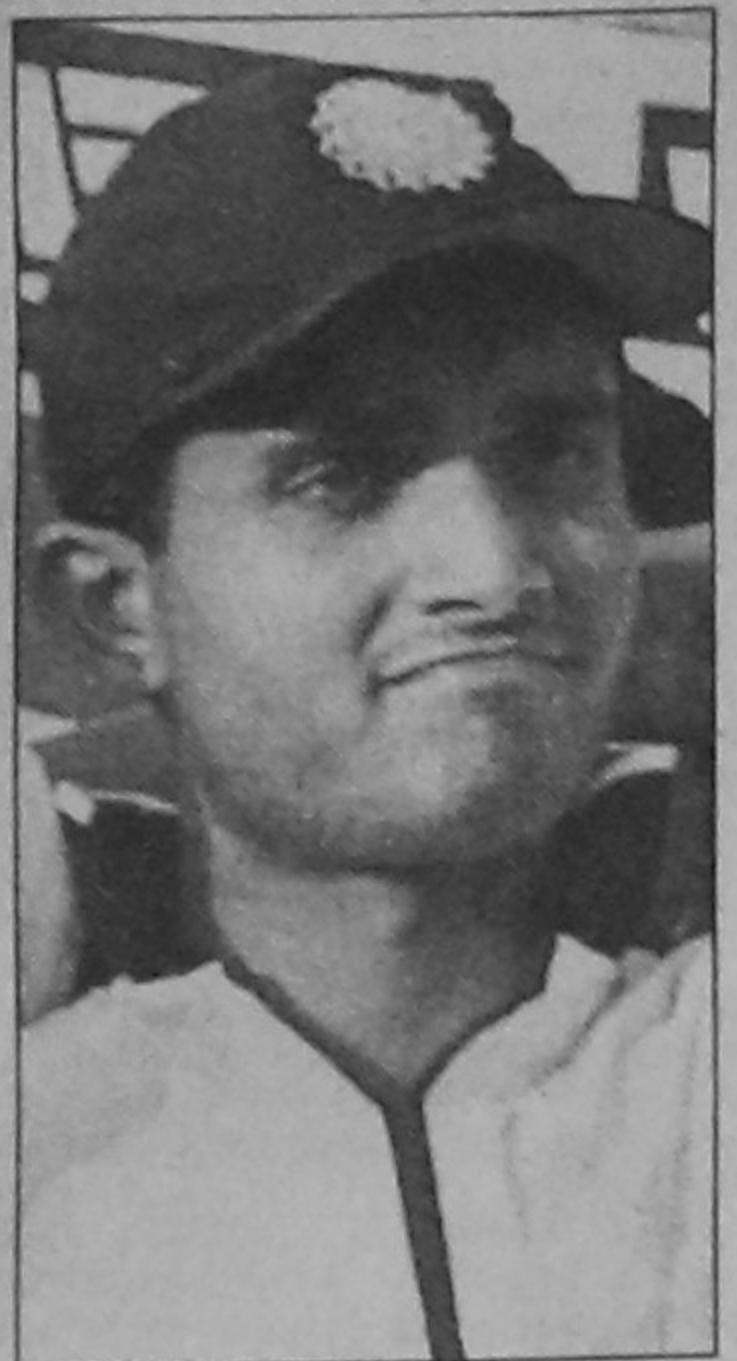


## SPORTS TALK



**Saurav Ganguly**

Indian cricket captain

"I was really upset when we lost the third match of Jodhpur. So this win is particularly satisfying. I had been looking for a 5-0 margin, but 4-1 will not be bad."

After winning the one-day series against Zimbabwe.

## Sports Whizz Kid

### Competition 140

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
 Post to The Star  
 Win attractive prizes  
 Competition closes at 8 pm  
 Dec 15, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- 1 Who is IAAF's female athlete-of-the-year  
 Marion Jones / Merlene Ottey / Mary Jose Perez
- 2 Who lifted Intercontinental Cup soccer title?  
 Boca Juniors / Real Madrid / Anters
- 3 Which country lifted the Fed Cup women's tennis title?  
 Argentina / Russia / Spain
- 4 Who clinched ACC Trophy?  
 UAE / HK / Malaysia
- 5 Who became Premier Div football champions?  
 Mohammadian / Abahani / Muktiyoddha

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

## Condon council to investigate CBI charge

MADRAS, India, Dec 12: World cricket's chief corruption investigator Paul Condon said here on Monday that the powerful body will probe Indian charges of match-fixing against national players in other countries, reports AFP.

Condon, the anti-corruption commissioner of the international Cricket Conference (ICC), said he hoped to make substantial progress before the next World Cup cricket tournament set for South Africa in March.

"Our task now is to follow up on allegations and gather evidence in areas over which the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has no jurisdiction," Condon told reporters in the southern Indian city.

India's CBI on November 1 said five Indian and nine foreign players, besides an Indian physiotherapist were involved in match-fixing and betting.

The foreign players named in the CBI report included ex-Test captains Alec Stewart (England), Brian Lara (West Indies), Hansie Cronje (South Africa), Aruna Ranatunga and Aravinda De Silva (Sri Lanka), Martin Crowe (New Zealand) and Asif Iqbal and Salim Malik (Pakistan).

Australia's Mark Waugh and former Indian physiotherapist Ali Irfan were also named in the CBI's bombshell report.

India's cricket board after an independent enquiry last month banned Azharuddin and former Test player Ajay Sharma for life, and handed down a five-year ban on star Ajay Jadeja and whistle-blower Manoj Prabhakar.

Condon is visiting India with Greg Mellick, special investigator of the Australian Cricket Board, New Zealand official Tim Gresson and Sri Lankan official Desmond Fernando. They arrived in India last week.

Earlier Monday, Condon held a closed-door meeting with Indian cricket board chief AC Muthiah and other officials here.

"We are here to gather and share information with the Indian authorities to carry the investigation into this obnoxious practice forward," Condon said.

## Tomorrow's train sets out

Sports Reporter



The youth development programme of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), which began on Monday in nine different zones across the country, has created an ocean of enthusiasm among the youngsters.

The Bangabandhu National Stadium, venue for Dhaka Zone's talent search programme for three different age groups, turned into a moving panorama as around three thousand boys turned up at the big bowl to display their skills with bat and ball.

Even the tiny tots' parents couldn't conceal their emotions too. As the children struggled to come to terms with their oversized cricket gear, the proud fathers and mothers cheered them on from the sidelines waiting anxiously to know about their performances.

A mother of an eight-year-old kid tried to console her weeping son whose patience ran out while waiting for his turn to bowl. His disappointment turned into ecstasy when he was finally handed the ball.

However, the U-10 boys need only to play and enjoy. It's not time for them to learn about techniques. That's why we should not put them along with boys of under-13 group be-

cause some lessons would be imparted to their immediate seniors.

"We had around twelve hundred boys in each of the U-13 and U-17 groups. But the number was nearly half in the under-15 group," revealed Tamim to The Daily Star Sport yesterday.

"They are amazing. Even some of them are well below eight years. But the way they hold the bat and take the ball before running up to the wicket, it's very interesting," said Sri Lankan coach Carlton Bernardus who is in charge of the programme for the Dhaka zone.

"Now we need to create a new age group for the under-10 boys. Because, they will get themselves injured if they train with under-13s," added Carlton, one of the four Lankan experts appointed by the BCB for its development programme.

"The competitions are expected to start from the 10th of next month. Then a final selection of unspecified players will be made after observing the performances of the boys in the nationwide tournaments. They will be drafted in a long-term coaching programme."

Milo and Siemens have joined hands with the Board to fund its development programmes.

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The camp started on Sunday under the tutelage of the new Hungarian coach George Cotman.

The technical committee has already submitted its recommendations to the BCB. The body advocated suspending them from all domestic competitions for an indefinite period.

The BCB will discuss the issue during its meeting today. Besides, composition of a team that will take part in the Rovers cup in Bombay is also going to be finalised in the meeting. The invitational tournament kicks off in the Indian film capital on December 26.

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