zia said.

Lee was reported for a suspect bowling action during Australia's Test tour of New Zealand four months ago by match referee Mike Denness of England, although the Australian Cricket Board was told about it only this week.

Shoaib Akhtar's bowling action was challenged during Pakistan's Test tour of Australia late last year, but a suspension was lifted after the PCB

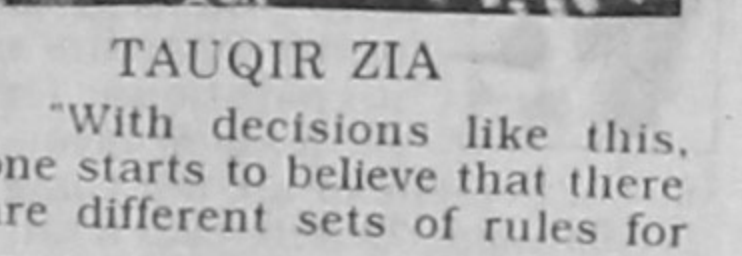
appealed.
"While I feel sad for the poor boy (Lee), I am not happy with the International Cricket Council (ICC) procedures."

"Shoaib Akhtar was immediately banned when (New Zealand referee) John Reid reported against him. But Lee was allowed to play by the game's governing body when a similar report was made against him."

"The PCB has not sought an explanation from him yet but he will be asked to explain his actions. I mean, he will be issued a notice for bringing the sport and team's reputation into disrepute," Zia said.

"He may have been penalised by the ICC but I don't think he is out of trouble as far as the PCB is concerned."

"The BFF has also decided to introduce a match referee in the Premier Division League, scheduled to commence at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium from July 21."



TAUQIR ZIA
"With decisions like this, one starts to believe that there are different sets of rules for

different people. There has to be consistency and a similar yardstick," Zia said.

"I don't say that the ICC is a toothless body, but yes there is room for improvement, including clarity of the laws and immediate action," he said.

Zia also defended Pakistani paceman Waqar Younis who was banned for one match for ball-tampering during this month's Singer Cup one-day tournament in Colombo when television replays showed the pacer scratching the ball.

Zia called Younis' actions "irresponsible, questionable and senseless".

"I don't think he was tampering with the ball but his actions definitely left us on a tricky wicket. You don't expect irresponsible actions like this from a senior pro," Zia said.

"The PCB has not sought an explanation from him yet but he will be asked to explain his actions. I mean, he will be issued a notice for bringing the sport and team's reputation into disrepute," Zia said.

Brown's good form continues

LONDON, July 15: Ally Brown's quickfire century put county champions Surrey in a commanding position in their top-of-the-table clash against Yorkshire at The Oval here on Friday, reports AFP.

Brown, who helped his county to an innings victory over Leicestershire last week with his unbeaten 295 at Oakham, smashed his way to his latest ton off just 106 balls with three sixes and eight fours.

With Brown not out on 130 at the close, the Division One leaders are 304 runs ahead going into the final day on 320 for seven in their second innings.

On a fourth-day pitch, they will look to Pakistan off-spin-

ner Saqlain Mushtaq - who claimed six for 63 in Yorkshire's first innings - to finish off the second-placed county.

The pace of James Ormond and India star Anil Kumble's wrist-spin combined to bowl Leicestershire to victory inside three days against hapless Durham at Grace Road.

The pair, who claimed eight wickets in the first innings, had the visitors all out for 93 second time around with Ormond claiming five for 34 and Kumble four for 23 as Leicestershire cruised to victory by 217 runs.

At Derby, the hosts take a vulnerable lead of 140 into the final day against Kent.

They were 239 for nine in their second innings at the close, with last-wicket pair Tim Munton (24) and Kasir Shah

(21) providing a sting in the tail after left-arm spinner Min Patel had taken five for 65.

Munton also claimed six for 54 as Kent made 280 in their first innings.

In the remaining Division One match, Lancashire are still 193 in arrears after closing on 133 for two in their second innings at Taunton. John Crawley remains unbeaten on 68 overnight.

Jamie Cox's 171 on Thursday was followed up by 108 from Mike Burns as Somerset piled on 565 in their first innings.

In the Division Two, Worcestershire - at 153 for five - have edged into a 79-run lead over Nottinghamshire but saw Richard Stamp cut through their top order with four for 57 in the second innings.

An unbeaten century from Australia left-hander Michael Bevan has put Sussex in command against Essex at Arundel.

Essex were 12 runs ahead after the completion of their first innings, but Bevan (106) has been the key man behind Sussex taking a lead of 231 overnight - they closed on 243 for five.

Middlesex claimed their second-highest championship score of the season, which could help their appeal against an eight-point deduction for a poor pitch on Monday.

The points were docked after the first day of the current clash against Glamorgan at Southgate, but the hosts will take heart after a partnership of 82 from Angus Fraser and Richard Johnson guided them to 374 all out.

Glamorgan trail by 237 at 69 without loss in their second innings.

Northamptonshire are poised to change places with Gloucestershire at the bottom of the division as they go into a fourth day at Cheltenham on the brink of a decisive win.



An AFP file photo of Marie-Jose Perec, the French triple Olympic champion pulled out of the European Cup Super League meeting in Gateshead, England yesterday after complaining of thigh pains just half an hour before her scheduled appearance in the 400m.

Ban to play at Sharjah once every year?

Test babes Bangladesh will participate in at least one tournament annually in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, a Bangladesh Cricket Board official said in Dhaka yesterday, reports AFP.

The decision was taken during talks between the BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Abdur Rahman Bukhatir, chairman of the Cricket Board of Sharjah, recently. The BCB official told AFP.

"They agreed that Bangladesh's participation at least once a year would help the players gather experience and further improve their skills," he said.

Bangladesh was overwhelmed to become the newest member of the exclusive Test cricket club last month.

Authorities have pledged huge funds for the sport and have undertaken plans to train 200 children aged between six and 11 years in the country's 464 sub-districts to find the best players of the future.

Dhaka has also made a bid to host the cricket World Cup in 2011.

MSC trio's bans lifted

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday lifted the one-year ban on three Mohammedan players following a petition from the trio - Ramjuddin, Shiarafat and Shipu.

Although Shipu and Ramjuddin were let off lightly - both will have to pay a fine of Taka 10,000 each, Shiarafat still has to serve a two-match ban. In addition, he will have to pay Taka 10,000 as fine.

The three players were earlier found guilty of unsportsmanlike behaviour during the Black and Whites' Ragbi All Gold Cup match against Mariners.

The BHF has also decided to introduce a match referee in the Premier Division League, scheduled to commence at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium from July 21.

Lord's for hire

LONDON, July 15 (Internet report): The Times reports that, in September, the MCC will allow businesses to play six-a-side cricket at Lord's.

This is the first time that the main square has been hired out in the 213-year history of the club. Thirty-two teams will pay 5,500 pounds each for the privilege.

Each player - or his firm - will pay 500 pounds each to make a dream come true: playing on the most famous turf in the cricketing world.

Those who play will be treated to a reception in the MCC museum and a black-tie dinner in the Long Room.

On the first evening, Sir Tim Rice, whose team, the Heartaches, will be playing, will be the guest speaker. Another famous name involved will be Allan Lamb, who has now turned his hand to corporate entertainment. He is helping the MCC to organise the event and select the players.

The idea is that "a reasonable standard of cricketing ability will be required".

Byron powers Zimbabwe

HARARE, July 15: Zimbabwe's Wimbledon quarterfinalist Byron Black gave his country a 1-0 lead over Romania Friday in Harare in their World Group qualifying match, reports AFP.

But he needed four sets and plenty of determination to overcome dogged resistance from Romania's number two Razvan Sabau by 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

It was Black's 36th Davis Cup singles win from 49 starts but was one of his toughest.

Sabau, who was prone to double faulting at the start, found himself very much on the defensive in the first set. But he settled to give Black a torrid time in the second, forcing Black to make several unforced errors.

But his fate was virtually settled in the third. Black and Sabau both forced service breaks early on but it was Black who hung on to avoid a tie-break by holding serve to 7-5.

At one point Sabau had to get through seven deuces to hold his serve for 2-4, being 1-4 down at the time.
This was probably the turning point in the match. Black, playing with a confident mixture of power and finesse by now, twice broke Sabau, whose spirited resistance provided a closer match than the score suggests.
Black pulled himself through several bad spells. He looked jaded and was below his best and in the end he was only just good enough to secure the victory that had been widely expected of him.

Colts go down fighting

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh put up a brave fight against fancied Pakistan before going down by one wicket in the inaugural match of the Asian Cricket Council Under-17 tournament at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

The colts, defending a modest 168 all out in 44.3 overs, had the home side almost on the ropes thanks to Shaiful Alam playing havoc with the lower half.

The occasional off-spinner from Khulna gave Pakistan a real scare when captured four wickets for 23 runs in his five overs.

The match came down to the wire when Sharif clean bowled Munir Ansari in the final over of the 45-over match with Pakistan still needing two more runs for victory from the remaining four deliveries.

But number eleven Najaf Shah stole a boundary off the next ball to leave Bangladesh tantalisingly close to pulling off a shock result.

The defeat however did not deny Shaiful his share of success on the day - he scored 22 and captured four wickets to win the man-of-the-match.

Sent into bat, Bangladesh were cruising along with Nafeez Iqbal playing captain's knock of 63. Opening the innings with Ashraf, the nephew of former national captain Akram Khan, took his side to 135 before becoming the fourth batsman out in the 37th over. The promising right-hander hammered half a dozen fours in his 112-ball vigil at the crease.

He added 44 runs for the fourth-wicket with Shaiful Islam, who scored 35 off 60 balls. But Bangladesh lost their

way once Shaiful decided to come down the wicket and was stumped. His departure at the score 160 for five signalled a stunning collapse - the visitors lost their last five wickets for the addition of only eight runs to the total.

It was an inexplicable procession from end to the dressing room with four players scoring ducks.

Pakistan's innings suffered the same fate - a dramatic collapse after a sound start. Three of their top-order batsmen notching 35 runs each.

The Pakistani youngsters were 150 for three in 39 overs, and marching towards victory before Shaiful sent shockwaves through their batting order. They lost six wickets for 17 runs.

Placed in Pool A in the 10-team meet, Bangladesh will take on Nepal in their second group match at the Ashgar Ali Shah Stadium here on July 19.

Meanwhile, in the another Pool A match Kuwait pulled off an upset seven-wicket win over Nepal.

Sri Lanka, who head the other group, recorded a facile six-wicket victory against Singapore while United Arab Emirates (UAE) defeated debutants Saudi Arabia by nine runs in the other fixture of the day.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the 45-over match between Bangladesh Under-17 and Pakistan Under-17 at the National Stadium in Karachi on Saturday.

BANGLADESH U-17
Nafees c Najaf Shah b Suleman Qadir 63
Ashraf run out (K Latiif) 13
S Alam c Faisal b Altaf 22
N Faruque c S Butt b M Ansari 9
S Islam st Adnan b M Ansari 35

PAKISTAN U-17
S Butt run out (Kuntal) 35
K Latiif run out (Ashraf) 8
Faisal b Shriful 26
K Ijaz st A Hossain b S Alam 35
S Qadir c T Jubair b S Alam 2
Altaf st A Hossain b S Alam 2
Adnan b S Alam 6
M Ansari b Md Sharif 2
Z Magsood run out (A Hossain) 1
N Javed not out 6
Najaf not out 4
Extras: (b-2, lb-1, w-7, nb-1) 11
Total: (9 wkts in 44.3 overs) 171
Fall of wickets: 1-25; 2-69; 3-73; 4-150; 5-150; 6-158; 7-159; 8-162; 9-167.

Bowler O M R W
T Jubair 7 1 36 0 (5 w)
Md Sharif 5 3 1 32 1 (2 w)
Ashraf 9 0 24 0
Shobu 3 0 11 0 (1 nb)
Shriful 6 0 20 1
Manjural 9 2 22 0
S Alam 5 0 23 4

Result: Pakistan Under-17 won by 1 wicket.
Toss: Pakistan Under-17s.
Umpires: Feroze Butt and Sadiq Mohammad.
TV Umpire: Junaid.
Match Referee: Naeem Ahmed.
Man-of-the-match: Shaiful Alam.

Most emphatic Eng win

CHESTER-LE-STREET, England, July 15: England achieved their first ever 10-wicket victory in 314 one-day internationals with a comprehensive triumph over the West Indies in the NatWest Trophy triangular series tournament here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Chasing the West Indies' moderate total of 169 for eight, openers Alec Stewart and Marcus Trescothick reached their victory target with 14.4 overs to spare to chalk up England's second win of the tournament.

The unbroken 171-run partnership beat England's previous record stand against West Indies in one-day internationals of 165 between Alec Stewart and Nick Knight in Barbados in March, 1998.

Trescothick finished unbeaten on 87 off just 106 balls, completing the victory with a six off Ricardo Powell, while Stewart hit 74 - only the second time he has passed 50 in his last 26 one-day international innings.

Their superb partnership puts England in poll position to victory against Zimbabwe at Lord's in the July 22 final, a place which will be secured if West Indies lose Sunday's match between the two countries at Chester-le-Street.

It was also only the 13th time in the 1615 one-day internationals ever played that a 10-wicket victory has been recorded and is bound to further highlight the West Indies' morale

as they search for their first win of the series.

Brian Lara top-scored during West Indies' innings with 54, but they fell around 30 runs short of a competitive total after some superb bowling from Alan Mullally, who claimed three for 27, matched by England's vibrant display in the field.

Earlier Lara was fourth out at 104 and without addition Chris Gayle (26) drove Andy Caddick only to be superbly taken low at cover by Graham Thorpe.

That double strike came amid a spell three successive maidens and England had forged an ideal position of having two new batsmen at the crease - Ricardo Powell and Ridley Jacobs - with the innings entering its final 15 overs at 104 for five. It was certainly pressure time for the West Indies.

Lara and Gayle had steadied West Indies after Mullally had dispatched Sherwin Campbell and captain Jimmy Adams in three balls, Campbell falling to a gully catch and Adams playing on for a duck.

England could be happy with their bowling effort for the second match in succession, with Caddick and Ealham (10-2-31-1) operating effectively into the strong wind.

Darren Gough, with the gusts at his back, made the first breakthrough after stand-in captain Stewart had asked West Indies to bat first, having Wavell Hinds lbw with his third legitimate ball.

With 10 overs left West Indies had moved to 124 for five with the clean-hitting Powell emerging as a potential danger in the remainder of the innings.

But Powell did not quite get enough muscle behind a pull-off Mullally and Trescothick made a lot of ground around the leg-side boundary to take a fine catch on the run and slide to make it 134 for six in the 43rd over.

From that point there was no chance of West Indies making a competitive total.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the NatWest Trophy triangular series one-day international between England and West Indies on Saturday.

WEST INDIES
Campbell c White b Mullally 14
Hinds lbw b Gough 1
Lara c Flintoff b Ealham 54
Adams b Mullally 0
Gayle c Thorpe b Caddick 26
Powell c Trescothick b Mullally 15
Jacobs c Stewart b White 25
Rose c Flintoff b Gough 18
McLean not out 2
Dillon not out 1
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-6) 13
Total: (for 8 wkts in 35.2 overs) 169
Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-41; 3-43; 4-104; 5-104; 6-134; 7-162; 8-168.

Did not bat: Reon King.
Bowler O M R W
Caddick 10 1 30 1
Gough 10 1 38 2
Mullally 10 1 27 3
Ealham 10 2 31 1
Trescothick 2 0 13 0
White 8 1 23 1

ENGLAND
Trescothick not out 87
Stewart not out 74
Extras: (lb-4; w-1; nb-5) 10
Total: (Without loss in 35.2 overs) 171
Did not bat: A Flintoff, G Hick, M Maynard, G Thorpe, C White, M Ealham, A Caddick, D Gough, A Mullally.

Result: England won by 10 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Marcus Trescothick.
Next match: West Indies v Zimbabwe, Chester-le-Street, July 16.

Office b'ball

Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Rifles won their matches in the Office basketball tournament at the Dharmoudi basketball gymnasium here yesterday, reports UNB.
Bangladesh Army earned a massive 106-23 points victory over Alif Fashionwear Limited. They dominated the first half by 48-10.
Mizan caged the highest 26 and Kamrul 14 for the winners while Tito scored 12 for the losers.
In the other match, Bangladesh Rifles easily defeated Saints Basketball team in Dhaka International Church of Christ by 111-65 points.
Rifles led the first half by 46-30. Avub scored huge 50 points and Firoz 17 for the winners while Richard scored 29 for the losers.



West Indies' Brian Lara follows through on a pull-shot during the NatWest Trophy tri-series one-day international against England at Chester-le-Street yesterday.