

Column One

DID U KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the use of drugs in sport goes back to Ancient Greece. There are reports that some of the more unscrupulous athletes would consume large quantities of goat meat before competitions to give them an extra burst of energy — a practice much frowned on at the time.

Now did not your teachers tell you in school that history was a very important subject? I don't know whether Ben Johnson went to school or not. But, he has no regard for the past. All he had to do at the 1988 Olympics was eat lots of goat meat: no one would suspect a thing. And, he would still have the 100m gold. Stupid goat!

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-22

✓ Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 19, 1996)

1. The length of a badminton court is (in feet)	44	45	46
2. How many judges in Olympic diving competition?	Three	Five	Seven
3. The legendary marathoner Abebe Bikila was from	Tanana	Ethiopia	Kenya
4. How many events in Olympic decathlon	Five	Ten	Twelve
5. The first Bangladeshi to win SAF 100 metres sprint was	Bimal	Shah Alam	Ambar

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

SPORTS TALK



Ruud Gullit

(Dutch soccer superstar) "Football is like a car. You have got five gears and the trouble with English teams is that they drive all the time in fifth and fourth."

Criticising the English style of play.

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Western Cricket Club, Kathalbagan Cricket Club and Nirman Eleven won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held on Tuesday.

Western defeated Dhamondi Progoti Sangha by 15 runs at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium while Kathalbagan recorded a marginal one-wicket victory over Millbarack Cricket Club at the Dhamondi Club ground.

In the day's remaining match at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Nirman Eleven beat Shantinagar 'A' also by one wicket.

BRIEF SCORES

WESTERN SC: 171 in 37.4 overs (Shimul 44, Biju 24, Arif 3/32)

DHAMONDI PS: 156 in 39.3 overs (Habib 30, Rana 28, Rabbu 5/26)

Result: Western SC won by 15 runs.

MILLBARACK CC: 189 for six in 40 overs (Shahbuddin 66 not out, Maksud 30, M Ali 26, Farid 3/36)

KATHALBAGAN CC: 190 for nine in 37.4 overs (Marukul Islam 35, Babla 32, Nazib 4/36)

Result: Kathalbagan CC won by one wicket.

SHANTINAGAR 'A': 148 for eight in 40 overs (Bulbul 25, Amtoo 22 not out, Khokon 2/28)

NIRMAN ELEVEN: 149' for nine in 38.2 overs (Sajal 39, Firoze 22, Babu 4/31)

Result: Nirman XI won by one wicket.

Chetan digs Abahani grave

BRIEF SCORES

ABAHANI KC: 287 for five in 50 overs (Liton 86, Monjur Akhter 90)

VICTORIA SC: 289 for seven in 50 overs (Chetan Sharma 120 n. o. Shanto 47)

An impudent unbeaten 120 by former Indian Test cap Chetan Sharma helped Victoria to overhaul a mammoth Abahani total enroute to an improbable win over the joint holders in a Premier cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the high-voltage drama, of such magnificence as never experienced before in Dhaka cricket, Chetan Sharma plundered an apparently unattainable 20 runs from the last five balls of the innings to enable Victoria a memorable victory. The somersault of events understandably sunk Abahani, one of the two most crowdpulling outfitts in the country, into deep ravines of despair.

Chetan, who was out to prove a cricketing battle never comes to an end till the last ball has been played, made the most of Abahani's shaky left-arm seamer Jahanir Dulu to turn the table around for an intriguing finish.

In an eventful last over, the bearded all-rounder chose to intentionally sacrifice his partner Tanveer Ahmed Timir, run out while chasing for an easy two, to take strike of the last five balls.

The ploy did the trick as Chetan sent the second delivery from Dulu for four through the long-off boundary. He then struck a savage straight drive followed by a massive sixer over wildish long-on leaving Victoria six runs short of the target with two balls to go.

However, Dulu brought a sigh of relief in the horrified Abahani camp when he bowled the penultimate ball right into the block-hole of a marauding Chetan refraining the latter from taking any run.

But then Dulu literally threw the match away when the hot-headed former national new-ball bowler delivered the last ball of the innings — a no ball declared by umpire Shakuntala Rahman Chinu for over stepping — allowing Chetan to score two runs — a mistimed pull down the third man — and an extra ball for a four to win the cliffhanger.

Chetan did it in style when he dug the full length ball across the square-leg boundary. And as a robust Mohammad Ali was running in vain to cut it off, Chetan choreographed Victoria's rapturous jubilation.

"It is a great day for me. Although I played for my country for a long time but I

The decision prompted a

clulsion when he failed to connect the last three deliveries of Rahat in the penultimate over of the innings.

"But when I hit (Dulu) for a six in the last over it suddenly came to me that there was still a chance. And when the Abahani bowler bowled a 'no ball' it became easier for me to hit the last ball for a four," gasped a beaming Chetan.

Chetan's cameo 95-ball 120, the league's ninth ton this season, overshadowed two brilliant knocks from Abahani's opener Harun-ur-Rashid Liton and Monjur Akhter who hammered 86 and 90 respectively to propel their side to a commanding total of 287 for six in the allotted 50 overs.

The eventual match was also marked by controversies during Victoria's innings when Chinu, one of the two officials in the middle, revoked his signal of a six and called two following an appeal from Liton, whose right foot went over the boundary line while attempting to cling on to a difficult catch offered by Chetan at long-on and claimed that he dropped the ball inside before crossing the line.

No matches will be held today due to the day-long hartal called by political parties. The fixture will be bodily shifted.

and Rafiqul Hasan Ripon lifted Gulshan above water.

Rinku faced 107 balls for his brilliant 82 which includes eight boundaries while Ripon scored 58 off 110 balls.

Among others, Malhotra added 53 off only 47 deliveries before Victoria closed their account on 251 for eight at the end of the stipulated 50 overs.

Gulshan skipper Babul grabbed three wickets conceding 50 runs in 10 overs while his new ball partner Manjurul Islam gave away highest 54 runs for his two wickets.

In reply, the Mymensingh outfit were only two runs adrift of victory when their innings ended on 250 for nine.

Pakistani batsman Rais Ahmed scored highest 46 runs while opener Javed Omar Golla added 45 runs to the GMCC account.

Among others, Kamal Marchant from Pakistan and wicketkeeper Alamgir Kabir scored 39 and 31 not out respectively. Gulshan's Mohammad Ali Khan took 3 wickets conceding 53 runs in 10 overs.

In the day's other engagement, Kawran Bazar Progoti Sangha and Maghbazar Krira Chakra shared points in a goalless tie.

This was the first win for Gulshan in seven league engagements while GMCC suf-

fered their fifth defeat from as many outings.

Electing to bat, Gulshan suffered a big blow in the very first over when GMCC skipper and new ball bowler Mizanur Rahman Babul sent opener Shafayat Omar Rabbu (2) back to the pavilion in his fourth ball of the over.

But a 118-run second wicket partnership between

opener Hasanuzzaman Rinku

and Rafiqul Hasan Ripon lifted Gulshan above water.

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In reply, Didiar anticipated behind the stumps during yesterday's Premier league match.

— Star photo

sharp reaction at the Victoria dressing room with angry officials demanding an on-the-spot explanation from the league committee officials.

Apart from that, Dulu, whose bowling figures of 10-0-80-2 will make any Abahani shiver, caused stormy weather when he appealed for the dismissal of Chetan in the last over for obstruction. However, Asghar, the other umpire, dismissed the claim

Sports Reporter

must rate today's innings above everything," said an elated Chetan at the dressing room after the match.

The Indian all-rounder, who scored a century in the 1987 World Cup and had also achieved the rare feat of claiming a hat-trick of wickets in the bracketed version of the game, while elaborating on yesterday's epic inning further added that he thought it was a forgone con-

clusion when he failed to connect the last three deliveries of Rahat in the penultimate over of the innings.

Furthermore, Asghar later disclosed that the appeal was the outcome a mind hitch between the two players thought the Victoria innings

It was Abahani's first defeat in the league after six consecutive wins. On a disappointing day the title aspirants not only lost their pride as the only unbeaten team in the tony-turvy league but also dearly felt the absence of their skipper Akram Khan.

The robust right-handed bat had earlier left for Chittagong in the morning to attend the burial of his elder brother Kamal Khan. Kamal, 43, died of cardiac arrest late Monday night.

Besides, with this defeat Abahani now share the top slot along with their arch-rivals Mohammed Sporting Club, both collecting 12 points from seven matches.

For Victoria, it was their fourth successive win with Chetan Sharma in their ranks, enabling them to raise their collection to eight points from seven league matches.

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— Star photo

Mahbub richer by a lakh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation will award Taka one lakh cash prize to sprinter Mahbubul Alam who clinched the 200 metres gold in the seventh SAF Games held in Madras last month.

This was decided in a general meeting of the BAAF held on Monday at its office in Mirpur.

The meeting also agreed to give Taka 40,000 each to the members of the 4x100 metres relay team which won silver in the biggest sporting event of South East Asia.

Besides, Taka 25,000 will be awarded to each of the athletes who earned bronze for Bangladesh.

The awards will be handed over to the athletes soon in a formal ceremony.

In the meeting of BAAF it was also announced that the 24th National Athletics Championships will be held on March 6, 7 and 8 at the Mirpur Stadium while the 14th national junior athletics championship will be held at the same venue on April 26 and 27.

What of course Gianfranco Lunetta, the chairman of Half Moon Image Consultants — the Italian firm which handled the opening ceremony of Italia '90 and who is in charge of the show here — refuses to divulge is how he would integrate all the items.

"At the end, it would be telling a story. Tell me, would you go to a movie if you knew the story beforehand?" he questioned.

However, it is learnt that the whole programme will be structured on three basic themes — the city of Calcutta, cricket for harmony and Indian Culture. "The bottom-line, of course, will be that we love you all," said the articulate Italian, arguably among the top 20 art directors in the world.

Apart from the giant circular stage which is now

CALCUTTA CHRONICLE

Cricket, culture, Calcutta

From Tapan Majumder

The laser shows, according to the 42-year-old art director, will be the major highlight. The most poignant of them will be a six-minute episode titled "The Child", which will tell a story of a

coming up at the Eden Gardens, another 40-metre tower is coming up behind the electronic scoreboard for projection of laser beams. A giant screen will be put up between it and the nearest floodlight tower to create the special effects. Though the city has been laser shows during the closing of MRF World Series, Lunetta claims it would be a first that laser beams would also tell a story.

The fireworks will be also "different" as apart from being spectacular, it would be an extension of the theme of love and harmony that the show aims to promote. Christopher Berthonneau, a French fireworks engineer who ran the show in Barcelona and a close friend of Lunetta, will be designing the fireworks here.

While a live concert by Lata Mangeshkar will be a bonus to those present at the Eden, renowned musician-choreographer Ananda Shankar has composed the theme song and his 500-member troupe will be performing the dance numbers. He has chosen a students' group from the Ashok Hall group of schools after watching them in a school festival last month and will use them for the dance sequences.

NEXT WEEK: Interview with Azharuddin.

dropped inexplicably from the team.

Recalled as a replacement for the injured Malik, Ijaz's century won Pakistan the final Sydney Test as well as the Christchurch Test against New Zealand.

Similarly, Imran said, leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed was named man-of-the-match both at Sydney and Christchurch and yet he had been out of the team for most of the year.

"Have come out of that bad patch," Akram said about his side's wretched performances against Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in March 1995.

Malik was subsequently excluded from the squad for the Asia Cup in Sharjah where Pakistan failed to reach the final under wicket-keeper Moin Khan, who

dropped inexplicably from the team.

Pakistan's chequered displays have come against a backdrop of bribery allegations against former captain Salim Malik by Australians Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh.

The trio claimed Malik had promised them large sums of money if they performed badly in the Karachi Test on Australia's 1994 tour.

The allegations, denied by Malik, forced the PCB to strip him of the captaincy of the team's return from tours of South Africa and Zimbabwe in March 199