

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That the Olympic Games were once banned. To get a grasp of things we have to stretch our mind a bit. For some of us that too, maybe too much of an exercise. The year 776 BC marks a milestone in the history of world sport for it was the date of the first recorded Olympic champion. This was a sprinter Koroibos, in Greece who won the 186 yard foot race - the only event in the Olympics then. Sports in Greece was then linked with religion, culture, myths and legends.

The demise of the Olympic Games, which had been held for over 1100 years in more or less uninterrupted harmony, was due to their religious content. Greece had fallen under the Roman Empire and in AD 393, Theodosius I, Christian Emperor of Rome, banned all pagan festivals, including the Olympic Games.

Interestingly, after a break of 1503 years, the Games were reinstated in 1896, mainly at the instigation of Frenchman Baron de Coubertin. He, too, was a Christian.

SPORTS TALK



John McEnroe

(US tennis star) "The game has changed. The players aren't as tough mentally as we were. I would like to see them get tougher."

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday)

WHIZZ KID competition-8

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes 8 p.m. Oct 13, 1995)

- 1. How many Grand Slam tennis tournaments are there? 4 5 6
2. Sri Lankan cricketers recently beat Bangladesh India Pakistan
3. The decathlon champion competes in 5 events 10 events 15 events
4. The current World Cup hockey champions are Holland Pakistan Australia
5. What is Diego Maradona's middle name? Santiago Armando Garcia

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

Inter sport cricket

Sports Reporter

Aggradoot Club and Siddeshwari 'A' will play in the final of the first Inter Sports cricket tournament '95 tomorrow at the Siddeshwari Boys School ground.

Nat'l U-14 tennis Oct 27

The national junior (under-14) tennis tournament will be held at the Ramna National Tennis Complex here from October 27 to 30, reports BSS. Participants have been requested to send entries through their respective clubs to the Bangladesh Tennis Federation by October 25 for the events of boys' singles and doubles and girls' singles and doubles.

Press club sports

The Jatiya Press Club chess tournament begins today at the club premises here, reports BSS. About 20 players are expected to take part in the two-day competition, organised by the club to mark its 41st founding anniversary. The players have been requested to be present by 10-30 am at the club. The able tennis tournament also begins on the same day.



A bespectacled Ziaul Qader Tuhin of Bangladesh contemplating his next move while Ramesh pushes one of his white pawns up during their third round engagement of the International Masters chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Tuhin steals spotlight

Sports Reporter

Unheralded local player Ziaul Qader Tuhin enjoyed a rare share of the limelight yesterday when he laboured his way to the joint top spot on completion of the third round of the Beximco 12th QM Hossain International Masters' chess championship.

Tuhin, along with India's Rahul Shetty, lead the formidable group of fourteen participants with 2.5 points each. In the day's match-up, Tuhin overcame a stubborn challenge from Indian RB Ramesh in an encounter which seemed to have gone on for an eternity. Playing with black pieces and employing a Sicilian Dragon strategy, the bespectacled local won after a marathon 73 moves.

In stark contrast, Shetty, who bulldozed past local boy Abdulrahman al-Rakib in the previous round, had only to suffer through a formality of five moves before agreeing to a draw with compatriot International Master (IM) Sud-

hakar Babu. The draw enabled Babu to hold on to the second spot, which he shares with five others - namely local IM Ziaur Rahman, Pakistani IM Mahmud Lodhi, Indian IMs Parna Sharma Mitrakanth and RB Ramesh and promising home-town boy Enamul Hossain Rajib. All six have collected 2 points each. Zia, the highest ranked player in the meet, employed a Sicilian Taimanov variation to hand Saifuddin Lablu his second successive defeat. The match lasted for 46 moves.

The victory brought Zia back on winning ways after suffering a surprising defeat at the hands of Babu in the previous round. Two-time former champion Lodhi overwhelmed the King's Indian defense of Khorshed Alam to win in 38 moves while Rajib, a school student, was even swifter in sending Ali Amjad Mintu packing in only 25 moves employing a Sicilian Pelican strategy.

Rajib is making his inaugural appearance in the annual meet, despite not having

any rating, due to his impressive performance in the national championships. He had also displayed his level of talents in the recently concluded International Ratings chess where he relinquished his lead in the last round to hand Zia the victor's crown.

Mitrakanth, joint leader after the previous round, was tamed by Pakistani IM Shahzad Mirza. Mirza maneuvered his black pieces competently in applying the Sicilian defence, winning after 35 advances. In an all-local engagement, Abdullah al-Rakib earned his first point in the tourney when he outplayed Khondokar Kayes Hassan, who is yet to open his account. Rakib started his game with the Queen pawn opening and opted for the Morshed attack before winning in 48 moves.

STANDINGS

- 2.5 points - Tuhin, Shetty
2 points - Zia, Lodhi, Babu, Mitrakanth, Rajib, Ramesh
1.5 points - Mirza
1 point - Rakib, Lablu
0.5 points - Khorshed

Solving a Euro puzzle

LONDON, Oct 10: Some of the uncertainty surrounding the qualifiers for next year's European Championship in England could clear this week with Romania, Spain, Switzerland and Portugal all in a position to ensure their places in the finals, reports Reuter.

The introduction of three points for a win, the fact that only the group winners qualify automatically for the finals and that a grading system is used to determine which six of the eight group runners-up go through and which two must play off, means that not one single country has yet confirmed its place beyond all doubt.

Although some teams like Romania, Spain, Portugal, Croatia, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Russia and Scotland are virtually secure, not one international coach will allow his players to relax until the final elusive point is secured.

Romania, unbeaten leaders in Group One, need one point from their home match against second-placed France to wrap up the group they have led throughout the competition.

Romanian midfielder Ovidiu Ioan Sabau, who plays for Brescia in Italy, could miss the match because of a knee injury while coach Anghel Iordanescu said: "The game is vital for France and decisive for Romania, so it will be very tense."

French manager Aime Jacquet will have to do without key strikers Reynald Pedros of Nantes, nursing an injured knee, and Newcastle's David Ginola, out with a thigh injury.

Group Two is less complicated, with Spain and European champions Denmark assured of the top two places. Spain will win the group if they avoid defeat in Copenhagen on Wednesday. But Denmark are strong at home and have lost only two competitive fixtures in Copenhagen in the last 14 years.

The Danes will be without injured Glasgow Rangers striker Brian Laudrup, but his brother Michael of Real Madrid said on Monday: "The Spaniards know we are virtually impossible to beat at home. They would of course like to win - but they are also well aware that they need only one point."

Switzerland and Turkey have also wrapped up the first two places in Group Three, the Swiss a point ahead but the Turks with a game in hand.

The Swiss, who drew 2-2 with Hungary in March, welcome the Magyars back and if they win and Turkey lose in Iceland, Switzerland take the honours.

Switzerland's English trainer Roy Hodgson welcomes back Nestor Subiat after a six month layoff following surgery and that is a good omen for the Swiss. The last time Subiat played in March was against Hungary when he scored twice.

Croatia and Italy, who drew 1-1 in split on Sunday, are virtually certain to qualify from Group Four and only the unlikely chance of a bizarre series of freak results prevents Croatia from being declared the first direct qualifiers.

The Croatians and the Italians have no match on Wednesday, but Slovenia play Ukraine while Lithuania meet

pointless Estonia.

The situation is closer to call in Group Five with two from Norway, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands to qualify.

Although Norway lead the group they could yet be overhauled by both the Czechs and Dutch, who play in Malta on Wednesday. Norway host England in a friendly.

In theory four of the six teams in Group Six are still in the hunt - Portugal, Austria, Ireland and Northern Ireland. If Portugal beat Austria in Vienna and Ireland lose at home to Latvia, the Portuguese qualify.

Group Seven leaders Bulgaria, 3-0 winners over Albania on Saturday, and Germany, who beat Moldova 6-1 on Sunday, have ensured they occupy the top two positions in their group with the battle for top spot continuing on Wednesday when Bulgaria visit Georgia and Germany play in Wales.

The outcome of that group will probably not be finalised until Germany host Bulgaria next month.

Russia will ensure they finish top for Group Eight if they beat Greece at home on Wednesday. Even if Scotland win their last match as expected against San Marino next month and Russia were to lose their last match at home to Finland, Russia and Scotland would finish with the same number of points.

Russia would then finish ahead of Scotland on the away goals rule in their head-to-head duels.

Scotland, who do not have a championship match on Wednesday, play Sweden in a friendly.

Two Brits' prognostication

CALCUTTA, Oct 10: Former England cricketers, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb consider

India and South Africa as the 'dark horses' for the forthcoming World Cup cricket tournament, reports PTI.

Patriotic fervour, more than any other reason, made the duo pick England as the favourites for the title in the mega event scheduled in February-March next year. We would definitely like England to win the World Cup. They were a bit unlucky in the last few years, hope

England's luck changes this year", Botham and Lamb told a press conference at the Taj Bengal here today.

The two cricketers, who were in the city to participate in a chat show, spoke at length on a variety of topics, including upcoming World Cup, during the press conference.

Welcoming the introduction of new teams for the World Cup, both Lamb and Botham felt it would increase the level of competition. Botham said the introduction of new teams had raised apprehensions that it would lead to lopsided matches. "Some of the matches may be

lopsided, but it would be foolish to underestimate the newcomers. There may be some upsets", the famed all-rounder warned.

Both Lamb and Botham agreed that Sri Lanka, who pulled off a historic Test and one-day series win against Pakistan, were in good form at the moment and would be a dangerous team in the World Cup.

On Richard Hadlee's contention that there should be a World Cup for Test cricket also, Botham said the idea was not very feasible as it would be too long. "No doubt, Test cricket is the most important thing in cricket."

WC cricket control room opens

CALCUTTA, Oct 10: The control room of the World Cup, world's biggest cricketing fiesta, was today formally inaugurated at the Dr BC Roy Club house of the Eden Gardens by two former English cricketers Ian Botham and Allan Lamb in the presence of a host of dignitaries, reports PTI.

The control room would be equipped with a sophisticated computerised network system linking all the World Cup venues in the three host countries Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka.

The PILCOM convenor secretary, Jagmohan Dalmyia and K Ramnath, senior vice-president, marketing and exports of ITC Limited, the title sponsors of the mega event were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Describing the Eden Gardens as one of the best stadiums in the world, Botham said the atmosphere was terrific and it was a great experience playing at the Eden. "It is one of the best stadiums along with the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia," he added.

Nat'l King Fan b'ball on

Sports Reporter

Nabakumar Institution and BAF Shaheen school made impressive starts in the third National King Fan Dhaka Metropolitan schools basketball tournament on Tuesday winning their respective opening matches at the Dhannomdi wooden floor gymnasium.

Nabakumar, the old Dhaka-based school, outplayed BDR Public School 58-38 in their Group B league match.

The winners led the first half 32-16. Selim (27), Dalim (13) and Mamun (12) were the leading Nabakumar scorers while Mirad and Moin caged 16 and 12 points respectively for BDR Public School.

In the other engagement of the opening day, BAF Shaheen School upset last year's runners up St Gregory's High School 62-41.

Bony scored 33 points while Nixon and Sadeq added 10 and 8 points respectively to Shaheen School's account. On the otherhand Sumon (13) and Palash (9) were the leading Gregorian cagers.

Desert duel from today



SHARJAH, Oct 10: Buoyant Sri Lanka and a new-look West Indies are eyeing the World Cup, just four months away, as they kick-off the Champions Trophy triangular tournament at this desert venue of United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Crisis-ridden Pakistan, the third contender in the 10-day event seen as a build-up for next February's World Cup, open their campaign on Thursday with a grudge match against the Sri Lankans.

Each team will play the other twice in the preliminary league, with the top two advancing to the October 20 final to contest the winners' purse of 30,000 dollars.

The Sri Lankans, fresh from a historic double in Pakistan earlier this month when they won both the Test and one-day series, are confident they will live up to their growing stature in international cricket.

But experienced skipper Arjuna Ranatunga concedes the team needs to be consistent if they are to justify New

right groove," the Wily Ranatunga said.

"Sri Lankan cricket never had it so good, we must take advantage of that," said the porty 33-year-old, who hit the limelight as a schoolboy in Sri Lanka's first ever Test match in 1982.

Ranatunga has not forgotten the Asia Cup here in April, when Sri Lanka stunned world champions Pakistan in the league only to go down tamely to India in the final.

"A tournament is won by being consistent even in the unpredictable world of one-day cricket," said the left-hander, who is certain to lead Sri Lanka in the World Cup it co-hosts with India

the World Cup, leaving skipper Richie Richardson and star batsman Brian Lara to head the West Indian challenge in this competition.

Reliable middle-order batsman Jimmy Adams also pulled out of the Champions' Trophy due to injury, and has been replaced in the 14-man squad by Roland Holder.

Opener Phil Simmons, fast bowlers Anderson Cummins and Hamesh Anthony and veteran off-spinner Roger Harper return to the side after being ignored for the England tour.

All-rounder Nehemiah Perry of Jamaica, another off-spinner, is the only player in the squad without previous international experience.

SCHEDULE
Oct 11: West Indies v Sri Lanka
Oct 12: Pakistan v Sri Lanka
Oct 13: Pakistan v West Indies
Oct 15: Pakistan v West Indies
Oct 16: Sri Lanka v West Indies
Oct 17: Pakistan v Sri Lanka
Oct 20: Final

TEAMS
SRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Hashan Tillekaratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Ruwan Kalpage, Ramesh Kaluwatharane, Kumara Dharmasena, Muthiah Muralidharan, Pramodaya Wickramasinghe, Erik Upasantha, Wendell Labrooy.
WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Brian Lara, Phil Simmons, Stuart



R RICHARDSON

Zealand's former bowling hero Sir Richard Hadlee's prediction that Sri Lanka will be one of the favourites for the next World Cup.

"The joys of winning are great, but we must not let up now that we have hit the

and Pakistan from February 14 to March 17. The West Indies, who won the first two World Cups in 1975 and 1979, are looking to make amends for a horrific test year so far, where they lost to Australia at home and were held to an embarrassing 2-2 draw by England.

For the current tournament, the selectors retained just nine of the 17 players who toured England in a bid to forge a winning combination for the World Cup.

Among those sacked are top-flight all-rounder Carl Hooper, batsman Keith Arthurton and fast bowler Kenneth Benjamin, the latter for wearing jeans on the flight home from England, while premier pace bowlers Curtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose were allowed to take a rest.

All of them are likely to be back for a four-nation tournament in Australia prior to



RANATUNGA

Williams, Sherwin Campbell, Roland Holder, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Nehemiah Perry, Roger Harper, Courtney Browne, Hamesh Anthony, Ian Bishop, Anderson Cummins, Ottis Gibson.

It's a trial of strength



ZURICH, Oct 10: World soccer bosses agreed on Monday to put off a decision on Euro-

pean proposals to reform the structure of the sport, reports Reuter.

But UEFA president Lennart Johansson said his controversial 'vision' strategy was already paying dividends.

In a move that brought a row with FIFA president Joao Havelange into the open, Johansson in August produced two strategy documents calling for FIFA's role to be reduced and that of regional confederations to be strengthened.

He also said FIFA should be making higher revenues from World Cup marketing and television rights and said a bigger cake would mean more money for all levels of the sport.

At its second meeting to discuss the proposals, FIFA's emergency committee - which includes Havelange, Johansson and the heads of the five other regional con-

federations - decided to set up a working party that would examine the UEFA plans and report back to them in Zurich on November 20.

"The fundamental is to make use of what football can bring financially," Johansson told reporters after the meeting. "You see it is already having a result", he added. "It's gone from 184 million dollars to 1 billion dollars in one week - isn't that funny?"

Under a marketing contract agreed in 1987 and covering the World Cup finals of 1990, 1994 and 1998, FIFA made only 184 million dollars in its total pot for the 1994 finals in the United States.

While the International Olympic Committee sees its revenues soar into the billions, FIFA received less than 100 million dollars in broadcast rights for its most successful tournament ever.

FIFA secretary-general Sepp Blatter told a news conference that several offers were already on the table for

the 2002 finals, to be held either in Japan or South Korea.

One of them, from a consortium headed by the international management group, was for a billion dollars - even more than the 800 million Swiss francs (700 million dollars) that UEFA says the finals should bring in.

Because of opposition from confederations in North and Central America, South America, Africa, Asia and Oceania, UEFA has already dropped proposals to merge the smaller confederations and for FIFA to have a rotating presidency appointed from the confederation presidents.

One UEFA proposal left on the table is that the site of the World Cup finals should be rotated among the confederations - which UEFA argued against at a FIFA congress in Chicago last year when it was proposed by the Confederation of African Football.

Among the regional confederations, only the Africans have so far spoken out in favour of UEFA's proposals.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 Sheriff's emblem
5 Frat-party need
8 Phyllis Diller's "husband"
12 Aesopian also-ran
13 Parisian pal
14 Carnival lure
15 Inland sea
16 Ancient brick temple tower
18 Home
20 Puts on the line
21 "Yes, Virginia..." newspaper
22 Algonquin Round Table speciality
23 Great power
26 Mimic
30 One-million link
31 Explanation
32 Candle count
33 Flipper?
36 Jacob's ladder, e.g.
38 Crafty
39 "Kitchy-!"
40 Memorable mission
43 Sound of a beating
47 Bill Clinton, e.g.
49 Singer
50 Brother of Er
51 Gorilla
52 Hawk, in a way
53 Hourglass fill
54 Existed
55 Duel tool
DOWN
1 Persian bigwig
2 The
O'Hara estate
3 Breed of steed with speed
4 Gusto
5 "On the Water-front" director
6 Send out
7 Musician's job
8 Like sangria
9 Ostentation
10 Neighbor of Man.
11 Comprehends
17 Stagehand
19 Howard Carter's 1922 find
22 "Holy mackerell!"
23 Woody's ex
24 Letterhead abbr.
25 Needlefish
26 Barracks item
27 Western st.
28 Past
29 John Ritter's dad
31 Dinner for Dobbin
34 Singing siblings' surname
35 Political group
36 Cauldron
37 Raspy
39 Items made of flypaper?
40 Combinations
41 Singer Home
42 "— for All Seasons"
43 One of the Three Bears
44 Incubator noise
46 Competent
48 Lie
48 Crude

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes the text: 'Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHAT DO KINGS LIKE TO WEAR WHILE GETTING CROWNED? REIGN COATS. Today's Cryptogram clue: L equals V. The Cryptogram 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.'