

Champs' Trophy re-scheduled

AFP, Colombo
Sri Lanka on Wednesday announced a revised schedule for the International Cricket Council Champions Trophy limited-overs tournament to be played in September.

The 10 Test-playing nations will be joined by Holland and Kenya in the tournament to be held at two venues in Colombo from September 12 to 29.

Day-night matches will be held at the Premadasa stadium, while the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) will hold day games.

The 12 teams have been drawn in four groups with the topper in each group advancing to the semifinals.

A reserve day has been kept for the two semifinals and final in case of bad weather.

REVISED ITINERARY

- Sept 12: Sri Lanka vs Pakistan at Premadasa
Sept 13: South Africa vs West Indies at SSC
Sept 14: India vs Zimbabwe at Premadasa
Sept 15: Australia vs New Zealand at SSC
Sept 16: Sri Lanka vs Holland at Premadasa
Sept 17: West Indies vs Kenya at SSC
Sept 18: England vs Zimbabwe at Premadasa
Sept 19: Australia vs Bangladesh at SSC
Sept 20: South Africa vs Kenya at Premadasa
Sept 21: Pakistan vs Holland at SSC
Sept 22: England vs India at Premadasa
Sept 23: New Zealand vs Bangladesh at SSC
Sept 25: 1st semifinal at Premadasa
Sept 27: 2nd semifinal at Premadasa
Sept 29: Final at Premadasa

Goal drought

REUTERS, Yokohama

Goals have dried up during the knockout stages of the World Cup finals and there is virtually no chance of beating the record set four years ago in France.

After the first round group stage in South Korea and Japan, some 130 goals had been scored at an average of 2.71 per game and the 2002 tournament was on course for a record with four goals more than in France.

But since then, the eight second round matches, four quarter-finals and first semi-final have produced a paltry 23 goals in 13 games despite the fact that five of those matches went into extra time.

With two matches left -- the third-place playoff and final -- the tally of 154 goals is 18 short of the final total of 171 goals in France.

The last four matches played at the present tournament have resulted in just three goals. Germany have beaten both the United States and South Korea 1-0, Turkey beat Senegal by the same score with a golden goal and South Korea and Spain drew 0-0 before the Koreans won on penalties after extra time.



- ESPN
England vs Sri Lanka
First ODI
Repeat at 7:30 am
Sportscentre Hindi
Sport News
Live at 8:30 pm
Western Union World Football
Taped Version at 9:00 pm
STAR Sports
Football Asia
Taped Version at 8:00 am
Wimbledon C'shops
Day Five
Third Round
Live at 5:00 pm

Star Whizz Kid Competition 174
Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm July 5, 2002 and draw shortly afterwards
1. Who scored the first goal of the World Cup 2002?
2. Who is Brazil captain?
3. Pakistan won the last ODI against Australia by...
4. Who will lead Bangladesh in the two-Test series against Sri Lanka?
5. Who won the French Open title?

Sachin, Murali or who?

Cricket
AFP, New Delhi

India's master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and versatile spinner Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka are among six players nominated by their peers for the International Cricketer of the Year award, officials said on Thursday.

Jacques Kallis (South Africa), Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden (Australia) and Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka) are the other nominees of the Federation of International Cricketers Associations (FICA).

The winner will be announced at the FICA International Awards dinner in London on July 10.

Past winners of the prestigious awards were Australia's Test captain Steve Waugh in 1998, West Indian great Brian Lara in 1999, Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath in 2000 and Zimbabwe's prolific batsman Andy Flower in 2001.

There are four nominees for the young cricketer of the year award:

India's dashing batsman Virender Sehwag, English seamer Matthew Hoggard, West Indian batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan and Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper batsman Kumar Sangakkara.

Australia's brilliant Test and one-day squads and the Sri Lankan Test team were nominated for the International Team of the Year award.

Former Australian off-spinner Tim May, who is the joint chief executive of the FICA, said the awards were a celebration of cricket worldwide.

"International cricket, both Test matches and one-day internationals, commands a huge world-wide audience," May said in a statement.

"The FICA Pricewaterhouse Coopers International Awards recognise the elite of international talent and are truly a celebration of cricket on a global scale."

Three unnamed former cricketers will be named at the dinner for induction in the FICA Hall of Fame that already has 55 players on its roll of honour.

There are three nominees for the "FICA Wisden place in history" awards:

* Australian openers Justin Langer and Matthew Hayden for their four double century partnerships in six Test matches.

* New Zealand's Nathan Astle for scoring the fastest double century during the Test series against England earlier this year.

* Australian leg-spin wizard Shane Warne for claiming six for 161 in 70 overs in his 100th Test match.

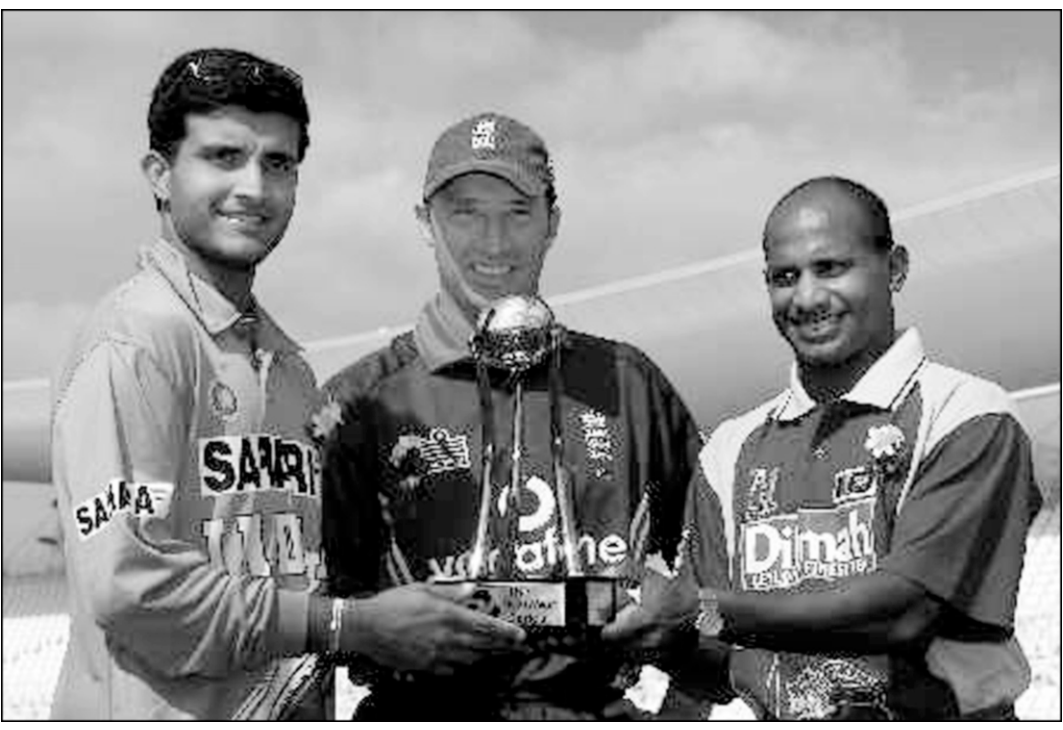
There is also a FICA Slazenger "international sheer instinct" award with four nominees for a particularly heroic performance:

* England's Mark Butcher for his unbeaten 173 against Australia at Headingley.

* Pakistani captain and fast bowler Waqar Younis for claiming seven for 36 in a one-dayer against England.

* England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff for snatching victory against India in a one-dayer at Bombay.

* Steve Waugh's comeback 100 against England.



Sourav Ganguly (L), Nasser Hussain (C) and Sanath Jayasuriya, captains of India, England and Sri Lanka respectively, hold the NatWest one-day series trophy at Trent Bridge on June 25.

Spice Test from today

Cricket
AFP, St. George's

The West Indies cricket team, battered after a four-day mauling at the hands of New Zealand, are looking to go back to basics as they seek to square the two-match series.

The second Test, which starts on Friday, is being played at Grenada's National Cricket Ground, the first time the southernmost Windward Island -- known as the Spice Isle -- has hosted a five-day international. It is the eighth venue to be used in the Caribbean.

West Indies Captain Carl Hooper, lambasted around the region for his team's hapless performance in the first Test at the Barbados Kensington Oval, said his team had the strength to rebound.

"We were 1-0 down in the series against India and came back to win it. We just have to put together a big team effort," he said.

The West Indies travelled to Grenada without injured pace bowler Merv Dillon but with the rest of the squad intact despite the 204-run defeat, the first time New Zealand have ever won a Test in the Caribbean.

Dillon will probably be replaced by 32-year-old Cameron Cuff, rested from the Barbados match, but there is also a possibility that leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo may replace seamer Adam Sanford, who suffered at the hands of New Zealand's batsmen in the first Test.

The batting line-up is unlikely to change. "There's no point in chopping and changing," said Hooper. But the 35-year-old Guyanese captain said he would be seeking a better mental attitude from the batsmen, most of whom threw away their wickets with one day shots.

Coach Roger Harper has defended 22-year-old batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan, who was out to identical, mis-timed hooks in both innings, including a first innings golden duck.

"Dropping Sarwan would be far too drastic," said Harper as newspapers around the region called for heads to roll for defeat against a team here considered as modest opponents.

But Harper warned against over-reaction, pointing out that the West Indies have just beaten India in a five-match Test series.

New Zealand have been ecstatic over their first Caribbean victory, but captain Stephen Fleming said they were desperate to win the series.

The tourists are likely to stick with the same team that won the Barbados match, but opener Lou Vincent and batsmen Chris Harris and Craig McMillan have been reminded that they contributed few runs to the Barbados victory.

The St George's ground is new to Test cricket but it is likely to be a slow, flat wicket suited to the West Indies batsmen.

Meanwhile, New Zealand opener Lou Vincent will be fit to play in the match despite being slightly injured by a drunken New Zealand fan in a Barbados night club, team officials said.

Vincent was suffering from a stiff knee after being playfully -- but violently -- rugby tackled while standing in a Bridgetown nightclub celebrating New Zealand's first Test victory on Monday, they said.

A New Zealander, part of a small but boisterous contingent of fans following their team around the Caribbean, flattened Vincent in the incident in the early hours of Tuesday.

Vincent trained with the rest of the New Zealand team in St. George's on Wednesday.

School chess starts July 7

SPORTS REPORTER

The Standard Chartered Bank School Chess Tournament, which was scheduled for a July 2 start, has been deferred by five days.

The tournament will now begin in the capital on July 7 under the auspices of Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Interested students from any educational institutional can enlist free of charge by July 5.

Students from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are also likely take part in the Swiss League tournament that offers cash prizes for the winners.

India win timely

AFP, Leicester

India made short work of Leicestershire here Wednesday, beating their hosts by 54 runs in this one-day fixture ahead of the start of the triangular series with England and Sri Lanka.

India captain Sourav Ganguly (68) and Virender Sehwag (98) got the tourists off to a blistering start, putting on 132 for the first wicket against a Leicestershire attack minus the veteran ex-England duo of Devon Malcolm and Phil DeFreitas.

Ganguly, who won the toss, was particularly severe on Leicestershire's medium-pacers facing just 43 balls including two sixes and 12 fours before getting himself out against Carl Crowe.

Sehwag too looked in equally good touch facing 85 balls with three sixes and nine fours before he needlessly ran himself out going for a second.

When the openers were in full cry a total in excess of 400 looked on the cards.

But after Venkatsai Laxman and Yuvraj Singh had both gone cheaply it needed Mohammad Kaif's well-constructed 52 from 65 balls to take India to their 50-over total of 315 for seven.

If the batting, in the absence of rested pair Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid, looked in good form, the new ball bowling remained a cause for concern.

Neither Ashish Nehra nor Tinu Yohannan took a wicket, their combined 13 overs costing 65 runs.

Collina

FROM PAGE 13
stares out players until they accept his decision. It also helps that he is mostly correct.

Collina is known throughout football circles for his meticulous preparation for matches, which he believes is vital to do his job effectively.

He is a firm believer in full-time referees but says the players, not the men in black, should command all the limelight.

"I consider myself as part of the best group of referees in the world," he said during the tournament.

"This is the most important thing for me. I think each of us is working very hard to be well prepared for the high standards that football now requires."

He only began refereeing by accident, taking charge of his team mates' training matches while injured after playing as a teenager.

Moving through the Italian minor leagues, Collina refereed his first Serie A match on December 15, 1991 and soon acquired the nickname Kojak after the American TV detective.

Collina's skills soon spread beyond his native Italy -- he is a multi-linguist with fluent English -- and he refereed the final of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics in which Nigeria beat Argentina 3-2.

He was also in charge of the memorable 1999 European Cup final when Manchester United came back from a goal down with injury time approaching to upset Bayern Munich 2-1.

The English, though normally none too keen on continental referees, are huge admirers of Collina, who boasts his own website, and his appointment last September for their World Cup qualifier in Germany was seen as a positive omen.

England went on to beat the future finalists 5-1 in Munich, though it was Germany's porous defence rather than any decision of Collina's that decided the match.

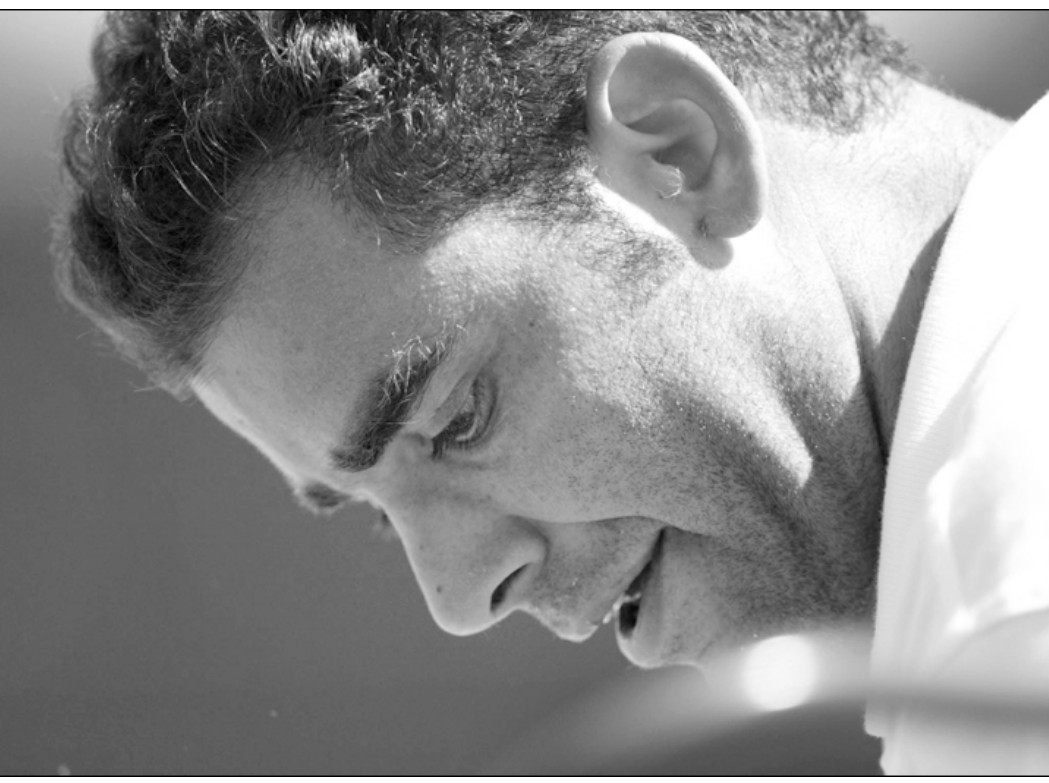
Their Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson summed up the Italian's appeal to all national team bosses when he said: "Collina -- he is a guarantee".

This World Cup has been beset by disputes over referees. By appointing Collina for the final, FIFA officials can sleep easy on Saturday night knowing the man in the middle for the final match is very unlikely to add any further controversies.

Hattrick hero

FROM PAGE 13
Among the players who have appeared in two finals are fellow Brazilian Pele, who dressed for the final of three World Cups but played in only two (1958 and 1962), Argentina's Diego Maradona (1986 and 1990) and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer (1966 and 1974).

An odd case was that of Argentine Luis Monti, who was runner-up with his national team at Uruguay '30, when Argentina lost to its traditional rival, then, four years later, became a champion with the Italian national team at Italy '34.



SORRY, SAMPRAS! American record-breaking tennis player Pete Sampras takes a break before serving against Swiss George Bastl at the Wimbledon on June 26. Sampras was beaten 3-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6.

Nightmare at Wimbledon

Tennis
AFP, London

It was a day of David versus Goliath upsets at Wimbledon here on Wednesday with favourites Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Marat Safin, holding a total of 21 Grand Slams between them, shocked by unseeded players in the second round.

In sunshine which is not normally associated with the All England Club, an all-time record of 42,457 people attended on a day which saw some of the biggest upsets in the championships' history.

Seven-time Wimbledon champion Sampras, the sixth seed, lost to Switzerland's George Bastl 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, a player who only made it into the tournament as a lucky loser having lost in the qualifying tournament, and ranked at just 145 in the world.

But hardly had that match finished when 1992 Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi, the third seed, was packing his bags after losing in straight sets in one hour, 47 minutes to Thai hope Paradorn Srichaphan.

Agassi, a seven-time Grand Slam winner and one of only five men to win all four Grand Slam titles, went out 6-4, 7-6, 6-2 to an oppo-

nent who has never won a ATP title and is ranked just 60 in the Championships.

Earlier former US Open champion Safin, a quarter-finalist last year, lost 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 on Centre Court to unseeded Belgian Olivier Rochus.

However 1996 former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek, 30, saw off the challenge of 29th seeded American James Blake in a marathon three-hour, six-minute tie which ended 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 11-9 in the Dutchman's favour.

The 30-year-old American crumbled on Court Two aptly called 'Graveyard of the Champions' and said that given his past achievements here he felt that he should have been put on a show court.

"I've seen some upsets out there and it happened to me today," said 13-time Grand Slam champion Sampras.

"I wasn't happy about it. I would much rather have gone on a show court. I felt that having won this a few times they might put me out there. But it's a moot point now."

"But I plan on being back. I love playing here and it's a tough loss, but it's not the way I'm going to end it here. I want to go on a high note."

Bastl, 27, who has not won a match on grass before coming here said that he had tried to block out who he was playing against.



EVEN SHE COULDN'T INSPIRE AGASSI! German tennis legend and wife of Andre Agassi, Steffi Graf watches her husband playing against Paradorn Srichaphan at the Wimbledon on June 26.

Trust 'lucky penny'

FROM PAGE 13
"Where was it when they lost to England 5-1?" Arena asked, not knowing the idea for the "lucky penny" was not born until three months after that humbling loss in Munich in September.

"Does one penny really make a difference with all the money that the Germans earn?" Arena asked. "Maybe next time we'll try a \$100 bill."

Although Germans are by and large not superstitious, they do place some faith in the powers of piglets, chimney sweeps, four-leaf clovers and horseshoes as well as the "lucky penny."

And even though the penny and deutschemark lost their status as legal tender in Germany with the introduction of the Euro in January, their attachment to the "pfennig" has remained.

"The lucky penny hasn't lost its magic even though it's no longer a legal currency," Witt said. "Germans have long believed in the magic powers of the Glueckspfennig. It's a very old

German tradition."

Witt said all the Germany players have asked Bild reporters to see and touch the lucky penny.

Before their match against South Korea on Tuesday, Bild reporter Wolfgang Ruiner was caught by security police as he was trying to bury the lucky penny in the corner of the field in Seoul.

"The officer snarled something in Korean and wanted to confiscate the famous coin," Ruiner wrote. "But the penny was already buried safely under the grass."

Ruiner handed the police officer a Korean 10 won coin instead and a picture of the two men smiling appeared in Bild on Tuesday.

"The trick worked," he said. "The cop took the wrong coin." Witt said the lucky penny would be on the field again on Sunday in Yokohama but the exact location will be kept secret until after the match.

"We're keeping it in the hotel safe until then," Witt said. "After that it will be put in a museum."

WIMBLEDON GOSSIPS

AFP, London

Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic, who struggled into the third round of Wimbledon with a three sets win over Czech opponent Kveta Hrdlickova Wednesday credits her elevation to world number seven, to leaving Australia for a new life in the USA and now Belgrade.

"I think I'm a different person. I mean, my life has turned around and changed a lot since then. You know I'm glad I did what I did. I don't regret anything. And I'm a much better person. I'm a lot happier."

And she said that she was sticking to her decision of not returning to Australia even for the Australian Open.

"Right now, you know, I don't feel like I'm going to go back. I don't want to go back at this stage. I doubt things would change, but you never know."

Dokic said her controversial father and coach Damiir is not at Wimbledon this week but she has a lot to thank him for.

"He has always been an influence to me, you know a huge one on and off the court. I wouldn't have got here without him, and I have everything to thank him for. You know, I love him the way he is."

CENTRE COURT TURNS 80

Wimbledon's most famous arena, the Centre Court, which was first opened by King George V celebrated its 80th birthday Wednesday.

The first players on Centre Court were Britons Leslie Godfree, who served the first ball to Algerian Kingscote who netted the return. Immediately after that first shot, Godfree raced to the net and pocketed the ball as a memento of the historic occasion.

In typical Wimbledon style the match had been delayed for several hours due to rain.

The Centre Court's first singles champions were Gerald Patterson from Australia and Suzanne Lenglen of France.

The Centre Court underwent a major refurbishment following the 2000 Championships and temporarily lost its famous covering of Boston Ivy.

It now seats 13,806 spectators and the ivy, which was replanted last year, is expected to be back to its former glory within five years.

10 Golden men

FROM PAGE 13
the media on June 30, the day of the final.

Brazil's Romario was voted player of the tournament in 1994 and Ronaldo in 1998. The vote was taken before the final in which Zinedine Zidane, later voted FIFA World Player of the Year, scored two goals.

Zidane finished only sixth in the 1998 World Cup best player's poll.