

## Golf final held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Winter Cup Final Golf Tournament was held at the Bogra Golf Club in Bogra Cantonment area on Friday evening. A total of seventy-three golfers including females and junior golfers participated in this tournament.

Bogra area Major General Sheikh Md. Monirul Islam, psc inaugurated the tournament as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. Mr. Tan Boon Han, General Manager, Asia Pacific, Heineken Fareast Ltd and Mr. Belayet Hossain, Chief Executive Officer, BH Enterprise were also present on the occasion.

The Winter Cup Golf Tournament started on January 30.

## Boycott looking for his Prince!

CRICINFO, undated

If Sourav Ganguly is expected to bat and Geoffrey Boycott is in town, it is hard to keep him from showing up.

While making his way to the stand next to the press box at the Vankhede, Boycott asked the first soul that looked capable of speaking: "Has the Prince started batting?"

Boycott was heard telling the members at the stand, "I am very happy. My prince is playing for India, and my princess is winning in England."

The princess, of course, is Shilpa Shetty, the Bollywood star, who has recently won the Big Brother, the reality television show. Boycott had earlier, during commentary stints in India, made public in no unclear terms his fondness for Shetty.

The considerate 'prince' did not give Boycott too much happiness at this old age and lasted only one delivery. Any chances of seeing him bat again on Sunday were erased when the last-wicket pair for Bengal saw them across the follow-on target.

## Proteas punish

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|  |     |  |  |  |
|--|-----|--|--|--|
| <b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>  |     |  |  |  |
| De Villiers c Navedul b Afridi                             | 67  |  |  |  |
| Smith st Akmal b Hafeez                                    | 72  |  |  |  |
| Bosman c Akmal b Hafeez                                    | 4   |  |  |  |
| Kallis not out   | 88  |  |  |  |
| Prince c Razzaq b Afridi                                   | 39  |  |  |  |
| Boucher c Inzamam b Navedul                                | 78  |  |  |  |
| Kemp c Akmal b Navedul                                     | 11  |  |  |  |
| Pollock not out  | 2   |  |  |  |
| Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-9, w-16)                            | 31  |  |  |  |
| Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)                            | 392 |  |  |  |
| Fall of wickets: 1-140, 2-144, 3-167, 4-235, 5-363, 6-380. |     |  |  |  |

|               |          |          |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Bowler</b> | <b>O</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>W</b> |
| Asif          | 9        | 1        | 61       | 0        |
| Navedul       | 8        | 0        | 92       | 2        |
| Sami          | 7        | 0        | 68       | 0        |
| Hafeez        | 9        | 0        | 69       | 2        |
| Afridi        | 10       | 0        | 42       | 2        |
| Malik         | 6        | 0        | 32       | 0        |
| Razzaq        | 1        | 0        | 22       | 0        |

Did not bat: Peterson, Nel, Ntini.

**PAKISTAN**

|   |     |  |  |  |
|---|-----|--|--|--|
| Hafeez c Smith b Ntini  | 21  |  |  |  |
| Akmal c Prince b Pollock  | 13  |  |  |  |
| Younis Khan c and b Ntini   | 13  |  |  |  |
| Afridi c Nel b Ntini  | 17  |  |  |  |
| Yousuf c Smith b Nel  | 39  |  |  |  |
| Inzamam sub (Hal) b Kallis  | 15  |  |  |  |
| Malik not out   | 52  |  |  |  |
| Razzaq c Peterson b Kallis  | 6   |  |  |  |
| Navedul c Boucher b Kallis  | 0   |  |  |  |
| Sami c Boucher b Peterson   | 46  |  |  |  |
| Asif c Prince b Smith   | 2   |  |  |  |
| Extras: (w-4)   | 4   |  |  |  |
| Total: (All out in 46.4 overs)  | 228 |  |  |  |
| Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-37, 3-56, 4-70, 5-119, 6-119, 7-125, 8-125, 9-198. |     |  |  |  |

|               |          |          |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Bowler</b> | <b>O</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>W</b> |
| Pollock       | 10       | 0        | 46       | 1        |
| Ntini         | 10       | 0        | 51       | 3        |
| Nel           | 7        | 1        | 26       | 1        |
| Kallis        | 5        | 0        | 34       | 3        |
| Peterson      | 9        | 1        | 49       | 1        |
| Kemp          | 2        | 0        | 13       | 0        |
| Prince        | 2        | 0        | 3        | 0        |
| Smith         | 1.4      | 0        | 6        | 1        |

**Result: South Africa won by 164 runs.**

**Man-of-the-match: J Kallis**

## Dilip backs

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much required depth but an all-rounder could send down effective overs that matter in the ultimate analysis.

"In that respect, India can afford to play five bowlers. Besides, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh and Virender Sehwag could send down useful overs," Vengsarkar said, emphasising again that it was all subject to the players being chosen for the quadrennial extravaganza in March-April.

## Docked points

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Sheffield United chairman Terry Robinson said: "It is a clear breach of regulations if a club have players found to be owned by other people. We have to rely on the (Premier League) board to make sure justice is done."

Wigan left the Hammers five points adrift in 18th place yesterday and their chief executive Brenda Spencer said: "It's not a witch-hunt against any club but we all have to abide by the regulations."

Robinson added: "I have utmost confidence in the Premier League and there is no doubt in my mind they will impose what they think is correct if there has been a transgression. But I have to stress, only the League is in a position to know whether rules have been transgressed. Clubs such as ourselves can do no more than leave it to them."



PHOTO: AFP

Swiss number one Martina Hingis smiles as she leans her head gently against the winner's trophy of the Pan Pacific Open after beating Ana Ivanovic of Serbia in Tokyo on Sunday.

# Hingis lifts Pan Pacific Open



AFP, Tokyo

Former world number one Martina Hingis on Sunday claimed a record fifth Pan Pacific Open title, beating fifth-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia 6-4, 6-2.

The 26-year-old Swiss Miss added to the titles she won here in 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2002.

"I knew before the match that I could make the record. I really feel at home being here in front of the crowd and the public have been supporting me the last 10 years I've been able to play here," said Hingis. "Last year, I was already happy to make the final. I had a win over Maria Sharapova, and this year Ana was the winner over her. I think the last time we played was also in the final, so I had nothing to lose basically."

"She had a great tournament to get into the finals. Now we have 1-1 (head-to-head against Ivanovic), so hopefully there will be many more finals against each other."

Ivanovic, who lost her opening service game after four deuces, fired a couple of fine service return

winners to tie the first set 2-2, but it was her last break opportunity of the match.

Hingis proved the better player in long rallies, winning 19 points in a row from 30-30 in the eighth game to 0-15 in the third game of the second set.

After losing the first set, a disappointed Ivanovic hit three double faults to lose the first game of the second set, and never recovered, allowing Hingis to chalk up a 4-0 lead before cruising to victory.

Hingis notched up a new personal best for the most titles at a single event, besting the four trophies she took home at Filderstadt between 1996 and 2000.

Former world number one Lindsay Davenport of the United States had also won four titles in Tokyo between 1997 and 2004.

With her first victory of the season, which brought her a 182,000-dollar cheque, Hingis avenged her two-set loss to Ivanovic at the Montreal final in August last year in their only previous encounter.

"The last time I played her, she had a very fast start, she had a great match in Montreal last year when I lost to her in the finals, so after that she gets confidence," said Hingis.

"She just goes for her shots, hits a lot of winners. After the first set, I gained the momentum and in the first game she double faulted three times, I said 'OK, I'll take that'.

"I think against someone like her you have to force to make those errors, they just don't happen. In the second set Ana made too many unforced errors, so she felt the pressure of having to take the risk," added Hingis.

It was Hingis's third title since she made a comeback a year ago from foot, heel and ankle injuries, and her 43rd overall, including three at the Australian Open, one at Wimbledon and one at the US Open.

Meanwhile 19-year-old Ivanovic said: "At the beginning of the match there was a high quality of tennis, and then suddenly I dropped my concentration a little bit. I started to feel heavy, so I found it hard to move."

"I started to feel better at the end of the second set, but it was too late. She was playing really well, defending unbelievably. She just played an unbelievable match today," she added.

# Bashar hits form

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a few runs short on the board.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Harare Sport Club on Sunday:

## BANGLADESH

|  |     |  |  |  |
|--|-----|--|--|--|
| Nafees run out (Utseya)  | 34  |  |  |  |
| Mehrab c Masakadza b Ireland   | 12  |  |  |  |
| Aftab c Masakadza b Chigumbura   | 31  |  |  |  |
| Saqibul c Williams b Brent   | 68  |  |  |  |
| Bashar c Chigumbura b Ireland  | 78  |  |  |  |
| Ashraful c Mufambisi b Mpofu   | 22  |  |  |  |
| Rafique b Ireland  | 3   |  |  |  |
| Mortuza c Brent b Mpofu  | 1   |  |  |  |
| Rahim run out (Utseya)   | 1   |  |  |  |
| Razzak not out   | 1   |  |  |  |
| Shahadat not out   | 0   |  |  |  |
| Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-1)   | 9   |  |  |  |
| Total: (For 9 wkts 50 overs)   | 260 |  |  |  |
| Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-68, 3-93, 4-198, 5-248, 6-255, 7-256, 8-258, 9-260. |     |  |  |  |

|               |          |          |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Bowler</b> | <b>O</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>W</b> |
| Mpofu         | 8        | 0        | 39       | 2        |

|            |    |   |    |   |
|------------|----|---|----|---|
| Ireland    | 10 | 1 | 41 | 3 |
| Chigumbura | 10 | 0 | 58 | 1 |
| Brent      | 9  | 1 | 44 | 1 |
| Utseya     | 10 | 0 | 51 | 0 |
| Williams   | 3  | 0 | 25 | 0 |

## ZIMBABWE

|   |     |  |  |  |
|---|-----|--|--|--|
| Duffin b Shahadat   | 2   |  |  |  |
| Sibanda b Saqibul   | 46  |  |  |  |
| Chibhabha c Rahim b Rafique   | 57  |  |  |  |
| Masakadza c Rahim b Mortuza   | 31  |  |  |  |
| Williams c Rahim b Mortuza  | 2   |  |  |  |
| Mufambisi c Rahim b Mortuza   | 2   |  |  |  |
| Chigumbura b Mortuza  | 47  |  |  |  |
| Brent run out   | 2   |  |  |  |
| Utseya c & b Razzak   | 6   |  |  |  |
| Mpofu c Mortuza b Razzak  | 4   |  |  |  |
| Ireland not out   | 0   |  |  |  |
| Extras: (lb-3, w-9, nb-4)   | 16  |  |  |  |
| Total: (All out in 48 overs)  | 215 |  |  |  |
| Fall of wickets: 1-10, 2-82, 3-142, 4-149, 5-151, 6-165, 7-187, 8-206, 9-211, 10-215. |     |  |  |  |

|               |          |          |          |          |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>Bowler</b> | <b>O</b> | <b>M</b> | <b>R</b> | <b>W</b> |
| Shahadat      | 8        | 0        | 48       | 1        |
| Mortuza       | 9        | 0        | 31       | 4        |
| Rafique       | 9        | 0        | 34       | 1        |

# Morientes weaves magic

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had manhandled Angel Arizmendi on the edge of the six yard box.

Spain's other leading teams all play on Sunday.

League leaders Barcelona will be looking to bounce back at Osasuna following their shock Spanish Cup defeat to Zaragoza on Wednesday, which was their first in the Nou Camp stadium in any competition this season.

Barca coach Frank Rijkaard sprung a surprise on Saturday by including Samuel Eto'o in his squad.

The Cameroon striker and the Spanish first division's leading scorer last season only returned to

full training with Barca on Thursday after being out of action for four months with a right knee injury.

"Samuel's return is good news for us. He won't complete a full match but he's been cleared by the doctors and is fit to play a few minutes, half an hour or more," said Rijkaard.

Barca's 2004 and 2005 World Player of the Year Ronaldinho will be missing from the game in Pamplona after struggling to recover from bruises to his right knee and ankle sustained in the loss to Zaragoza.

Sevilla are second, one point off the lead, but their fans probably confident that they will beat strug-

gling Real Sociedad after winning all but one of their league games at home so far this season.

Real Madrid started the week-end in third place and will be looking to keep pace with their rivals by beating relegation-threatened Levante on Sunday.

Captain Raul Gonzalez, Jose Maria Gutierrez and Emerson have all recovered from recent injuries and were all included in the squad of Real coach Fabio Capello.

However, there was no recall for David Beckham despite media speculation that Capello might reverse his decision to never pick the former England captain again.

# Only Jacob Oram



INTERNET, undated

Jacob Oram does not want to be the next Chris Cairns; he wants to be the first Jacob Oram.

The modest New Zealand all-rounder would never bring himself to say as such but after the best week of his life the 28 year-old has made it clear following in Cairns' footsteps is not part of the grand plan.

Comparisons with Cairns were inevitable after he backed up a skilful knock against England in Adelaide with two destructive displays over three days in Perth in the Commonwealth Bank one-day series.

Big men clearing the boundary by miles make people sit up and take notice and Oram has certainly managed that since he arrived in Australia 12 days ago. There were 10 requests for one on one interviews by the time he had booked into the team's Melbourne hotel on Wednesday evening. All but two were rebuffed.

Not that Oram would be lost in the hype. He is a man, who by his own admission does not feel the highs as much as he should but gets dragged down by the lows in his career like injury.

But clearly this is not a low time. Oram is as excited as the doorman at the Hyatt in Melbourne that the tri-series has got a pulse at last and on a personal level he is thrilled that all the hours of frustration and rehabilitation are finally amounting to something.

In eight days he clobbered 12 sixes, scored 214 runs from 194 balls for once out and scored his maiden one-day hundred.

He credits the efficiency and power of his hitting to a technique stolen off South Africa three years ago at the Champions Trophy. It is called "hitting out" and involves the lower order of himself, James Franklin, Brendon McCullum and Andre Adams practising blasting sixes and fours after coach John Bracewell has called a stop to the day's traditional training.

"You practice your death bowling, yorkers, slower balls and all that so you have practice your death batting as well," Oram said.

## Tons always

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Man-of-the-match Rabiul's run-a-ball 123, which came after losing his opening partner with the total on 11, helped the side reach 260-3 with more than five overs to spare.

In an entertaining knock, he clubbed 19 boundaries and shared in two significant stands. He added 100 with skipper Lal Mohon, whose 11 fours and one six in an explosive 33-ball 66 sent the rival attack on a leather hunt during the second wicket, and a further 144 with Reza Sunny (59 off 93 balls) for the third wicket.

Earlier, Mustafizur Rahman (94 off 92 balls) and Ishraq Sonnet (63 off 94 balls) shaped the City innings after they were sent in.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

**CITY CLUB:** 191-7 in 48 overs (Rajin 100 n.o., Mizan 18, Nirala 8, Rafiqul 0, Ruben 2, Rashed 18, Neeyamur 5, Rezaul 3, Ahsanullah 18, extras 19, Talha 3-43, Manzarul 1-22, Shuvo 2-39, Sajith 1-27).

**ABAHANI:** 194-6 in 46.5 overs (Zahurul 1, Kuntal 17, Nazimuddin 84 n.o., Naeem 57, Mashud 1, Sajith 7, Shuvo 2, Zia 7 n.o., extras 18, Shirhan 2-33, Rezaul 3-38, Rashed 1-32).

**Result: Abahani won by four wickets.**

**CITY:** 259 all out in 49.2 overs (Sajjadul 4, Anwar 0, Salahuddin 8, Mustafizur 94, Sonnet 63, Mortuza 32, Mazharul 6, Farid 18, Zakir 1, Tareq 12, Kamrul 3, extras 18, Delwar 3-44, Kamal 1-37, Sharif 4-47, Tomal 1-22, Lal Mohon 1-45).

**PEGASUS:** 260-3 in 44.2 overs (Rabiul 123 n.o., Moniruzzaman 5, Lal Mohon 66, Sunny 59, Raisul 0 n.o., extras 7, Tareq 1-55, Mortuza 1-52, Mazharul 1-37).

**Result: Pegasus won by seven wickets.**

## Wenger irate

FROM PAGE 20

"Our title chances are slimmer now, but we haven't given up. We have not lost in 2007 and if we can maintain that until the end of the season, we'll do well."

Southgate said: "It was probably a fair result, but you hope to see it though when you are 1-0 up and they are down to ten men. The players are very disappointed.

"It was a sloppy goal to concede, but I can't criticise them because they have given me absolutely everything. We had to work hard against a great team and answer all the questions they asked."

## Platini backs

FROM PAGE 20

"Violence of any sort is unacceptable and it has absolutely no place in the game of football - we do not condone it, we must not accept it and we must act to eradicate it.

"That is why today UEFA offers its whole hearted support for the actions taken by the FIGC (Italian football federation) extraordinary commissioner, Luca Pancalli, to indefinitely suspend all international and domestic matches until further notice. "Following the death of a Paris St Germain supporter last year and the rioting of Feyenoord fans in Nancy, this latest episode further deepens our concern about violence creeping back into the game.

"We must now work together with the Italian football authorities and politicians in support of the Italian game, and find a solution to this spiral of violence that is plaguing European football," said the Frenchman.

"Franky is the biggest hitting out player in the team. When we practice he hits the ball 20m further than the rest of us. He's a strong boy."

Oram has his own distinctive technique where he opens out his front hip and shoulder to create power and give him a hitting arc through the on-side. It can look agricultural and does shut off the off side but it is hard to criticise given his results over the last three games.

"I used to try and bully it over the boundary, now I feel as though they can bowl different lengths and I can still hit them.

"I haven't struck the ball as cleanly as I have here, well not for three games in a row and the execution of plans has worked well."

Oram's success has come against the backdrop of his label in Australia as the poor man's Chris Cairns. He is in no rush to meet the author of the story in The Australian newspaper but neither does he harbour any bitterness toward him.

In fact he claims the suggestion by skipper Stephen Fleming that it had spurred him onto to success is not entirely accurate.

"I caught the article but I haven't given it much thought because there has been a lot of things said in the past and if you worry about everything....

"I did text Cairnsey about it saying I'm the poor man's Chris Cairns and it was the only time I had come back to that comment and he had a laugh about it."

Cairns and Oram have been in semi-regular contact via text since Oram's comeback in Adelaide. Cairns is living in Belgium with his young family but news travels fast when someone has just whipped away your record for the fastest one-day hundred by a New Zealand batsman as Oram did against Australia in Perth.

"The answer I give when people say you are the next Chris Cairns or why don't you play like Chris Cairns is we are different players and he knows that as well.

"There was a time when he tried to clone me into him, in a positive way, but we are different personalities.

"Those comparisons will always be there because Chris Cairns was probably our greatest all-rounder.

"Obviously Sir Richard (Hadlee) was damn good but when you

combine the batting and bowling Cairns was out of this world.

"When he performed we won and Cairnsey always told me the all-rounder's game is to blow the game open and throw it back into your team's court.

"It's okay when you have the attitude like him. I'm more conservative but I know what he was saying.

"To be compared to him is nice, but we are so different players. I'll try and strive to be like him but in a different way."

Like Cairns, Oram's career has been blighted by injury, particularly in his lower back since taking up serious bowling six years ago.

A hamstring injury was behind his late arrival in Australia and he admits to some low times watching his teammates from afar.

However, he credits his partner of five years Mara, now his fiancée, who he will marry at the end of the 2007-08 cricket season, for lifting his spirits with words of encouragement and the odd inspired decision.

"Life isn't great when you are injured and that is why coming back is so exciting. Sitting on the couch for months on end in the middle of the summer when you should be playing is infuriating and you always linked in the media "the Black Caps are missing these guys" and "when these guys come back" and "injury prone Oram" which is the truth, which hurts the most."

It is obvious Oram can not stomach too much more time on the sideline to the point where if injury was to strike again he would probably opt to play as a specialist batsman.

"In no way am I saying I've set a deadline for a post bowling career but if the body does continue to falter then I'm definitely going to give batting a shot before I retire fully.

"I know that being a specialist batsman is a totally different game and different mindset and presents different challenges and my chances of making the Black Caps would diminish but I'd like to give it a shot."

# A whole new ball game



IAN CHAPPELL

How much has the limited overs game changed from the time of the first World Cup tournament in 1975?

Consider that colour television was introduced in Australia at about the same time and think of the changes in communications in the intervening period and you're on the right track.

There were only eight teams competing in 1975 and now there are sixteen. The tournament was "a wham bam thank you ma'am" affair lasting only a fortnight, while now it is a two month long extravaganza. In 1975 there were no field restriction circles, no Powerplays and bouncers weren't an afterthought; in one match West Indies batsman Alvin Kallicharran hooked and cut five successive Dennis Lillee short-pitched deliveries to the boundary.

The players wore white, the ball was red and the games were sixty, not fifty, overs a side contests. There was no Super Eights, just semi-finals and then a final and no lights at the grounds, as the only hint of a night game came in the tournament's thrilling climax at Lord's, when the last wicket fell at 8:40 pm on the longest day of the year.

And there is the "night and day