

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT, although appearing rather boring to onlookers, golf is very interesting to golfers. And, I believe their enjoyment is more from talking about the game, exchanging stories and spinning yarns than from playing it.

Here goes one: A novice golfer used to play very early in the morning with no club member around. One day an elderly person also arrived early and inquired if he could join the youngster.

The novice was doing very badly. But, the old man noticed that he visited his bag after each stroke.

"Why do you do that?" asked the elder.

Every time I play a stroked take out a penny from my bag and put it into my pocket," the youth replied.

"Young man, you will be a millionaire in a few years time."

SPORTS TALK



Graham Gooch (Former England cricket captain)

"Captaincy is a good job, but the axe could be just round the corner!" On the pressures of captaincy.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-18

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 23, 1995)

- 1. Which is the highest individual score in an one day international? 181 185 189
2. Who are the current Blyth Dibaah cricket champions? Abahant Brothers Bimam
3. How many teams will compete in the 96 European soccer championships finals? 12 14 16
4. New Zealand Test all-rounder Chris Cairns is the son of Test paceman Cairns. Lancer Vance Hance
5. The 1984 Summer Olympics was held in Las Vegas Los Angeles Dallas

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

Rohan off to Jakarta

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national under-14 tennis champion Nadeem Kamran Khan Rohan left the country for Jakarta yesterday to take part in the first leg of East Asian under-14 tennis circuit to be held in the Indonesian city of Bandoong from December 21, says a press release.

Rohan qualified for the meet from central Asian zone along with eight other under-14 players which includes two girls. The selection was done based on their results in the central Asian under-14 tennis circuit which concluded early this month.

After the first leg in Bandoong, Rohan will also join the second and third legs which will be held in Singapore and Brunet from December 26-31.

International Tennis Federation (ITF) is bearing all the expenses of the nine players.

The following nine players from central Asia will participate in the East Asian U-14 circuit: Boys: Nadeem Kamran Khan Rohan (Bangladesh), Izaz Ahmed, Nomi Kamar (Pakistan), MA Salman, Kamala Khannan (India), Abdulrah Bawadekee (Syria) and Sillam Sikov (Uzbekistan) Girls: Radhika Tulpule and Roofi Dhawan (India).

WI branded as worst



MELBOURNE, Dec 18: West Indies captain Richie Richardson described his side's current form today as the worst he could recall since his arrival in international cricket.

Richardson has witnessed an alarming slump over recent weeks, culminating in West Indies' record 121-run limited overs defeat in a World Series match against Australia on Sunday.

"I've never seen it before. I've seen us have one or two bad matches but never four in a row," Richardson said.

"Our problem is we've got players who are capable, but who have to find form," Richardson told reporters in Melbourne, the venue for Tuesday's World Series fixture against Australia.

"We've just got to get one score. If we get one score and get our confidence back, the slump in form could be over," Richardson said.

But Richardson appeared to rule out sweeping team changes for Tuesday's encounter with Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"I don't think a change in the team will solve our problem," he said, adding: "The spirit is good because we're better than what we're showing, and we've just got to turn things around."

Australia's media feasted over the West Indies' recent decline on Monday with the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper describing the tourists as the "worst Windies."

The performance of the former world champions attracted widespread criticism and analysis after Sunday's 121-run defeat in the World Series triangular tournament which also involves Sri Lanka.

The West Indies, who have not won a match since their arrival here at the beginning of the month, were trying to re-group today for the third match in the tournament against Australia in Melbourne on Tuesday.

Sunday's loss followed a four-wicket defeat by the Sri Lankans on Friday in the tournament opener and came at the end of a week that had seen them thrashed in a warm-up match by the youngsters of the Australian Cricket Academy.

Sunday's stunning defeat dominated the sport pages of all the Australian dailies. The Sydney Morning Herald ran its report under the banner headline "The Worst Windies."

Blighted by the last-minute withdrawal of the world's best batsman, Brian Lara, from the touring party, West Indies have so far been unable to halt a disastrous slide.

Lara's name hung like a pall over the team, with the Herald commenting, "The name of Brian Lara screamed out in the silence."

"If the West Indies were unhappy with him in the side they are hapless without him," the paper said.

While efforts continued in the West Indies to convince Lara to make himself available for February's World Cup, Captain Richie Richardson said today Lara would not be recalled for the rest of the Australian tour.

While noting the exuberance of the young Australians as they dominated a team down on its luck, respected



RICHIE RICHARDSON

trouble. Yet the line between fortune and disaster is usually thinner than it seems."

Roebuck also noted that Jimmy Adams a year ago had been ranked the best cricketer in the world.

"Undoubtedly the West Indies thought, a year ago, that they could depend on Jimmy Adams for many years to come... now he has sunk into a state of utter confusion."

Adams was dismissed by New Australian cap Shane Lee for 20. Lee had earlier smashed 39 off 27 balls in a sparkling 63-run partnership with Michael Bevan in barely half an hour.

The dynamic performance of Lee and Bevan drew warm praise and prompted specu-

lation about the start of a new Australian cricket dynasty. Others condemned what Sydney's Telegraph Mirror described as the "Woeful West Indies."

Australia looked "very bit heavyweight champions of the world while the wobbly Windies looked capable of being knocked over by a sea breeze," the paper said.

"Yesterday's Buster Mathis-Mike Tyson bout seemed an even contest compared to the cricket at Adelaide Oval," it added.

The Australian players were less strident with captain Mark Taylor warning that the West Indies were only one good individual innings away from being competitive.

But Richie Richardson did not seem too have an answer to this team's problems. "We're not really batting, from the captain to the cook," he said.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Bevan, Ian Healy, Shane Lee, Mike Kasprovicz, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Stuart Law, Ricky Ponting, Michael Slater, Mark Waugh, Shane Warne.

WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Browne, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Shervin Campbell, Roger Harper, Carl Hooper, Phill Simmons, Courtney Walsh, Stuart Williams.

Acme Div II results

Sports Reporter

Amariyoti Club, Nabin Sangha and Kakrail Boys Club won their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league yesterday at different city venues.

Amariyoti Club recorded a massive 83-run victory over Mill Barrack Cricket Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Electing to bat after winning the toss, Amariyoti scored a modest 156 for eight in their allotted 40 overs which included a brilliant half-century from middle order batsman A Mahmud Tapu. He hit three boundaries and a big six in his unbeaten innings of 51 runs off 87 balls.

A Alam Babu was the other leading Amariyoti batsman scoring a valuable 25 off 26 balls.

Rommel got three wickets for Mill Barrack conceding 43 runs while his teammates Munna and Bari earned two wickets each.

In reply, Mill Barrack were all out in 29.4 overs for a poor 73. Only two batsmen - Romel (23) and Bari (12) - were successful in reaching double figures.

Alam Babu and Ebadul were the men behind the destruction of Mill Barrack claiming three wickets, each, conceding 12 and 25 runs respectively.

BRIEF SCORES Amariyoti Club: 156 for eight in 40 overs (Tapu 51, not out, Babu 25, Ashraf 12; Romel 3/43, Munna 2/20, Bari 2/24).

Mill Barrack CC: 73 in 29.4 overs (Rommel 23, Bari 12; Babu 3/12, Ebadul 3/25). Nabin Sangha beat Lalbagh

Union Sporting Club by 54 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Put in to bat Nabin Sangha piled up a huge 218 in 40 overs which featured a magnificent 61 from opener Ahsan Habib. He fired five boundaries in his 83-ball innings before being caught by Matin off a Haider delivery in the 30th over.

Besides, Abdullah Mahmud added 37 runs to Nabin Sangha account facing only 40 balls.

Zahiruddin of Lalbagh grabbed three wickets giving away 38 runs in seven overs while Sohag took two for 36.

Set to score 219 Lalbagh were dismissed for 164 in the 38th over.

Haider (35) and Sayeedur Rahman (32) were the notable scorers for Lalbagh.

Nabin Sangha bowlers Anwar and Shantonu claimed three wickets apiece conceding 21 and 30 runs respectively.

BRIEF SCORES Nabin Sangha: 218 in 40 overs (Ahsan 61, Abdullah 37; Zahir 3/38, Sohag 2/36). Lalbagh Union SC: 164 in 37.1 overs (Haider 35, Sayeed 32; Anwar 3/21, Shantonu 3/30).

In the day's other match, Kakrail Boys defeated Shantinagar 'A' by 31 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Batting first Kakrail Boys scored 150 runs in 38.2 overs and then bunted out their counterparts for a paltry 119 in 34.2 overs.

BRIEF SCORES Kakrail Boys: 150 in 38.2 overs (Siddique 22, Faisal 22, Ripon 4/28, Sujon 2/14, Babu 2/22). Shantinagar 'A' 119 in 34.2 overs (Saiful 19, Ripon 18, Ratan 4/34, Mizan 3/14).

SAF Games fixtures

Al-Amin from Madras

Dec 19: Basketball: Venue: Jayalalitha Indoor Sports Complex

India vs Bangladesh 3 pm Football: Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

Nepal vs Maldives 4:30 pm Kabaddi: Venue: Nehru Park Sports Complex

India vs Nepal 7 pm Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka 8:15 pm

Shooting: Venue: Veerapuram Range Training

Judo (Indoor) 71kg (final) Table Tennis: Venue: Indoor Hall

Men and women's team event Tennis: Venue: Nungavakkam Tennis Complex



Team events (men and women's)

Dec 20: Athletics: Venue: J Nehru Stadium

Discus throw (Women) final; Shot put (men) final; Triple Jump (men) final; High Jump (women) final

800 metres (women) final Basketball: Bangladesh vs Pakistan 3 pm, India vs Sri Lanka 4:30pm

Judo: 86kg (final) Kabaddi: India vs Sri Lanka 10 am, Pak vs Nepal 7 pm

India vs Bangladesh 8:15 pm Shooting: Training

Table Tennis: Men's team (semifinal); men's team (position match)

Tennis: Team event men & women 8:30 pm; Individual men and women 14:00

Swimming: 50-m freestyle (final) 3:30 pm (Aquatic Complex) 100-m butterfly (final) 3:50 pm; 200-m backstroke (final) 4:10 pm; 4X200m relay (final) 4:30 pm, (all are men's events)

Shahbaz feels fine at the hostile house

MADRAS, India, Dec 18: Pakistan's world champion hockey team sees no threat to its safety during their first visit to India in six years for the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games here, reports AFP.

"It's like coming home," skipper Shahbaz Ahmed said today, as the Pakistanis began their first training session amidst tight security at the Radhakrishnan Stadium here.

The Pakistani team, which last played in India during the Asia Cup in New Delhi in November, 1989, is expected to add a touch of class to the biennial Games.

Hosts India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives will join Pakistan in competing for 285 gold medals in 14 disciplines, after Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao opens the 10-day event tonight.

"All the tension that was there before we boarded the plane in Pakistan vanished as soon as we landed here," said Shahbaz, the flag-bearer of the 200-strong Pakistan contingent here.

"The people here are so happy to see us. My wife was really scared before we are here and asked me not to go out of the village alone. But such fears seem out of place," he said.

The India-Pakistan hockey clash on December 26 is being billed as the showpiece of the Games, being organised by the host state government of Tamil Nadu.

BAF sports

The Annual inter-base athletic championship of the Bangladesh Air Force began at the BAF sports complex, Kurmitola here yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

About 200 athletes of different bases and units are taking part in the three-day meet.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Shahed Smriti cricket tournament: (Final): Venue: City Club ground, Mirpur

Gopbagn FA vs Ajax SC Acme Second Division cricket league: Nirman Eleven vs Azad Boys Club (MOS)

Western SC vs Kathalagan GCC (DCS) Azad SC vs Lancashire CA (DCG)



Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao (2nd from L) enjoys the inaugural ceremony of the seventh SAF Games which began at Madras yesterday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha (extreme L) is also seen. - TV photo by A KM Mohsin

Wet weather worries all

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 18: England's next match may be moved to avoid the wet weather that has plagued their tour and caused the third Test against South Africa to be abandoned today after the last two days were washed out, reports Reuter.

Team manager Ray Illingworth has raised the possibility of shifting England's three-day game against a tertiary institutes XI which is due to begin in Pietermaritzburg on Wednesday to another venue if the bad weather continues.

"We were looking to play our probable Test side in Pietermaritzburg but that's looking very dodgy now," Illingworth said.

The match against the institutes side is England's only fixture before the fourth Test starting in Port Elizabeth on December 26.

"We really need to play some cricket somewhere and we may have to consider the possibility of going down to

Port Elizabeth early." Illingworth added.

Today, the road between Durban and Pietermaritzburg was closed due to the rain. The pitch at the Jan Smuts Stadium in Pietermaritzburg is waterlogged and no play will be possible there on Wednesday.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board (UCB) said he was sympathetic to England's plight and that the matter would be discussed fully.

"We will do everything in our power to make sure that England get some cricket where ever that might be," he said.

"I have asked Cassim Doerat (president of the Natal Cricket Union) to get a full report on the pitch and on the weather outlook and once we are fully familiar with the situation then we can talk to Ray about what to do. We certainly want to accommodate them."

The bad weather has effectively reduced the five-Test series to a three-match affair after rain ruined the

first and third Tests. Sandwiched between those drawn games was a draw in the second Test in Johannesburg where captain Mike Atherton saved England with his 10-hour 185 not out.

In Pretoria, the last three days of the opening Test were washed out and in third Test here only 47 balls were bowled after the first two days. England making 152 for five in reply to South Africa's first innings of 225.

Talking about the little cricket that was played in Durban, Illingworth again expressed dismay at the performance of the England batsmen.

"It's very disappointing to see batsmen get in and then get out. Any batsman can get out for a low score but when they are getting to 30 or 40 then you expect them to push on for the big score."

"Really, you don't expect England batsmen to get out to some of the shots that they have played."

With John Crawley definitely out of the fourth Test line-up with his hamstring injury, Illingworth did not rule out the possibility of including Lancashire opener Jason Gallian, who has been called up from the England A tour in Pakistan and is due to arrive here on Tuesday.

"There are all sorts of possibilities but there's every chance that we will play three openers in Port Elizabeth," said Illingworth.

South African captain Hansie Cronje said: "It looked like a result was on the cards after the first two days here and you wouldn't have expected it to be 0-0 after three Tests."

"But I think we'll get results in other Tests. They are both good batting wickets and if your bowlers use the ball well you can put the other side under a bit of pressure."

"With everything to play for I think it will be an exciting last two Tests for the crowds over Christmas and new year."

The South Africa's selectors today named 18-year-old left-arm wrist-spinner Paul Adams in a squad of 13 from which they will choose the teams for the last two Tests against England.

The fourth Test is in Port Elizabeth from December 26-30 the fifth in Cape Town from January 2-6.

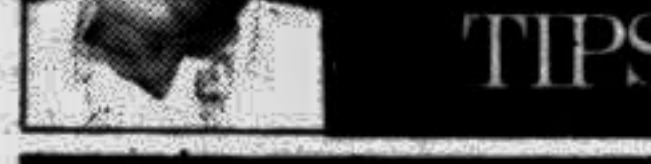
SQUAD

Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje (captain), Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Jacques Kallis, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Shaun Pollock, Craig Matthews, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, Nicky Boje.



South African pacer Craig Matthews explains what he really did with the ball at a press conference after being cleared of the ball-tampering allegation on Dec 17. Matthews was alleged to have tampered with the ball during the third day of the third Test against England in Durban. - AFP/UNB photo

TIPUS Tuesday TIPS Fear in the mind



Confidence in meeting the physical challenge of speed, strength and endurance.

Just as there is a fear in the minds of some players that they are likely to get kicked out of the game so there is a fear in the minds of others that they are likely to get run off their feet. This fear is born of doubts concerning their own fitness. When a player really is 100% fit he never doubts that he can stay the course. He never thinks twice about whether he should chase this player or that pass. No player in our football stands out as a better example of this quality than late Gaz Nabi Bhai. His performance for Dhaka white in the National Championship in 1957, in terms of his confidence in his speed, strength and endurance to overcome all opponents was remarkable. But this quality is not only physical. Indeed in squeezing out the last vital ounce of effort it is entirely mental. At this stage the mind must force the body to continue when the body reacts to fatigue and pain may persuade the player to stop.

This quality then is the confidence of a player who not only knows that he is

100% fit but who also knows that he has the mental toughness to exploit that asset to the full.

Confidence in one's ability to perform one's allotted task.

Players may not always know what they are good at. Invariably, however, players know what they are bad at. Players may not always know which is their best position but they know the positions and the areas of the field where they feel uncomfortable. A player who is selected to play in a position or given a task to perform in which he does not feel comfortable will lack confidence and therefore, will not perform well.

The first task of a manager or coach is to get the best out of each player as an individual. That means that for as much of the game as possible each player should be performing the skills he is best at in the areas of the field in which he feels most comfortable. It goes almost without saying that a manager or coach who fails to get the best out of the players as individuals has no chance of getting the best out of the players as a team. When players are selected for a particu-

lar position, and when they are given instructions in the specific tasks they have to perform, they should feel that the job has been absolutely tailor made for them. If this is so when they will approach their task in a mental state of maximum confidence.

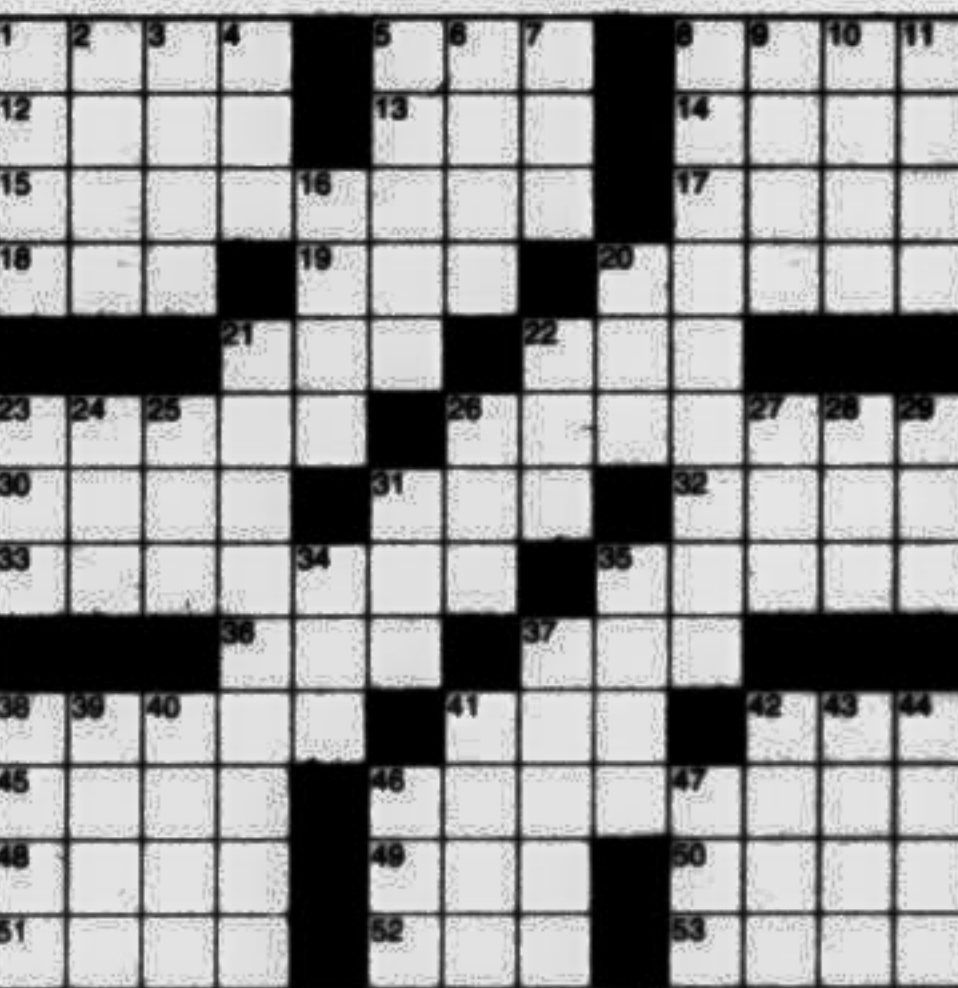
Confidence that the team method represents the best chance of winning.

Players must believe as a team that the manner in which they are going to play represents their best chance of winning. If this is not so, then the team will not only play with less confidence but the way is clear for recrimination if a result is not achieved.

To get the best out of players as a team their assets must be coordinated. Teams need to be agreed upon how that is going to be done because that determines the method. It is important that players should understand what is required and why it is required. Without understanding there can be no agreement. Where there is full understanding and total agreement team confidence will be at its highest and a positive attitude will result.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Aladdin had one... 8 Pronoun of yore... 12 Remark of understanding... 13 C... 14 Grand... 15 Weak... 17 Adversary... 18 Charitic... 19 Cast a spell on... 20 Tending to overact... 21 Turf... 22 Maxilla... 23 Michelangelo master-piece... 26 It gets wrapped in ribbons... 31 Slow-moving boat... 32 Theater award... 33 Khulu's construction... 35 Motion... picture contents DOWN 1 Call a spade a spade... 2 Spot of wine?... 3 Unadorned... 4 Cause of royal... 5 Ran the stopwatch... 6 Major practical joke... 7 Thither... 8 Unofficial... 9 "A mouse" for man... 10 Linguist... 11 With suitability... 16 Plug stopper?... 20 Mare's munch... 21 Assistant foreman... 22 Poke... 23 Weasel's sound... 24 Driver's League... 25 Always... 26 Label... 27 Sapporo sash... 28 Driver's... 29 "A mouse" for man... 31 Cravat... 34 Larry's pal... 35 Dog bane... 37 Ernations... 38 Satisfy fully... 39 Contemporary singer... 40 Portent... 41 Period... 42 Bum... 43 Contemptible... 44 Leftovers recipe... 46 Dallas sch... 47 Symbol of intrigue



CRYPTOQUIP P A V G E O M V T D W T H K J W F W G E W R P G K H J A K K V R E A T V F W U V J S V U A H J S G T D A L G M V J L L O A L Yesterday's Cryptiquip: A NERVOUS ELECTRICIAN WILL ALWAYS WORRY OVER CURRENT EVENTS. Today's Cryptiquip clue: G equals U

The Cryptiquip 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.