

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT allowing sports in the jails has always been a matter of great concern, if not controversy, to the authorities. Prisoners have been encouraged to pursue some vocation while in confinement. Such diversions provide convicts rationed pleasure during confinement.

The Italian jail authorities, like others the world over, thought the world about their prisoners who excelled in some art or sport or some form of cultural activity. And, wardens in a Sicilian jail were no different.

Prison authorities at Augusta, Sicily, were happy that four of their convicts decided to keep fit by practising the long jump. Well, happy till all four of them leapt to freedom across a 12 feet gap between two roofs.

Never let the prisoners excel the wardens. That's the catch.

SPORTS TALK



Monica Seles

(US tennis superstar) "Now I know what death is."

After being stabbed on the back by a maniac during the Hamburg tennis tournament in 1993.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-12

Tick the Correct Answer

Competition closes: 8 p.m. Nov 10, 1995

- 1. What is Star TV's sports channel? ESPN Prime Sports Sports Star
2. What is Brian Lara's middle name? Charles George Young
3. Pete Sampras won the Wimbledon singles title. Twice Thrice Four times
4. The Nawab of Pataudi is married to Ms. Sen Kohinoor Tagore
5. Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka in 1995 at Yangon by 1-0 2-1 3-2

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

Locals take on Nepalese spikers today

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh national volleyball team will take on their Nepalese counterparts in four exhibition matches on November 6, 7, 8 and 10 in the city. All the games will begin at 3.00 pm everyday at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

An eighteen-member Nepalese volleyball team arrived in the city yesterday to compete in the friendly encounters.

Both teams are preparing for the forthcoming seventh SAF Games in Madras.

FIFA team in Tokyo

TOKYO, Nov 5: A FIFA delegation arrived in Tokyo on Saturday to inspect potential venues for the 2002 World Cup, reports Reuter.

The five-man group, headed by German Football Association general secretary Horst Schmidt, came to Japan after a four-day tour of South Korea, the only other candidates to host the 2002 tournament.

Schmidt said his group would report back to the FIFA board several weeks after finishing its inspection next Wednesday.



Abahani's keeper Khaled Masud plays an on drive during his unconquered innings of 77 against Wari in yesterday's 16th Damal Summer match at the City Club ground in Mirpur. — Star photo

AKC unworried by Wari

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

Wari Club: 149/9 (Hassan 27, Moni 2/21, Durjoy 2/26)
Abahani: 152/3 in 29 overs (Pilot 77 not out)

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra stormed into the second round of the 16th Damal Summer cricket tournament defeating a lowly Wari Club by seven-wickets at the City Club ground yesterday.

The holders, set to score exactly 150 for a win in the stipulated 50 overs, rattled up 152 in just 29 overs with their wicket-keeper-cum opener Khaled Masud Pilot hammering an unbeaten half century.

The facile victory helped Abahani to book the first berth in the six-team second round following their second successive win in the three-team Group A. They had earlier handed a crushing six-wicket defeat on First Division outfit Sadharan Bima.

Abahani, who are also the joint-holders of the Navana Premier cricket league, despite lacking the depth in top order made a mockery of a modest Wari total of 149 for nine with Pilot leading the score with a sparkling 77 in his undefeated 91-ball knock. Pilot, the dapper right-

handed batsman, who painfully watched his more illustrious opening partner Harun-ur-Rashid Liton (2) falling cheeply, cruised alone against a depleted Wari attack to propel his side to a convincing victory.

Pilot, who shared two 'fifty' partnerships with hard-hitting Imran Ahmed Partha and skipper Akram Khan, clubbed ten fours and two towering sixes in his polished innings.

Partha, who shared 51 runs for the second wicket with Pilot, chipped in with 21. His brief 29-ball stay at the crease featured four hits to the fence.

After the departure of Partha, Akram, joined forces with Pilot to guide Abahani close to victory sharing 71 runs for the third wicket before the robust national skipper departed for a sedate 17 leaving the score at 125 for three in 24 over.

Naimur Rahman Durjoy, who continued his form with the cherry, then ensured that Abahani reach the victory target without further damage by scoring a quick-fire 12 off 13 balls.

Earlier, Durjoy, the useful off-spinner was among the wickets as Abahani restricted Wari to a modest tally of 149. Durjoy, who had earlier finished with a four wicket haul in his side's previous match against Sadharan Bima, took two wickets at the cost of

only 26 runs in his nine economic overs.

Durjoy apart left-arm spinner Enamul Haq Moni, who joined the Dhanmondi outfit this year breaching a long-serving fraternity with Bangladesh Bima, was the other successful Abahani bowler with fabulous figures of 10-0-21-2.

Meanwhile, former national new-ball bowler GM Nowsher Prince made a rusty entry to the season when the left-arm seamer returned wicketless in his seven overs which yielded 25 runs. But for an upcoming seamer Ashfaq Ali Rahat it was a good start.

Rahat, a product of Lotus-Kamal pace bowling foundation, finished with one for 27 in his ten-over spell.

Among the Wari willow-wielders Hasanuzzaman scored a painstaking 27 off 87 balls and Obaidullah with 21 was the other 20-plus scorer for the vanquished. Mr. Sundryies with a staggering 30 featured as the highest contributor to the Wari total.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the seasons curtain-raiser meet Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) have suspended two matches scheduled for today following a nation-wide call for rail and road blockade by the major opposition parties.

MSC's dream run continues

Sports Reporter



The scenario remained unchanged in the race for the First Division chess league title as three Grand Masters steered Mohammedan Sporting Club to yet another clean sweep in round four yesterday at the hall room of the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

In the day's engagement, Mohammedans, the former two times champions including the inaugural version, registered an easy 4-0 win over Anushilan Daba Krira Chakra — the team which beat defending champions Brothers Union 4-0 in their opening round encounter.

In yesterday's round, Russian GM Mikhail Krasenkov (2590), the highest rated player of the league, took only 31 moves to destroy the King's Indian defence of Sharfuddin Reza Hai. GM Asht Anasthasian of Armenia, the other foreigner in the indomitable squad who played with black pieces, also adopted King's Indian defence and forced Adnan Faisal to surrender after 43 moves.

GM Niaz Morshed and Abdullah Al Rakib completed the day's run beating Anushilan's Abu Sufian Shakil and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Imon respectively.

The win raised MSC's tally to 16 points which keep them atop the standings with a three and a half point lead over their nearest rivals Leonine Chess club who overpowered Konica Sangskritik Sangha 3-1 yesterday.

Two Indians — IM Lanka Ravi and IM Porna Sharma Mirakanth and local player Farid Ahmed of Leonine won their boards against Konica's Said Ahmed, Abdul Khaleque and Islam David respectively. The lone winner for Konica was Nuruddin who blanked Manjur Alam for their yesterday's lone point.

Bangladesh Bima remained in the third position being one point adrift of Leonine. The last year's runners up team thrashed BTMC 3.5-0.5 in their yesterday's round.

National champion IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, who played his first match for Bima yesterday, outplayed Hasibul Hasan Hanif while the other IM Ziaur Rahman defeated

Sayefuddin Lovlu. Khandkar Kayes Hasan recorded the remaining victory for Bima against Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu. On the other board, Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Abul Kashem shared half a point each with an agreed draw.

Bad luck continued for the champions Brothers Union who were humiliated 0-4 by Fire Service yesterday. This was the fourth defeat of BU in a row who are now placed at the bottom of the 17-team standings with only a single point.

In the day's other matches, Dhaka University beat Parijat Chess Club 3.5-0.5. Sheikh Russel KC won against Narayanan Chess Club 2.5-1.5 while genius chess club defeated Mashgul Mahfil with the same margin (2.5-1.5).

Bangladesh Ansars and Farashganj Sporting Club earned two points apiece as their clash was tied 2-2.

The league will have a break today (Monday) and the fifth round will start tomorrow at 2 pm at the same venue.



An 18-member Nepalese volleyball team pose for photographers after their arrival in Dhaka yesterday on a week-long visit. — Star photo

Congratulations Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Congratulatory messages for the triumphant Bangladesh national football team continued to pour into The Daily Star office. The messages included those from Abahani Limited, football players' welfare association, past president of Bangladesh sports writers' association Tawfiq Aziz Khan, ex-general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Harunur Rashid and the Dhaka Metropolitan Pioneer football club association.

President hails Myanmar victors

President Abdur Rahman Biswas congratulated the Bangladesh football team for their glorious victory in the four-nation football tournament against Myanmar in Yangon on Saturday, reports UNB.

The President thanked the players, coach and officials connected with the Bangladesh team for becoming champions in an international football tournament for the first time in a foreign land.

He hoped that with the determination, perseverance and regular training, Bangladesh team will be able to earn more laurels for the motherland in future.

B'ball squad for SAF Games

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation announced a fifteen-member national team yesterday who will take part in the seventh South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held December 18-27 in the Indian city of Madras.

M Talibur Rahman has been appointed the manager of the team while Lieutenant Commander AK Sarkar will act as coach. SM Imtiaz Khan Babul is the other nonplaying member of the side.

SQUAD

Aminul Islam, Nurul Amin, Shaful Alam, Iqbal Hossain, Zahiruddin, Abedur Rahman, M Wasif Ali, PK Goswami, Sirazul Islam, Miji Faruque, Ahmed, Suleep Barua and Jahangir Alam.

Sun sets on Surjo Tarun

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

Surjo Tarun: 69 in 49.4 overs (Raju 45, Anwar 25; Imran 3/25, Ahsanullah 3/19)

Gopibagh FA: 173/8 in 49 overs (Aminul Islam 35, Azim 32, Irfan 27; Nadir Shah 4/27, Imtiaz 3/29)

Gopibagh Friends Association recorded a squeaky two-wicket win over Surjo Tarun Club in an affair of academic interest of the 16th Damal Summer cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

After winning the toss and electing to use the wicket first Surjo Tarun scored a modest 169 before being all out with one over to spare in the 50-over-a-side match. Opener Raju, who was the main stay of the Surjo Tarun, batting, scored highest 45 off 81 balls including boundaries.

For Gopibagh, a promotee to the First Division, Ahsanullah, who along with Imran enforced a dramatic Surjo Tarun batting collapse, finished with an enviable analysis of three for 19 in his ten overs. Imran, who proved a little more liberal about allowing runs, also claimed three wickets for 25. In reply, Gopibagh reached the victory mark at 173 for the loss eight wickets in 49 overs with Aminul Islam and skipper Shaful Islam contributing 35 and 32 respectively.

Former national all-rounder Nadir Shah, who with his gentle pace and occasional spin ripped through the top order to finish with a four-wicket haul, eventually found his valiant effort go in vain when a responsible unbeaten 19 from lower-order Ahsan propelled the Gopibagh outfit to victory.

Easy win for East Bengal

CALCUTTA, Nov 5: East Bengal kept their reputation intact with a convincing 2-0 victory over New Raidant Club of the Maldives in the second round of the sixth Asian Cup Winners' Cup football tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium here today, reports PTI.

East Bengal would now visit the island country to play their away match at Male on November 12.

No jeers, let's cheer up!

By Zayd Almer Khan



For once derision and diatribe skipped the minds of usually 'captious' newsmen as words of pride and adulation adorned the columns instead. The streets were full of joyous people — the dirge done away with and the celebrations overwhelming. For it is a time to rejoice: a time to be proud.

For long enough now had our football-crazy nation carried, with a heavy heart, the frustration of 'always coming close, but never close enough'. What crime have we committed to deserve such a draconian nemesis, some would ask. Others would resign to de-spondency at the thought of the unnaturally rapid tumble down the declivity that the level of our football is seemingly taking. And us, journalists, are never short of didactic articles which accuse everyone — coaches, players and officials — but ourselves of being dilletantish.

But, on Saturday last, a pride of roaring youths from this, the land of the Royal Bengal, brought back long lost smiles and an almost forgotten feeling of pride in the hearts of millions. They reminded us that the once prospering river of talents that this region was famous for has not desiccated; that not any more are they ready to pick up the dreags, as expected of them in recent times; that with the correct

attitude and unflinching determination we too can be champions.

Watching the Bangladeshi boys defeat their Burmese counterparts to lift the Myanmar Quadrangular Tournament trophy, any football buff would find it difficult to believe that only ten days ago the verdict had gone the opposite way, and that too by a massive margin of 4-0. Our boys looked to be a different side altogether. No more to be seen were the desultory gameplan or the all-too-familiar diffident, if not pitiful, attacks on the opposing post. The boys were confident, fit and — most importantly — desperate to win.

The defence, led by the ever-dependable Munna was also unconquerable. The way they handled a frantic Myanmar frontline in the last twenty minutes, even after being dismembered by an injury to keeper Ponir, was doubtly indeed.

The forward line, debilitated by the absence of star strikers Ranjan and Mizan, showed no signs of the disability with both Naqub and Mamun Joarder displaying the best of their finishing skills. The two showed sheer brilliance as they scored a goal each, both equally spectacular.

However, the lifeline of our side seemed to be their midfield. Spearheaded by the mercurial Arman, our medias disquieted the Myanmar defence time and again with fiery, depreddating runs

through the middle as well as from both the flanks. Rakib, particularly, was responsible for the constant dilapidation of the opposing defence wall with his fleet-footed sorties down the left and accurate crosses.

The triumph — our first in any international event — now safely behind us, coach Otto Pfister, a German national and a philosophical chap, has a solid ground to build a strong team of international standards. In his own words, that will take a long time to achieve. It can only be hoped that the football authorities of the country, whose presence is more of a hindrance than is of help for the future of the sport, will for once show some signs of being sensible and give the man an opportunity to prove his worth — something his numerous predecessors were not given enough time to do. As for the public and the easily-perturbed newsmen, we will have to gather a little more patience than we have previously shown.

But, for now, as the imminent VII SAF Games looms closer, the victorious boys should let the euphoria settle down and get back to work, for the real battle lies ahead. The elusive SAF gold medal is now less of a chimerical dream but more like a desecrated island viewed from a lost ship. Let us do away with the brouhaha and keep our fingers crossed.

Jiving with Juninho beat



MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Nov 5: Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson believes that in signing Brazilian Juninho he has captured the future world number one footballer, reports Reuter.

"He has the potential to be the best player in the world and I believe he can do that here," Robson said.

A memorable Juninho debut in a 1-1 draw against Leeds United on Saturday

was ok. I was hoping we would play well and we did and in the end we got a good result because Leeds are a strong team.

"I was so delighted when we scored, but Fjortoft must also take the credit for being in the right place to get the goal."

For much of the first half Juninho gave a performance to savour, tormenting Leeds with fast, direct, deep runs that created havoc in their defence and set up chances for Jan Aage Fjortoft. Nick

With Juninho visibly tiring towards the end, Robson replaced him with Bolivian Jaime Moreno and afterwards was full of praise for the Brazilian international with a dozen caps who he signed from former world club champions Sao Paulo early last month.

Although the match a helicopter flew over the stadium trailing a giant Middlesbrough shirt with "welcome Juninho" emblazoned across the front.

At ground level a 30-piece samba band created a carnival atmosphere without precedent in English soccer. The entire city has been gripped by the kind of fever normally only seen in venues hosting matches during the World Cup.

All this is slightly surreal for a club that almost became extinct nine years ago.

No-one could have imagined then that hundreds of shops would display Brazilian flags in their windows for that Juninho burgers served up with "hot samba sauce" would be on sale from outside a shiny new 30,000-seater stadium built on Derelict Dockland.

The Riverside Stadium rises from a grim industrial wasteland where the ruined remains of old Victorian warehouses and rubble of recently demolished industrial wrecks lie all around.

The wreckage of the city's industrial demise still exacts a toll in human terms. Although there are distinct signs of regeneration, Middlesbrough has an unemployment level almost twice the national average.

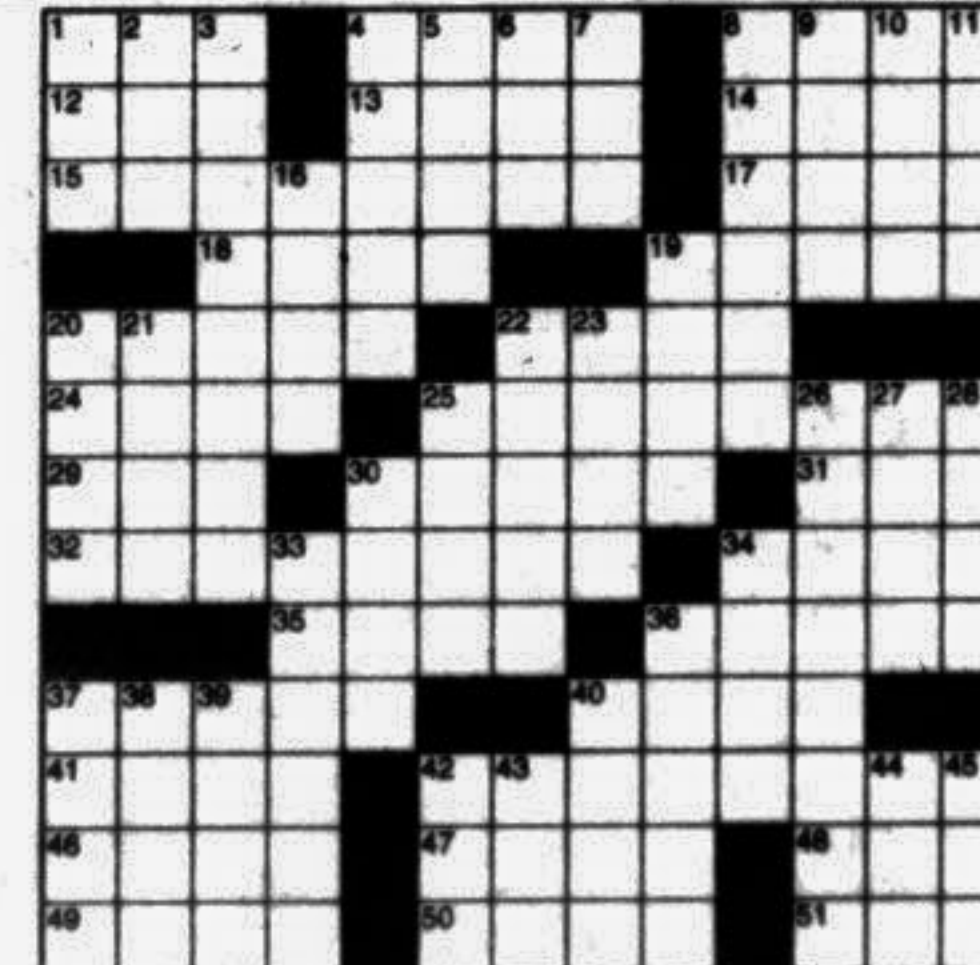
Set against these grim statistics, comes a young Brazilian earning a reported salary of 12,000 pounds (19,000 dollars) a week.

But as long as he brings Middlesbrough some success, no-one will begrudge Juninho his riches.

If one man can change that long history of underachievement, then the man in the number 25 shirt can.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Clappett, 4 Contents of a sock?, 8 Highway access, 12 Past, 13 "— Named structure Sue", 14 Islamic bigwig, 15 Legit, 17 Wheels of fortune?, 18 Gospels follow-up, 19 They often go out with sailors, 20 Microsoft, 27 adomd, 24 San — Obispo, Calif., 25 Inkeeper, 29 Simpson's judge, 30 Mongol tents, 31 Aries appellation, 32 Genially, 34 Injure severely, 35 Jungfrau et al.



CRYPTOQUIP: DPNZSIT DBEUIJ BI QOU NJE'LAUFE SQ'LPBTSFNP QONQ IBNOA DNSJL. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I GUESS THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR COUNTRY HAD HARDY CONSTITUTIONS. Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals P. 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.