

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT behind the iron curtain in the USSR, athletics was known as the 'queen of sports' and rugby as 'leather melon'.

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar

(India's ace batsman) 'It's not a question of whether I want to be captain or not. It's like whatever the country needs I'm ready to do.'

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN The rules are published every Saturday.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-15

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 1, 1995)

- 1. The World Cup cricket 1996 final will be held in... 2. Test cricketer Hanif Mohammad was born in...

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

Twose fined

NEW DELHI, Nov 27: Match referee Peter Burge fined New Zealand batsman Roger Twose half his match fee for using abusive language during the fifth one-day match against India on Sunday.

Burge announced the fine after a meeting with both team managements.

The left-hander, who was the non-striker when India's Sanjay Manjrekar took a catch on the boundary to send back Chris Cairns, became involved in an argument with the Indian fielders over the legality of the catch.

But Twose was outraged when Manjrekar told Shastri he had not touched the boundary rope while completing the catch.

According to Indian team manager Ajit Wadekar, Twose used foul language while talking to the Indian fielders and also called them 'cheats'.

Burge also fined the Indians five per cent of their match fees for not completing the 50-over quota in the allotted three and a half hours. They were also penalised by being allowed only 49 instead of 50 overs in which to chase New Zealand's 348 total.



COUPLE OF SOLID BATS: Mohammedan skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul (R) and Selim Shahed both of whom scored 88 runs apiece against Kalabagan yesterday leaving the ground after wrapping up the match.

Couple of fat ladies for MSC

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

MOHAMMEDAN SC: 255 for six (Aminul Islam 88, Selim Shahed 88, Ghulam Ali 30, Saiful 4/40). KALABAGAN KC: 177 all out in 49.1 overs (Saiful Islam 50, Wahidul Islam 30, Khaled Mahmud Sujon 3/28, Minhazul Abedin Nannu 2/22, Hasibul Hossain 2/47).



A 147-run partnership for the third wicket between skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul and Selim Shahed guided Mohammedan Sporting Club to a resounding 78-run win over Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the last second round league engagement of the 16th Damal Summer cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The victory of the black and whites avoided a pre-match clash of the two most crowd-pulling outfits - Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra.

With this win Mohammedans, who had earlier confirmed their semifinal berth along with Kalabagan from one group, will meet Brothers Union in the second semifinal tomorrow.

Kalabagan, who with this defeat finished second in the group, will be pitting against defending champions and top finishers from the other group Abahani Krira Chakra in the first semi, scheduled to commence at the big bowl from 9 am today.

On a bright and sunny morning after two days re-

cess due to inclement weather. Mohammedans, put into bat on a placid artificial wicket, amassed a commanding total of 255 for six in the stipulated 50 overs with one-down Selim Shahed and Aminul Islam Bulbul sharing an eventual match winning stand.

Bulbul, the stout national middle-order bat, who joined forces with Selim Shahed after Mohammedans were reduced to 58 for two in 17.5 overs, hammered a swash-buckling 88 off only 85 deliveries to propel his side to 203 in the 44th over.

The Mohammedan skipper clubbed four fours and a massive sixer over extra-coverage off-Wahedul during his breezy knock before left-arm spinner Sharfudowla-ibne Shahid Shakat, had him stumped 12 runs short of the elusive three figure mark.

On the otherhand, Selim Shahed also scored 88 in his patient but polished 128-ball stay at the crease. The stylish right-handed batsman, who reached his 50 off 101 balls, clouted three fours in his watchful innings before national right-arm seamer Saiful sneaked one through his defense.

Among the other notable Mohammedan wicket-takers were two Pakistanis, opener Ghulam Ali and a bearded Shahwat Mirza, contributed 30 and 21 not out respectively.

For the Kalabagan bowlers Saiful with four for 40 earned some sort of respect from a marauding Mohammedan attack.

In reply, Kalabagan, facing an uphill task of scoring

more than five runs per over, were almost heading for an ignominious defeat when they lost eight wickets for only 101 runs.

But a 66-run valiant stand between two new-ball bowlers, Saiful Islam and Zakir Hossain, aided by some injudicious captaincy on the part of Aminul Islam saved Kalabagan from a humiliating defeat. The vanquished eventually ended their innings with a respectable total of 177 before being all out with five balls to spare.

The defensive attitude of Mohammedans, even after they had restricted Kalabagan to 101 for eight, surprised the sizeable audience. Among the onlookers, English coach John Wilson, who was in the capital to provide training to local coaches, said 'I don't understand the need of two sweepers when a fielding side needed only two wickets with all the time in the world.'

Wilson, talking to the press after the match, while being critical about the captaincy, further added that the Mohammedans' skipper should have opted for an attacking field with a forward short-leg and silly mid-on to wrap up the match.

While commenting on the standard of our cricket, Wilson said 'The fielding is excellent, batting has improved a lot but the bowling department is less penetrative'. The jovial English coach, who appeared to have been shocked by the manner Selim Shahed dropped a simple catch at cover, added with a typical English humour, 'He looked at the sun as if it was never there before'.

Test status in a decade

Sports Reporter



'I see no reason why Bangladesh will not get Test status in the next ten years.'

This was stated by the visiting English cricket coach Harold Rhodes at a press briefing held at the Dhaka Stadium conference room yesterday.

The briefing was arranged by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) on completion of a six-day coaches training programme conducted by two foreign coaches, including Rhodes, made available by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the oldest and most respected cricketing authority in the world.

The two Englishmen - Rhodes, a former English Test player and currently coach of Derbyshire County Cricket Club, and John Wilson, an assistant coach of the MCC - trained 34 cricket coaches from across the country during their brief stay in Dhaka. All the local trainees successfully passed

the course. Talking to newsmen, the soft spoken Rhodes, who had earlier visited the capital in 1963 as a member of Richie Benaud's Commonwealth team, said that Bangladesh has tremendous cricketing potential and there is no shortage of skill among the locals.

But, he stressed that advanced coaching programmes should be taken up to exploit the talent and to groom top professionals. 'You should not stop right here with us. You should undertake many such schemes to ensure the proper development of cricket.'

Rhodes thanked BCCB on behalf of MCC for forwarding the invitation for their visit and for the cooperation they received during their stay.

Wilson, sporting a walrus moustache, lauded the enthusiasm with which the local coaches participated in the course. 'I was astonished to see the motivation of all the trainees - young and the veterans alike. They all passed without any favours.'

They are all quite competent.'

The chirpy blonde was quick to chip in with a comment about the ever deteriorating traffic situation of the city, adding in good humour, that he was shaken by his first experience on Dhaka roads.

Aminul Huq Moni, general secretary of BCCB, thanked both the coaches for making themselves available for the tour. He informed the press that this was the first time that local coaches were trained by foreigners.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, BCCB vice-president and chairman of the coaching committee, said that improving the standard of coaching and umpiring is essential to develop the infrastructure of cricket. He is hopeful that this brief but significant course will go a long way in developing local cricket.

Saber informed that a world class umpire will accompany the MCC team that is scheduled to visit the country next February.



English cricket coaches John Wilson (R) and Harold Rhodes (C) along with BCCB general secretary Aminul Haque Moni at a press briefing in the city yesterday.

Booters' second win

Sports Reporter

The touring Bangladesh national footballer, now in Malaysia as part of their preparation for the forthcoming SAF Games, swamped Champak Textile 4-1 in a friendly match on Monday.

Jewel Rana, Mizan, Naquib and Arman scored for the national side.

Bangladesh will play two more matches before returning home.

Atherton mends his ways

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 27: Punishing half centuries by Mike Atherton and Alec Stewart propelled England to a seven-wicket victory with nine overs to spare over Free State on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The England captain and vice-captain put on 116 for the first wicket in 21.1 overs to leave their teammates with the relatively easy task of overhauling Free State's modest 50-over total of 201 for eight.

Atherton was dropped on 29 and enjoyed another left-off two balls later when wicketkeeper Gerhardus Liebenberg was unsure whether he had caught a bottom edge before it bounced.

The England captain batted without blemish there after before pulling a long hop from Koele Venter to Hansie Cronje at mid-wicket. His 60 came from 73 balls with 10 fours.

Stewart opened up at the fall of Atherton's wicket, continuing the form that has made him the most consistent player on tour.

When he was finally caught down the leg-side with nine needed for victory he had scored 81 from 111 balls with 12 sweetly struck boundaries. He added 68 for the second wicket with Graeme Hick who made an assured 31.

Earlier, Free State had looked set for a sizeable score after reaching 106 for two in the 24th over.

But a middle-order collapse which saw then lose four wickets for 29 runs in 10 overs left them in danger of failing to bat out their 50 overs.

The off-spin of Mike Watkinson and Graeme Hick proved effective on a pitch which offered plenty of turn. Watkinson took three for 40 and Hick two for 27.

Donald raring to bowl

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 27: South Africa's strike bowler Allan Donald is fit and ready for the second Test against England which begins at the Wanderers on Thursday, reports Reuter.

He missed the three-day match between England and Free State with what was described as a tight groin. But Donald has been running in practice and believes he is ready for the challenge.

Donald said: 'I bowled for over an hour every morning in the nets during the three-day game and there's no soreness or stiffness in the muscle.'

'I'm going early to Johannesburg to have a technical session with Bob Woolmer and I'm looking forward to the Test,' he said on Sunday before leaving Bloemfontein.

'The Wanderers pitch will have more bounce in it than the one at Centurion Park. I like it there because the ball carries through much better than at other grounds. Also there's always a great atmosphere at the Wanderers and that will get my adrenalin pumping.'

Donald took two wickets for 92 runs in England's first innings in the first Test at Centurion Park in Pretoria 10 days ago. The last three days of the Test were lost to rain.

He bowled three overs of 25 runs in the one-day game at Springbok Park in which England beat Free State by seven wickets on Sunday, but England captain Mike Atherton refused to read anything into that performance.

Atherton said: 'There wasn't much in the pitch for the quicks, but the one at the Wanderers will suit Donald more than this one did.'

Atherton was happy with the one-day win, but wanted to put it into perspective. 'It's not that significant because we're about to go into a Test match. But having said that it's nice to win convincingly in any form of cricket.'

The England team had a rest day today before practising at Centurion Park on Tuesday morning.

Army athletics on

The annual athletic championship of the Bangladesh Army got underway at the Mirpur National Stadium here yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Rude wakening for prigs



NEW DELHI, Nov 27: Nagpur, where nine spectators died after a stadium wall collapsed during a one-day match between India and New Zealand on Sunday, may be taken off the list of next year's World Cup venues, officials said on Monday, reports agencies.

An official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said the Indian World Cup committee would now be compelled to scrutinise all the venues for safety.

Many cricket stadia in India are being upgraded for the World Cup limited-overs competition, with new stands being constructed.

Bombay and Bangalore are putting up additional facilities for the tournament, which will begin on February 14 and end on March 17, with 37 matches played in three countries - India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. India will stage 17 games.

The stadia in various parts of the country (India) are owned by respective state cricket associations or local sports and municipal bodies and their safety was taken for granted, the BCCI official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters.

The board has never scrutinised the safety aspect. The venues swell beyond the capacity permitted but as the matches are being hosted on behalf of the board by the affiliated associations, there is little the board can do.

'Only rarely the board has stepped in and acted on complaints. But now things might change for the better with a strict watch being kept on the security aspect.'

Former Indian Test captain Bishen Bedi said the board had never cared about the security of players or spectators.

'Most venues are overcrowded for international matches, with hordes of free-loaders gaining entry while the paying public is often herded together in an effort to maximise the gate collections,' Bedi said.

While in Nagpur, doctors battled Monday to save critically injured victims of the Nagpur cricket tragedy for which an official investigation has been ordered.

Vithal Mahadev Khare, a surgeon at the state-run Indira Gandhi Medical College General Hospital, said five of the 55 patients admitted there after the collapse were in critical condition.

'It was very difficult to treat the patients initially because thousands of friends, relatives and well-wishers crowded the hospital,' he told. 'Now we have streamlined operations a little bit.'

'We are doing every bit to treat the patients. Some colleagues have been working round-the-clock and the state government has offered us every help,' he said.

The stadium is to host a cricket World Cup match between West Indies and Zimbabwe early next year.

Some 40,000 people were at the match, in which New Zealand defeated India by 99 runs after running up a mammoth 348 for eight, the third-highest score in one-day internationals.

Many people who witnessed the accident shouted demands that the match be abandoned during the lunch interval, but a VCA official said, 'There would have been a riot if we had done that.'

The New Zealand and Indian players were not told of the deaths until after the match.

The government of Maharashtra state, of which Nagpur is winter capital, ordered an inquiry late Sunday. It is to give 50,000 rupees (1,500 dollars) to the family of each of the day and 5,000 rupees (156 dollars) each to the injured.

The VCA is also to give 50,000 rupees to the families of the dead and pay for the treatment of injured, according to its president Prabhakar Ramachandra Munde.

Press reports said the state-run Doodardshan Television network was unaware of the tragedy until late evening despite its live coverage of the game.

The channel was criticised for not mentioning the tragedy on its main evening news programme. But it said production was controlled by the US sports channel ESPN, which bought television rights to the series from the Board of Control for Cricket in India.



TIPUS

Scoring from corners

Scoring from corners

Corner-kicks offer fairly regular chances for the attacking side to combine the efforts of at least two players in creating relatively simple strikes on goal, most often with headers. It is rare for a team not to gain a handful of corners during a match, and the average is nearer ten. They provide another opportunity to use planned and well-rehearsed plays, and must, therefore, play a big part in the set-piece preparation and training of any side.

Like any form of tactical planning for attacking at a set piece, the corner is essentially a matter of playing to strengths, of making the most profitable use of the talent available in a team. If your side boasts of a powerful and accurate kicker of the ball and two or three tall players who are good in the air, it makes sense to base that planning on the longer

crosses to the far-post areas. If you have a player adept at timing his runs and getting in telling flicks at the near-post, it will pay off to practise different crosses to him in training. If it works, stay with it, variety on a tried and tested theme is far better than variety for its own sake.

If we look at the present Bangladesh national football team, we find only one good header in Imtiaz Ahmed Naquib. He has the attitude and aggression one needs to make contact with the ball in the air - in the goal area. But I feel sorry to say that we don't have any real good server in the present national team. Probably that is the reason coach Otto Pfister could not as yet use Naquib to the full.

In our football, the corner still means the longer ball for the most part, though the shorter versions are being used more frequently. Basi-

cally, the conventional corners break down into three broad types, based on the primary area at which the kick is aimed: the mid-goal area, the far post and the near post.

It is important that the positioning at corners is planned. Players should always be willing and able to react to changing situations, of course, to make intelligent runs where it matters, but they must have an organised base from which to operate. Spreading.

All players should have allocated roles, adjustable for whether the corner is from left to right, for which of them takes the kick, the conditions and so on. Again, it is worth emphasising that this is merely a framework, not a fixed 'formation.' Corners is a question of hitting areas rather than players - and men should make sure they get there.

Warne keeps all waiting



SYDNEY, Nov 27: Australia selectors named Shane Warne today in a 13-man squad for this week's third and final Test against Pakistan, only 10 days after the leg-spinner broke his toe, reports Reuter.

Warne, originally given little chance of playing has until Wednesday to prove his fitness for the Test starting the following day at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

He will have a fitness test at an official team practice in presence of a team doctor, team physiotherapist and Test selector Steve Bernard.

'Warne must convince those three people that he is fully fit to play in the Test,' the Australian Cricket Board said in a statement announcing the squad.

Australia lead the three Test series 2-0 after crushing



SHANE WARNE

victories over the tourists in Brisbane and Hobart.

Warne sustained a fracture to his left big toe when he was struck on the boot by a yorker from Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis while batting on the first day of the second Test in Hobart. He

took no further part in that match and has not played since.

Warne took 11 wickets in Australia's innings victory over Pakistan in the first Test in Brisbane.

If he is ruled out for the third Test, his place is likely to be taken by leg-spinner Peter McIntyre.

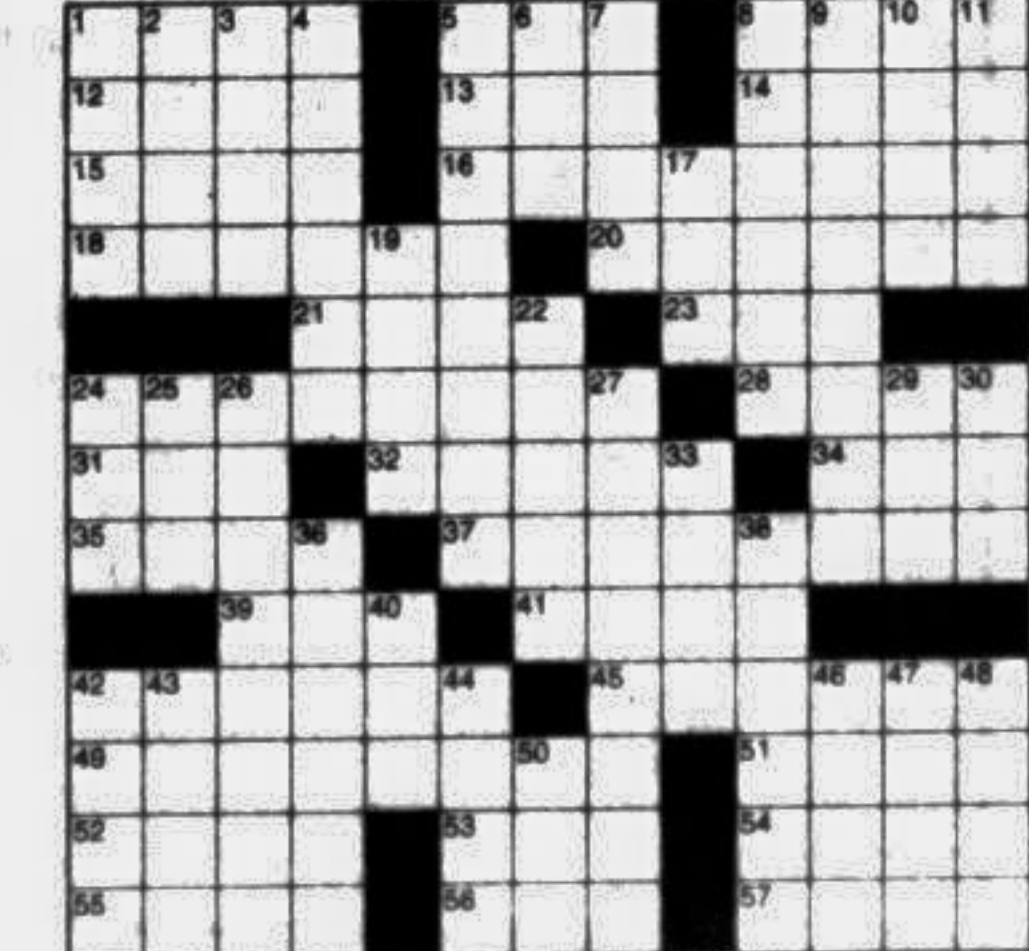
The South Australia bowler has been added to the squad, which otherwise remains unchanged from the first two Tests.

Pakistan, thrashed by eight wickets on Sunday with a day to spare in their four-day match against state side Victoria, are expected to give a late fitness test to middle order batsman Salim Malik.

The former Pakistan captain has not played since the first Test after cutting his hand while fielding during Australia's first innings in Brisbane.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 37 Some people gain a lot from them 1814 19 Beauty salon request 22 Ancient Egyptians 24 Flag 25 Actress Peeples 26 Coming as no surprise 27 Trickles 28 Jazz fan 30 Stammering sounds 33 Unrepaired 36 Fireplace tools 38 Box-office statistics 40 Postal Creed word 42 Paraphernalia 43 Montreal athletes 44 Reception problem 46 Fraternal fielder 47 'Zounds' 48 Young fellows 50 Reversal fear



CRYPTOQUIP

NCVLY HYO Y LVRVIN CETX MJ YN NCV GMOAR ONELV Y GYF VORVJXX HANC NCV T MNV

Saturday's Cryptoquip: 'BOY, I CAN HARDLY STAND READING ANY MORE VICTOR HUGO.' DIVERGENT WAS MISERABLY.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals C

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that K 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.