

India to go tough on fraud

REUTERS, New Delhi
India Saturday announced a strict code of conduct to help combat fraud in sport.

Sports Minister Uma Bharati said the code, covering all sports federations, had been formulated in response to the recent cricket match-fixing controversy.

"We had found ourselves helpless and unable to take any action then. We want to prevent such a situation in future," Bharati told a news conference.

Former Test players Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Sharma were banned for life by India's cricket board last year while Manoj Prabhakar and Ajay Jadhava were barred for five years.

The move was prompted by a federal police report naming the players in connection with match-fixing. All denied the charges, with Azharuddin and Jadhava challenging their bans in court.

The police report also castigated the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for failing to investigate the allegations of rigged results. The BCCI had dismissed them as "just conjecture".

Bharati, speaking after a meeting with provincial sports ministers, added: "We are in favour of a very strict code for all sports federations in the country so that Indian sport can be cleaned."

Same old

FROM PAGE 13

posed 49.
De Saram making a comeback to competitive cricket after an elbow injury hit six fours before skying a catch to Alec Stewart at long-on. Stewart, better known for his work behind the stumps, also held two more catches as substitute.

White was England's best bowler finishing with four wickets including two in two balls of the 47th over.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the 50-over practice match between Sri Lanka Colts XI and England Saturday:

SRI LANKA COLTS XI

Kunawardana c Nixon b White	26
Gulawitharana c Trescothick b White	37
Lanka c sub b Hoggard	49
Fernando c sub b Hoggard	27
Saram c sub b Gough	62
Kulasinga b White	14
Upashantha c Nixon b White	0
Warnapura not out	5
Samarawera not out	11
Extras: (lb-11, w-13, nb-4)	28
Total: (for 7 wks)	249

Did not bat: I Gallage, R Herath

Fall of wickets: 1-68, 2-78, 3-134, 4-193, 5-234, 6-234, 7-244

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	1	44	1
Hoggard	8.5	0	44	2
Croft	10	0	36	0
White	10	0	37	4
Brown	5	0	30	0
Trescothick	2.1	0	12	0
Vaughan	4	0	35	0

ENGLAND

Trescothick c Saram b Herath	85
Hussain st Kaluwitharana b Herath	73
Hick not out	38
Thorpe not out	32
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-7, nb-11)	22
Total: (for 2 wks in 43.4 overs)	250

Did not bat: M. Vaughan, C. White, R. Croft, P. Nixon, D. Gough, M. Hoggard, J. Brown.

Fall of wickets: 1-138, 2-186

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Upashantha	8	0	54	0
Gallage	3.1	0	17	0
Kulasinga	1.5	0	20	0
Fernando	2	0	20	0
Sweera	10	0	51	0
Herath	10	0	49	2
De Saram	8.4	1	35	0

Result: England won by eight wickets.

Mixed bag

FROM PAGE 13

While Mahmud, a joint secretary of the BCB, was critical about Mobasser's resignation Ahmed Sajjad Alam felt that the decision deserved a reconsideration. "If he (Mobasser) has resigned then I think it is a premature decision. I personally feel that he should withdraw it very soon," Sajjad opined.

A reputed organiser of Abahani Krida Chakra, Sajjad however won the election as a councillor of Farshangji Sporting Club. He was one of a few candidates who had to fight real hard to make it to the Board of Directors.

Jalal Younus, a former national cricketer who won convincingly, appeared little concerned at the decision of Mobasser. "It was his personal decision. I'm happy with the way I got elected. However, I can make comment only when I know the reason behind his resignation. I don't know it yet," Jalal remarked.

Tanjvir Ahsan Saad, another former national cricketer, opted not to talk about it. Having been persuaded enough, he said, "it was his right."

But Tanvir Haider, one of the sensational falls in the election, termed the decision of Mobasser a "victory for cricket".

"He showed the character of a real sportsman. His resignation once again proved that the whole election was a farce. It was a courageous decision and by doing so he proved that he has come to serve cricket not to make fortune," said the veteran cricketer-turned-organiser.

Pak batsmen fail

INTERNET, Christchurch

Pakistan's batsmen failed to cope with a seaming pitch and an accurate New Zealand A bowling attack as they were dismissed for 100 on the opening day of the three-day cricket tour match here Saturday.

After Pakistan were sent into bat, it took 48.4 overs and less than four hours for the New Zealand A bowlers to finish them off in gloomy, chilly conditions.

The opening bowlers claimed seven of the wickets, with Chris Drum the most impressive in taking four for 42 while Andrew Penn took 3-25.

Resuming at 5-64 after lunch, it didn't take long for more Pakistani wickets to fall.

Key batsman Yousuf Youhana was gone in the second over after the break, after batting nearly 100 minutes for the top score of 26.

Saqain Mushtaq, after being struck on the helmet by Drum earlier on, and Waqar Younis both fell in quick succession to Penn to make it 8-76, before a brief rearguard action from Mushtaq Ahmed and Arshad Khan.

They added 21 either side of a one-hour delay for bad light, which forced an early tea interval, before Penn and Drum finished off the innings.

New Zealand A were 66 for three at stumps.

SCORECARD

Scorecards on the first day of a three-day match against New Zealand A in Christchurch Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings	
Anwar c Nevin b Drum	17
Elahi c Nevin b Drum	0
Farhat c Vincent b Mills	3
Youhana c Jones b Drum	26
Younis Khan lbw Mills	7
Humayun lbw b Oram	1
Saqain b Penn	13

Waqar c Vincent b Penn	0
Mushtaq b Penn	11
Arshad not out	13
Sami c Vincent b Drum	0
Extras: (lb-6w-1, nb-2)	9
Total: (all out in 48.4 overs)	100
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-18, 3-37, 4-45, 5-46, 6-73, 7-75, 8-76, 9-97.	



Pakistan batsman Yousuf Youhana ducks a rising delivery from Jacob Oram of New Zealand A on the first day of their three-day match at Lincoln on Saturday.

NEW ZEALAND A: First innings	
Stead b Sami	23
Jones b Sami	11
Galfaney c Farhat b Waqar	18
Vincent not out	6
Sulzberger not out	3
Extras: (lb-1, nb-4)	5
Total: (for 3 wks in 22 overs)	66
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-49, 3-62.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Drum	16.4	9	42	4
Penn	16	6	25	3
Mills	8	0	14	2
Oram	8	4	13	1

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Waqar	10	0	30	1
Sami	6	1	21	2
Mushtaq	6	1	14	0

Daughters stay undefeated

AP, New York

Laila Ali and Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, together for the first time on the same fight card, scored separate knockouts to remain undefeated.

Both daughters of former world heavyweight champions, they used Friday night's event as a tribute to the 30th anniversary of their famous fathers' first fight, which was held on March 8, 1971.

Friday's seven-bout event, billed as a "March to Destiny," was broadcast around the world in English, Portuguese and Spanish. A crowd of over 1,700 watched the middleweight rivals use their fights as a build-up to a much anticipated head-to-head encounter in June.

Ali (9-0, 8 KOs), with her husband and manager ex-light heavyweight Johnny McClain ringside, needed five rounds to stop Christine Robinson (2-5, 1 KO).

At 1:50 of the fifth round, Ali ended the fight with a barrage of rights and a left uppercut.

Robinson, who once extended boxer Christie Martin five rounds, could not avoid Ali's right, but was able to absorb it through the first two rounds.

In the third, Robinson landed a few rights of her own. Ali turned more aggressive and started leading with a left jab, with the right cocked, looking for an opening.

In the fourth, Robinson matched Ali punch for punch. But with the crowd chanting "Ali, Ali," the champion's daughter backed Robinson into a corner in the fifth. She threw a dozen rights, some over, some under. A left upper cut lifted Robinson off the canvas and put her down for the count.

In a short fight, Frazier-Lyde (7-0, 7 KOs) flied her way to knockout at 1:05 of the first round. She knocked down Geneva Buckhalter (2-8, 2 KOs) twice, the first time with two solid lefts to the chin. The second time, Buckhalter caught another haymaker to the head. Frazier-Lyde had to push the dazed opponent off her as she fell to the canvas.

Frazier-Lyde, a lawyer, wife and mother of three, with her husband and manager Peter Lyde ringside, had entered the square circle to her own theme song, "Sister Smoke She Ain't No Joke." She was barely touched in just a minute of boxing.

Niranjani Wijeratne, the custodian of the island nation's most important Buddhist shrine, said Saturday he will not provide elephants, dancers and drummers for the cultural extravaganza.

He criticised the cricket authorities' decision to have the game on March 9, a full moon day considered sacred by Sri Lanka's Sinhalese Buddhists. The five-day second Test will be played at Kandy starting Wednesday.

Wijeratne, who looks after the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, said the organisers should have avoided play on that day, a national holiday.

The cultural pageant, involving elephants, traditional dancers and drummers, is meant to entertain hundreds of foreign tourists during lunch break at the match.

"We don't want to get involved in the ceremony... Our elephants, dancing troupes and drummers will not participate," said Wijeratne.

The temple often lends its 13 elephants for religious and cultural pageants.

Cricketer authorities decided to go ahead with the show.

"The English players have come here after five years and we can't stop a match halfway because of the religious day," said Basil Harley, vice president of the Kandy District Cricket Association.

He hopes to get dancers and elephants from elsewhere for a traditional mini procession.

"We want to give the foreigners a taste of our culture," he said.

Inzamam's NZ tour over?

REUTERS, Lincoln

Pakistan batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq is unlikely to play any further part in the tour of New Zealand after injuring both his groin and a calf muscle during the recent one-day series.

"Inzamam is still sore and I don't think he will play again on tour," said Pakistan team manager Fakir Aizuddin during the match against New Zealand A at Lincoln near Christchurch on Saturday.

Aizuddin said Misbahul Haq was due to fly to join the tourists before the first Test in Auckland on Thursday.

Misbah is a promising batsman and there was surprise he was not in the original tour party, nor even called on to join the squad when Shoaib Akhtar, Shahid Afridi and Imran Nazir returned home.



Laila Ali (R), daughter of boxing legend Mohammad Ali, and Jacqui Frazier, daughter of Joe Frazier, pose in front of a promotion poster in New York on Friday. The boxers meet in the ring on June 8 at Turning Stone Casino Resort in New York.

Safin, Ferrero showdown

Tennis

REUTERS, Dubai

Marat Safin lined up a Dubai Championship final against Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero on Saturday — despite the Russian suffering a back injury.

The top seed edged to a 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Thomas Johansson in Friday's semifinal, but suffered a back muscle injury in the fifth game of the final set which left his effectiveness in the final in doubt.

He was lucky to survive the match, as his game lacked consistency and Johansson was unable to take advantage of Safin's discomfort.

"I have to check with the physio but my back is not good and I won't be 100 per cent tomorrow," said Safin.

"I cannot serve fast and I cannot make fast movements. On the baseline more or less I can play."

Safin was surprised that Johansson did not try to exploit his inability to move. Instead, the Swede lapsed into a succession of errors and virtually handed Safin the match when he netted a backhand volley to lose his serve at 4-3.

"I'm sorry for the delay, be-

cause afterwards Thomas couldn't put the ball in court because of his lack of concentration," said Safin.

"I thought he would attack every ball, but he didn't. He missed easy returns. I was very lucky today."

Until the injury break, Johansson had looked a likely winner. He served well and was more consistent than his opponent, while Safin admitted he had not put on a good display.

"I don't think I had a very good day today," he said.

"I tried to do something but everything was unforced errors. My forehand was ridiculous today. It was horrible. I just tried to play very simple and see what I could do."

Ferrero held off three match points to defeat Dominik Hrbaty 5-7, 7-6, 6-3 in the earlier match.

After dropping the first set, the number seven seed failed to take advantage of four break points in the second, and then found himself facing two match points at 5-4.

He held those off by firing a pair of aces and saved a third match point when sixth seeded Hrbaty made a forehand error.

While Ferrero was saved by his serve, the Slovak's serve let him down in the tiebreak as two dou-

ble-faults gave Ferrero a 6-3 lead.

In the final set, Ferrero had the crowd on their feet after winning a spectacular diving backhand, and he followed that up with an ace before gaining the only break to lead 4-2 as Hrbaty double-faulted again.

Birmingham back to winning ways

REUTERS, Birmingham

Birmingham City shrugged off last weekend's League Cup final defeat to Liverpool by beating promotion rivals Watford 2-0 in the English First Division on Friday.

City, who lost to Liverpool on penalties, broke the deadlock just before halftime when Nicky Eaden steered a low shot through a packed Watford goalmouth.

Bryan Hughes put the result beyond doubt in the 78th minute collecting a pass from Eaden, deftly flicking the ball past his marker and firing home from a tight angle.

Birmingham stay fourth on 62 points, but now trail Blackburn only on goal difference. Both clubs also have two games in hand on Bolton, on 66 points, and leaders Fulham (78).

Anand leads Asian power

Chess

SAKYASEN MITTRA, Kolkata

Indian chess maestro Vishwanathan Anand feels that his greatest regret in life is failing to match his wits against the legendary Bobby Fischer. At the same time, he is happy that he is the first non-American to be a world champion after Bobby Fischer.

He is also of the opinion that the way players were coming up in India and Bangladesh the Russian dominance in the game could end quite easily. "The number of talents that are coming out from India and Bangladesh now is astounding. It augurs well for the game," said Anand at a reception organised in honour of him by the Kolkata Sports Journalists' Club at the Gorky Sadan Monday.

He thinks that FIDE should start experimenting with the shorter version of the game, the rapid chess. "Rapid Chess is quite interesting," he said. "It is here to stay. The FIDE should experiment with this format of the game in some of the tournaments. There are a section of the organisers who have made it clear that they will

stick to the seven-hour format. However, at the same time in the age of speed, the aspect of rapid chess should be looked into."

Even though his dream of be-



VISWANATHAN ANAND

coming the world champion came true, the hunger is still there. "Yes, initially, there is a distinct drop in the motivation factor once you reach the peak. However, now my goal is to maintain. Others will be motivated to gun for me. My motivation will be thwarted," said a bespectacled Anand with his wife Aruna sitting beside him.

"Maybe, chess does not have the same popularity as cricket or tennis. However, chess is gaining in popularity. A huge number of young players are getting attracted to the game. Then it itself is a great recognition. Players are now believing that that they can emulate me."

About India's prospect in a could-be Chess Olympiad, Anand replied, "We have a very good chance to do quite well. The Chess Olympiad, if it comes about, can very well become a platform of recognition for many Third World countries."

Immediately after returning from Kolkata, Anand will be busy preparing for a tournament in Monaco, where he will have to face the likes of Anatoly Karpov, Kramnik and a few others of his own stature.

Rusedski rolls on

Tennis

REUTERS, San Jose

Feeling healthy and confident in his new entourage of trainers, Greg Rusedski continued his 2001 revival with a 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 upset of number two seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in the quarter-finals of the 400,000-dollar Sybase Open on Friday.

Top seed Andre Agassi breezed to his 10th straight victory of the season, trouncing Sargis Sargsian 6-1, 6-3 to set up a semifinal meeting with sixth-seed Jan-Michael Gambill, who pasted Spaniard Juan Balcells 6-2, 6-0.

Fourth-seed Tommy Haas of Germany was eliminated when he bruised his hip and retired down 5-7, 6-3, 5-1 to Belgian qualifier Xavier Malisse. Rusedski and Haas will meet in Saturday's semifinal.

Four-time champion Agassi played ethereal tennis, crushing the ball from both wings and keeping his opponent pinned to the baseline.

"I saw the ball really clearly and was executing as fast as possible," said Agassi, who frequently uses Sargis as his hitting partner. "With some one you know so well, you know what you have to do and can focus on it quickly."

Agassi and Gambill have met six times, all on the West Coast, with Agassi holding a 4-2 edge. Rusedski, employing a precise serve-and-volley attack and mixing in steady play from the baseline, thoroughly frustrated the 20-year-old Aussie in the third set, breaking him to go ahead 5-4 when he chipped and charged and Hewitt couldn't lift a backhand crosscourt passing attempt over

the net. Rusedski then held at love to win the match, behind three crisp volleys and a leaping overhead.

"I'm really surprised," said the eighth-seeded Rusedski, who has now beaten three top-10 players this year — Hewitt, Gustavo Kuerten and Marat Safin.

"We're on a three month plan to change a lot of my strokes and make sure my positions are proper to take stress off my body. They're small changes but they mean 5 to 10 points a match and if you can those it's the difference between winning and losing. I wasn't expecting to win too many matches the first three months, but things are going really well."

After being racked with injury the past three years, Rusedski hired a new coach, Pat Cash, in late November, as well as a biomechanist and two physical trainers.

"It's been a big plus," said Rusedski of his all-Australian entourage. "Even though I was playing an Aussie today, Pat sent me an e-mail this morning, so I guess the team was pulling for me."

The sixth-ranked Hewitt was impressed by his opponent's attacking style.

BCSIR sports

SPORTS REPORTER

The annual sports competition of the BCSIR (Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) was held at its staff quarter ground Friday.

Chairman of the BCSIR Dr M Moshiuzzaman declared the meet open while Dr AHM Hasan Rashid Khan gave away prizes among the winners.

"His slice and kick serve were really moving and he chip-charged at the right times," said Hewitt, who is scheduled to play tournaments the next five weeks. "There aren't too many guys who play like Greg do. The two times I had beaten him before, I had mixed up my serve well and not given him the opportunity to chip-charge."

The gangly Rusedski said that in the first set, he was telegraphing his approach shots and was too predictable.

"I was playing pretty well but then I missed some shots and you can't do that because he punishes you if you give him little chance. I stopped chip-charging every single ball because if you give him target all the time, he knows where to go."

Rusedski — a 1997 U.S. Open finalist who ended 2000 ranked number 69, his lowest ranking since 1994 — said he is hitting his groundstrokes better than ever and is no longer merely chipping his backhand return of serve and blocking it back on his forehand side.

"I'm a more complete player and I'm serving better," said Rusedski, who has always been one of the tour's fastest servers but hasn't always been incredibly accurate. Against Hewitt, Rusedski bombed 10 aces and won 84 per cent of his first serve points. "I've had a good career."

"I've been ranked number four and got to the final of a Grand. But all these aces had to be cleaned up and I had to take a risk. If I didn't, then I could have been faced with a lot of questions. At least I can say to myself when I stop playing that I did everything that I possibly could to win."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Unlabeled one	5 "Awe-some!"	8 Colombian city	12 Fashion trend	13 Prior to	14 Literary conflict	15 Composer Khachaturian	16 "Moby-Dick" crewman	18 Akward sort	20 Page numbers	21 Pressing tool	23 First of the 50 (Abbr.)	24 Roddenberry's brainchild	28 Ego	31 Polloi	32 Missionary Junipero	34 Carnival venue	35 Goals	37 Use a telescope, maybe	39 Church perch	41 Cold-water predatory bird	42 Dormant	45 Sauntered	49 Hoagy Carmichael	51 Hope/Crosby "Road" destination	52 Melody	53 Cow word	54 Ceaselessly	55 Not up	56 Simile center	57
--------	-----------------	---------------	------------------	------------------	-------------	----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	----------------	-----------------	------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	--------	-----------	------------------------	-------------------	----------	---------------------------	-----------------	------------------------------	------------	--------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------	-------------	----------------	-----------	------------------	----