

Nat'l chess qualifiers

Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon of Bangladesh Ansars earned a solo lead in the preliminary phase of the Professor Abdur Razzaq 27th National Chess Championship...

Emirates Cup golf on Friday

The Fourth Emirates Cup Golf Tournament will be played at the Kurmitola Golf Club on Friday. About 300 golfers and a good number of ladies will take part in the amateur event.

Harbhajan

cricket Test between Australia and India at the Chhapauk on Wednesday. AUSTRALIA: First innings 391 (M Hayden 203, M Waugh 70; I Singh 7-133)...

Hick-Caddick show

Cricket

GRAEME HICK scored a century and Andy Caddick took five wickets including a hat-trick as England warmed up for their one-day series against Sri Lanka with a 51-run victory over a Sri Lanka Board President's XI.

Table with 3 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Vaughan b Wansinghe 97, Hick retired hurt 100, Knight c K'Iharana b Chandana 1, De Saram c Flintoff b Ealham 32, Flintoff c Wansinghe b S'weera 18, Ealham c Ganegama b S'weera 19, Croft b Fernando 10, Giles not out 6, Thorpe b Ganegama 2, Caddick b Ganegama 0, Mullally b Ganegama 2, Extras (lb-9, w-8, nb-5) 22, Total: (All out in 47.4 overs) 279.



England's Graeme Hick in full flow during a magnificent 100 against the Sri Lanka Board President's XI on Wednesday.

Table with 4 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-218, 3-218, 4-225, 5-253, 6-260, 7-268, 8-276, 9-275. Bowler: Fernando 8 0 56 1, Ganegama 8.4 1 33 4, Wansinghe 9 1 34 1, S'weera 10 0 44 2, Chandana 10 0 71 1, Arnold 2 0 32 0, G'wardene c Alleyne b Mullally 14.

Six teams fly home

Six of the eight foreign teams took part in the Prime Minister Gold Cup hockey tournament left the capital on Wednesday.

Champions India were the first team leave in the morning followed by Scotland in the afternoon. Ireland flew home in the evening. China, Malaysia and runners-up Pakistan were supposed to depart last night.

Egypt and Japan are due to leave the city today. A total of nine countries including hosts Bangladesh took part in the tournament held in the Maulana Bhasani Stadium from March 10 to 20.

India want to hold ICC Knockout

India on Wednesday appealed to the International Cricket Council (ICC) to hold the next Knockout tournament in the country next year even though their participation in the Sharjah tri-series next month has not been finalised.

The appeal was made by Sports Minister Uma Bharti when ICC president Malcolm Gray called on her at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The tournament is scheduled to be in September-October next year.

SA hit

Blinds went back on his stumps and was lbw to the change bowler's second delivery. A chance of a second breakthrough was missed when Gayle, on 17, slashed Pollock to first slip but Cullinan could not hold an overhead catch.

Table with 4 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes South Africa: First innings 286 (D Cullinan 103, I Kallis 53; N McLean 3-60, D Ramnarine 3-57). WEST INDIES: First innings 342 (R Jacobs 93 not out, W Hinds 56, C Hooper 53; A Donald 4-91, S Pollock 3-55).

Akhtar's one last attempt?

Cricket

Pakistan's controversial express bowler Shoaib Akhtar hopes human movement experts here can prove chucking suspicions that have derailed his career are just an optical illusion.

"That's not a definition of throwing, what we have to show is that he doesn't extend his elbow during the delivery action." Elliott and his team will blend the fast bowler's physical measurement with high speed footage, filmed at 200 frames per second, to prove his elbow movements do not breach ICC rules.



SHOAIB AKHTAR

Shoaib will Thursday begin a series of tests at the University of Western Australia's School of Human Movement, which earlier proved to the International Cricket Council that Sri Lankan spinner Muthiah Muralitharan's bowling arm was permanently bent 40 per cent more than normal since birth.

But whereas Muralitharan can't fully extend his arm, Shoaib has an abnormally high level of flexibility that forces his elbow to hyper extend during the delivery action, giving the impression he is throwing the ball.

Shoaib spent time at the school during his last visit to Australia, when he was reported to the ICC by match referee John Reid, but did not undergo the full range of tests when he was cleared to play in the one-day internationals by former ICC chief Jagmohan Dalmiya.

UWA's professor Bruce Elliott, who conducted the video study on Muralitharan, said Shoaib's flexibility gave an optical illusion he was bending his arm.

But Elliott was confident scientific evidence would clear the bowler's name once and for all - provided Shoaib reached full pace during the tests.

"There is nothing in the laws that says you can't move from a hyper extended position back to a normal position," Elliott said Wednesday.

Shoaib's latest setback came in New Zealand last month when umpires reported his action to ICC referee Ranjan Madugala.

His bowling action was reviewed by a three-member home panel set up by Pakistan cricket authorities which included former Test pace bowler Mohsin Kamal, off-spinner Ejaz Faqih and international player Iqbal Sikander.

The panel will review Shoaib's action again after his return from Australia before submitting a report to the Pakistan Cricket Board.

If he is reported again in first-class cricket, he faces a one-year ban from the sport.

Mark's money on India

Cricket

The state of the pitch, however, would favour India in the final innings. "Apart from Harbhajan, nobody was really dangerous. When they bowled in the rough, it tended to turn pretty sharply and bounce also. Otherwise it is fairly placid," Waugh said.

"Ninety per cent of the pitch is the same as on day one." Waugh added that Australia would try to emulate India, who had bowled them out cheaply on the final day to win the second Test in Calcutta and level the series.

"When the pressure is on and you have to score the runs and there are fielders all around,

anything can happen as it did in Calcutta," he said.

"We will be hoping to repeat it." India vice-captain Rahul Dravid echoed Waugh.

"We will basically try and see off their pace bowlers because the Australians will be doing what we did and giving the spinners an early bowl," he said.

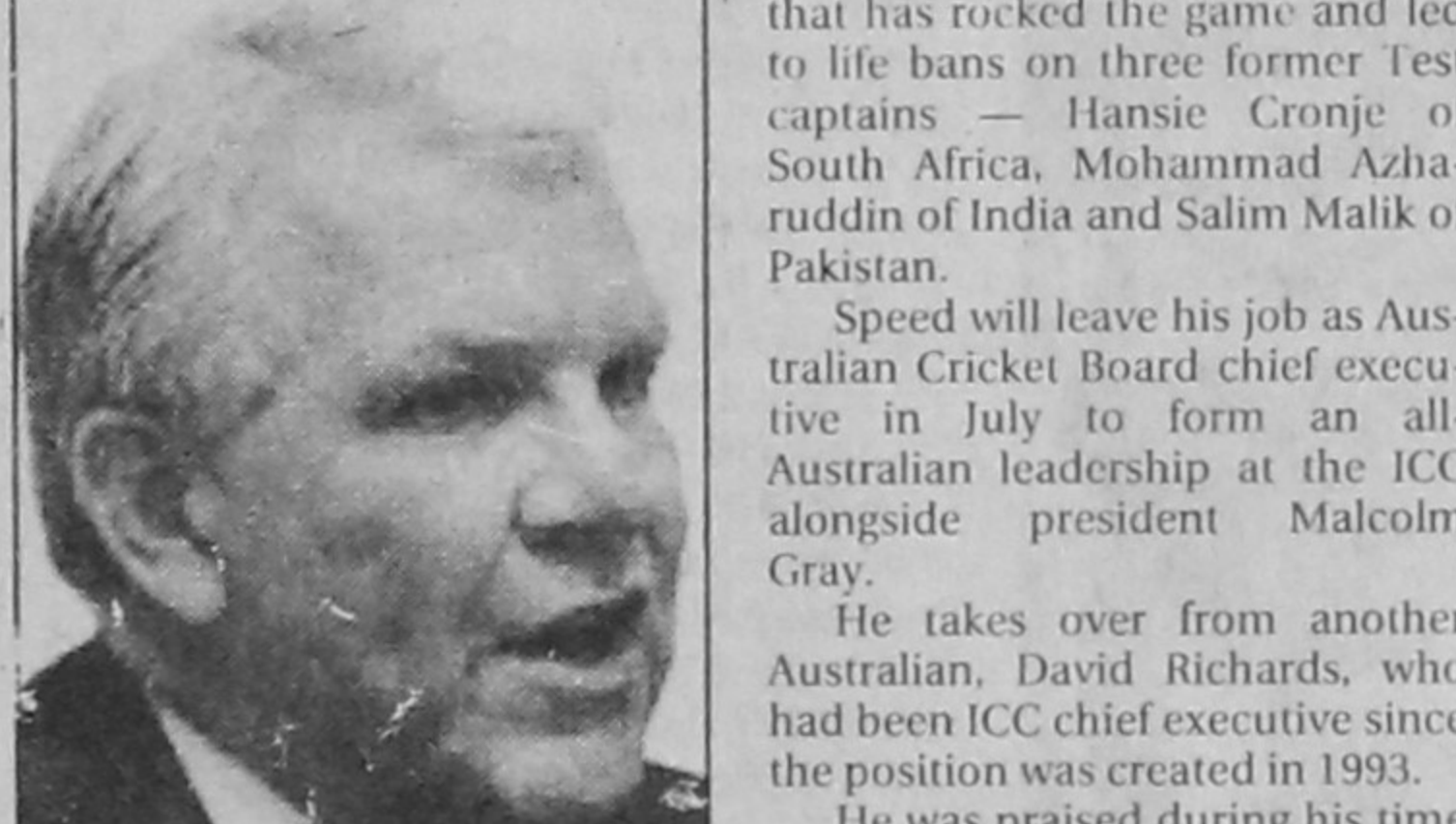
"It's going to be challenging." He said of Singh: "He is bowling absolutely exceptionally this series. He is just delivering all the time. He is loving the pressure and loving the challenge.

"The way he is bowling, he will trouble just about anybody -- including our batsmen."

Speed all for clean-up

Cricket

Speed plans to meet the head of the ICC's Anti Corruption Unit (ACU), Sir Paul Condon, as soon he completes his time with the ACH and moves to London.



MALCOLM SPEED when he was here in February, but that was with my ACB hat," he said.

"Next time it will be with the ICC which will be a different perspective."

"I have been very impressed with the work he has been doing and the ICC has taken some major steps forward regarding corruption."

"Speed's appointment comes amid the match-fixing scandal that has rocked the game and led to life bans on three former Test captains - Hansie Cronje of South Africa, Mohammad Azharuddin of India and Salim Malik of Pakistan.

Speed will leave his job as Australian Cricket Board chief executive in July to form an all-Australian leadership at the ICC alongside president Malcolm Gray.

He takes over from another Australian, David Richards, who had been ICC chief executive since the position was created in 1993.

He was praised during his time at the ACB for the way he dealt with the betting scandal involving Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, which had initially been covered-up by his predecessors.

Speed is also behind the ICC's push for an elite panel of eight full-time umpires but has concerns about the prospect of two neutral umpires for each Test match.

"That would mean umpires would never get to umpire in their home country," he said.

England expect big business

Cricket

Countries will have to take an initial cut in compensation for the loss of players centrally contracted by England under a new scheme.

But the clubs will receive a match-by-match pay-out for losing star players to the Test arena.

Last summer, the compensation deal was 51,000 pounds (74,970 dollars). This year it will be 26,000 (38,220 dollars) although the ECB have still budgeted for the same figure laid out in 2000.

The 'elite' squad will be 12 players, as it was last summer when it was put into place for the first time. The dozen names are likely to be announced next week.

Last year, England departed from the original 12 as the summer went on - notably with Surrey's Graham Thorpe regaining his place after missing the previous winter's trip to South Africa.

"There is an unequivocal recognition on the part of all the stakeholders in cricket, including the counties, that the success of the England team comes first," Lamb said.

"It enabled the workload of players to be slightly reduced by not having to play county cricket."

Lamb said the contracts would be essentially the same as last year.

"I think there will be a move in future to longer-term contracts. But we feel six months is right for the time being," he commented.

The ECB are still awaiting sponsors for the county championship and one-day trophy competition but are confident of naming the new backers before the start of the coming season.

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Advertisement for BJMC International Tender Notice, mentioning Amin Jute Mills Ltd, Sholashahar, Chittagong.

Advertisement for BJMC International Tender Notice, detailing Amin Jute Mills Ltd, Sholashahar, Chittagong, and tender schedule.

England expect big business

England's cricket authorities expect more brisk box office business following the success of Nasser Hussain's side in winning both their winter Test series in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

B'baria cricket

Aggradut Cricket Club defeated Titas Cricket Club by 30 runs in the Shaheed Freedom Fighter Rangó Mía Smriti Cricket Cup at Shahjadpur Junior High School playground yesterday.

Crossword puzzle by Eugene Sheffer and Cryptiquip puzzle with solution key.