

Column One

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

That marathon commemorates the heroic activities of Pheidippides in 490 BC. History of ten fails to relate, however, that for at least part of the distance the dashing Greek hitched a lift on a goat. Inspired, no doubt, by this precedent, many modern marathon runners have also avoided themselves of alternative means of transport.

My problem is elsewhere. In these days, with so much traffic everywhere, it would be impossible to be as heroic as Pheidippides. I mean who would ride a goat when inter-district buses abound.

SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras

(World number one men's tennis player)

"I hope people appreciate the tennis I play. I'm not going to throw tantrums or act like a jerk out there. That's the way I was brought up and that's the way I will continue to be."

On the question whether he should change his playing style for further improvement.

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

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-17

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 15, 1995)

1. Who is the highest run accumulator in Test cricket?	Border	Conner	Mitand
2. What is the official name of the sixth cricket World Cup?	Don Bradman	Wah	
3. Who is the current French Open singles (men's) champion?	Bruguera	Muster	Sampras
4. Brazilian footballer Bebeto plays club football in	Spain	Holland	Italy
5. The 1997 ICC Trophy cricket tournament will be held in	Sharjah	Malaysia	Pji Island

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

US Olympians of history

NEW YORK, Dec 9: Former Olympians Dick Button, Tenley Albright, Blakely Bill, Cleary Jim, Craig Dorothy Hamill and Diann Roffe-Steinrotter were named on Thursday among the top 100 Olympic champions in history, reports Reuter.

Other former Olympic champions chosen by the USOC and the US Olympic Alumni Association were Andrea Mead Lawrence, Phil Mahre, Malvin Whitfield, Glen Davis, Dan Gabel, Lones Wigger, Sheila Young Ochowicz, Carol Heiss Jenkins, Dick Fosbury, J Michael Plumb, Charles Moore, Jack McCartan and Kristi Yamaguchi.

So far 60 former Olympians have been chosen for the 100 best list, and the rest will be named in the run up to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Button won the United States first gold medal in men's figure skating at St Mortiz in 1948 and repeated in 1952.

Blakely overcame childhood polio and a serious leg injury to become the first American woman to win the Olympic gold medal in figure skating in 1956.

Cleary led the United States to two hockey gold medals, and Craig was the goalie of the 1980 hockey team which defeated the Soviet Union at Lake Placid to win the gold.

Hamill won gold in women's figure skating in Innsbruck in 1976.

Akram antics stymie NZ



CHRISTCHURCH, H. New Zealand, Dec 9: Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq made the New Zealand bowling attack look second rate as they posted an 83-run partnership at a good speed to give Pakistan the edge on the second day of the Test at Christchurch, reports Reuter.

Pakistan ended the day at 138 for the loss of one wicket, 60 runs ahead of New Zealand with Ijaz not out 54 and Inzamam undefeated on 52 from 60 balls.

Fortunes in this match have seen-sawed, but the impetus swung back towards the tourists as Inzamam and Ijaz bludgeoned, caressed and generally demoralised the New Zealand bowling in a partnership of the highest quality.

They came together with the score at 55 after Amir Sohail was bowled by off-spinner Dipak Patel in the 23rd over for 30 and fellow opener Rameez Raja had left the field after being struck on the arm attempting to hook Danny Morrison.

Ijaz adopted the same attitude that netted him a century in the recent series against Australia. He played out the good balls and thumped the bad ones, often to the fence. He brought up his 50 with his ninth four, in 71 balls.

Inzamam used his prize-fighter physique, punching short balls from Morrison to the fence and using quick footwork to punish Patel when he dropped short. Neither offered a chance.

Sohail, who scored 88 in the first innings, looked in premium form and hit some slashing cover drives to the fence. He also took toll of some loose bowling by Patel.

But his instinct to attack was his demise. He tried to cut a straight ball from Patel that was too full a length for the shot and chopped the ball on to his stumps. Morrison lacked fire, Cairns was too short after picking up four wickets in the first innings and Dion Nash failed to find any life in the placid strip.

A devastating spell of bowling by Pakistan captain

Wasim Akram earlier restricted New Zealand's first innings lead to 78 runs as the hosts were dismissed for 286 just before tea.

Akram picked up five wickets for 53, the 20th time he has



AKRAM... 5 for 53

taken five or more wickets in a Test innings, to bring the New Zealand innings to a premature close.

New Zealand looked on course for a bigger lead after some aggressive batting from Chris Cairns, 76, and Roger Twose, 59.

Cairns played some brutal shots although he had two huge slices of good fortune in his innings. On 30, Rameez Raja dropped a simple lobbed chance at mid-on, and on 41 he was caught at first slip off an Ataur Rahman no ball.

Raja's mistake typified a shoddy Pakistan fielding display. Several misfields were so clumsy they drew laughter and jeers from the spectators.

Twose hit five boundaries in a disciplined innings but was out when he shuffled

across his stumps and missed a full Akram delivery to be trapped lbw. Akram then accounted for Lee Germon when he edged an out-swinging to wicketkeeper Rashid Latif.

Cairns played too late at an Akram in-swing that got through bat and pad to bowl him. The ball then quickly folded to Akram and Mush-taq.

Morrison was bowled by Mushtaq for his 24 Test duck, equalling the Test record.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Christchurch on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 208 (Amir Sohail 88, Rameez Raja 54, Chris Cairns 4-51)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (98-3 overnight)
Young c Latif b Rehman 16
Spearman b Mushtaq 40
Parore c Latif b Rehman 9
Fleming st Latif b Mushtaq 25
Twose lbw b Akram 59
Cairns b Akram 76
Germon c Latif b Akram 21
Patel c Sohail b Akram 3
Larsen not out 5
Nash c Latif b Akram 11
Morrison b Mushtaq 0
Extras (nb-17; lb-4) 21
Total (all out) 286

Fall of wickets: 1-48; 2-65; 3-73; 4-119; 5-221; 6-262; 7-265; 8-269; 9-283.

Bowling O M R W
Akram 24.5 4 53 5
Waqar 16 2 60 0
Rehman 17.1 4 47 2
Mushtaq 30.4 4 115 3
Sohail 3 0 7 0

PAKISTAN: Second innings
Sohail b Patel 30
Raja retired hurt 1
Ijaz not out 54
Inzamam not out 52
Extras (lb-1) 1
Total (for one wicket) 138

Fall of wicket: 1-55

To bat: Malik, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, W Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, W Younis, Ataur Rahman.

Bowling (to date) O M R W
Morrison 6 0 38 0
Nash 8 0 35 0
Cairns 7 1 27 0
Patel 9 0 33 1
Larsen 3 0 4 0

Umpires: Steve Dunne (New Zealand), BC Cooray (Sri Lanka); Third umpire: David Quesed (New Zealand).

Biman have the last laugh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman will take on Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final of Bjoy Dibash cricket tournament as the national flag-bearing airlines were declared winners of the second semifinal against Abahani KC which ended prematurely on Friday after the Dhamondi outfit refused to play in protest of a controversial decision against them.

This was decided yesterday evening by the tournament committee, after evaluating the report submitted by the match umpires. Dipu Roy Chowdhury and Akhteruddin Shaheen.

The verdict has gone in favour of Biman outfit as the Section 21, Sub-section (A) A (1), of the MCC Code-1980 clearly states that if any team refuse to play under the circumstances against the approval of the umpires will be declared as losers.

Bangladesh Biman, chasing 228 to win in allotted 80 overs, were 130 for four in 43.1 overs when the match came to a stalemate on Friday afternoon after umpire Dipu Roy Chowdhury consulting with leg umpire Shaheen revoked his decision over the out of well-set Biman batsman Shahnewaz Shahid Shanu, and Abahani declined to accept the impetus.

The two-day final between Mohammedans and Biman will be held on December 12 and 13 at the Dhaka Stadium.

The rates of tickets of different galleries for the final are: VIP (Gate No-1) - Tk 100; VIP (Gate No-3) - Tk 50; General Galleries (Gate Nos 2-4) - Tk 15.

SAF soccer format unresolved

MADRAS, Dec 9: The conflicting reports on the format adopted today for the football event in the 7th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games have left the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) in a quandary, with just nine days left for the commencement of the Games, reports PTI.

According to AIFF headquarters sources, a fax message from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) office in Malaysia yesterday had authorised them to adopt the round robin format, while AIFF president Priyaranjan Das Munshi, in a statement two days ago, had clarified that since Pakistan had withdrawn, the other two teams - India and Sri Lanka - would automatically play in the semifinals.

Before Pakistan's withdrawal, the six teams (including Pakistan) were drawn into two groups and the top two were to play in the semifinals.

The sources said the final position on the format would be decided only on Monday and the SAF Games organising committee would be accordingly advised after receipt of the clarification from AFC secretary-general Peter Velappan.

Forest return to Munich

LONDON, Dec 9: Nottingham Forest's UEFA Cup quarter-final draw with Bayern Munich on Friday had echoes of their previous European Champions' Cup final win 16 years ago, reports AFP.

The draw gave a March clash which brings Nottingham back to the Olympic Stadium where they beat Malmo to win the European Champions' Cup in 1979.

FIFA for cosy calendar



PARIS, Dec 9: World soccer's governing body FIFA is to take action to cut back on the ever-growing 'international calendar' to protect players from stress and injuries caused by too many matches.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter told Reuters on Friday: "We must attack the soul of our game."

Clearly pointing to television as one of the main causes of a mushrooming calendar, Blatter said: "There are too many competitions and the worst thing is that it tends to be the same players and the same clubs who are always involved."

"The top players are tired. They and the sport suffer. We have to take care of the players for the good of the game."

"There are ethical and moral considerations at stake. We must not put television cover first all the time."

Blatter pointed out that South American champions Gremio of Brazil were playing their 87th competitive match

of the year when they met European champions Ajax Amsterdam in Tokyo last week.

He said finding a solution would not be easy but he thought a limit of 18 clubs in national leagues, with a preference for 16, might be one step.

He said FIFA was also working to harmonise the international calendar so that players from all regions of the globe would play World Cup qualifying matches at the same time to facilitate release from their clubs.

"We have made some progress on this but it is not perfect yet," he said. "Ideally, we would like these matches to be played at weekends so players could be released after their club matches the previous weekend."

"But this idea is being resisted by two or three of the bigger European federations," Blatter, speaking before Tuesday's draw in Paris for the qualifying competition of the 1998 World Cup, said there would be no further changes in the rules of the game for the finals in France.

But he said FIFA was working towards reforms of the refereeing system with the idea of giving more responsibility to linesmen and to the fourth member of the team, the assessor in the main tribune.

He said he would like to see the assessor take over the timekeeping function with the linesmen promoted to assistant referees.

The four officials would be able to communicate by use of a beeper system, currently being tested in the Swiss First Division.

Blatter said both linesmen should be involved in each offside decision with one "beeping" the other when the ball is kicked forward to let the other concentrate on judging whether there is an offside position at that exact moment.

"We have told linesmen to keep their flags down when in doubt but there is a sort of instinct to raise their flags and too many mistakes are still being made," he said.

Blatter rejected criticisms voiced by the continental confederations, notably Europe's UEFA, of a lack of democracy in FIFA and the autocratic style of its president Joao Havelange.



Faisal Baji (L) of Algeria's Shabab Belouizdad club is about to shoot while a player from Kuwait's Kazma club looks on during an Arab Club Champions' Cup clash in Riyadh on Friday. Belouizdad won by a solitary goal. — AFP/UNB photo



English players wait at the crease for the new batsman to come in during a four-day match against Boland in Parl on Dec 8. — AFP/UNB photo

England ride on Russell



PAARL, South Africa, Dec 9: Jack Russell, hero alongside captain Mike Atherton in saving England from defeat in the second Test, carried on where he left off with a career-best 129 not out against provincial side Boland on Friday, reports Reuter.

Russell and tallender Richard Illingworth, who made an unbeaten 57, shared an unbroken ninth wicket partnership of 169 to take England to 402 for eight before captain Alec Stewart, deputising for Atherton, declared soon after lunch on the second day of the four-day match.

Boland were 129 for four at the close, with left-arm spinner Illingworth claiming two of the wickets.

But England suffered a setback when pace bowler Darren Gough, fighting to retain his Test place, suffered a hamstring injury and left the field after sending down just 3.4 overs.

Gough walked gingerly from the field but, according to England assistant manager John Barclay, the injury may not be as serious as it appeared.

"Darren has a very tight hamstring on his right leg. It doesn't seem to be torn or stretched... it's just very tight. We hope we are just taking a precaution but we can't be sure whether he will take any further part in this game."

England physiotherapist Wayne Morton said later Gough was also troubled by a cramp behind his right knee but was unable to be sure of the seriousness of the injury.

Russell, who batted for 276 minutes in scoring 29 runs in helping Atherton save the second Test against



RUSSELL... 129 n.o

South Africa at the Wanderers, has now spent eight minutes short of 24 hours at the crease in first-class matches on the tour, amassing 471 runs at an average of 94.2.

The England wicket-keeper ignored most deliveries wide of the stumps, often at the last minute, and stoutly defended for long periods before bursting into life with an occasional pull or cover drive.

His fifth first-class century, reached in the over before lunch, came from 262 deliveries and he went on to surpass the unbeaten 128 he made for England against Australia at Old Trafford in 1989.

Russell batted for a total of 346 minutes and hit just seven boundaries and one six.

Illingworth overcame a painfully slow start, during which he scored 13 runs from 101 deliveries, to hit his unbeaten 57 from 169 balls with four boundaries.

Seamer Peter Martin then removed opener Brian Baguley via a catch at third slip by Mike Watkinson before left-arm spinner Illingworth bowled Lloyd Ferreira for 35 and had Terence Lazard stumped by Russell for 37.

Off-spinner Watkinson then turned a delivery just enough to pop an inside edge into John Crawley's hands at short leg to remove Kenny Jackson for 29 and England finished the day in comfortable control of the match.

Havelange's words of hope



PARIS, Dec 9: International Football Federation (FIFA) president Joao Havelange says Nigeria may be awarded the World under-20 championships in 1997 next Monday in spite of a European Union call for a sports boycott of the West African country, reports AFP.

"The European Union is made up of 12 countries. I have 193 national associations affiliated to FIFA," said the 79-year-old Brazilian apparently unaware there are now 15 EU member states.

EU foreign ministers agreed on the boycott on Monday as punishment for Nigeria last month executing nine community workers, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, last month.

"FIFA has always abided by United Nations resolutions concerning Iran, Iraq or former Yugoslavia, for example," Havelange said. "If the

UN decides on a boycott of Nigeria OK we'll follow it."

"It's not up to me or FIFA to judge the facts in this case, insisted Havelange who visited Nigeria while the executions were being carried out to try to patch up differences arising from FIFA's decision to switch this year's under-20 championship from Nigeria to Qatar because of fears of an epidemic."

Havelange said he went out of politeness because he had been invited by the Nigerian President. He has to persuade Asian Football Confederation president Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah also president of the Malaysian Football Association, to forego the 1997 championships which have already been awarded to Malaysia.

Havelange's decision to go ahead with the 1998 World Cup draw next Tuesday brought him once again into conflict with European Football Union (UEFA) president Lennart Johansson.

The Swede declared candidate to replace Havelange as FIFA president in 1998, had said on Monday the transport workers' strike paralysing Paris made the ceremony impractical.

"I don't get involved with internal problems of a country," Havelange said from his room on the 25th floor of a hotel looking down the Champs Elysees.

He said Johansson had rushed into a statement he was not authorised to make.

"There is an emergency committee to deal with problems of this sort," he said.

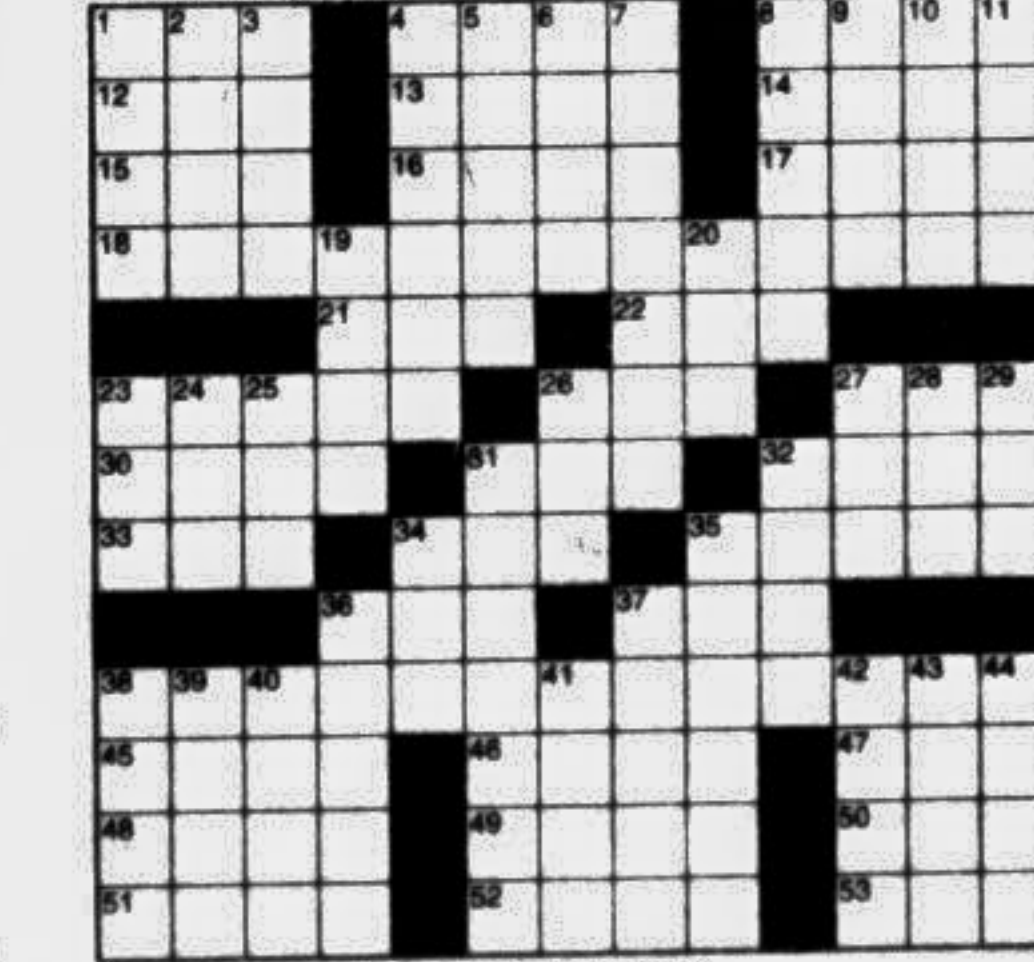
The French federation had assured Havelange their plans would not be disrupted.

Havelange in the middle of a power struggle with UEFA which wants the continental federations to have a bigger say in running football, denied he was a dictator.

"Contrary to what is said of me in Europe, I'm not a dictator, but a decider," said the Brazilian who has run world football since 1974.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 JFK's 109
4 Put your hands together
6 Served perfectly
12 Backtalk
13 Opening in 46 The turn of the record industry?
14 Post
15 Teasdale
16 Raw rocks
16 Ayatollah
17 Heal, oostally
18 Half a phrase on the lunar plaque
21 Chape
22 Rucor
24 Acclaim
26 B&B
27 Terrific
30 Sacred bird of Egypt
31 One of TV's "Animaniacs" trio
32 "Star Wars" trilogy
33 Pinch
34 Zero-star review
35 Deceive
36 1940s headline event
37 Singer
38 Follow-up to 18
40 Othello's foe
41 Anderson's "High-"
42 Sko
43 "Hollywood Squares"
44 Pitching stat.
45 A rather low joint
46 Pleased
47 Solution time: 23 mins.
53 Publication, ment
54 For short
55 DOWN
1 Post-biz-zard aid
2 Wear out
3 Some homes are built on it
4 They leave a ringing in your ears
5 Sully
6 Jai follower
7 Dorn-wall decoration
8 Sent out invitations
9 Water-into wine locale
10 News-caster
11 Appoint-ment
12 Product of haste
13 "Carta"
14 "Columbo" star
15 Yoked duo
16 Wide-spread
17 Post
18 Couple, to gossip
19 Columnists
20 Summer-time cooler
21 Compartment
22 Honey
23 Athlete
24 Chum
25 Traveled a Havelange
26 Product of haste
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28 "Columbo" star
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44 Wide-spread
45 Post
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48 Summer-time cooler
49 Compartment
50 Honey
51 Athlete
52 Chum
53 Traveled a Havelange
54 Product of haste
55 "Carta"



CRYPTOQUIP
K R J Y I S O I K W U I W
T N I Y W G Y I E E K I S K
W N J P T Z W Z W I Y U Z N G O
O G P T E K I W J W R N

Yesterday's Cryptogram: SOME GIRLS GET ORCHIDS, LILACS AND DAFFODILS. OTHERS GET FORGET-ME-NOTES.

Today's Cryptogram clue: T equals P. 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.