

affairs and deriding Indian cricket. It also said, that Speed had "hijacked" the press conference of ICC President Percy Sonn and exceeded his brief in Mohali yesterday where he launched a broadside against the Indian cricket establishment.

In a strongly worded statement, BCCI's Chief Administrative Officer Ratnakar Shetty also challenged Speed by asking whether he will have the guts to say that the England and Wales Cricket Board is not

about the status of Indian cricket and the performance is nothing but gross interference in the affairs of the Indian Board. "In any case, wonder how much does he actually know about the stakeholders in Indian cricket to take such swipes from time to time? "Speed has chosen the wrong time and wrong place to debunk Indian cricket and its stakeholders," Shetty said.

"The media conference in Mohali on Wednesday was ostensibly called for the president of the International

"Speed for the umpteenth time, harangued the Indian Board. This time he went a step further, deriding the entire Indian cricket itself," Shetty charged. Significantly the war of words between the two parties has been renewed just prior to the two-day ICC Executive Board meeting here scheduled from tomorrow and in which the Members Participation Agreement, which the BCCI has refused to sign in its present form, will come up for discussion.

Cricket for women and will be a tribute to all the ladies who played and excelled in the game of cricket which is predominantly male bastion," said the former Indian captain. Anjum, who was a part of the team which reached the world cup finals in South Africa but lost to Australia, said authoring the book was yet another milestone in her career. "At a time the game is breaking the barriers and being a finalist in the World Cup our status received a boost since coming under the umbrella of the BCCI.

## Azhar, Gibbs show at Jaipur!

Jaipur, Nov. 2

After creating ripples in Mohali, former Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin was spotted watching the Champions Trophy semi-final between West Indies and South Africa at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here today. The Hyderabad, currently in news over reports that his life ban from the sport might be revoked, watched the proceedings from the Rajathan Cricket Association's President's box. Making an appearance in public at an international cricket match after 2000 when he was slapped the ban over match fixing allegations, Azhar is in the centre of a row between BCCI and ICC over an invitation extended to him to attend a function in Mumbai where all the former Indian captains are to be felicitated by the Board. Azhar, who flew in to Pink City early this morning from Chandigarh, is here on an invitation from RCA President Lalit Modi, also a Vice President of BCCI. Although ICC has said its president would attend the function, despite the initial reluctance, since its was an "internal" matter of the BCCI, the issue revolving around Azhar's ban, is bound to breathe fire in time to come.

# Stage set for new-look Durand Cup

New Delhi, Nov 2

After years of wallowing in obscurity, the third oldest football tournament in the world, the Durand Cup, is finally getting the recognition and attention it deserves. The 119th edition of the tournament — scheduled to get underway from November 7 — promises to be different from its predecessors.

In a unique first for the game in the country, an archive and auction house, Osian's, have taken over as the title sponsors of the Cup. The tournament will witness a few other firsts too. The prize money has been doubled to Rs 20 lakhs. The winners would be taking home a cool Rs 10 lakhs, the runners-up Rs 4 lakhs and the losing semi-finalists Rs 1.5 lakhs each.

The tournament's format will also be changed, making it a much longer affair this time around. The tournament will also feature almost all the big clubs of the country. Twenty teams — including local sides like Shimla Young, Shastris FC, Garhwal Heroes FC and Hindustan FC and Goa biggies Salgaocar and Churchill Brothers — will slug it out in a knockout qualifying round. The top side from each group will make it to the pre-quarterfinal league — an addition to this year's tournament.

The two group winners from the pre-quarterfinal league will then make their way to the quarterfinal league, where the teams will be up against the likes of East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Mahindra United and last year's champions Army XI.

Osian's have tied-up as sponsors with The Durand Cup for a period of five years. If their Chairman Neville Tuli is to be believed, this is just

the beginning of a long-term association between the art-house and the sport in the country.

"We are committed in bringing about an all-round improvement in the state of football in the country," Tuli said. "I realise that it will take time, so I have given it at least seven years." The Ambedkar Stadium, where the matches are going to be played, is also being revamped in order to draw crowds. The quarterfinals onwards, the matches will be telecast live on television.

## Shoaib, Asif to appeal against doping ban

Lahore, Nov 02

Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif will appeal against the ban imposed on them by the Pakistan Cricket Board's anti-doping tribunal. "Both the players will go into appeal," Geo TV quoted friends and relatives of the two players as saying.

However, the two fast bowlers did not elaborate as to when they would challenge the PCB decision. Shoaib will serve a two-year ban and Asif will be unable to play for one year after testing positive for banned anabolic steroid nandrolone in tests conducted by the PCB in Malaysia.

"After a thorough inquiry, we feel they failed to prove their innocence," inquiry tribunal chairman Shahid Hamid had said while recommending the ban on the two bowlers. The three-member tribunal, comprising Hamid, former Test captain Intikhab Alam and dope test expert Dr Waqar Ahmed, announced a detailed 19-page judgment.

Mumbai, Nov 02

The Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award for 2005 has been bagged by Shashank Chaturvedi of Beam Technology Development Group and Vivekanand Kain of the Materials Science Division of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The Technical Excellence Award was presented to Amar Sinha of the laser and neutron physics section and Vinay Bhaskar Chandratre of electronics division of Barc. The prestigious awards of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) were presented by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Anil Kakodkar on the founders' day celebrations here. The Meritorious Service Awards for 2005 were conferred on P Sukumar and Vinayagam, both from the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam, Ishwar Singh Saini of RMP Mysore and Mohan Kale of the personnel division, Ashok R Kenny of the electronics division, P V Parneswaran of the engineering, design and development division - all from Barc.

## People asked...

(Contd from page 1)

Now as per the amended Sec.8 notified on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005 which reads as under there is no escape for the offender of imprisonment as well as fine:

" 8 (1) whoever, in contravention of the provisions of section 6, acquires any interest in, or in any product of or crop raised on any land, or carries on any trade or business, in a reserved area, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and the interest so acquired shall be disposed of in such manner as the Administrator may, after taking into consideration the circumstances of the case, direct.

(2) Whoever, in contravention of a notification issued under section 7, enters a reserved area shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

(3) Whoever does anything in contravention of any of the conditions or restrictions, subject to which a pass has been granted to him under section 7, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees."

In other words now whoever violates provision of Section 6 and 7 by entering these tribal areas for poaching or otherwise on being convicted by Court shall have to go both imprisonment which may run upto 2 years as well as fine which may be upto Rs.10,000/- . In view of this amended provision all the public and visitors to these islands are advised to refrain from entering the tribal areas unless and until they obtain a valid pass from the Deputy Commissioner. Offender shall be booked by the Police Officer above the rank of Constable or by Forest Officer not below the rank of a Ranger, as the case may be.

## St. Gregorious....

(Contd. from page 1)

On November 5, morning prayer will start at 7 am followed by holy communion at 8 am. Meanwhile, St. Gregorious Day was celebrated at Mannarghat Church on November 1 and 2 by taking out candle light procession and prayers starting from Wimberlygunj junction to Manarghat church, named after the holy saint Gregorious, St. Mary's Church sources informed here today.

## Nation faces...

(Contd from page 1)

He stressed that all 15,000 trial courts in the country should be computerised and connected with the Supreme Court and High Courts. "Computerisation of the Supreme Court, High Courts and the sub-ordinate courts is essential for development of the e-judiciary system," he said.

Chief Justice Y K Sabharwal, who also addressed the gathering, recalled his association with late Justice Sunanda Bhandare and called on the members of bars and the bench to emulate her qualities as a lawyer and a judge.

Development Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh while inaugurating a National Workshop of State Secretaries and District Programme Coordinators of districts where NREGA is being implemented. Dr. Singh said that his Ministry has districts. The Ministry committed to extend the to all districts in the within five years. He the interaction at tional Workshop with to prepare for launch phase of the program

## IGNOU Tele....

(Contd. from page 1)

All the students Gandhi National University (IGNOU) been admitted to the session (July 2006) can with the resource place their questions programme which broadcast live from 6 7.00 pm on Friday. They can ask details like fill examination forms and the details about sub assignments and other of their academic pro and courses. All the st advised to be short a point while asking the to the panelist as it w in accommodating ma of students and their The phone number interaction during programme are 245662, an communiqué said her

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