

## Sidhu MP

AFP, New Delhi

A former India cricketer, Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party member Navjot Sidhu, has been elected as a member of parliament from the northern state of Punjab, officials said Thursday.

Sidhu, 40, defeated Congress veteran Roshan Lal Bhatia by a margin of nearly 80,000 votes in his city of Amritsar for his maiden entry into the parliament, the United News of India reported.

The former hard-hitting opening batsman, who is also a noted TV commentator, quit international cricket in 1999 after scoring 3,202 runs in 51 Tests with nine centuries and 4,413 in 136 one-day internationals.

## Gazipur

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Bangla 22nd National Football Championship with a massive 7-1 victory at the Gazipur Stadium yesterday.

Golap Hossain slammed a hattrick, Alaudin scored twice while Shiron and Robin added one goal each for the winners who will take on the winners of today's second semifinal between Narayanganj and Tangail at the same venue.

Shahinur reduced the margin for Kishoreganj in the dying moments.

## BD-WICB XI SCOREBOARD

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Rafique	10	3	27	2
Manjaryl	9.3	4	9	4
<b>BANGLADESH</b>				
Shahriar lbw b Collins	0			
Manjaryl c Wilkinson b Collins	5			
Bashar b Washington	47			
Saleh c Richards b W Hinds	1			
Ashraful c Wilkinson b R Hinds	13			
Kapali c Wilkinson b Lawson	3			
Mushfiq not out	25			
Mashud c Ramdin b Washington	17			
Mahmud not out	2			
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-9, nb-9)	23			
Total: (For 7 wkts in 41 overs)	136			
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-45, 3-56, 4-68, 5-81, 6-82, 7-132				
Did not bat: Rafique, Baisya				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Collins	9	0	35	2
Lawson	8	1	23	1
W Hinds	6	2	11	1
Washington	9	1	38	2
R Hinds	9	1	24	1
<b>Result:</b> Bangladesh won by 3 wickets.				

## No Youhana

FROM PAGE 13

Partex manager Sajjad Hossain last night said Youhana was still interested to come here. "But we will only go for him if we win tomorrow's match," Sajjad added.

## ICC Dubai-bound?

FROM PAGE 13

and safety, its location (whether it suits us logically or not), taxation policies, visa and migration laws," he said.

Mani was impressed with facilities in Dubai, whose international airline Emirates is the main sponsor of the ICC elite umpire panel, but stopped short of saying whether it was one of the favourite potential venues.

"The decision is not easy since many other countries have shown interest but we will narrow down the choice to just two cities before submitting the proposal to our board meeting, slated by the end of June in London," Mani said.

"The profile of the ICC and its regular meetings, which are covered widely by the media, will add a lot of value to the location," he said.

A move may take up to 18 months to complete, he added.

The area hosts the international Sharjah Trophy and has a large population of cricket-loving Indians and English.

## ACC looks for sponsors

## Asia Cup schedule released



AFP/REUTERS, Colombo

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Wednesday formalised a deal with Sri Lanka to host the six-nation Asian Cup, saying they hoped to finalise television rights and sponsors within 10 days.

ACC chief executive Ashraful Haq and Jagmohan Dalmiya, the chairman of the tournament organising committee, met Sri Lanka cricket board officials to finalise the details.

Dalmiya, also an ACC official, said they were hoping to offer the tournament, due to run from July 16 to August 1, as a "one-off" to sponsors.

The tournament has been revived after the resumption of bilateral cricket ties between India and Pakistan and the ACC now plans to stage the event every two years.

The last Asia Cup was held four years ago in Dhaka, although he said the intention was to stage it every two years and accordingly to have longer-term sponsorship deals for future tournaments.

"It is possible and we are looking at how we can get time slots to have the tournament every two years,"

Dalmiya told reporters here after talks with Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse.

Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates will take part in the tournament which was a four-team field in the previous edition.

Dalmiya declined to discuss the costs of hosting the tournament or the prize money that would be offered, but said they hoped to "raise enough" for the development of the game in Asia.

The ACC will also seek changes to the International Cricket Council's Ten Year Plan to create space in the global calendar for the Asian Test Championship and more India-Pakistan tours.

"Cricket in Asia was suffering because India and Pakistan were not playing," Dalmiya told reporters. "We need the four main teams in Asia to be playing against each other if we are to develop cricket in the region."

"We are confident that the tournament can be played every two years but the only problem is the current ICC 10-year (plan) which leaves us with such a heavy schedule," Dalmiya added.

"This must be revised and we will be taking up the matter during the ICC Executive Board meeting in June."

The Sri Lanka tournament will include two round-robin stages and a final with a total of 13 one-dayers, all to be granted official ODI status, played in three separate venues – SSC, Dambulla and Premadasa – from July 16 to August 2.

## GROUPS

A: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong  
B: Sri Lanka, India, UAE

## SCHEDULE

Match schedule for the Asia Cup cricket tournament released by the ACC on Wednesday:

## PHASE ONE

July 16: Bangladesh v Hong Kong (SSC)  
India v UAE (Dambulla)

July 17: Pakistan v Bangladesh (SSC)  
Sri Lanka v UAE (Dambulla)

July 18: Pakistan v Hong Kong (SSC)  
Sri Lanka v India (Dambulla)

## PHASE TWO

July 21: A2 v B2 (SSC)  
A1 v B1 (Premadasa)

July 22: Reserve day

July 23: A2 v B1 (Premadasa)

July 24: Reserve day

July 25: A1 v B2 (Premadasa)

July 26: Reserve day

July 27: B1 v B2 (Premadasa)

July 28: Reserve day

## Zia going great guns

SPORTS REPORTER

Grand Master Ziaur Rahman maintained his solo lead in the points table after the ninth round of the 7th United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament yesterday.

Zia leads the table with 8.5 points after defeating Fide Master Abu Sufian Shakil at the NSC conference room.

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib is in second position with seven points.

FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, IM Dinesh Kumar Sharma and Gurpreet Pal Singh are third place with 6 points each.

## Army b'ball

BSS, Bogra

Rangpur Area team won the Bangladesh Army Basketball Championship, which concluded at the Bogra Cantonment on Wednesday.

They defeated Savar Area team 63-62.

Besides, Lance Corporal Mohammad Kamruzzaman of the Dhaka Infantry team was adjudged the best player of the meet while Lance Corporal Mohammad Mizanur Rahman of the Rangpur Area team was considered as the beat among the new soldiers.

## Coria goes on

Tennis

AFP, Hamburg

Guillermo Coria had a tough struggle before extending his unbeaten run to 28 matches on clay and reaching the third round in defence of his title in the Masters Series tournament.

The second-seeded Argentine conceded a set for the first time in five matches against the Peruvian number one Luis Horna before coming through 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in a contest containing long rallies and strong feelings.

There were moments when it seemed these might boil over when Horna was advancing enterprise 4-2 in the second set.

The players suddenly started arguing, with Horna yelling down the court at his opponent and wagging

his finger, and Irish umpire Fergus Murphy looking a little mystified.

There followed a heated but distant dialogue between the two, but fortunately when Coria advanced towards the net to make a point, Horna decided against prolonging the dispute.

Nor would the Peruvian continue it afterwards.

"I'm not going to talk about it," Horna said.

"It's my decision and I think it's good one. I'm sorry."

Coria said: "I just told him not to move too much before I served. We have a good relationship."

Last year in Hamburg, when Coria became involved in an argument with an opponent, it turned nasty. Compatriot Gaston Gaudio complained about remarks Coria was alleged to have made during a change-over in their semifinal, and there were reports of a punch

thrown in the locker room.

This time the match ended in better spirit, though there was a feeling that the incident might have sparked Horna to his best performance against Coria.

Horna broke for 3-1 in the second set with the help of an audacious drop shot and lob combination, and held on to the advantage by taking more chances.

Horna took risks in attack, knowing that allowing the rallies to become prolonged offered little prospect of success against one of the most mobile clay court players of the them.

Horna also effectively used the Coria ploy of hitting inside out forehands from the backhand corner.

It was still an absorbing struggle after that, but Coria's steady pressure with error-free drives and nimble court coverage edged him from 3-0 to 5-2, before Horna broke a string at deuce on his serve, conceding the last game a little unluckily.

Coria next plays Tommy Robredo, the Spanish Davis Cup player, who overcame Mariano Zabaleta, the former finalist from Argentina, in straight sets.

Later Tim Henman, the fifth seeded Briton was beaten. Henman arrived without his luggage and with a lingering fever and was fortunate to survive his first round with Andreas Seppi, a 19-year-old Italian who has yet to notch a win on the ATP Tour.

There was never any chance that Henman would get through another match, and he was beaten in little more than three-quarters of an hour 6-2, 6-2 by Andrei Pavel.

It gave the Romanian revenge for his defeat in the final of the Paris Masters in November and earned him a meeting with Ivan Ljubicic, a renowned battler from Croatia.

"It's no good trying to play when you are not 100 per cent fit," admitted Henman afterwards.

"I wanted to try because I had prepared myself mentally and you think then that you are going to do better."

## Fleming fit for Lord's Test

BBC ONLINE, undated

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming will play in the first Test against England next week despite missing a warm-up match with an abdominal injury.

He looked a doubtful starter for Lord's when he was ruled out of the Kent game, which got underway on Thursday.

But when asked if Fleming would play, coach John Bracewell said: "Yes. I think it's been over-dramatised a bit."

"He's not playing against Kent as a precaution, to give our physio a chance to work on his abdominal strain."

All-rounder Chris Cairns was handed the captaincy for the tour game against Kent in Canterbury.

However, Bracewell is expected to use the match to make a final decision between pace bowlers Shane Bond and Chris Martin.

Bond was passed fit for the tour after almost a year on the sidelines with a career-threatening back injury.

## Flexion degrees not a definite thing: Sunil

PTI, New Delhi

Former India captain and ICC Cricket Committee-Playing chairman Sunil Gavaskar has said the degrees of "flexion" with regard to legal bowling action was "not a definite thing".

The ICC after conducting a study with the help of biomechanics noticed there was certain amount of flexion in most bowlers' actions when seen in slow motion.

"So they felt some degrees of flexion should be allowed. There are certain numbers for spinners and quick bowlers. But I do not think it is a definite thing," Gavaskar said at a press conference here.

The Indian batting legend's comments came hours after the International Cricket Council deemed as illegal Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's "doosra", the delivery that spins away from the right-handers.

## Calypso Cocktail

FROM PAGE 13

"You want to deceive us Maan? These guys bat better than your top-order. What more have you in the bag for the West Indies?"

A regular vagabond spotted a few of us near a local supermarket and wanted to know if we were interested in betting on the result.

"Good time to bet on Bangladesh Maan, don't lose this opportunity

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## Ctg cricket

CU CORRESPONDENT

One-down batsman Wasel's superb 134 and opener Rubel's unbeaten 117 propelled Satabdi Gosthi to a huge 143-run win over City Corporation Junior in the Relegation League of the CJKS-Ispahani Premier Cricket League at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Satabdi decided to