

Column One

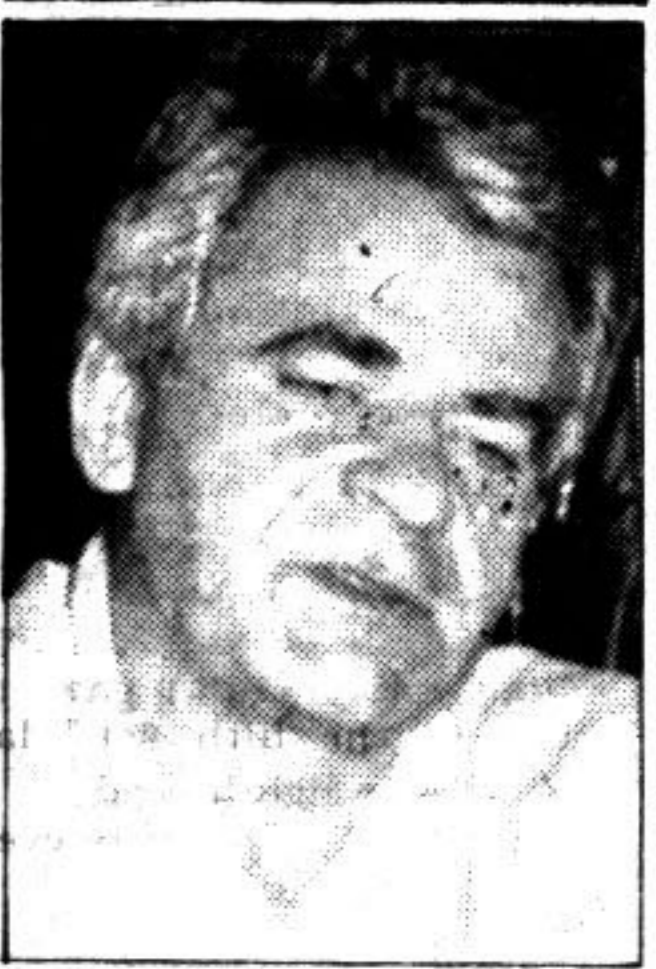
DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT it's not easy to make a name in anything. Take for instance a simple thing like spitting. Well, with so much of it going all round, I thought perhaps we surely had a great spitter among my countrymen. With people going "wakh thoo" here and a "wakh thoo" there, there was no dearth of practice amongst Bangladeshis. I have seen chaps make it with their spit to the vicinity of a "use me" box from distances of seven to eight feet. So, I open this record book from a purely nationalistic feeling to see what our chances were. Boy! was I ever bowled over? This American called John Wilkinson in 1980 succeeded in spitting a melon seed a world record distance of 65 feet 4 inches.

Now that's different spit game, spitting melon seeds. Wakh thoo. Let's see what could we spit that far. Maybe the regular on-the-street spitters could try a "boroi bichi" or something like that. And, let me tell you, spitters have a lot of prospects. There are international spit meets and standard rules. Distances is dependent on the quality of salivation, absence of cross wind, coordination of the back arch and neck snaps, etc.

I think the matter should be taken very seriously and the first step should be the formation of the Bangladesh Spitting Federation. Anybody for president?

SPORTS TALK



Boris Spassky (Russian chess GM, 1972) "In championship chess, skill is probably less than half the battle. The main element is nervous energy."

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday.)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-3. Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 PM, Sept 8, 1995)

- 1. Where was the 1992 Olympics held? Barcelona Atlanta Seoul
2. The national game of Bangladesh is Kabaddi Football Cricket
3. In cricket the distance between the wickets is 22 yards 33 feet 44 metres
4. How many players play in a basketball team? 5 7 9
5. Bangladesh youths are better than Great Britain in Handball Football Volleyball

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Soccer taken hostage!

LONDON, Sept 6: Manchester United star Eric Cantona and his manager Alex Ferguson have been issued with a death threat which police are treating seriously, report agencies. The threat came from a man claiming to be a Leeds United fan who said a group of the club's fans would be carrying weapons when Leeds play Manchester United at Elland Road on December 24.

And in a call to Football Monthly magazine editor Tony Flood, he warned: "If me and my mates can get to Cantona or Ferguson we'll kill the bastards. We will give them hell when they come here. This is a serious threat, we're all carrying weapons and know how to use them."

Peshawar Test begins tomorrow Malik left in the lurch



RAWALPINDI, Sept 6: Former captain Salim Malik, at the centre of bribery and match-fixing allegations, was left out of Pakistan's squad on Tuesday for the opening Test against Sri Lanka.

And Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Arif Ali Abbasi gave a thinly veiled warning it could mean the end of Malik's international career, reports Reuter.

Abbasi said the PCB wanted to stamp out indiscipline from the Pakistan cricket team and added: "I don't see him (Malik) playing in the entire series."

Malik, who has played 84 Tests for Pakistan, was named earlier this year by three Australian players who alleged he had offered bribes to fix the result of matches.

"It has been proved that Malik was involved in indiscipline and selfish-play on the tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe late last year and

early this year," Abbasi told reporters.

He declined to elaborate the charge of selfish-play but said: "It means much more. If I go into details, the situation will become difficult for some others also."

Rameez Raja, who last played for Pakistan 27 months ago, was named last month as captain for the three-Test series.

The selectors recalled Shoaib Mohammad, who last played in the 1993 series against Zimbabwe, in the 15-man squad for the opening Test which starts on Friday in Peshawar. Three uncapped players included in the squad are Saqlain Mushtaq, Ijaz Ahmad (junior) and Mohammad Akram.

Also included is fast bowler Waqar Younis, making a comeback after eight months out because of a back injury. He needs 10 more wickets to reach 200 in Tests.

SQUAD

Rameez Raja (captain), Amir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq, Shoaib Mohammad, Ijaz Ahmed (junior), Zahid Fazal, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Amir Nazir, Aatur Rahman, Mohammad Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq.

SALIM MALIK

Symonds in a dilemma



LONDON, Sept 6: Talented 20-year-old batsman Andrew Symonds has been given 48 hours to decide whether his cricketing future lies with England or Australia, reports Reuter.

The Birmingham-born, Queensland-raised Symonds was named on Tuesday in the England A party to tour Pakistan starting late next month, but has yet to indicate whether he will accept the invitation.

Symonds played for Australia under-19s as recently as March last year, but his birth place allowed him to accept a contract with Gloucestershire to play in this season's English County Championship.

Until Monday it was thought he could keep his options open until next year but the International Cricket Council have now confirmed he is eligible for England because he has not played for Australia since October 1994.

After scoring a century against England in Toowoomba during the last Ashes tour, Symonds, who left

Birmingham for Australia at the age of two, said he had not considered playing Test cricket for England, adding: "I'm a fair dinkum Aussie."

Australian Cricket Board chief executive Graham Halbish said Symonds "has an interesting and very important decision to make, but Test captain Mark Taylor appeared less concerned."

"I won't be losing any sleep over England picking Symonds. If he wants to play for them then good luck to him," said Taylor. "I've only played against him once and he looked a good batsman but we have plenty of good young batsmen who cannot get into our Test side."

England's chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth, not to mention Gloucestershire, expects an answer by Thursday.

"As far as we know he is available and I think we would be silly to miss a player of that ability. What we have to look at is that he's scored 1,365 first-class runs this season at an average of 56."

Former Australian captain Allan Border, a teammate of Symonds at Queensland, has

blasted Illingworth for his selection policy.

Border is quoted in Today as saying: "He's an Aussie - don't tell me you haven't got some true. English-blooded youngsters who couldn't do a similar job if you stuck with them."

"Ily has done a bloody good job this summer, but he's thrown it all up with this decision, he's forcing an issue he simply didn't need to."

Meanwhile, Symonds has conceded he is "caught on the horns of a dilemma over the tug-of-war between England and Australia for his services."

Symonds told "Today" newspaper today: "I honestly don't know what I'm going to do. If I decide my future lies with England it will mean leaving my family, my girlfriend and all my friends in Australia."

"And I can't turn my shoulder just like that on things which mean so much to me. It's not something you do overnight."

"I regard myself as an Australian, but at the same time I am a professional cricketer and it could be very lucrative for me to stay here."

Bob foresees fireworks



CAPE TOWN, Sept 6: South African cricket coach Bob Woolmer reacted to Tuesday's announcement of the England squad to tour South Africa next month by making preparations for a fast bowling war, reports Reuter.

"They haven't picked many spinners so they obviously think they can blast us out with their quick bowlers," Woolmer said. "Now that we are aware of their tactics we will prepare for them."

"Our strengths traditionally lie with our fast bowlers, and obviously still do. Our groundsman aren't likely to prepare slow, turning wickets with Allan Donald, Fanie de Villiers and Brett Schultz as our main weapons," added Woolmer, a former England Test player.

Woolmer expressed slight surprise that spinner Richard Illingworth was chosen ahead of Phil Tufnell. "Perhaps the fact that Illingworth has experience of South African conditions after coaching in Natal counted in his favour," he said.

Although Woolmer recognises England's fast bowling

talent, he feels South Africa definitely hold the edge in that department.

"Devon Malcolm might still hold a slight psychological edge after what he did to South Africa at the Oval last year, although I believe we



will be much better prepared for him. "Dominic Cork had a terrific summer against the West Indies and, like Darren Gough, he has a good competitive spirit and is capable of lower order runs. And both of them came here with the

squad, along with Mark Ilett, so they won't be under-prepared."

Woolmer also acknowledged England's strong batting line-up.

"They are established and five of them have proven records. (Mark) Ramprakash forced his way in as the seventh batsman through sheer weight of runs... the batting is a strong unit."

But as a former England Test player and highly successful coach of England county Warwickshire, Woolmer believes his knowledge of the England players will point in South Africa's favour.

"I hope it will give us an edge. Obviously I'll know more about the opposition than is usually the case with a coach and I'll try my utmost to use every last bit of that knowledge."

"But one thing is definite - I will have no emotional problems. I still support England when they play Australia or the West Indies, but South Africa is my home and I'll be giving my everything to beat them."

"I am expecting a very, very tough series. All the South African players are," he said.

Don King the matchmaker



LONDON, Sept 6: One certainty remains in the chaotic world of modern boxing. Whoever loses, Don King wins.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, shortly after Frank Bruno had brought the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title back to Britain, King beamed with vernacular pleasure, reports Reuter.

Dominating a news conference called ostensibly to celebrate Bruno's points victory over American Oliver McCall, King indulged in his usual potpourri of mixed metaphors and mangled quotations.

Puffing on a cigar of Churchillian proportions, King quoted from Britain's wartime leader, praised Bruno to the skies and told an unidentified listener on his mobile phone: "It's pandemonium in Britain and Sir

Frank Bruno's here."

Later the same day, though, it was back to the serious business of making millions of dollars as King, British co-promoter Frank Warren and Bruno outlined a multi-million deal to fight former undisputed champion Mike Tyson.

Lennox Lewis, who lost the WBC title unexpectedly to McCall last October and has won the right to challenge Bruno, is apparently out in the cold.

Instead the brooding menace of Tyson awaits Bruno and a payday which will make the 33-year-old Briton's previous earnings appear like small change.

Tyson is bigger than Lewis," Bruno said solemnly on Sunday. "He is the nugget and Lewis is the grain of sand on the beach."

"I want to end my career by fighting him." King, the dollar signs dancing in front of his eyes,

was in expansive mood.

"Frank dropped the gauntlet on Tyson and Tyson is ready to accept," King said. "For the next six to nine months he can enjoy his family and content himself. But naturally he's going to make millions when he does fight."

"Frank is the best crowned champion today. The WBC title is the most prestigious title."

There can be little argument with King's last assertion. The World Boxing Association title is held by Bruce Seldon, who has been beaten by McCall and lasted less than a round against Riddick Bowe.

Bowe, probably the best heavyweight in the world after Tyson, decided he did not want the World Boxing Organisation belt. The International Boxing Federation title is also up for grabs after George Foreman refused to defend it for a second time against German Axel Schulz.

Nat'l hockey BKSP rout Jamalpur

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) sauntered into the second round of the 17th national hockey championship by humiliating lowly Jamalpur District Sports Association (DSA) 7-0 in the only encounter at the BKSP ground in Savar on Wednesday.

The winners led the first half by an imposing 6-0 margin.

In an one-sided affair, BKSP, appearing in their home ground, opened the floodgate of goals as early as in the fourth minute with Mahub Ahsan providing the final touch to a planned attack.

Two minutes later Shamsuzzaman doubled the margin from a short corner before adding the fourth with a nice field goal in the 23rd minute. In between Ishtiaq made it 3-0 converting a penalty stroke.

Ramiz Ahmed and Moudud added further plight to helpless Jamalpur, when they recorded their names on the scoresheet with strikes in the 25th and 32nd minute respectively.

After a first half goal-feast in the 70-minute stop watch time, BKSP appeared to have lost their appetite for more goals but got yet another with Ariful Huq completing the Jamalpur rout in the 54th minute.

In the 17-team knock-out meet, BKSP will now take on the winners of the Gazipur-Faridpur match on September 10.

Fourth summer athletics from today

The fourth summer athletics involving 15 teams begin at the Mirpur Stadium today.

In the two-day meet about 250 athletes including 40 women will fight it out in 36 different events.

The teams taking part in the meet are - Bangladesh Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR, BJMC, BTMC, Customs, Rajshahi Education Board, Islamic University, Rajbari, Netrokona, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi and Chittagong.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Lifeguard Senior Division football league: Victoria SC vs Dhanmondi Club 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Agrani Bank vs Rahmatganj MFS 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

17th national hockey championship: Jessore DSA vs Police 2:30 pm (BKSP)

Rangpur DSA vs Dhaka University 3:45 pm (BKSP)

18th national basketball championship: Venue: Dhanmondi gymnasium.

Bangladesh Navy vs Chandpur 8 am Dhaka DSA vs Jessore DSA 9:30 am

Bangladesh Army vs Air Force 3:30 pm Dhaka University vs Rajshahi 5 pm

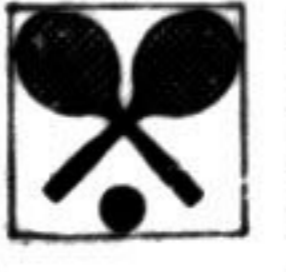
Police vs Khulna 6:30 pm

Fourth summer athletics: Venue: Mirpur Stadium (starts at 10 am)



Byron Black, the new sensation from Zimbabwe, shows his ecstasy after sending eighth-seeded German Michael Stich packing in the third round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows, New York, on Sept 5. Black came through the tense five setter 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3.

A country boy in NY city



NEW YORK, Sept 6: Byron Black, the 25-year-old farmer's son from Zimbabwe, used a combination of confidence and passing shots to upset eighth-seeded Michael Stich of Germany in the fourth round of the US Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"I knew he'd get a bit tight in the fifth set," said an unflustered Black, who had to survive a two-set Stich comeback before winning 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal match with Pete Sampras.

The 70th-ranked Black, who grew up on an avocado farm, hits with two hands on both the forehand and backhand side, a style he admits is limiting. However, he took advantage of one chip-and-charge too many from his opponent in the fifth set to seize the crucial break and the victory.

"I really wanted to go for it and I just picked my shots either for cross-court or down the line," Black said. "I was pretty close to breaking him every time he served."

Black comes from a tennis

background. His father, Don, the avocado farmer, played once at Wimbledon and built four grass courts on the farm where Black played bare-foot as a child.

"I was three the first time I picked up a racket," said Black, whose father forbade wearing shoes lest they damage the courts that are still rolled and watered daily.

Black was unable to play outside the country until invited by an ITF junior team to travel to Europe when he was 16. That led him eventually to John Newcombe's tennis ranch in Texas and ultimately to a scholarship at the University of Southern California, where he won a national college doubles title in 1989. He has seen almost all of his success since in doubles.

As a child Black, whose younger brother Wayne and sister Cora both are players, recalls playing best-of-five-set matches every day on his father's court between the ages of six and 12. That training may have prepared him well for Tuesday's stunner. "I've been playing better and better," said Black, who also upset ninth-seeded Thomas

Enqvist of Sweden in the second round. "I came in with an attitude that I want to be relaxed."

However, Black said the bustling New York city atmosphere has been the biggest obstacle to his tranquility.

"I'm a country boy," Black said. "So New York kind of scares me. But I've exceeded all my expectations."

A 'hairy' battle!

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Sept 6: Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Redondo said Tuesday he had spurned an international call-up for Argentina because he refused to sacrifice his long blonde hair, reports AP.

Argentine coach Daniel Passarella, a strict disciplinarian, met with Redondo in Madrid and said only the state's shoulder-length hair was barring him from a comeback in upcoming friendlies against Spain and Colombia.

"When we got to the subject of hair, I told him I wouldn't cut it because it is part of my personality," Redondo said in an interview with a local radio station. "I am a person and a player - but in that order."

Passarella said last year he would ignore any player with long hair as it often impeded vision.

Florentina striker Gabriel Batistuta immediately cut off his locks, as did other hopefuls in the Argentine league. Redondo and striker Claudio Caniggia, who both refused to conform, were left out in the cold.

Passarella has come under fire in Argentina over team selection since Argentina failed to get past the quarter-finals of the Copa America in July.

Diego Maradona, Passarella's fiercest critic, on Tuesday blasted what he said was a case of mistaken priorities.

"These demands about hair are just plain stupid and ridiculous," Maradona said. "I'm behind Redondo all the way."

Flamengo's 12 million dls nightmare



RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 6: Flamengo's 12 million dollars dream strike partnership of Romario and Edmundo has been upstaged by a rearguard dubbed "the defence of our nightmares" just three games into the Brazilian Championship, reports Reuter.

Fans were overjoyed when the club signed Edmundo to play alongside the Brazilian World Cup hero in attack. He was paraded through the streets in a cavalcade containing circus elephants and tigers as a tribute to his nickname "the animal."

Edmundo, signed for 5 million dollars from Palmeiras, declared: "This is the best attack in the world."

But when Flamengo played

Bragantino in their season-opener, it soon became obvious that the defence were not in the same class.

They needed a last-minute goal to beat a team who finished with nine players after having two sent off and followed up with a 0-0 draw against Guarani.

Worse was to come last Sunday when the team lost 2-1 at home to Palmeiras, who capitalised on a defensive blunder and scored after just 35 seconds.

Coach Edinho, called in after Vanderley Luxemburgo was fired because he criticised the club for not taking action against Romario for missing training, has attempted to implant a 3-4-3 system, with three central defenders, no full-backs and even less success.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Peevishness, 5 Dickens, 8 Admitting a draft, 12 Unrepaired, 13 Onassis, familiarly, 14 Immense, 15 Berated severely, 17 Portent, 18 Shock, 19 Set up a bivouac, 21 Shaving mishap, 24 Charlotte's home, 25 Puzzledom prince, 28 Salacious look, 30 Suitable, 33 Ostrich's kin, 34 Short and fat, 35 Author Buscaglia, 36 Ill-lit, 37 Sport, 38 Family, 39 Greek consonant, 41 Seethe, 43 Popsicle, structure, 46 Report-card data, 50 Stopover en route to Casablanca, 51 One-piece garment, 54 Headed for home, in a way, 55 Alias: abbr., 56 Nuclear reactor, 57 Sacrosanct, 58 Deleted, 59 Reception, DOWN 1 - California, 2 "The jig", 3 Hardly rigid, 4 Portugal's neighbor, locally, 5 Michael Jackson album, 6 Acapulco gold, 7 Galvanizing stuff, 8 "Oh, give me -", 9 Cagers' beginning, 10 Tommie of baseball, 11 Tear, 16 Actor Wallach, 20 Off, 22 Aid for, 23 Skewered entree, 25 Scarlet, 26 "What Kind of Fool -?", 27 Leave the scene of the crime?, 29 Longest river of 4 Down, 31 Pod denizen, 32 Heavy weight, 34 Lookalike, 38 Grips firmly, 40 Within reach, 42 Mischief-maker, 43 Bludgeon, to Brits, 44 Woody's son, 45 Trojan War hero, 47 Destruction, 48 Narc's unit, 49 Dither, 52 Hula accompaniment, 53 Insane

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters: S E F Y N K Q F K N L U Y E R O S Z Q O V Y Q O Z I L Y V N C Y V Y U O N L Y R O S " I K N Y C I K "

CRYPTOQUIP SEFYNKQFKNLUYEROSZ QOVYQOZILYVNCYVY UONLYROS "IKNYCIK" Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR HAPPY MOVIE CRITIC'S COMMENTS ON "A CHRISTMAS CAROL": "YULE LOVE IT." Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals F The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.