

Green Delta hockey Usha squeeze past bankers

SPORTS REPORTER

A goal in each half guided Usha Krira Chakra to a 2-0 win over struggling Sonali Bank in the lone Green Delta Premier Hockey League return leg clash at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

In a dull encounter, captain Tutul Kumar Nag put the winners ahead with a field goal at the stroke of the breather while Habul sealed the bankers' faith with another field goal in the 51st minute.

It was Usha's eighth win in 13 matches, which raised their tally to 28 points. Sonali Bank are still in the relegation zone as they remained second from the bottom with eight points.

JVC badminton from today

BSS, Dhaka

JVC Bangladesh Asian Satellite Badminton Championship begins at Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium today.

Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF) is organising the competition with the sponsorship of electronics company JVC.

BBF President Kutubuddin Ahmed gave a detailed account of the meet at a press conference in the National Sports Council (NSC) conference room her yesterday.

The BBF president said 43 players, including 10 women, from seven countries India, Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Maldives, Bhutan and hosts Bangladesh will compete in five events.

The events are: men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

A sum of 3,600 US dollars will be given as prize money, of which men's singles champion will get 500 dollars and runner-up 300 dollars, while women's singles champion will receive 300 dollars and runner-up 200 dollars.

Leave WC

FROM PAGE 13
Germany's Adidas company.

The ball has a three-level knitted chassis to provide truer and more predictable flight, and a foam layer filled with extremely durable gas-filled micro-balloons for advanced control and accuracy.

Speaking at the ball's presentation last December, England star David Beckham said it was "the most accurate ball I have ever played with."

Others, however, have expressed concern that the ball's enhanced speed may prove too difficult to handle for goalkeepers.

"The ball flies fast - maybe too fast. Goalkeepers are not used to such speed," Brazil's Rivaldo said.

Cooper said all players taking part in the World Cup had had the opportunity to practice with the ball during the past six months.

Zizou hope

FROM PAGE 13
treatment to the affected area, workouts in a swimming pool, and work on an isokinetic machine," which strengthens the muscle, said the statement.

"The care and the workouts are going to increase over the next few days and the medical staff and coaches discuss the situation every evening.

"Zidane began running again on Saturday," it concluded.

Coach Roger Lemerre has however admitted he would be "astounded" if Zidane returns for the Uruguay match.

Lemerre has given few clues about his plans to fill the creative role normally occupied by Zidane, injured in last week's 3-2 friendly win over tournament co-hosts South Korea.

The 34-year-old Yuri Djorkaeff had a disappointing start against the Senegalese and Lemerre could be tempted to bring in Parma midfielder Johan Micoud to supply strikers Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet.



ESPN
World Cup Today
Same Day Delay at 8:30 am
Cricket Programming
Super Selector
Repeat at 12:00 pm
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
STAR Sports
World Cup Today
Repeat at 10:00 am
England vs Sri Lanka
Second Test, Day Five
Live at 6:28 pm

Protea press pardons him

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Johannesburg

South African newspapers have heaped praise on "hero to zero" cricketer Hansie Cronje after the disgraced former captain of the national squad was killed in a plane crash on Saturday.

The newspapers on Sunday paid tribute to the former star, saying his death ended one of the saddest sagas in the history of South African sport.

Most of the country's Sunday press ran banner headlines on Cronje's fatal crash.

"Nation Mourns Hansie" said a front-page headline in the City Press newspaper, while the Sunday Times obituary said he "was arguably South Africa's greatest cricket captain before his career ended in disgrace".

Cronje, 32, died on Saturday when a cargo plane he was travelling in crashed in mountains in the Western Cape province.

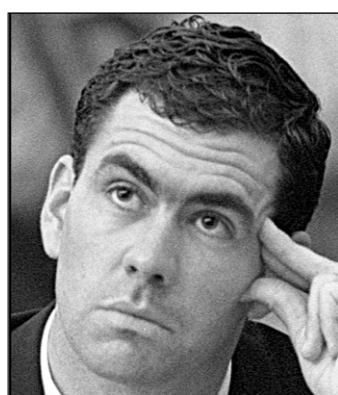
Cronje shocked the world of cricket two years ago when he admitted he had accepted around 130,000 dollars from bookmakers to influence the course of matches.

South African cricket's shining star was extinguished when he was banned from professional cricket for

life. The Sunday Times described him as "a gifted sportsman and a natural leader whose self-admitted greed led to a life ban from cricket".

The Sunday Independent's leader said: "Cruel fate robs Hansie of a second chance".

"Never before in this country had a 'hero-to-zero' tale of such mam-



HANSIE CRONJE

moth proportions gripped most of our communities," it said.

The paper described Cronje as "a handsome young man with wonderful talent on the cricket field" and a captain who could "crush or squeeze the life out of opponents".

"He was the hero of small boys from townships to golf estates, of

girls and mothers from the bore-holes to the beauty salons," the Independent editorial said.

"Hansie let us down, but not as badly as he did himself. He paid dearly for his dishonesty," the newspaper added.

"Now he has lost the chance to fully redeem himself, as surely he would have done in time."

"Hansie's death flight" read the front page of Afrikaans Sunday paper Rapport, which spent six full pages filled with pictures and tributes on Cronje.

The Cronje scandal opened a can of worms in Indian cricket as well and led to a life ban on former captain Mohammad Azharuddin and limited restrictions on India's star batsman Ajay Jadeja and Test player Ajay Sharma.

Thirty-two-year-old Cronje captained South Africa in 53 Test matches, of which 27 were won and 11 lost. He also led the side in 138 one-day internationals, with 99 wins and 35 losses.

In all he played in 68 Test matches, scoring 3,714 runs at an average of 36.41 with six centuries and 23 half-centuries. He took 43 Test wickets at 29.95.

In 188 one-day internationals he hit 5,565 runs at 38.64 and took 114 wickets at 34.78.

Confession to King Comm

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Hansie Cronje, who has died in a plane crash, lifted the lid on his part in corruption in cricket in his testimony to the King Commission two years ago.

Former South African captain Cronje denied throwing a match, but he admitted supplying the game's underground gambling industry with information, putting an offer he had received to lose a game to his team, and turing two team members into a failed plan to underperform in a match.

Cronje also said he had been influenced by a gambler to forfeit an innings in a Test match.

Cronje, paid about 130,000 dollars by gamblers and bookmakers, was banned for life by the United

Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa.

Indian police broke the scandal in April 2000 when they claimed to have recordings of cell-phone conversations, purportedly between Cronje and a bookmaker, involving match-fixing.

Cronje denied the allegations several times, but eventually admitted to the UCB that he had not been "entirely honest." The UCB fired him and replaced him with Shaun Pollock.

The King Commission sat for 10 days in May and June, 2000 with Cronje as the star witness. Transcripts of the Indian cell-phone conversations, which Cronje verified, included team details and amounts that players would be paid.

Cronje also spoke of an offer for the South African team to throw a one-day international on their tour of India in 1996. Cronje received the offer and put it to the team but it was rejected.

However, the testimony which shocked the cricket world most was when Cronje admitted asking Henry Williams and Herschelle Gibbs to underperform in a one day international against India in Nagpur in March, 2000.

Gibbs agreed to be dismissed for less than 20 runs, but the plan went awry and he scored 74. Williams was to concede more than 50 runs in his 10 overs, but pulled up with an injury and was unable to complete his spell.

In a Test match with England the same year, a professional gambler had said to Cronje he should consider suggesting a double innings forfeiture. Rain had washed out three days of the match and a draw was the likely result.

Cronje followed the advice and was paid by the gambler. England won the match by two wickets.

England win emphatically

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

England marked 100 years of international cricket at Edgbaston in style, beating Sri Lanka by an inning and 111 runs in the second Test here Sunday.

England's victory, achieved with more than a day to spare, gave them a 1-0 lead in the three match series.

Yorkshire quick Matthew Hoggard (five for 62), the man-of-the-match, and fellow pacerman Andrew Caddick (three for 67) did the damage with the new ball.

Sri Lanka lost four wickets for 14 runs in 19 balls as they collapsed to 247 for eight against the England duo after lunch.

It was a memorable match for Hoggard whose Test-best 17 not out had earlier helped Graham Thorpe (123) add 91 for the final wicket in England's 545 -- an innings where Marcus Trescothick posted 161.

Delighted England captain Nasser Hussain admitted he was surprised by the speed with which victory came. "It was a bit like one of our collapses," he joked.

"It was a good toss to win but we used the conditions well and to get 500 on that wicket was exceptional. To bowl them for 260 on it was even better."

Hussain added that England had made the most of the conditions. He added: "We need some sideways movement.

"That's not just for our attack, but it's noticeable how when you pitch the ball up and it started to swing their batsmen struggled."

Hoggard had come into the

match low on confidence after a lacklustre performance in the drawn opener at Lord's.

But Hussain played down his role in boosting Hoggard's morale, saying: "He helped himself by getting wickets and runs. He's still very young in his career."

However, he warned England won't have it all their own in the deciding Test at Old Trafford on June 13.

He admitted: "Old Trafford will suit them -- it will be a wicket one of their off spinners (Muttiah Muralitharan who played there for Lancashire) knows how to bowl on.



MATTHEW HOGGARD ... m-o-m

"But if we play like we did here we've got a chance of winning again."

Earlier Chaminda Vaas (28) produced a few big hits before he was last man out, stumped by Alec Stewart off Ashley Giles in front of the left-arm spinner's home crowd, Sri Lanka 272 for nine.

Number eleven Muralitharan, playing his first match since dislo-

cating his shoulder last month, did not bat after struggling first time around before bowling a marathon 64 overs for his 34th five wicket haul in Tests.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the second Test between England and Sri Lanka on the fourth day of at Edgbaston Sunday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 162 (M Jayawardene 47; A Caddick 3-47)

ENGLAND: First innings 545 (M Trescothick 161, G Thorpe 123, M Butcher 94; M Muralitharan 5-143, NZoysa 3-93)

SRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 132-2)
Atapattu b Hoggard 56
Jayasuriya b Hoggard 12
Sangakkara lbw b Hoggard 1
Jayawardene c Thorpe b Caddick 59
De Silva c Thorpe b Caddick 47
Tillekeratne b Caddick 39
Arnold c Giles b Hoggard 4
Vaas st Stewart b Giles 28
Fernando b Hoggard 0
Zoysa not out 1

Muralitharan absent hurt
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-17) 25
Total: (For 9 wickets in 89.1 overs) 272
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-30, 3-135, 4-156, 5-233, 6-238, 7-247, 8-247, 9-272

Bowler O M R W
Caddick 25 4 67 3
Hoggard 23 2 92 5
Flitoff 6 0 23 0
Giles 26.1 3 57 1
Tudor 9 1 25 0

Result: England win by an innings and 111 runs and lead series 1-0.
Man-of-the-match: Matthew Hoggard.

Hansie's body removed from crash site

REUTERS/AFP, Johannesburg

Rescue workers on Sunday removed the bodies of cricketer Hansie Cronje, a pilot and co-pilot from a remote mountain after a fatal plane crash, a South African aviation official said.

"All three the bodies had been removed from the mountain. They have been taken to a mortuary where post-mortems will be performed," Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokesman Trevor Davids told AFP.

He said the bodies were removed from the wreckage of a 45-seater Hawker Siddeley 748 cargo plane, which crashed into mountains Saturday near Cronje's hometown of George.

"The bodies of Cronje, 32, and others were recovered from the wreck on Saturday but we weren't able to get them off the mountain because of bad weather," Davids told Reuters.

Davids had earlier said that they hoped to do it this morning with a military helicopter. He also said that the autopsy was expected to be conducted on Monday. No date has been set for a funeral.

The plane, which had taken off from the central city of Bloemfontein, crashed into the rugged Outeniqua range at a height of some 1,000 metres (3,000 feet) in bad weather when it tried to land at George around 6:45 am (0445 GMT).

Davids said CAA crash investigators were at the scene in the steep mountains some 430 kilometres (260 miles) east of Cape Town.

The cause of the crash has not yet been determined but civil aviation officials have said that the weather was bad in the area when the plane went down.

The investigators were retrieving flight voice and data recorders.

"It will give us a good idea of what happened in the final moments of the crash," Davids said.

Local media reports have said Cronje caught a ride on the ill-fated flight after missing a scheduled one.

Delhi case still alive

AFP, New Delhi

The death of disgraced South African cricketer Hansie Cronje in an air crash on Saturday will not affect a criminal case against the former skipper and his teammates in a match-fixing scandal, Indian police said.

"Hansie is dead but the match-fixing case is alive," said a top official from the Delhi police department, which in April 2000 accused Cronje and three of his teammates of fixing some of the one-day matches South Africa played with India in March the same year.

Crime branch detectives secretly taped Cronje's talks with Indian bookies during the 2000 tour but the charges were not put up for a trial in court as Pretoria did not send samples of Cronje's authenticated voice to the city police here.

"But the judicial process will be on and once the case goes to court, Cronje's name will be mentioned in column two of the (police) charge sheet," the official said of a section in the official papers for names of deceased suspects.

Besides Cronje, the crime branch had named South Africans Herschelle Gibbs, Henry Williams and Pieter Strydom as co-suspects in a case of "cheating the public at large".

South Africa coach axed

AFP, Johannesburg

Graham Ford, the coach of the South African cricket team, said on Saturday that he had been sacked by the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa.

Ford's contract had been due to run until the end of next year's World Cup but the Proteas lost a series against Australia earlier this year 5-1, with one match tied.

Ford told the SAFA news agency he had received a call from UCB chief executive officer Gerald Majola informing him of his dismissal.

"I haven't officially been given the reasons yet but to be honest, I'm not surprised at all. Maybe my opinions did not quite gel with the opinions of others.

"I'm not saying my opinions are always right, of course. But if you stand firm, you're always going to run into opposition," he said.

"Obviously I'm hurt. I've given 100 per cent."

Prior to his team's loss to Australia, Ford had not lost a series. "Memories are quite short. This was my 10th series and I won the other nine."

However, he added that the death of former captain Hansie Cronje in a plane crash on Saturday had put his situation into perspective.

"It's fairly small when you think about it. It's not nearly as serious as death."

The board meanwhile announced it had offered contracts to 21 players.



The wreckage of the ill-fated Hawker Siddeley 748 lies on a mountain slope yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tributes flow for Cronje

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, undated

Cricketers past and present as well as a statesman reacted with sadness on Saturday to the news of Hansie Cronje's death in a plane crash.

Former South Africa president Nelson Mandela was magnanimous in his tribute, saying Cronje was a model of how someone can rebuild his life after hitting rock bottom.

England captain Nasser Hussain said: "We were all shocked when we heard the news of Hansie's death. As a cricketer he was a fine player and a tough opponent."

"A number of our players had either played under him or against him and he was a fine captain on the field. Our sympathies are with his family."

Gary Kirsten, a former international teammate, spoke of Cronje's positive influence on his career.

"It's a terrible shock, it's a tragedy. He was a great friend of mine," he said.

"As most people remember him, he was a great cricketer. I knew him better than most but he was a good friend, he was good for my career and he got the best out of me."

Officials from the United Cricket Board of South Africa also spoke of their shock and sadness at Cronje's death.

A statement said: "It was with immense shock and sadness that the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) heard reports of the death in a plane crash today of former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje."

The board's president Percy Sonn said: "Our thoughts and deepest condolences go out to Hansie's wife Bertha, his parents Ernie and San-Marie and the whole family."

"Hansie was an excellent cricketer and a very popular and successful captain, who led his team to some great achievements and who gave much to cricket in this country during his career."

Chief executive Gerald Majola said: "Hansie will be missed by his teammates and management, as well as by cricket administrators and the South African public. We were all terribly sad to hear the news today."

Cronje's first vice-captain on assuming the captaincy in 1995 was Craig Matthews, now an administrator at national level and marketing manager with Western Province.

An unfulfilled Srinath

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Javagal Srinath, who has announced his retirement from Test cricket, produced some memorable moments for his pace-starved side but still fell short of realising his rich early promise.

The 32-year-old took 232 victims at 30.46 runs apiece in 64 Tests to finish as India's second most successful fast bowler behind Kapil Dev's record 434 wickets.

The lanky bowler announced his decision to quit Tests on his return home from India's five-Test series in the Caribbean which West Indies won 2-1 last month.

But he said he still had some cricket left in him and "would like to focus on the World Cup" in South Africa next year.

As a 21-year-old tearaway with a sharp in-swing, Srinath held great hopes as he made his Test debut in Australia in 1991-92.

Armed with useful advice from Australia's fast bowling expert Dennis Lillee -- who oversees an Indian pace academy -- Srinath took 10 wickets in five Tests in Australia and was seen as a genuine quick who could join forces with Dev's swing bowling.

But those hopes were put on hold for almost three years as a frustrated Srinath saw himself con-

stantly being overlooked at home where an ageing Dev and Manoj Prabhakar shared the new ball, with Prabhakar also being a useful makeshift opener.

Srinath impressed West Indian captain Courtney Walsh in 1994 during a home series and Walsh recommended him to English county Gloucestershire where he

opponent and enjoyed his friendship. "Unfortunately, he didn't finish his career as everyone would have hoped but now it is timely to forgive him his shortcomings and remember the good times."

Waugh's twin brother and Test batsman Mark Waugh said Cronje's death was a tragedy.

"He was a respected opponent and I always enjoyed playing against him," he told the Sun-Herald newspaper.

Cronje's death was tragic news for international cricket, Australian Cricket Board chief executive James Sutherland said.

"The ACB expresses its deepest sympathies and condolences to his family and to South African cricket players, officials and followers."

Pakistan's leading cricket figures Sunday joined South Africa in mourning the tragic death of Cronje.

"Pakistan can only condole over the sad loss of Cronje, it's a sad end to someone who turned into a tragic figure from a hero in international and South African cricket," former Pakistan captain Imran Khan told AFP.

"The tragedy is that when the world was starting to accept him in a new role this sad end came about," Imran said.

"I met him during the 1992 World Cup in Australia and he came as a very determined cricketer and then turned into a dynamic leader before he got involved in the illegal games."

Another former captain Wasim Akram extended his condolences to Cronje's family.

"I have sent my condolences to the bereaved family and I condole to South Africa for losing a great cricketer," Akram said.

"I played a lot of cricket with him and he was a soft-spoken and friendly guy and his death is a personal shock for me," he said.

Salim Malik, another former Pakistan captain who is serving a life ban for match-fixing, also described Cronje's death as tragic.

"Cronje was a great player and a great human being, it's sad that he is no more," Malik said.

Cronje toured Pakistan with South Africa on four occasions, the last two times as captain. He led his team to a 1-0 win in the three-match Test series of 1997-98 and won many hearts with his friendly demeanour.

on his bowling shoulder at the end of an impressive show in South Africa in early 1997.

After being sidelined for eight months he bounced back, giving up a couple of yards in pace to concentrate on accuracy.

Srinath did better on lively overseas pitches, claiming 128 wickets in 35 games as compared to 104 from 29 on spin-friendly home pitches.

He still produced two of his best efforts at home, capturing 6-21 in a devastating spell on a slow, dusty pitch to lift India to victory over South Africa in the third Ahmedabad Test for a 2-1 home series win in 1996.

Srinath also claimed his only 10-wicket haul (113-132) -- including his best effort in an innings of 8-86 -- in an Asian Test championship game against Pakistan in Calcutta during a losing cause.