

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Bangladesh star batsman missed Nannu the flight to Rajshahi after he arrived twenty minutes at ZIA on Sunday and failed to accompany his team for their match tomorrow against the visiting MCC.

Nannu attributed the Chronic traffic jam of the city as the reason for being run out. However, Nannu boarded a bus and will have travelled all night before reaching Rajshahi this morning, subject to Aricha ghat being free.

Now, if he clicks today he will say, "Despite the bus ride... And, if he fails, he will say, "Because of..."

SPORTS TALK



Nelson Mandela

(South African President) "Sports has a role to play in uniting many countries of the world because it speaks a language and spreads ideals which reach circles beyond the reach of politicians."

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-26

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 16, 1996)

- 1. Munich Olympics were held in 1970 1972 1974
2. The name of the first three cricket World Cups were
3. 1978 soccer World Cup was won by
4. The current national cricket manager is
5. 2000 Summer Olympics will be held in

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

Progoti soccer Nazrul power Dipali

Sports Reporter Powered by a brilliant hattrick from Nazrul, Dipali Juba Sangha posted a thumping 3-0 win over Chalanika Sports Club in one of the four Progoti Insurance Third Division football league at the Rajuk ground adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Nazrul struck in the 45th, 55th and 68th minute for a unique treble as Dipali romped home with a facile victory.

Socceroos trying to regroup

SYDNEY, Feb 11: Feisty striker Joe Spiteri will be in the Australian team, shaken by Saturday's 4-1 pummelling by Japan, in their return football international in Melbourne on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Spiteri missed the Wollongong thrashing with tonsillitis, but today was named in the team to seek redress against the top-ranked Asian team.

Australia had not conceded four goals at international level since 1980 when Czechoslovakia romped to 4-0 and 5-0 victories over the Socceroos.

There will be three or four changes in the team and Spiteri and co-striker Warren Spink should be fit, said national coach Eddie Thomson today.



A display of calisthenics during the gala opening of the Wills World Cup cricket at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, on Feb 11.

Dialogue ends in draw



CALCUTTA, Feb 11: The International Cricket Committee on Sunday failed to persuade the Australian and the West Indies cricket teams to play in Sri Lanka, and a cricket official said the differences have opened a Pandora's Box, report agencies.

"That will not be good for future World Cups," said Jagmohan Dalmia, an Indian organiser for the sixth cricket World Cup which will have its inauguration later in the day.

Australia and the West Indies will lose points for not playing their matches in Sri Lanka, affecting their campaign for the world cricket title.

The Australia and the West Indies cricket boards decided against sending teams to Sri Lanka due to the terrorist activities of the separatist Tamil Tigers. A suicide bomb attack on Jan. 31 in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, left at least 83 people dead and 1,400 others injured.

The India-Pakistan-Lanka Organising Committee (PILCOM) announced the decision after two days of talks failed to resolve the crisis.

PILCOM said in a statement: "Several alternate suggestions and offers were made to the ACB (Australian Cricket Board) and WICBC (West Indies Cricket Board of Control), including India's offer to play their match against Kenya in Sri Lanka, provided Australia and West Indies agreed to play in Sri Lanka. But the ACB and WICBC were adamant.

"Sri Lanka will be awarded a 'walk-over' against Australia and West Indies and two points will be awarded to Sri Lanka for each of these matches.

again request the cricket boards of Australia and West Indies to match the goodwill and solidarity shown by Zimbabwe and Kenya (who have agreed to play in Sri Lanka) by reconsidering their decision not to participate in the scheduled matches in Sri Lanka.

Jagmohan Dalmiya, PILCOM convener-secretary, said: "We did not make just one but many gestures were made to the Australians and the West Indians. We were not told the reasons for seeking a shift in the venue. Nothing was explained. The PILCOM was not taken into their confidence.

"People do not understand what ICC is. The chairman of the chief executive board comprise ICC. It is a body of all the cricket-playing nations. ICC was concerned by what was happening."

Clive Walcott said the world cricket body lacked powers to deal with such a situation.

"Yes, we need more teeth," said Walcott, a former top West Indies batsman. "The ICC needs a little more clout as time has come for the organisation to have more powers over the cricket boards to take decisions."

The month-long cricket tournament begins on Wednesday when England plays against New Zealand in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad. India is hosting 17 matches and Pakistan 16, including the final at Lahore on March 17. Sri Lanka had been allotted four matches, but now only two matches will be played there by Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Dalmiya, asked whether the cricket world had been split by the affair said: "Our (PILCOM) position is very clear. I am no one to comment on this. It is not my de-

cision. The decision is not a good one for the next World Cup."

A proposal to fly the Australian and the West Indies teams to Sri Lanka on the day of their matches was turned down by the two dies, organisers said.

To show that they feared no security risk in Sri Lanka, a team of top players from India and Pakistan will play in exhibition match in Colombo on Feb 13, Dalmia said.

Sir Dlyde Walcott, chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) who were involved in the talks with representatives of the 12 teams, said: "I don't think the ICC is split on this."

"We had delegated authority on the World Cup to PILCOM. My role basically was to assist PILCOM. From the cricketing point of view, Sri Lanka is a country which has suffered. ICC's aim is to assist Sri Lanka."

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Acme cricket Kakrail boys, Pegasus A win

Sports Reporter Kakrail Boys and Young Pegasus A on their respective Acme Second Division relegation league matches held at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Kakrail Boys, aided by a virtues allround performance from Saiful crushed Millbarack CC by 67 runs.

Sent into bat, Kakrail rattled up a huge 221 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with Saiful hammering a dazzling unbeaten 52 off only 42 balls embellished with six fours and a huge sixer.

In reply, Millbarack were skittled out for a paltry 154 in the face of a devastating spell from Saiful, who finished with a fabulous analysis of 7.2-0-27-6.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus A recorded a facile five-wicket victory over Shantinagar B.

In a low-scoring affair, Shantinagar, put into bat, could muster only 162 before being all-out in 37.3 overs. In reply, skipper Shahinoor blasted a quickfire 63 off only 50 ball to guide Young Pegasus to a convincing victory - 163 for five in 23.1 overs.

Auxerre closed to within three points of French league leaders St Germain on Saturday with a 2-0 win over 10-man Lyon.

Manchester City dropped back into the bottom three following their 2-0 defeat at Everton, with Coventry leapfrogging over them after claiming a 1-0 victory against in-form Chelsea.

City's miserable afternoon was completed by the 85th minute dismissal of German defender Michael Frontzeck for two bookable offences.

Coventry climbed above them on goal difference - and claimed their first win of 1996 - thanks to in-form Noel Whelan's 43rd minute winner.

Nottingham Forest also finished with 10 men, Jason Lee receiving his marching orders for a second booking with five minutes remaining.

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Bangladesh, MCC tie today

From Hasan Masood

RAJSHAHI, Feb 11: Bangladesh will start off with only twelve players to choose from in their encounter against MCC tomorrow (Monday) thanks to star batsman Minhazul Abedin Nannu's sense of punctuality. Nannu missed the flight for Rajshahi today to put his side in a difficult situation. The local side had been handicapped earlier when allrounder Enamul Huq Moni pulled out due to an injured knee.

The future of the game itself was put into question as heavy rain poured in this northern city throughout the day today, drenching the pitch substantially. There is little chance now that the match will be underway as scheduled in the morning.

Both teams were deprived of net sessions today due to the rain.

Bangladesh manager Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu expressed his concern about the condition of the wicket. He had not had a good look at it since his arrival with the team. The outfield, full of moisture, was also not to Lipu's liking.

Talking to this correspondent, the groundsman at Rajshahi Stadium expressed his dissatisfaction about the weather, which is seriously disrupting his pitch-preparation. He said he will only get a good look Monday morning and will try his best to prepare a good wicket.

Radio Bangladesh, Rajshahi will broadcast running commentary of the game. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) joint secretary Golam Faruk Apu added, in Dhaka, that the flight for Rajshahi waited for Nannu for 15 minutes before taking off. After arriving late at the airport, Nannu boarded a bus for Rajshahi and was expected to reach there late Sunday night.

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An emotional reunion



CALCUTTA, Feb 11 (AP): Divided by the enmity between Pakistan and India for 24 years, two brothers were reunited by an unlikely force-crick.

Amid tears of joy and emotional hugs, Pakistan's wicketkeeper Rashid Latif met with his elder brother Sahid Latif in Calcutta, where the Pakistani team has travelled to take part in the inauguration of the cricket World Cup.

"I have not been sleeping properly from the day I came to know that my brother will come to Calcutta," said Sahid, who works as a mailman in The Statesman newspaper.

The joy for a moment overcame the years of anguish that many subcontinental families live with - divided cruelly by history between India and Pakistan. Asia's two arch-enemies and cricket-playing neighbours.

The two brothers were separated when their father, a Muslim, opted to live in Pakistan with his second wife. He took along his second wife, but Sahid stayed back in India with his mother.

The subcontinent was divided into Islamic Pakistan and mostly Hindu India in 1947 when Britain ended colonial rule.

There was widespread sectarian violence prompting millions of people to migrate. The two neighbours have fought three wars since then. The governments are very

strict about visas and that has left many families separated for decades. "I never told anyone in Calcutta that I have a famous brother in Pakistan," said Sahid. "I wanted to give a big surprise to them."

But Sahid's chase to meet his cricketer brother was difficult.



RASHID LATIF

He went to Calcutta's Dum Dum airport on Friday to see if he can catch a glimpse of him, but "I was not allowed anywhere near the team."

"It was late and I decided to follow it up the next day... but that night I did not sleep."

Sahid took out the best

dress he has - a clear-coloured long flowing dress, normally worn by Pathans in Pakistan, and reached the Taj Bengal Hotel on Saturday morning.

But the hotel security refused him entry. "I am his brother, please let me in," he pleaded. At one point he flashed his identity card to show that he has the same family name as Pakistan's wicketkeeper. Hotel security thought it was a joke.

"Finally one good soul from the hotel staff agreed to help," he phoned Rashid in the room.

Minutes later, Rashid came out of his room and the two met for the first time in 24 years.

Sahid told his younger brother that he must come with him to his workplace as all his colleagues were waiting to see him.

Sahid's colleagues had put on their best dresses and appeared stunned to see that a top Pakistani cricketer was indeed with them.

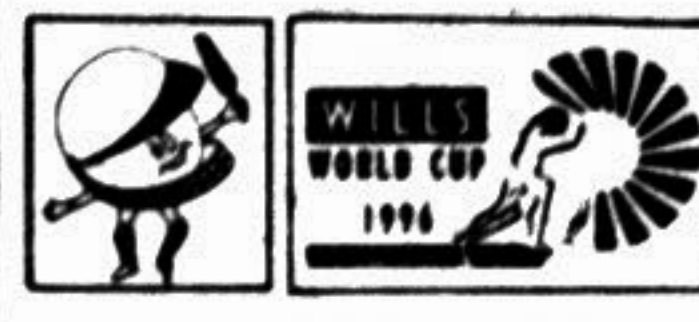
"They gave Rashid 'phirni' a typically north Indian rice pudding and tea.

"I knew he was my brother the moment I saw him," Rashid told them. "He looks exactly like our father, there was no mistaking him," he said.

Will he want his elder brother to watch him when he joins playing from 11 countries taking part in Sunday's inauguration of the World Cup?

"I will buy him a ticket," he said. For Sahid who earns about 100 dollars a month, that ticket had been beyond his means.

Waiting a fabulous war



ISLAMABAD, Feb 11 (AP): South Africa's smiling spinners will head for the World Cup more convinced than ever that the cricket World Cup is waiting for them at the end of the rainbow.

Skipper Hansie Cronje is not a man to show his emotions readily. But even he must be delighted with his men's perfect build-up to this month's tournament... particularly since most of the other major challengers go into the event in disarray.

While all the talk in Australia is of terrorism and match boycotts, the South Africans are riding a wave of a emotion after their second major sporting triumph inside 12 months.

By winning the African Nations Cup at the first attempt, not only echoed the Rugby World Cup triumph but also gave Cronje's team the perfect send-off.

The crushing victory over England sent-off 1-0 in a Test series before being annihilated 6-1 in the one-dayers-further enhanced the side's burgeoning self-belief.

Pre-tournament favourites Australia's problems have provided the icing on the cake and who could blame South African cricket supremo All Bacher for savouring that slice of luck to the full?

When it was announced Mark Taylor's side were not willing to play in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo because of fears for their personal safety, Bacher reacted: "South Africa would not have pulled out if they were scheduled to play in Colombo (... we are going to play cricket and we will concentrate on cricket. We will leave the security to the host country."

That implicit criticism will earn Cronje and Co a few extra cheers wherever they play during the competition.

Australia's stock, meanwhile, has fallen dramatically and their tag as favourites in under review.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne was seen as the key ingredient to their challenge but his commitment now appears, at

best, lukewarm. After being caught up in allegations last year that Pakistan's Salim Malik tried to buy a Test match, Warne is now spending more time voicing his worries about terrorist bombs than turning his arm over in the nets.

The team's unpopularity in Asia, reinforced when Australian umpires controversially ruled that Sri Lankan bowler Muttiah Muralitharan's action was illegal, will represent the biggest bar to their World Cup success.

If Warne was the key man a month ago, the team's psychologist may now play an even more significant role in helping the side, heading Group A with India, the West Indies and Sri Lanka, to re-

tain its focus and their self-confidence.

Meanwhile, Pakistan, in Group B with South Africa and England, remain an enigma. The Malik affair, coupled with one dreadful result after another last year including defeat in Australia, may suggest they are no-hopers.

But a team containing dream pace duo like Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, a spinner of the calibre of Mushtaq Ahmed and a batsman like Javed Miandad - heading for his sixth World Cup in a row - would only be written off by the reckless.

Home advantage will do them no harm either, just as it should give India's chances a massive fillip.

Mohammed Azharuddin's side will lean heavily on the brilliant strokeplay of Sachin Tendulkar and the sorcery of leg-spinner Anil Kumble but that may not be quite enough for them to topple the heavyweights.

The Sri Lankas also look a little on the light side to go all the way, despite some fine results in 1995, particularly the historic away Test series win in Pakistan and the champions trophy in Sharjah.

Yet their recent troubles with the Australians will add an intriguing element to their challenge. If it distracts them, it could prove a disaster but if it fires both the team and their supporters, anything could happen.

How the struggling West Indies - who were also slated as spineless after refusing to play in Colombo - respond will be just as fascinating.

The world's best batsman, Brian Lara, is back in their ranks. On the face of it, a plus.

But if his return sows disension in the side-captain Richie Richardson is one of many team members who is not a card-carrying member of the Lara fan club - that could prove a massive minus.

England, meanwhile, so disappointing in South Africa, will be hoping to benefit by creeping up quietly on the blindsides while other teams are drawn into bitter rows.

If those recriminations continue, Mike Atherton will believe he can become the first Englishman to lift the trophy after three appearances as losing finalists.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Competent, 36 Lant a hand, 5 Nonfunctioning, 8 Support, 12 Meadow noises, 13 Mr. Ziegfeld, 14 Clinton Cabernet member, 15 Drop down?, 16 Bear hair, 17 On the rocks, 18 Accommodate, 20 Mediterranean strip, 22 The pasta, 26 Walt's power, 29 Got a Secret, 30 Retriever type, for short, 31 Calm before the storm, 32 Hollywood, 33 Bruce's Mrs, 34 Moreover, 35 Pianist at Rick's Cafe, 36 Lant a hand, 37 Bright red shades, 40 New Rochelle school, 41 Retreat community, 45 Saxophone range, 47 Check-casher's two, 49 Stratagem, 50 AMA types, 51 Seek restitution, 52 Inter-follower, 53 Days of Grace, 19 Blip power, 29 Got a Secret, 30 Retriever type, for short, 31 Calm before the storm, 32 Hollywood, 33 Bruce's Mrs, 34 Moreover, 35 Pianist at Rick's Cafe, 36 Lant a hand, 37 Bright red shades, 40 New Rochelle school, 41 Retreat community, 45 Saxophone range, 47 Check-casher's two, 49 Stratagem, 50 AMA types, 51 Seek restitution, 52 Inter-follower, 53 Days of Grace, 19 Blip power, 29 Got a Secret, 30 Retriever type, for short, 31 Calm before the storm, 32 Hollywood, 33 Bruce's Mrs, 34 Moreover, 35 Pianist at Rick's Cafe, 36 Lant a hand, 37 Bright red shades, 40 New Rochelle school, 41 Retreat community, 45 Saxophone range, 47 Check-casher's two, 49 Stratagem, 50 AMA types, 51 Seek restitution, 52 Inter-follower, 53 Days of Grace, 19 Blip power, 29 Got a Secret, 30 Retriever type, for short, 31 Calm before the storm, 32 Hollywood, 33 Bruce's Mrs, 34 Moreover, 35 Pianist at Rick's Cafe, 36 Lant a hand, 37 Bright red shades, 40 New Rochelle school, 41 Retreat community, 45 Saxophone range, 47 Check-casher's two, 49 Stratagem, 50 AMA types, 51 Seek restitution, 52 Inter-follower, 53 Days of Grace, 19 Blip power, 29 Got a Secret, 30 Retriever type, for short, 31 Calm before the storm, 32 Hollywood, 33 Bruce's Mrs, 34 Moreover, 35 Pianist at Rick's Cafe, 36 Lant a hand, 37 Bright red shades, 40 New Rochelle school, 41 Retreat community, 45 Saxophone range, 47 Check-casher's two, 49 Stratagem, 50 AMA types, 51 Seek restitution, 52 Inter-follower, 53 Days of Grace, 19 Blip power, 29 Got a Secret, 30 Retriever type, for short, 31 Calm before the storm, 32 Hollywood, 33 Bruce's Mrs, 34 Moreover, 35 Pianist at Rick's Cafe, 36 Lant a hand, 37 Bright red shades, 40 New Rochelle school, 41 Retreat community, 45 Saxophone range, 47 Check-c