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SPORTS TALK



Anil Kumble
 (Indian star spinner)

"I think we have to change our attitude when we go overseas. Be more positive and aggressive, begin believing in ourselves."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 138

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
 Post to The Daily Star
 Win attractive prizes
 Competition closes at 8 pm
 Nov 17 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Asia Cup soccer title?
 Saudi Arabia Japan South Korea
 - How many teams took part in the Sharjah cricket series?
 4 3 5
 - Who lifted the ICC Knockout Trophy?
 South Africa New Zealand Australia Africa Zealand Club
 - Which club annexed the Parke tennis title?
 Dhaka Club Officers Club Gulshan Club
 - Who clinched Kremlin Cup men's title?
 Safin Agassi Kafelnikov
- Name.....
 Class..... Roll No.....
 School Address.....
 Phone: (If any).....

WHIZZ KID 137 Boost winner

Nahyan binte Alam
 Model Academy, Mirpur
 (Please bring your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star at 7:00pm on November 9)

WHIZZ KID-137 correct answers

- Who will be the match referee in the Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India next month?
 Ans: Subba Row.
- Who lifted the Princess Cup tennis title?
 Ans: Serena
- Who is the new managing director of United Cricket Board of South Africa?
 Ans: Gerald Majola
- Who won the Shaheed Major Nazmul Huq International rating chess title?
 Ans: Rakib
- Who is new cricket coach of Zimbabwe?
 Ans: Rackemann

Manoj up to it again

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Indian cricketer Manoj Prabhakar, who blew the whistle on the match-fixing scandal only to find himself named as a culprit, hinted on Friday that national icon Kapil Dev was being protected by federal investigators, reports AFP.

Without naming Kapil, whom he accused of offering a bribe to under-perform in 1994, Prabhakar told the Press Trust of India: "The Central Bureau of Investigation is trying to protect somebody."

"If the CBI goes only by what is said by the bookies, who destroyed cricket in India and the world, what can I do now?" the news agency quoted Prabhakar as saying.

Prabhakar blew the lid on the scandal when he told the "Outlook" magazine in 1997 of Kapil's alleged offer during a one-day series in Sri Lanka.

Prabhakar said the CBI had tampered with his testimony. "What they have mentioned in their report is not my full report," he said. "The CBI wanted to take only the negative parts to show that Manoj Prabhakar is the main culprit."

"If I wanted to do all this, I need not have reported to the team manager the offer of money to under-perform in 1994, be almost knived to death by a bookie in 1997 and stick my neck out in exposing the corruption in the game now."

TEST MATCH SNIPPETS

Sports Reporter

Four cricket greats will be part of the WorldTel commentators during Bangladesh's historic first Test match against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium next week.

Former Australian captain Ian Chappell will be joined by his England opposite number Tony Greig, Indian counterpart Ravi Shastri and West Indies speed-demon Michael Holding.

The four experts will share their valuable insight into the five-day contest starting November 10, which will be telecast live by Sony Max satellite channel and Bangladesh Television.

Meanwhile, former India Test cricketer Laxman Sivaramakrishnan is going to make his debut on the five-man panel.

Little master Sunil Gavaskar is likely to turn down an offer to be a member of the team because he might accept an invitation by the Bangladesh Cricket Board to attend the august event. The familiar voice is understood to be contracted with rival ESPN-Star Sports during his stay in Dhaka.

INDIANS DUE NOV 7

The Indian cricket team is likely to arrive in the capital on November 7 but it could be deferred by a day, according to BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq yesterday.

Talking to the reporters at his office, Ashraful said that the Board of Control for Cricket in India, was yet to confirm when the team led by Savraj Ganguly, would be coming here.

KAYSER BD MANAGER

Aziz Al-Kayser was appointed manager of the 16-member Bangladesh cricket team on Thursday.

Earlier, the Board named Sarwar Inam as coach and Gavin Benfield as the physio of the team respectively.

BNS ALMOST IN SHAPE

Naimur Rahman's team will have their only practice match, a four-day affair, at the BKSP starting today.

Eleven players will be taken to form the main team from the 16-man squad while the other five will be part of the opposition.

'Gang of five' banished

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: India's cricket authorities Friday banned five players named in a match-fixing report pending the completion of their own probe, even as the sport's world governing body moved into action, reports AFP.

The five — former captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Sharma and Navan Mongia — will not be allowed to play in any international or domestic match until further notice.

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Javvawala Lele said.

"I have sent out letters to all concerned not to pick these players," Lele told this news agency.

The International Cricket Council's anti-corruption chief Sir Paul Condon, meanwhile, arrived here Friday to discuss the report with India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Condon, a former London Metropolitan police commissioner, heads a team of British detectives who will probe allegations that current England player Alec Stewart was paid \$5,000 pounds by an Indian bookmaker to provide match information in 1993.

Tainted Indian wicketkeeper Mongia, meanwhile, pleaded

innocence.

"I am a God-fearing man and I would not even think of doing anything like that [match-fixing]. The ban has come as a shock to me as I am innocent and only time will prove it," Mongia said in Bombay.

He added: "The BCCI should now help people like us as I have put in 100 percent efforts whenever I have played for my country or my team."

Jadeja, one of the country's leading one-day players, scored a century for his adopted state of Jammu and Kashmir in the season's opener against his old team Haryana on Thursday.

Ajay Sharma was also thrown out of the Himachal Pradesh Ranji Trophy team soon after the report was made public.

Prabhakar, who played for India for almost a decade, quit international cricket in 1996 after being dropped from the World Cup squad.

BCCI chief Muthiah, who met Sports Minister Sukhdev Dhindsa earlier Friday, said life bans on the guilty was a distinct possibility.

According to the report, Azharuddin confessed to fixing at least three one-day internationals, while Jadeja, Prabhakar, Mongia and Sharma were also accused of dallying with bookmakers.

Zimbabwe India-bound

HARARE, Nov 3: A 15-man Zimbabwe cricket squad travels to India Saturday with high expectations of an honourable outcome from two Tests and success in the series of five one-day internationals, reports AFP.

India were shocked by their defeat here two years ago in a one-off Test, so there is psychological benefit still deriving from that, especially as Zimbabwe's bowlers quickly disposed of Sachin Tendulkar and then skipper Mohammad Azharuddin in both of India's innings.

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak told this news agency

"We will need our established senior batsmen to perform because there's a lot of inexperience in our squad."

"Nevertheless we also look to newcomer Douglas Marillier adding his talent to the strengths of batsmen like Andy Flower, Guy Whittall and the recently returned to form Alistair Campbell."

Streak well knows that spin bowling is a critical factor on Indian pitches. But he believes left-hander Brian Murphy and leg spinner Paul Strang, who has considerable world-wide experience, should handle their responsibilities capably.

They will need to, because India's batsmen are all exponents of dealing with spinners.

Streak said: "We may not be all that highly rated but we have a strong and well balanced side with the potential to upset anybody. If the senior players give us backbone, we can emerge with heads high."

All the touring party reported fit Friday, including the injury-prone seamer Henry Olonga, which is particularly

Sachin had a feel of it

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Former Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar suspected all along that teammate Mohammad Azharuddin was being paid by bookmakers, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) report into match-fixing, reports Reuters.

Sachin stated that during his tenure as captain he had felt that Mohammad Azharuddin was not putting in 100 per cent effort and he suspected that he was involved with some bookies," said the report released on Wednesday.

Tendulkar told the CBI he was astonished during a 1994 match against West Indies in Kanpur by the slow batting of teammates Manoj Prabhakar and Navan Mongia, also named in the report.

He has high hopes of his side to doing especially well in the one-day matches. Zimbabwe have recently beaten New Zealand twice and have a long record of causing upsets in this form of the game.

"But the Test matches will be a different story," he said.

Chess Olympiad Ladies shine, men don't

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh men's team suffered their fourth defeat at the 34th Chess Olympiad when they went down to Azerbaijan by 1.5-2.5 points in their sixth round engagement in Istanbul on Thursday.

International Master Ziaur Rahman won the lone match against Zulfugarli while Enamul Hossain Rajib drew with Harerrnzade, Safiuddin Lovlu and Syed Ruhul Kabir lost their boards.

Bangladesh raised their tally to 12 points from six matches. Germany maintained their lead with a 2-2 draw against fancied Russia in the sixth round.

Germany are on 18.5 points while the Russians a point behind respectively.

On the other hand the women's team earned a morale-boosting 3-0 whitewash over hosts Turkey in Friday's round.

International Women Master (IWM) Rani Hanid won the first board against E Sanli while Zakia Sultana and Nazrana Khanova defeated I Goler and N Aydin respectively.

The women's team have collected 8.5 points so far out of possible 18 points.

Muktis lose again

NEW DELHI, Nov 3: Mukti-joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra went down 2-0 to Jagjit Cotton and Textile (JCT) Club in their second league match of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Ambedkar Stadium here today, reports BSS.

JCT led the first half 1-0.

This was the second consecutive defeat of Mukti-joddha in the tournament. Earlier they lost to East Bengal 1-3 in their first encounter.

Mukti-joddha will play their last match in the league against Zee Churchill Brothers on November 5.

Final ODI today

Proteas to go for the kill

CAPE TOWN, Nov 3: South African national cricket coach Graham Ford Thursday demanded that his team hammer the coffin lid shut in the final one-day international against New Zealand in Cape Town on Saturday, reports AFP.

Ford is adamant that the outcome is far from academic, even with the Proteas 4-0 up in the series. Victory, he insists, is critical for his longer term plans to take South Africa to the number one spot in world cricket.

One of the key reasons for South Africa's recent success has been flexibility in the batting order, Ford said.

"One of the things we're looking at is the situation of the match, the type of pitch you're playing on and the type of bowlers who are likely to bowl at that period."

"We're wanting to take all those things into consideration."

Star Sports will show the match live from 1:55pm (BST)

Changing the order around has brought the best out of Nicky Boje, promoted to number three where he twice won man of the match awards and scored two centuries - although one was in the rained-out first match.

"We have the potential to be the number one one-day outfit in the world," Ford stressed. "We have a great balance to the side."

Ford does not agree with the sceptics who view the Black Caps as a second-string side weakened by injuries to some of their key bowlers.

Big brother Steve

SYDNEY, Nov 3: Australian Test cricket captain Steve Waugh fears his brother Mark will reach a mental breaking point because of the accusations of an Indian bookmaker, reports AFP.

"It comes to a stage when it all gets a bit too much... I don't think it's reached that stage yet because he's still playing well," Steve Waugh said Friday.

"But if it continues it is obviously not going to be easy."

"It's a difficult time but he'll have a lot of support and he'll come through this."

Mark Waugh denied Thursday an allegation in an Indian police report that he received 20,000 US dollars from an illegal Indian bookmaker.

An Indian Central Bureau of

Fu-Wang golf Teruko, Rezaul take titles

Sports Reporter

Rezaul Hasanat and Teruko Pookaman won the Fu-Wang tournament titles respectively at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Hasanat lifted the men's crown and Pookaman the ladies' equivalent of the prestigious event. Earlier, president of the club and chief of Army Staff Lt General M Mustafizur Rahman inaugurated the meet in the morning. He later gave away prizes at the Club House in the evening.

RESULTS IN BRIEF

Senior champion: Ghulam Sarwar Khan; **Junior champion:** Syed Faisal Hossain; **Best gross:** Sadiq Qudus; **Ladies' best gross:** Kazuko Yamamoto. **Second best gross:** Darryl Crooks; **Runner-up:** Javed Bin Karim; **Ladies' runner-up:** Farazana Islam; **Second runner-up:** Nasir Mohammad Khan; **Front nine:** Rayhan Rab Back; **nine:** Tarun Sehgal; **Nearest to pin:** Brig Abdul Wadud; **longest drive:** Syed Iqbal Azem.

Opsonin tennis begins today

PATUAKHALI, Nov 3: The week-long Opsonin National Tennis tournament begins tomorrow (Saturday) at Patuakhali District administration and Patuakhali Club jointly organised the tournament.

60 players are taking part in five events.

State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir Hossain will inaugurate the tournament as a chief guest.

Garry a kingpin no more

LONDON, Nov 3: Garry Kasparov lost his world chess crown Thursday to young challenger Vladimir Kramnik in a stunning revolution in the game he has dominated for 15 years, reports AFP.

The giant of the chequered board had to win Thursday's penultimate game of the 15-match Brain Games world admitted, particularly with his openings.

Kramnik's preparation was so good, he added, that he was unable to put him in the kind of positions he likes to snare his challengers.

Kasparov did not want to go into detail on the personal problems which, he hinted Sunday after another listless draw, were affecting him both on and off the board.

However analysts noticed



go through the qualifying rounds next year. "I am ready for the re-match," the ousted number one said.

Kramnik spoke very little after the game, almost as if he were too stunned to talk, but he did say he was ready to play a computer next year.

Although Kasparov has always been regarded by experts as world number one, the international chess federation FIDE claims that rank for its own champion, the Russian Alexander Khalifman.

Kasparov does not recognise FIDE, which he left in 1993.

The Brain Games company guaranteed a prize fund of two million dollars (2.4 million euros) for the championship, with two-thirds going to the winner.

Kasparov's route to the top of the chess world is well known.

Garry Kimovitch Weinstein was born in April 1963 in Baku, Azerbaijan, then part of the Soviet Union, son of a Jewish father and Armenian mother.

His precocious talent was quickly spotted and nurtured. After his father's death in 1970 his mother Clara, Kasparov brought him up.

In 1985, at the age of 22, he became the youngest world champion in history after beating arch-rival Anatoli Karpov in Moscow. The title was his from then on.

Dominant, eloquent and a player of aggressive tactics, the "Beast of Baku" became one of the most admired Grand Masters in the history of chess.

One opponent likened playing him to being "bombaraded with thought waves."

He was ranked the world's all-time number one, ahead even of Bobby Fischer, the legendary American champion of the 1970s.

Kramnik, however, had perhaps a unique insight into Kasparov's game.

Not only was he Kasparov's former pupil, but he also served as his second, or adviser, when the latter took on India's Viswanathan Anand five years ago.

Born in a remote Russian Black Sea resort, Kramnik was also quick to learn.

By 10, he had beaten two grandmasters. By 16, he was world junior champion. In 1986, he became one of Kasparov's elite students in Moscow.

The master quickly saw that here was the young pretender to his throne.

In 1992, after watching Kramnik in action in Dortmund, Germany, he said of him: "There are many players, but they don't play chess, they move the pieces. Kramnik plays chess."

THE NEW KING: Russian Vladimir Kramnik ponders his next move against countryman Garry Kasparov during the 14th game of Brain Games World Championship in London on November 2. Challenger Kramnik drew the game to dethrone the long-time world champion.



championship staged in London in order to take it to a nail-biting final day.

But after 38 moves he could only manage a draw, giving Kramnik -- a former pupil -- an unassailable lead of 8.5 games to 6.5.

At the end they both stood up and shook hands over the board. Kramnik, 25, then punched the air twice in delight as the audience of about 200 clapped in appreciation.

Kasparov, 37, has dominated the game like no other since winning his first world title in 1985, but had been in surprisingly lacklustre form here.

"I didn't play at my best," he

Investigation report released on Wednesday includes a claim that Mukesh Kumar Gupta, also known as 'John', paid Waugh the money to provide information on team strategy.

pitch) and weather information. The amount is five times greater than the 4,000 dollars Waugh admitted two years ago to receiving from a bookmaker known as "John" in Sri Lanka in 1994 for weather and pitch information.

Waugh's admission then came at the same time as Test teammate Shane Warne said he had received 5,000 dollars for providing similar information.

Both Waugh and Warne were fined by Australian Cricket Board the following year but the incident did not become public until 1998.

Waugh later testified to both a Pakistani inquiry and the O'Regan inquiry in Australia that this was his only dealings with illegal cricket bookmakers.

Steve Waugh said it was impossible for his brother to ignore the issue.

STEVE WAUGH

"You can't just pretend it is not happening, we certainly talked about it," he said.

"He needs to get proper advice from people he trusts."

"I feel very sorry for him at the moment."

"It's hard for myself and the family when you pick up a lot of headlines. It's not easy."

Mark Waugh said Thursday he looked forward to having the matter behind him.

"It would be nice to bury it and get on with playing cricket."

"It's been a long saga and I'm confident it will be buried shortly and we can get on with the game."

Activists of Bharatiya Janata Party set posters of Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja ablaze in Bombay yesterday.



—AFP photo