

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; and 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	Tanzania	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	Ambu

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 Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha by 15 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Kathalbagan recorded a marginal one-wicket victory over Millbarack Cricket Club at the Dhanmondi 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)

DHANMONDI PS: 156 in 39.3 overs (Habib 30, Rana 28, Rabu 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 imperious 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 understandingly sunk Abahani, one of the two most crowdpulling outfits 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 Jahangir 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 play 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 Shawkatul 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 cliff-hanger.

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

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 conclusion.

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 10-0-80-0 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



MAN OF THE MOMENT: Veteran Indian Test all-rounder Chetan Sharma is carried off the ground by his ecstatic Victoria teammates after the scintillating victory against Abahani yesterday. — Star photo

clusion 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 on 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 eventful match was also marked by controversies during Victoria innings when Chetan, 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.

The decision prompted a

as irrelevant.

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 topsy-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 Mohammedan 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.

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

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.

Football galaxy on Friday

Sports Reporter

An exhibition football match between Bangladesh Chalachitra Shilpi Sangsad and football Khelwar Kalyan Samity will be held at the Dhaka stadium on Friday afternoon.

This was announced by the respective leaders of two organisations at a joint press briefing at the NSC conference room last evening.

The colourful programme which also includes a two-hour cultural function by film-stars, has been arranged to raise fund to help the country's needy film artists and footballers.

A good numbers of film stars and leading footballers will participate in the football match scheduled to begin at 3 pm.

Noted musician and film director Khan Ataur Rahman and former national football coach Gafur Baluch will attend the programme as joint chief guests.

The following are the rates of tickets:

1. VIP (Gate no 1) - Taka 500
2. VIP (Gate no 2) - Taka 300
3. VIP (Gate no 3) - Taka 100
4. Gate No 21 (Ladies and couples) - Taka 50
5. General Gallery Taka - 30

ago, believes they are talented enough to retain the trophy despite recent humiliating setbacks and controversies, reports Reuter.

"With Wasim Akram regaining the captaincy and Waqar Younis now fit, Pakistan actually are formidable contenders for cricket's showpiece event," Imran said in an interview.

"We have got a combination which can win, especially on our type of low-bounce wickets."

The return of master batsman Javed Miandad to competitive cricket has boosted hopes further," said the charismatic former all-rounder who retired from cricket in September 1992.

Miandad, a veteran of 228 one-day internationals, marked his comeback after two years' absence because of a fractured knee with an excellent 74 for Habib Bank in the opening match of a national one-day tournament at Faisalabad on Christmas day. He was named in Pakistan's World Cup squad last Friday.

"Such is the depth of the talent that players of the last World Cup such as Aaqib Javed and Ramiz Raja are struggling to hold their places," Imran said.

Even so, Pakistan have had a wretched spell of form both at home and away in recent months.

"Had the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) taken a stand against the players who revolted against Wasim Akram's captaincy in early 1994, Pakistan cricket would not have been in its current state," Imran said.

Pakistan's fortunes reached their lowest ebb last September and October when they lost both Test and one-day series at home to Sri Lanka, whose triumph in the Test rubber was their first ever over Pakistan.

Further humiliation came on the subsequent trip to Sharjah when Pakistan were eliminated before the final of the three-team Champions Trophy limited overs competition.

Pakistan had a mixed record on recent tours to Australia and New Zealand, losing the Test series to Australia 2-1 but winning the one-off Test against New

Visa, flight granted for WC fans

NEW DELHI, Jan 16: Indian government officials on Monday approved multiple-entry visas for supporters and special chartered flights during cricket's World Cup starting next month, reports Reuter.

The Press Trust of India said concerned federal government ministries organised a special meeting to approve proposals that included permission for special charter flights to land from Pakistan and road journeys across the Wagah border.

Officials and media had already been given permission for multiple-entry Visas, the news agency said.

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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.

GMCC 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 Belim 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.

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Club defeated Khelaghar SKS by one wicket in their Yamaha First Division cricket league match at the City Club ground yesterday.

Batting first, Khelaghar was all out for 188 runs in 44 overs. Golam Rasul Tushar ripped through the Khelaghar batting taking 6 for 37 from nine overs.

Both Khelaghar openers Babar and Rashedul were the main contributors to the total scoring 32 (67 balls, 4x3) and 52 (90 balls, 4x5) respectively.

In reply, Dhanmondi rattled on to 189 for nine with four balls of their allotted 45 overs left. Opener Anisul Hakim made an unbeaten 72 (137 balls, 4x6).

Clinton visits Olympic Stadium

ATLANTA, Jan 16: President Clinton, described as "impressed and inquisitive," toured the unfinished Olympic Stadium on Monday, circling the track and taking a look at the seat he will occupy at the opening ceremony, reports AP.

Clinton spent about 45 minutes viewing the 209 million dollars stadium, the centerpiece of the 1996 Summer Games.

"All Olympics are exciting, but this one is going to be exceptional," Clinton said. He gave a thumbs-up sign when asked by a reporter for his assessment of the 83,500-seat stadium, which will be converted after the Olympics into a baseball park and turned over to the Atlanta Braves.

CALCUTTA CHRONICLE

Cricket, culture, Calcutta

From Tapan Majumder

Lata Mangeskar and Sushmita Sen, an art director who designed the opening ceremony of the '90 World Cup football and a fireworks engineer who lit up the Barcelona skies at the end of '92 Olympics: all these certainly make a potent combination for the opening ceremony of the Wills World Cup cricket, scheduled to take Calcutta by storm on February 11.

The 90-minute long ceremony, which will follow the official inauguration and marchpast of the 12 participating teams, will see a mélange of songs and dances, laser shows and fireworks.

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.

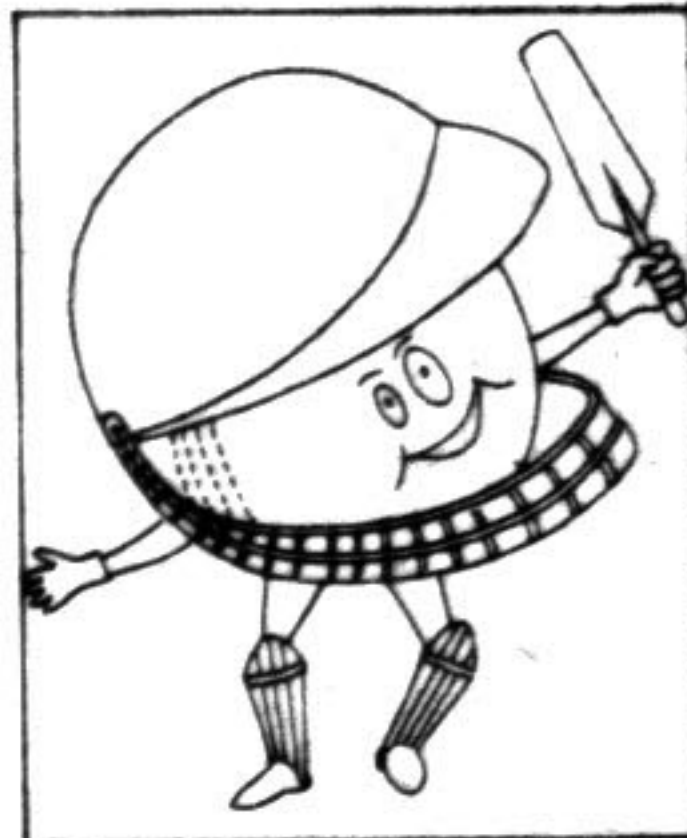
The laser shows, according to the 42-year-old art director, will be the major highlight. The most poignant of them will be a six-minute episode titled "The Child", which will tell a story of a

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 Mangeskar 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.

Apart from the giant circular stage which is now



Googlee, the World Cup mascot

young boys dreams to become a cricketer. There will be three more — the longest of them being called "Wills Batsman", a 13 minute sequence.

The last of the shows, a fire-minute episode which will sound the climax, will be "an explosion of lights and colour". Half Moon has entrusted the job of production of laser shows to the London-based Laser Creations International.

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NEXT WEEK: Interview with Azharuddin.

Imran again aims higher

LAHORE, Jan 16: Imran Khan, who led Pakistan to their World Cup triumph four years ago, believes they are talented enough to retain the trophy despite recent humiliating setbacks and controversies, reports Reuter.

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Further humiliation came on the subsequent trip to Sharjah when Pakistan were eliminated before the final of the three-team Champions Trophy limited overs competition.

Pakistan had a mixed record on recent tours to Australia and New Zealand, losing the Test series to Australia 2-1 but winning the one-off Test against New

Zealand, who shared the four-match one-day series 2-2.

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 on the team's return from tours of South Africa 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.

"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," he said.

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 in the Champions Trophy.

"Not much was expected from the team after the drubbing at the hands of Sri Lanka," he said. "Everyone thought it would be another bad tour (to Australia and New Zealand). But after surmounting initial difficulty, the team came up very well and now its morale is high."

Imran said he felt Pakistan were more talented than the side who won the 1992 World Cup under his leadership in Australia and New Zealand.

"Besides Akram and Younis, we've got Muhammad Akram, Ataur-ul-Rehman and among spinners, Mushtaq Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq which means the team has a lot of variety and bite."

With Aamir Sohail and Inzamam ul-Haq richer inexperience from four years of international exposure and Salim back in the side, the batting was stronger, Imran added.

"With the decline of West Indies, Pakistan is now the most talented team in the world. I make them the favourites to reach the final," he said.



IMRAN KHAN

afterwards lost the captaincy to Ramiz.

After seven months in the wilderness, Malik was cleared of bribery allegations in an internal inquiry by former Pakistan Supreme Court judge Fakhruddin G Ibrahim, and included in the Australia-bound team under the fresh captaincy of Akram, who had replaced Ramiz.

Imran blames cricket officials for the team's disastrous run. "How can any team perform when five captains are changed in less than two years?", he asked.

He also criticised bizarre selection, saying Ijaz Ahmad, the second highest run-getter during the tours to South Africa and Zimbabwe, was

Rajib leads

Sports Reporter

Enamul Hossain Rajib was leading the 16th national sub-junior chess championships with seven points to his credit after the conclusion of the eighth round's play at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Rajib defeated Firoze Ahmed in their encounter yesterday.

Abu Sufian Shakil trails in second place with 6.5 points. Shakil defeated Sabbir Ahmed in his eighth round engagement.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Surpass

4 Surrealist

8 Alger's "before"

12 Melody

13 Previously

14 Pennywise

15 Ukraine

17 Staffer

18 Cover

19 Senior

20 Appointment-book

22 Noted hill climber

24 Enthusias-

25 Apatry denizen

29 Elmer, to Bugs

30 Sondheim's output

31 Blueprint addition

32 Climbing legume

34 Smooth-talking

35 Completes

36 Brand-new

car, often

37 Big mistake

40 Member-ship

41 Satan's forte

42 Something one likes

46 On the verge

47 "East of Eden" character

48 Mason's field

49 Small valley

50 Sympathy

51 Prior to

52 Noted hill climber

1 Bill

2 Linseed

3 Drill

4 The

Solution time: 28 mins.

OPAL GAIL SMUG

VICE TDO PASA

ANTS VET ONES

LAISSEZ FAIRE

DIANA BRE TOO

ORBS DLY KENO

DOE PAL BERT

ON THE HOUSE

TALENTED PAIR

AKIN MAP ORAL

WIND ALE FINE

EDDY BIR FAKE

21 State openly

22 Tom or Tommy

23 Actress

25 Clinton's hometown

26 Disparage

27 Re Shak's line

28 North Sea leader

30 Prison, slangily

33 One of the Waughes

34 Seles' rival

36 Large showy tower

37 Titanic's downfall

38 Squashed circle

39 Pleasant

40 Lady

41 Macbeth's problem

42 Upper bound

43 Spoon-bender

44 Listening device

45 Revereential fear

CRYPTOQUIP

LDG FKRPGCCRK VDR

XNWG ZH LRR GNKQM

VNC FKRNYQM ZH N

XQNC YM DZWGGQP

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: GOATS SHOW US THE WORST MANNERS IMAGINABLE—THEY'RE ALWAYS BUTTING IN.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals M

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.