

Column One SPORTS TALK



Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria's mercurial marksman) "I am genial, but mad too. No one knows what to expect from me — not even me." On his explosive temperament.

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT Victor Onopko, Russia's 1992 and 1993 Footballer of the Year, left Russia after thieves stole his Mitsubishi Pajero from under the windows of his Moscow apartment. Onopko was furious and hurt, and decided to go where a man can feel secure for his family and his property. The Moscow Spartak captain thought he had enough.

So, Ukraine-born Onopko went to Spain and joined Oviedo. I wonder why he never thought of having a garage for his Pajero. Or, a car theft alarm? Or, why couldn't he buy Lada like all the other Russians.

But, the good news is that the 26-year-old Onopko is still captain of Russia.

Why did he go to Spain for security? I can imagine General Franco turning in his grave.

Sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-42

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 21, 1996)

- 1. The winner of the women's high jump gold in 24th national athletics is:
Kubana Mular Kalmu
- 2. The girls' champion in the school basketball tournament '96 is:
Ruhana Lucky Anika
- 3. IM Zahir Rahman has won the national chess title:
6 times 2 times 3 times
- 4. Kafelnikov won the 1996 French Open tennis title by winning the final against:
Sampras Muster Stich
- 5. West Germany won the first of their football World Cups in:
1984 1954 1964

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

Super Eights cricket Border to skipper Malaysia

SYDNEY, June 19: Former Australian captain Allan Border will captain Malaysia in the inaugural Super Eights cricket tournament to be played in Kuala Lumpur next month, reports Reuters.

Border, who captained Australia a record 93 times in his 156 Tests, leads a Malaysian invitation side which also includes Sri Lankan World Cup heroes Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva and Chaminda Vaas.

Mark Taylor leads and Australian side including six of the side who lost to Sri Lanka in the World Cup final last match.

India, New Zealand, South Africa and an Australian A side will also field teams in the tournament to be played from July 19-21. All matches will consist to two innings of 14 overs each.

Johnson gunning for Reynolds' record

ATANTA, June 19: Double world champion Michael Johnson will wipe out Butch Reynolds' eight-year-old 400 metres world record at the US Olympic trials on Wednesday, his coach predicted Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Lord's Test begins today



LONDON, June 19: It's crisis time for India as they prepare for the second Test against England which begins at Lord's on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Their tour is rapidly turning into a disaster. After suffering the shivering cold of May, the Indians were surprisingly outplayed in the three one-day internationals, which they lost 2-0, and then went down at Edgbaston to an eight-wicket defeat in the first Test.

As if that was not enough, team morale has been seriously damaged.

First it was the decision of experienced opening batsman Navjot Sidhu to quit international cricket in a fit of pique and go home after being left out of the second one-day international.

Then, last weekend, there was a resounding 10-wicket defeat inside three days at the hands of Derbyshire, a humiliation which could have smashed the fragile veneer of team spirit.

Now the pressure is very definitely on the Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin. Another defeat and his tenure may be over.

It doesn't help his cause that this Test is to be played at Lord's the venue of his worst nightmare six years ago. Winning the toss, he put England in to bat and watched as Graham Gooch used a perfect pitch to ease his way to 333 in an England total of 653 for four declared.

India saved the follow-on thanks, in part to a sublime hundred from Azharuddin and four successive sixes from Kapil Dev when 24 were still needed. But another Gooch hundred put England out of reach. They won the Test and it proved to be decisive as the other two Tests ended as draws.

Azharuddin's problems stem from the balance of the team — a lop-sided batting order in which only the brilliance of Sachin Tendulkar has shone through. And a bowling attack which, with the worthy exception of Javagal Srinath, has failed to worry the English batsmen.

Sidhu has been sorely missed at the top of the order and, in an attempt to make the start of the innings a little more secure, Nayan Mongia may well go in first even though wicketkeepers have traditionally struggled when asked to open in the five-day game.

It would help, as well, if Azharuddin could find some form with the bat.

England, by contrast are for

one in the unfailingly role of favourites. After the dismal performances in South Africa and at the world Cup, there is a distinct feeling of rejuvenation.

The men brought into the

Tuesday and Alec Stewart will open.

For one man it will be a last chance to taste the glory of international cricket, umpire Dickie Bird, standing in his 66th Test, retires after 23



India's key weapon Sachin Tendulkar batting in the nets at Lord's on June 18. Tendulkar leads the Indian challenge against England in the second Test match starting today.

side such as Nasser Hussain, Ronnie Irani, Min Patel and Alan Mullally, all contributed without looking out of their depth in the first Test.

Hussain's first innings hundred was a superb effort which suggests that England have perhaps found answer to their number three conundrum.

Patel looks certain to play and with the left-Armer Mullally providing some variation, it looks as though Peter Martin will again miss out.

Warwickshire's Nick Knight was forced to withdraw because of a cracked knuckle on

years as an international umpire.

PROBABLE TEAMS

ENGLAND: Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Ronnie Irani, Jack Russell, Dominic Cork, Chris Lewis, Mian Patel, Alan Mullally.

INDIA: Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia, Saurav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Vikram Rathore, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Paras Mhambrey, Venkatapathy Raju.

Players demand football league

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Players' Welfare Association (BFPWA) have urged the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) to announce the dates of the inter-club booters transfer immediately.

In a press release issued yesterday, the BFPWA said, "Now that the parliamentary polls are over, DMFA should take immediate steps to launch the football season without further delay."

It further added that it is time all concerned organisations, including the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), should put their acts together for the betterment of football in this country. Besides, the association also declared that the DMFA general secretary Moazzam Huq Mukta should either begin the league immediately or quit.

CJPK cricket Mohammedan Blues lift title

CHITTAGONG, June 19: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting blues clinched the CJPK Star youth cricket tournament title beating Shaheed Shahjahan Sangha by nine runs at the local stadium today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans won the toss and decided to bat first. They scored 150 for four wickets in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Shaheed Shahjahan Sangha reached 141 for nine wickets also off 30 overs. Mohammedans' captain Shahnewaj Kabir Shubha made a brilliant 65 that included five sixes and two fours. He was followed by Khorshed with 40 and Akbar 30 not out.

Saidur Ali of Shahjahan Sangha claimed two wickets.

Saidur with 38, Russel 23 and Jaynal with 14 were the main contributors for Shahjahan Sangha.

Joki of the Mohammedans took three wickets for 32 runs while Akbar got two for 29.

Shubha of the Mohammedans was adjudged the man-of-the-match while Shamsul Arefin of Friends Club became man-of-the tournament.

Jewel of Friends Club won the prize for the tournaments highest scorer — 416 runs while Milton of Shahjahan Sangha got the prize for highest wicket — taker nine wickets.

A total of 21 teams participated in the tournament. Yusuf Gani Chowdhury, vice president of CJPK distributed prizes as chief guest.

Bird steps into record book

LONDON, June 19: Dickie Bird, who is retiring after the second Test against India starting at Lords on Thursday



DICKIE BIRD

became today the first international umpire to be given honorary life membership of the MCC, reports Reuters.

Bird, who has often said Lord's is his favourite cricket ground, began his international umpiring career there in 1973.

A unique example

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 19: The West Indies Cricket Board of Control issued a landmark decision Tuesday, penalising the Barbados team for ball-tampering in a youth championship match against Guyana last July, reports AP.

Secretary Andrew Sealy said the cricket board followed the recommendation of a sub-committee and stripped Barbados of eight points it earned.

That means Barbados forfeits their position in the youth championship with Jamaica and Guyana in Grenada, which ended in a three-way tie.

The board fully endorsed the disappointment of the sub-committee that such an incident should have occurred at this level of the game," Sealy said.

It was the first time the cricket board has taken action against a team accused of changing the condition of a ball. Allegations of ball-tampering have created international controversy.

Under the heading unfair play, "Law 42 states that no player may lift the seam of the ball, rub the ball on the ground, use any artificial substance or take any other action to alter the condition of the ball."

Umpires can replace tampered balls with other, similar balls. But no penalties are stipulated for the offending team.

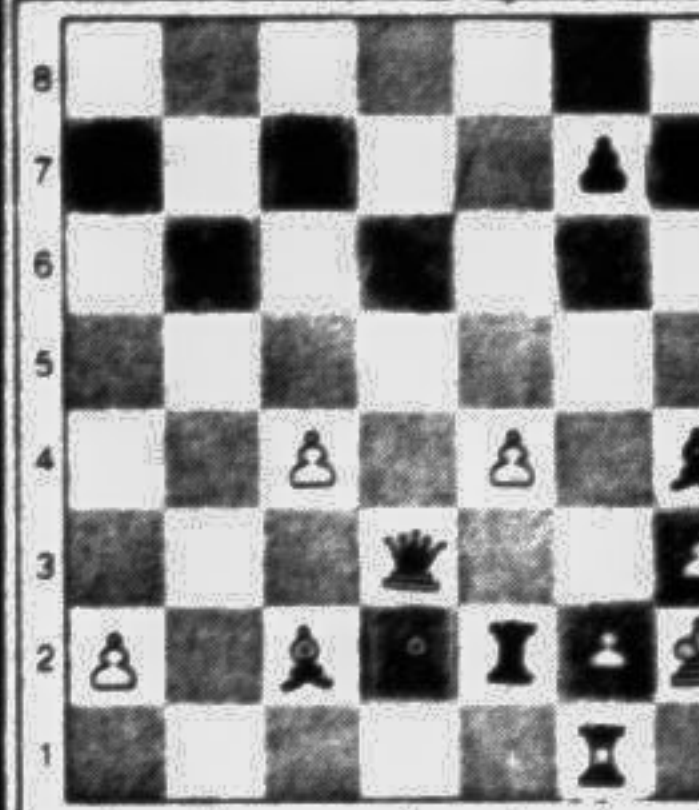
Bowlers are likely to benefit from a ball that has been altered by lifting its seam, applying a substance such as sunscreen or scratching one side.

Niaz Murshed's **PAPERCHESS**

No-8
Just last week I told you that Gata Kamsky had a very good chance of winning the match against Anatoly Karpov. Well, it looks as if Kamsky is failing to live up to my prediction and Karpov is now very much on top.

It is like having the serve in tennis. Therefore, it is absolutely essential in an important match to play well with white. Looking at the games however, it is clear that Karpov is doing nothing special to win the games. It seems that Kamsky is actually digging his own grave by running out of

game. Kamsky's slow style, which had been so effective against Anand in the semifinal match, is hardly helping him against Karpov. I think that a player needs to be more energetic and innovative to face Anatoly Karpov. Just "pushing wood" against the veteran champion is not a wise policy.



Almost in all the games, Kamsky lost the advantage and ended up in losing positions. Here is a critical position from the sixth game with Karpov playing black. Can you find the winning move for him?

Well, one thing is pretty clear from the result of this match so far. If we think that we have seen the last of Anatoly Karpov, we are very wrong. He may be past his prime, but he is definitely in business.

Solution: 1... R-d2! 2.Q-d2 Q-f3 check 3.K-g1 and B-h4 forcing mate on g2. Kamsky resigned.

(Niaz Murshed is the sub-continent's first Grand Master.)

Graf's Grand Slam mission

WIMBLEDON, England, June 19: Steffi Graf tries to win her seventh Wimbledon singles title in nine years when the championships get under way next Monday, reports AFP.

If she succeeds she will be joint third on the record list with Dorothea Lambert Chambers, who won seven titles before the First World War.

Only Martina Navratilova — nine victories — and Helen Wills-Moody — with eight — will have won more singles titles than Graf.

Graf is realistic enough, however, to know what to overcome Navratilova's record would be a massive achievement: "I'd love to beat Martina's record but I don't think I will be playing long enough to do that."

Nonetheless, Graf is favourite this year despite a tough draw and nagging injury worries that forced her to withdraw from the Eastbourne tournament this week.

Graf should have no problems in the early stages, her first difficult match likely to be in the last 16 against the 15-year-old Swiss prodigy, Martina Hingis.

The quarterfinal stage sets up an encounter with Jana Novotna, who went into the history books as the girl who cried on the Duchess of Kent's shoulders after she lost to Graf in the 1993 final.

Semifinal day should see Graf, if all goes to plan, facing Conchita Martinez, the Spanish girl who broke Martina Navratilova's heart by beating her in the 1994 final and depriving the great Czech American of a record.

Seles has never been at her happiest on grass but is extra keen to win this year to add the only Grand Slam title not in her collection. She has won the Australian Open four times, the French Open three times and the US Open twice.

She looks to have a fairly easy run until the semifinal stages, with South African Amanda Coetzer her scheduled opponent in the last 16 and Anke Huber of Germany lined up in the quarters.

Barring mishaps Seles will play Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain in the semifinals. Sanchez-Vicario was good enough to take Graf to a 7-5 final set in last year's final.

Yet, despite her fighting ability, it will be a shock if Graf does not play Seles for the title on Saturday week.

10th victory. In the other half of the draw the big question will be whether Monica Seles can go all the way to the final and justify her second seeding.

Seles, who was out of the game for more than two years after being stabbed by a fanatical German in Hamburg in April, 1993, has only played at Wimbledon on three occasions.

She reached the last 16 on her first appearance, when only 15 in 1989, was a quarterfinalist in 1990, dropped out at the last moment in 1991 and lost 6-2, 6-1 to Graf in the 1992 final.

Tracking the Olympic torch

PHILADELPHIA, June 19: Nancy Schultz, the widow of slain Olympic wrestler David Schultz, carried the Olympic torch Wednesday morning as it left Independence Hall en route to Wilmington, Delaware, reports AP.

"I was very proud to be there to represent my husband, David," said Schultz, accompanied by her two children, Danielle, 7, and Alexander, 10.

Her husband was shot to death Jan. 26, on the Pennsylvania estate of chemical heir John E. Du Pont where the

athlete worked as a wrestling coach and was training for an Olympic comeback.

Around midnight, more than 25,000 people gathered under growing skies at the foot of the Art Museum, while hundreds more fanned out along the dark Schuylkill River to cheer the Pennsylvania runners passing the torch.

Joe Frazier, who won Olympic gold fighting with a broke left thumb in the 1964 Games, joined Olympic basketball player Dawn Staley and other local heroes in the Philadelphia leg of the run to Atlanta.

"Nothing — not making the team, not beating the Russians last week — can match that rush," said Staley, fought her way out of a North Philadelphia housing project to become a star at the University of Virginia and the smallest member of the US women's basketball team.

On Tuesday the torch carriers passed the flame around the Statue of Liberty before the torch left New York on its way to Atlanta, Georgia.

Several hundred New Yorkers, selected because of their contributions to life in New York City, participated in the relay giving the event the appearance of a massive publicity march advertising Coca Cola, the relays official sponsor.

The runners were hoisterously applauded when they reached the Bronx, a northern borough of the city, and along the route to Rockefeller Centre, the landmark complex of Art Deco buildings in downtown Manhattan.

But when the carriers left Manhattan Tuesday under a grey, drizzling sky, the event was definitely lower key.

Welcomed on its arrival in the city by New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and by Coca Cola representatives, the torch spent the night in a smokers' presidential suite in a palatial mid-town building.

On Tuesday morning the last carrier in Manhattan lit a bowl installed on a ferry boat which sailed to Liberty Island, where other runners carried the torch around the famous statue.

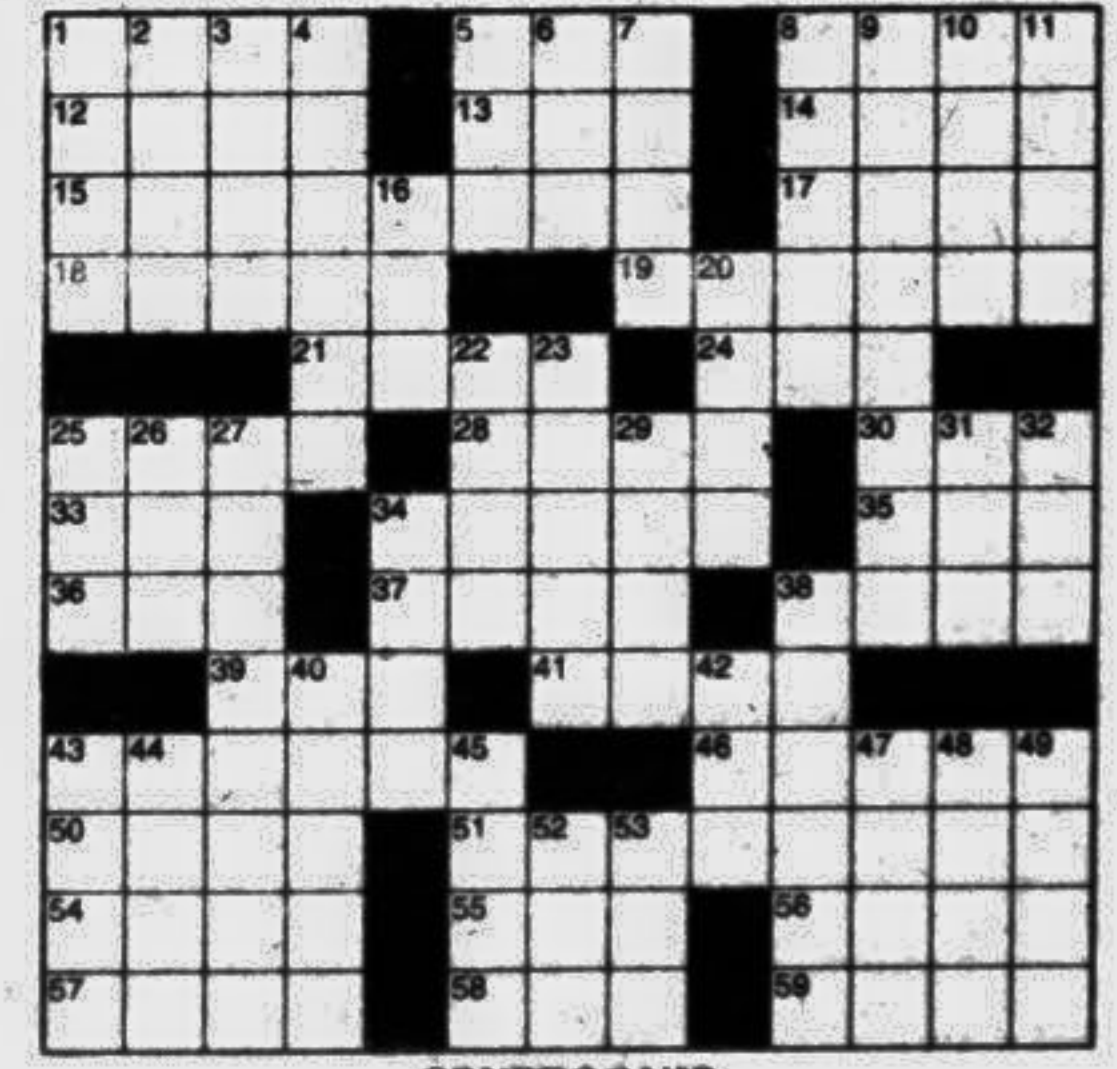
Nat'l Bank v'ball final today

Holders Bangladesh Rifles will take on last year's runner-up Titas Club in a title deciding match of the National Bank premier division volleyball league today, reports UNB.

The last league match between two rivals begins at 4 pm at the Mirpur National Indoor Stadium.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Slant
5 Cauldron
8 Full hair
12 Between
13 Carnival
14 Jester
15 Secure
16 Jailed
17 Switched
18 Galway's
19 Thrust
20 Leno's prominence
21 Incline
22 Loma's
23 Mrs. Saturn
24 Gettysburg
25 Point
26 Ingredient
27 Letter
28 Sticky stuff
29 Nonpareil
30 Excoriate
31 Teeter-totter
- DOWN**
2 Pedestal
3 Moises of the Expos
4 End a dispute
5 In favor
6 "Lorenzo's"
7 One of Taylor's
8 Show-biz
9 Skiffit
10 Parker House, e.g.
11 Shoppe
12 "Death of a Salesman" role
13 "Haw"
14 Trojan War
15 Roster's
16 Silo solo
17 Some-where out there
18 School famed for its playing field
19 On pens.
20 Have bills
21 Brit. rel.



CRYPTOQUIP

K H R V M O C B A A Y C Y A A K T D
O B R Y O M Y O O K T D D B V A

HYOM JM "DJMOABTJVM."
Yesterday's Cryptogram: LARGE SIGN IN DANCE
STUDIO RIGHTLY WARNS PATRONS: WATCH YOUR

Today's Cryptogram clue: D equals G

The Cryptogram 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.