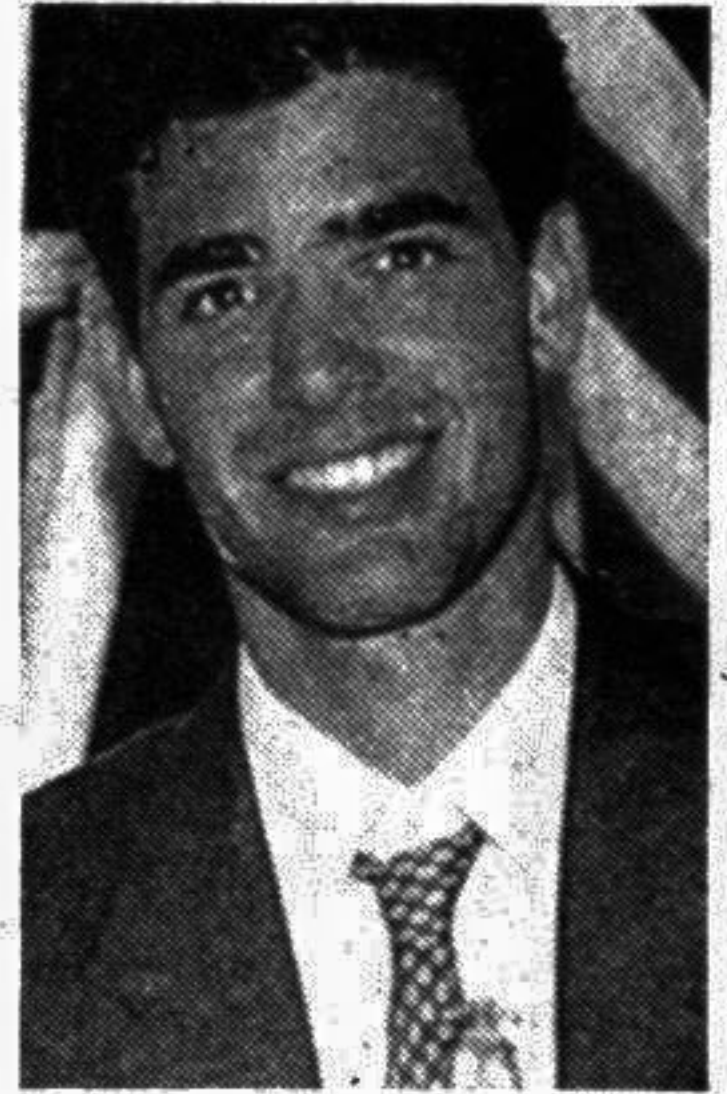


Column One Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition for school children. Competition closes 8 p.m. June 7, 1996. 1. Grand Master Gata Ramsky is...

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

SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras (World No 1 tennis star) For me to win French Open it will take a little bit of luck...

Ma's new recruits flop

BEIJING, June 1: China's new-look "Ma family army" women's running squad has failed to win any places on China's Atlanta Olympics team...

Ma's new group of runners won an international relay marathon in Beijing last month, suggesting a turn-around in their fortunes but their poor performance in Nanjing shocked their previously confident coach...

Eubank will pay damages

BIRGHTON, England, June 1: Former world champion Chris Eubank said Thursday he will compensate two women who were burned at a fireworks display he staged, reports AFP.



Saifuddin Lablu (L), who fell from grace in the previous round after conceding his first defeat at the hands of Khandaker Kayes Hasan, pondering his next move against Tanima Parveen in the eight round engagement of the 22nd national chess championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. Lablu drew with Tanima. — Star photo

Reefat tightens grip

Defending champion IM Reefat-ol-Masrur extended his all-time record to eight on a trot to consolidate his solo lead in the 22nd national chess championship on completion of the eighth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Reefat in the previous rounds, seemed to have settled into a groove when he comfortably beat Hanif after 30 moves in the match played in the line of closed variation of the Sicilian defence.

But for Lablu, who clung on to the top slot along with Reefat till the end of the sixth round, it was another disappointing day after his maiden defeat against Khandaker Kayes Hasan in the seventh round when a lowly-rated Tanima Parveen forced him to a draw after 59 moves.

Meanwhile, weather permitting, Regensea will resume their innings today at 10 am with Akram Khan and Azam Iqbal, the two not out batsmen on 34 and 1 respectively, hopefully be awaiting for a healthy total in their share of 45 overs.

Nat'l weightlifting begins June 25

The 21st national senior and second junior weightlifting championships will begin at Kushtia DSA gymnasium on June 25, two days ahead of the scheduled date, reports UNB.

Army aquatic

SAVAR, June 1: Annual aquatic meet of the Bangladesh Army began at the BKSP swimming pool at Savar today, reports BSS.

Atlanta races against time

ATLANTA, June 1 (AP): The Olympic calendar may be getting very short, but the list of things Atlanta must do to be ready for the Games never seems to shrink.

stadium to keep track and field athletes cool while they wait to compete. Dave Maggard, the committee's sports director, said there will also be similar units at the soccer and field hockey venues.

Draw will suit Aussies fine SYDNEY, June 1: Australia needs only a goalless or 1-1 draw in Sunday's Olympic play-off match against Canada here to qualify as the 16th team for the Atlanta football tournament, reports AFP.

The Australians are in a stronger position than Canada after scoring two away goals in last weekend's 2-2 first leg draw in Edmonton.

Canadian coach Bob Lenarduzzi said Friday his side lacked discipline and organization in the first match, and that his midfield failed to compete.

Rain plays foul again at Dhaka Stadium

The final of the second Office cricket league between Regensea Lines and Acme Laboratories was abandoned yesterday due to inclement weather that had been frustrating both the organisers and the players for the last three days.

Originally scheduled to be held on May 30 at the Dhaka Stadium, the day-night affair had earlier witnessed down-pour leaving Regensea at 61/1 on the first day before the umpires called off the match and re-fixed it for Saturday.

But resuming the innings last evening, Regensea could play only 13 overs scoring 118/3 before the seasonal rain once again intruded and washed out the match for another day.

Opener Athar Ali Khan, who resumed the Regensea innings with skipper Faruque Ahmed, scored a polished 51 before becoming the last batsman out on the day. On the other hand Faruque was dismissed for only four.

Meanwhile, weather permitting, Regensea will resume their innings today at 10 am with Akram Khan and Azam Iqbal, the two not out batsmen on 34 and 1 respectively, hopefully be awaiting for a healthy total in their share of 45 overs.

School h'ball results

Rajdhani High School rolled up a helpless Shaheed Smriti High School while Rajarbagh Police Lines High School struggled to beat a spirited Bangladesh Rifles School and College in the boys' section of the 7th schools handball tournament at the court adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the day's first match, Rajdhani handed a crushing 7-2 goal defeat on Shaheed Smriti while the Rajarbagh boys survived a scare before scraped home with a shaky 17-15 win over the Rifles High.

Meanwhile, on the staff side, Dhanmondi Govt High School blanked BFF Shaheen School 14-0 while defending champions Vigarouanessa Noon School overpowered Adarsha High School of Narayanganj by ten goals to two for their second consecutive victory.

Besides, Moghbazaar Girls High School beat Rifles School and College 9-5 and Ishpani Girls handed a crushing 9-3 defeat on Dhanmondi Tutorial, in the other bidding on the day. All the matches of the girls' section were held at the Women's Sports Complex.

Lara raring to go Down Under

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, June 1: Brian Lara has promised to keep his mouth shut and let his batting speak for him, reports Reuter.

The West Indies batsman, who reprimanded last month for two incidents during the World Cup, said: "The way I want to repay the people of the West Indies is by ensuring score some high totals and that we win the next Tests series later in the year."

"We must aim to be number one in cricket," Lara, holder of the world record Test score, was reprimanded over derogatory remarks attributed to him after the shock World Cup defeat by Kenya and his row with team physiotherapist Dennis Waight.

He said he would like to thank all those who supported him during a mixed 1995-1996 season. There were many ups and downs, now I am hoping that only my runs will speak.

Lara also said he wants to remain focused for the Test series in Australia later this year.

"That is a crucial Test series for all of us, we have a lot to prove and win back," he said.

"To me, it promises to be one of the biggest battles ever. We will probably be the underdogs on this occasion, but that suits us just fine, we are coming to Australia to win and average that loss last year."

The West Indies, led by retired captain Richie Richardson, lost their first Test series in 15 years to Mark Taylor's Australians in the Caribbean.

Sidhu puts war-paint on



NEW DELHI, June 1: Opener Navjot Sidhu, who quit India's Test team of England, announced his immediate retirement from Test after being dropped for a one-day match is to put his case to Indian cricket chiefs, report agencies.

Sidhu said on Friday he was deeply anguished at his treatment by the team management and that quitting the game had inflicted a "scar on his soul" forever.

The first Indian to walk out on a touring team in the country's 64-year Test history, Sidhu said he had submitted his cases to the president and secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and maintained their reaction would be final and acceptable without debate.

"I am ready to shed my blood for the country but with dignity," Sidhu told Reuters by telephone from Patiala in Punjab.

Asked whether he would reconsider his decision to retire, he said: "I'd like to wait for the cricket board's verdict."

Sidhu, 32, quit the England tour on Monday and announced his retirement after he was dropped for the third and final one-day international against England, which India lost by four wickets at Old Trafford.

He returned to India on Thursday. "It is with great regret and a lot of soul searching, I have arrived at this painful decision," he said in a written statement.

"It was never my wish to quit but the decision has been imposed upon me by circumstances that have been brewing for over a year."

"During the course of the year certain events have reinforced my belief and made me realise that even after performing with distinction and consistency over a long period I am still unwanted."

"The events of the last few days in England are the final nail in the coffin which has almost made me a nervous wreck where I could neither do justice to myself nor to my countrymen."

"Nothing has given me more honour, pride and pleasure than playing for my country. It was as sacred as praying to the Almighty."

"By quitting the game, I have inflicted on myself a punishment whose scar will remain on my soul forever," added Sidhu.

He refused to point the finger at any individual, although most former cricket players in India have sympathised with Sidhu and blamed his woes on India's captain, Mohammad Azharuddin.

The dashing Sidhu, made his international debut in 1983 and was the India team's longest-serving player.

On arrival at New Delhi he refused to speak to reporters thronging the airport. Sidhu left immediately for Patiala, where he lives, and later met with Indian cricket official IS Bindra.

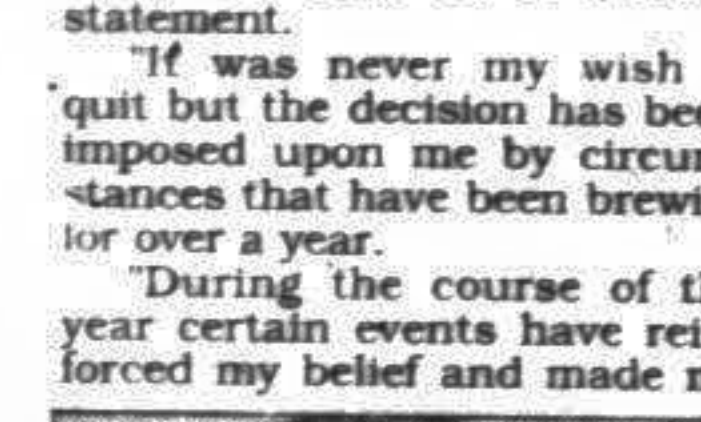
The Indian cricket team is like a large family," Sidhu said in his statement. "I would not like to tarnish its fair name because of my differences with just one or two persons."

Former Indian captain Kapil Dev on Thursday held Azharuddin responsible for Sidhu's plight.

"I will blame Azharuddin for Sidhu's stunning decision to leave the team in the middle of the tour though I am not happy with the veteran opener's decision to quit," he said in New Delhi.

"It is a bad thing, it should not have happened," he added.

Other Indian cricket players and officials have also come out in support of Sidhu and criticised captain Azharuddin.



NAVJOT SIDHU

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"Nothing has given me

Nightmares await co-hosts

SEOUL, June 1: The unprecedented sharing of the 2002 football World Cup will impose a nightmarish strain on organisers in rival Japan and South Korea, sports officials said here today.

"We'll face a lot of problems to sort out together with Japanese, but the problems are not insurmountable," an official of the Korea World Cup Bidding committee (KOBID) told AFP.

"I think the two countries will be able to solve those problems through consultation and compromise," said deputy director Suh Moon-seok of the KOBID, which will soon be absorbed into an emerging organising committee.

The world's football governing body, FIFA in Zurich announced on Friday that South Korea and Japan would co-host the Cup, putting an end to months of bitter rivalry but raising as many questions as were answered.

Officials here said the co-hosting would entail a gamut of thorny protocol, logistics and technical headaches, ranging from how to name the event, where to hold the finals and how to share profits.

Beside practical problems, lingering animosity among Koreans over Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule over Korea, and in Korea the perceived disdain of Japan for its less developed neighbour could complicate the picture all the more, they said.

The hottest contest, perhaps as hot as the race for the Cup itself, has already started, and is over who will have the honour of staging the main event of the Cup, the final match.

Local press reports here said a solution might lie in a compromise under which one of the two hosts would have the rights to stage both the opening and closing ceremonies, in return for conceding the final match.

South Korean press reports said an idea, under which Seoul would stage the final match and Japan host the opening match, was floated but rejected at the meeting of FIFA executive committee on Friday.

But if South Korea holds even one of the two ceremonies, it would entail tricky protocol and security issues.

It is customary for the head of state of the country hosting the World Cup to attend the opening and closing ceremonies.

Japanese media recalled that emperor Akihito planned to visit Seoul in 1986 as Crown Prince but the trip was cancelled amid protests in South Korea, where memories of Japan's colonial rule still bring protestors onto the streets.

Economic difficulties, including how to share profits, also risk turning the event into a fiasco, especially as South Korea, while bidding, said it would give all profits to FIFA and regional football federations.

Another unaddressed problem could arise over whether one or both countries will be given the host rights of exemption from preliminary matches.

If FIFA allows both countries to take part in the finals, it would trigger protests from other Asian countries which would see berths allotted for the region reduced.

A working group of senior officials would report back to FIFA by the end of the year on how to organise the Cup, Havelange said in Zurich.



Mong-Joon Chung (R), head of the South Korean bidding committee poses with Japan's Ken Nagamura during a news conference in Zurich on May 31 after FIFA announced both countries would be the co-hosts of the 2002 WC.

The announcement was virtually lost in the drama surrounding FIFA's decision to award the 2002 men's World Cup to both South Korea and Japan as co-hosts.

The United States, which staged the 1994 men's World Cup in 12 cities from Boston to Los Angeles and drew an all-time record 3.5 million spectators, has proposed 10 East Coast cities from which five will be selected for the women's event.

Although it will be presented in a less grandiose style, we fully expect the impact of the 1999 Women's World Cup and its legacy will parallel what we experienced for the 1994 World Cup, not financially, but in terms of the emergence of women's professional soccer," said US Soccer Federation president Alan Rothenberg.

YURIK, June 1: The United States formally was awarded the 1999 FIFA Women's World Championship on Friday, a forgone conclusion since the only other two contenders — Chile and Australia — never submitted a formal bid, reports AP.

The announcement was virtually lost in the drama surrounding FIFA's decision to award the 2002 men's World Cup to both South Korea and Japan as co-hosts.

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Canada aiming more medals in Atlanta

MONTREAL, Canada, June 1: Canada will send more than 300 competitors to the Atlanta Olympics in hopes of increasing its 18-medal showing at the 1992 Barcelona Games, reports AFP.

Canadian Olympic Association spokesman Francois Roch said the team is aiming for at least 18 to 20 medals. At Barcelona, the team won seven gold medals, four silvers and seven bronzes.

The final roster will be announced June 19 here. The Canadian Olympic programme has a budget of about 2.9 million dollars (US).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Type measures with one 4 Andy's pal 8 Boy's mother 12 Spade, club or diamond 13 Links warning 14 Fairy-tale villain 15 Incessant 16 Three-pointed 18 Winter warmer-upper 20 Journey segment 21 Hardy the elite type 24 Toronto team, familiarly 28 Sideward passes 32 Hitcher's desire 33 'The Name of the Rose' author 34 Single-master 36 'Trivial Pursuit' need 37 Some of them are fine 39 Bronko Nagurski with one 41 Large, showy flower 43 'Let's Make a Deal' choice 44 Montreal's org. 46 Capital of Liechtenstein 50 Gridiron action 55 Gorilla 56 Stence's place 57 Finished 58 Two, in Tiana 60 Gurb lobby grp. 61 Ur stick? 60 Anaheim squad 61 Rubber-softening time: 28 mins. 19 Unclose, in verse 22 A little lower? 23 For all to hear 25 Verdi opera built on it 26 Paycheck abbr. 27 Quest 28 Bound 29 'God's Little...' 30 Dorothy's basketful item 31 Unaccompanied 35 Shorebirds 38 Escargots 40 Lingerie item 42 To be, to Popeye 45 Cupid's forte 47 The world according to Arg 48 Topping 49 Vivacity 50 Fat farm 51 'Mr. Peepers' 52 Fish eggs 53 Ms. Gardner 54 Precious stone

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-30 and letters A-Z.

CRYPTOQUIP VKGGFBIIPEYSMR-FY-EYIKE MKEMVHVYKJI: 'KMFSPJ JHFF GFQXIY EVKP BFXJ' Yesterday's Cryptiquip: LOGICALLY, THE SHREWED FROG PRINCE CAN'T WAIT FOR LEAP YEAR. Today's Cryptiquip clue: M equals C. 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.