

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 holy 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 hatrick, Alauddin scored twice while Shipon 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

FROM PAGE 13					
Rafique	10	3	27	2	
Manjarul	9.3	4	9	4	
BANGLADESH					
Shahriar lbw b Collins			0		
Manjarul c Wilkinson b Collins			5		
Bashar b Washington			47		
Saleh c Richards b W Hinds			1		
Ashraf ul 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					
Bowler	O	M	R	W	
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	
Result: Bangladesh won by 3 wickets.					

No Youhana

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from Group X.

Partex manager Sajjad Hossain last night said that 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?

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and safety, its location (whether it suits us logistically 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 Ashraf ul 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."

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

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"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

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 bat first and amassed 330-2 in stipulated 50 overs. Wasel's 134 run came with the help of 13 boundaries and three six. Besides Rubel's century contained eight fours and two over boundaries.

City Corporation managed 187 for nine with opener Prince hitting 95.

In another match, Satadal Club defeated Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Sports Association by 53 runs at the MA Aziz Stadium.

Satadal Club batted first and scored 214-7 in 50 overs. Opener Kapil top-scored with 74. His partner Rumi added 49.

City Corporation were bundled out for 161 in 38.1 overs. Shariful top-scored with 70.

DIV I

Meanwhile, Muktijoddha Krira Chakra recorded a massive 169-run win over Abedin Club in the First Division League at the Chittagong Medical College ground.

Muktizoddha Krira Chakra batted first and scored a formidable 290 for nine in 50 overs. In reply, Abedin Club made 121 before being all out in 32.5 overs.

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 Sing 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.

Second Test

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he will stop bowling the controversial delivery.

"People have questioned me about it," Muralitharan was quoted as saying in Colombo's Daily News.

"I have done all the tests that are required and the reports have gone to the ICC (International Cricket Council).

"At the end of the day, what matters is what the report, the expert, my cricket board and the ICC say."

The paper quoted an unnamed Sri Lanka official saying the board did not want Muralitharan to bowl the doosra.

"We have advised Muralitharan not to bowl the doosra," said the official. "We had also informed the team manager before he played in Zimbabwe."

Sri Lanka officials were tight-lipped about the doosra and declined requests for interviews with Muralitharan, who injured the

index finger on his right hand bowling in the first Test but suffered no apparent discomfort in the nets on Thursday.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE: Stuart Matsikenyeri, Brendan Taylor, Dion Ebrahim, Tatenda Taibu (captain), Alester Mawegwede, Vusi Sibanda, Elton Chigumbura, Prosper Utseya, Muleki Nkala, Douglas Hondo, Tinashe Panyangara.

SRI LANKA (from): Marvan Atapattu (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Russel Arnold, Saman Jayantha, Thilina Kandamby, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Nuwan Kulasekara, Farveez Maharoof, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Rangana Herath, Thilan Samaraweera, Ian Daniel, Prasanna Jayawardene.

High performance

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injury will also be included," McInnes told.

An additional name in the 24-member list is Bangladesh speedster Mashrafe bin-Mortuza who is making an attempt to return to action after surgeries.

The squad was selected by a panel consisting of national selectors, Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore and McInnes himself.

"Bangladesh have a major problem in wicketkeeping and to address the problem, we will bring an expert in this line in June," Dudhia informed.

Australian wicketkeeping coach Andrew Self will be the first foreign coach to assist this programme.

Mahbub Anam added that from now on, McInnes, local coaches Sarwar Imran, Nazmul Abedin Fahim and Shahidul Islam Ratan

and a member of the national selection panel will work as junior selectors in different age groups.

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed will work as an U-19 selector while Athar Ali and GM Nawsher Prince for U-17 and U-15 respectively.

The squad: Aftab Ahmed, Nazimuddin, Naeem Islam, Nafees Iqbal, Nadif Chowdhury, Shahriar Nafees Ahmed, Sagir Hossain Pavel, Dhiman Ghosh, Hasibul Haque Babel, Shamimul Haque Biddut, Mushfiqur Rahman, Shahadat Hossain Rajib, Talha Jubair, Nazmul Hossain, Anwar Hossain Monir, SK Russell, Ziaur Rahman, Mahfuz Rahman Sohel, Yasin Arafat, Arafat Sunny, Enamul Haque Jr, Asim Chowdhury, Alamgir Kabir, Gazi Alamgir and Mashrafe Bin Mortuza.

Incredible run-feast

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The Beximco chase suffered an early setback when their opening pair returned to the dressing room with 13 runs on board. In-form Sajjad Ahmed was run out in the last ball of the first over while his younger partner Moniruzzaman Tinku was dismissed in the final delivery of the second over.

Parvez Ahmed and Kenyan ace Tikolo, however, not only repaired the damage but also ushered hopes of Beximco pulling off another impressive victory. The pair rattled 149 runs in just 20 overs before Parvez holed out at long on. The one-down batsman hit ten sweetly timed boundaries in his run-a-ball 68 but it was Tikolo's brilliant batsmanship that kept them alive.

Fresh from his 56 in the previous match, Tikolo hammered ten fours and four sixes including two over-boundaries in Ehsanul Haque's first over to race to 91 in 64 balls. But Bangladesh Under-19 paceman Nazmul Hossain had the last laugh when he lured the master batsman into a false stroke and gleefully accepted a return catch.

SCORECARD

Scorecard of the CCL (Cup) match between ARAF Apparels and Beximco at the Banagbandhu National Stadium yesterday:

ARAF innings:		
Mabud c & b Suja	40	
Fahadullah c Parvez b Sohel	106	
Rafiquil b Parvez	13	
Ehsanul Haque run out	23	
Halim Shah run out	76	
Nuruzzaman c & b Masud	3	
Salim c & b Suja	5	
Mustadir c sub b Tikolo	8	

Coria goes on



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 enterprisingly 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



PHOTO: AFP

Argentine Guillermo Coria follows through on his serve against Peruvian Luis Horna in Hamburg on May 12.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Teen's woe	53	Minute look	18	"— Town"	21	Simol-eons
1 Muffler	40	Staff	42	Undo a dele	23	Tangelos	25	On the other hand
6 Prima donnas	43	"Waking — Devine"	DOWN	1	Reception problem	27	TVA structure	
11 Like some modern music	44	Page number	3	Blackbird	29	Guttural	31	Part of a Dracula costume
12 Dropped a vowel	46	Pack away	5	You can mop it	32	Cougar's cousin	33	Destroyed
14 1995 Sharon Stone movie	47	1999 Sharon Stone movie	6	Arrangement of icons	34	Scale member	36	"Remington —"
15 1993 Sharon Stone movie	49	1998 Sharon Stone movie	7	In a bad way	37	More cherished	38	Pip or Pop, on "Bear in the Big Blue House"
16 Hirsute Addams cousin	51	Voiced, to a phonetician	8	Evening hour in old Rome	41	Vertebral connectors	44	Twain hero
17 Eccentric	52	Ruby of Hollywood musicals	9	Counsel	45	Tournament format	48	Actress Charlotte
19 White House nickname	53	Decorate	10	One on a quest	50	Haw precursor		
20 Use an old phone	Solution time: 27 mins.							
22 Trench	ACROSS							
23 Works with	1 MUFFLER							
24 Second-stringer	6 PRIMA DONNAS							
26 Hart collaborator	11 LIKE SOME MODERN MUSIC							
28 Director's call	12 DROPPED A VOWEL							
30 One of the gang	14 1995 SHARON STONE MOVIE							
31 Quarters	15 1993 SHARON STONE MOVIE							
35 Blunder	16 HIRSUITE ADDAMS COUSIN							
	17 ECCENTRIC							
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	20 USE AN OLD PHONE							
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	24 SECOND-STRINGER							
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	28 DIRECTOR'S CALL							
	30 ONE OF THE GANG							
	31 QUARTERS							
	35 BLUNDER							

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