

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Bill Clinton (American President) They (Olympic organisers) didn't tell me who would light the flame, but when I saw it was you (Ali), I cried...

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Announcement

TWO BITS OF A GOOD NEWS! Hey kids! From next week, WHIZZ KID-51 to be precise, there will be a new format...

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-50

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. August 16, 1996)

- 1. The fastest man in the Atlanta Olympic Games is... 2. Number of golds China won in the Atlanta Olympic Games are...

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

WHIZZ KID-49 winner

Emili Sharmin Shaheed Anwar High School Dhaka Cantt

WHIZZ KID-49 Correct answers

- 1. Double Olympic gold medalist Marie-Jose Perec is... 2. The electronic timing devices were first introduced in...

Batistuta stays at Fiorentina

FLORENCE, Aug 9: Fiorentina has extended the contract of Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta through June 1999...

Jacquet's contract extended

PARIS, Aug 9: France's Euro '96 coach Aimé Jacquet was confirmed today until the 1998 World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

AKC, Farashganj brief the press Abahani's icing on the cake

Reigning champions Abahani Krishna Chakra will be more than ambitious this year. The Dharmadhi-based club celebrating their silver jubilee in 1996, will consider the Premier Division football league title the perfect icing on the cake.

The sky blues outfit, champs in the last two seasons, are now dreaming of their second hat-trick triumph in the league, a feat unattained by any other team in the Dhaka league.

In a nutshell, that is what the two Abahani football officials, manager Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tutul and trainer Abdul Gaffar, said while briefing reporters at the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association office yesterday regarding their preparation for the forthcoming Premier Division league.

Abahani and Mohammedians have already won a hat-trick of championships once each. If we can win the league title this year, it will be our second hat-trick. And, we are eagerly waiting to make our dream come true, said Tutul, a former national star and Abahani defender.

According to trainer Gaffar, also a former Abahani and national winger, they began their initial camp from July 12 but the full-fledged camp got under way from July 24. Besides Gaffar, former national goalkeeper Motaheb is also coaching Abahani this year.

Replying to a question whether this short tenure is sufficient for their preparation, Gaffar said, "This is no enough. A team needs at least four to six weeks time for its preparation."

About the strength of the team, manager Tutul said, "We have organised the best that we could. We have five national booters from MuktiJoddha in our side this year. They have definitely increased our strength. What we need now is coordination among the old and the new-comers."

When asked about weaknesses in their team, the Abahani officials were prompt to indicate the midfield. "Barun and Swapan are at present our only bonafide midfielders. We need at least another two. Our defence and forward line are excellent," added trainer Gaffar.

Officials of Abahani (above) and Farashganj SC (below) exchanging their views with the journalists regarding their preparation for the Premier Division football league at the BSA office yesterday.

Finland's ray of hope

HELSINKI, Aug 9 (Reuter): Football and Finland: It's hardly one of the world's success stories. As a talking point, Finns prefer ice hockey, or even the weather.

A nation of five million, they have had international success in many sports, well out of proportion to the size of the population, but never in soccer.

Of Finland's 70 or so World Cup qualifying matches since 1938, they have won 12. But now there is a glimmer of hope.

Success for Ajax Amsterdam striker Jari Litmanen has helped to raise soccer's profile slightly in his home country.

And if there is a way to breathe life into football in chilly Finland, Richard Moeller-Nielsen, the Dane who took over as coach of the national team in July -- must surely be well qualified to find it.

In 1992 he guided a Danish team without stars into soccer's history books when they were included as replacements for Yugoslavia in the European Championship finals and humbled world champions Germany 2-0 to win the title.

Now the affable 58-year old has found another underdog. "I think I can give Finnish football a push forwards," he said after making his first rounds of the league teams playing off during soccer's short summer season.

Moeller-Nielsen, who has earned a somewhat unconventional reputation for his musings on the connection between his mother's corset and the "bones" of a football team.

They are a rock. That's what I believe very much in that. But his first job is to convince a side accustomed to losing to start believing in their potential.

Greens lift BKSP Cup hockey title

Bangladesh green hockey team lifted the first BKSP Cup hockey title when they defeated Bangladesh red outfit in the tie-breaker (9-8) at the BKSP's Savar ground yesterday.

The match was tied 2-2 in the scheduled 70 minutes. Raju put the greens ahead in the 12th minute through a field goal that was negated within minutes by the reds.

For reds, Kamal and Rubel levelled the match with one goal each in the 15th and 62nd minutes.

Earlier in the morning, Bangladesh green qualified for the final beating hosts BKSP also in the tiebreaker.

Maj Gen Abdur Rab, president of Bangladesh Hockey Federation, witnessed the final in the afternoon and distributed prizes among the winners.

The champions Bangladesh green team received 16,000 taka cash as prize money while the runners-up side earned eight thousand taka.

TEAMS Bangladesh green: Tushar, Asir, Sadeq, Roni, Shipu, Mitul, Ehtesham, Siraj, Ashik, Raju, Sadik, Ramiz and Jamel.

Bangladesh red: Javed, Alam, Rabi, Alamgir, Khokon, Nixon, Isa Mia, Kamal, Harun, Musa Mia, Mamun, Rubel and Khurshid.

Umpires: A Razzak and Meer Monowar.

Nat'l TT Ansars, Rajshahi in women's team final

Bangladesh Ansars and hosts Rajshahi moved into the women's team final of the 21st national table tennis championships winning their respective semifinals at the Rajshahi gymnasium yesterday.

According to a faxed message received here last night, defending champions Ansars ousted Narail 3-0 in the first semifinal while Rajshahi eliminated last year's runners-up Barguna 3-1 in the next match.

In the boys' team event, Bangladesh Biman reached the semifinals with a 3-0 win over Gaibandha in their first round group B final encounter.

Besides, eight first round clashes in the men's team event were also held yesterday.

In the day's matches, Biman beat Dinajpur 3-0, Narail defeated Patuakhali 3-0, Rajshahi eliminated Tangail 3-1, Jessore tamed Bagerhat 3-0, Munshiganj ousted Naogaon 3-1, Dhaka outplayed Khulna 3-0, Habiganj beat Moulvibazar 3-0 and Ansars outgunned Jhalakathi 3-0.

Dhaka Club golf

Sports Reporter Rezaul Rahman and Lutfe Najib Khan Rumi became champion and runner up respectively in a golf tournament, organised yesterday in celebration of the 85th foundation day of the Dhaka Club.

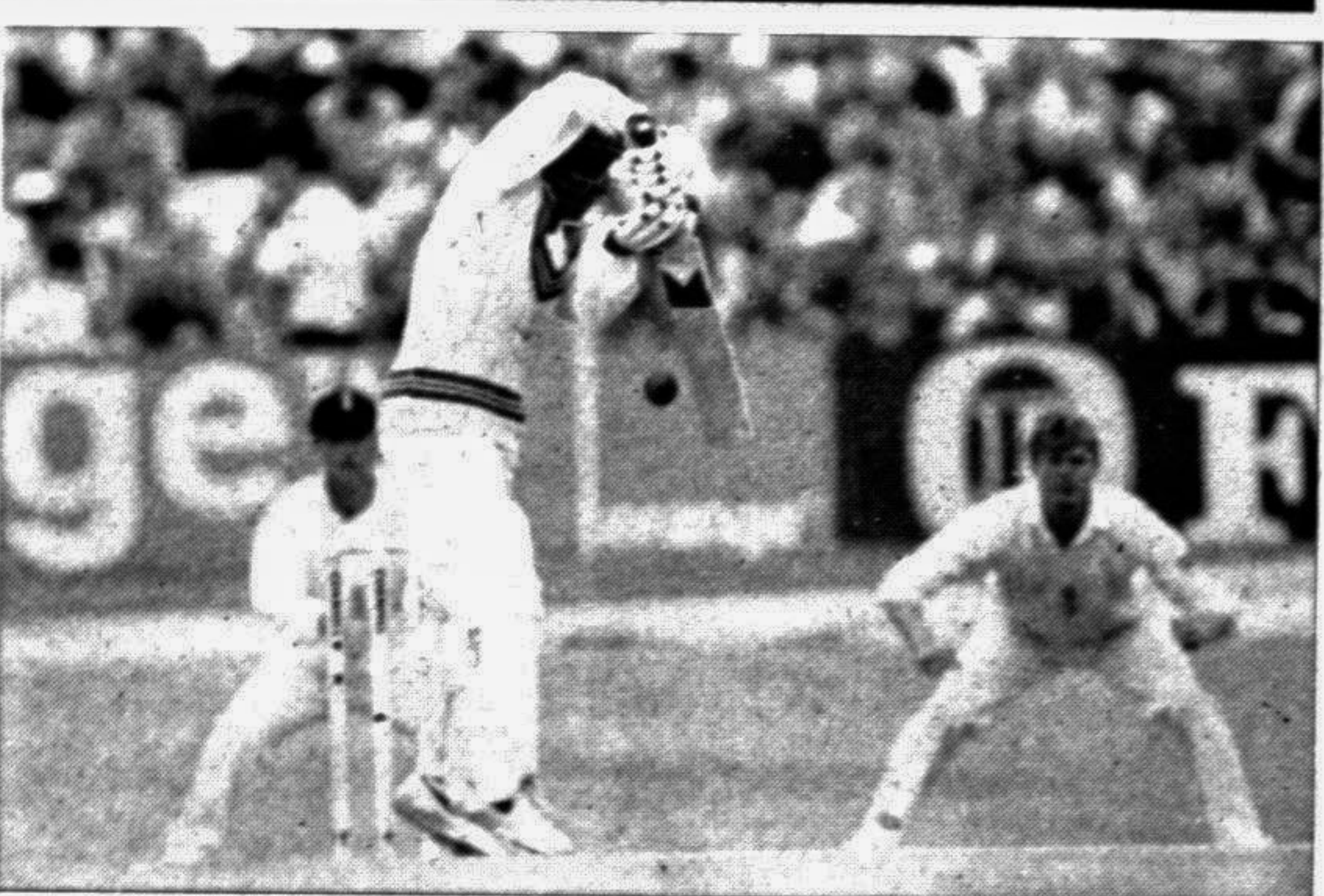
The tournament was held at the Dhaka Club golf course yesterday morning.

Other winners are: Shawkatuzzaman Babu (best gross), R. Amin Bappi (longest drive), Iqbal Mahmud (rearest to the pin), Kutubuddin Chowdhury (guest champion) and A K M Belaluddin (guest runner-up).

Sacchi's job safe

ROME, Aug 9: Italian national football coach Arrigo Sacchi, whose position has been under threat since his side's poor showing at Euro '96, is likely to keep his job following a deadlock in Tuesday's football federation presidential elections, reports AFP.

Even the Italian sports press, who have launched a ferocious attack on Sacchi's capabilities, predicted Thursday that the federation would be too preoccupied with its own administrative problems to replace the coach before the start of the season.



Pakistan's lower-order bat Asif Mujtaba takes evasive action off an Andy Caddick rising delivery. Mujtaba, playing in place of injured vice-captain Aamir Sohail, contributed a watchful 51 to Pakistan's first innings total of 448 against England at Headingley yesterday.

Moin stages mighty show

Sports Reporter Moin, clearly unaffected by his narrow escapes, launched Dominic Cork over the top for a huge six and just before lunch he glanced the gentle swing of Graham Thorpe down to the fine leg boundary to reach his half-century, pushing Pakistan to a lunchtime score of 350 for six.

Moin and Asif scored slowly at the start of the second session, and a rare boundary brought up Asif's eighth Test half-century.

Dominic Cork finally made the breakthrough for the dispirited England -- already down 1-0 in the series -- when he had Asif caught behind for 51 making the score 378 for seven.

Moin decided to hurry the pace and, relying on his somewhat unorthodox hooking and pulling style, hit Cork and Caddick over mid-wicket for another two fours, and registered Pakistan's 400 by smashing Caddick over his head to the long-on boundary.

Moin came out after tea to try and drive home Pakistan's advantage, but on 105 he edged Cork to wicketkeeper Jack Russell -- who claimed his 150th test dismissal -- making it 434 for eight.

In fading light Cork had his fifth wicket when he caught Waqar Younis for seven off his own bowling to have Pakistan 444 for nine.

On Thursday, Atherton won the toss for the first time this summer which has already seen a series against India and badly needed early results on an overcast Yorkshire day.

But the attack habitually bowled short of the ideal

length -- and often too wide -- giving Ijaz the latitude to collect to his third hundred in the last four Tests.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley today:

PAKISTAN: First innings Saeed Anwar c Atherton b Mullyally 35 Shaifab Kabir lbw b Caddick 1 Ijaz Ahmed c Russell b Cork 141 Inzamam-ul-Haq c Atherton b Mullyally 2 Salmat Malik b Cork 55 Asif Mujtaba c Thorpe b Cork 51 Wasim Akram c Russell b Caddick 7 Moin Khan c Russell b Cork 105 Mushtaq Ahmed c Atherton b Caddick 20 Waqar Younis c and b Cork 7 Ataur Rehman not out 0 Extras: (b-4, lb-10 nb-10) 24 Total: (153 overs) 448

England: First innings M Atherton c Moin Khan b Wasim Akram 12 A Stewart not out 52 N Hussain not out 37 Extras: (b-2, lb-1) 3 Total: (for one wicket, 25 overs) 104

Gooch hits hefty hundred

LONDON, Aug 9: English county championship leaders Leicestershire took control on the first day of their clash with Glamorgan on Thursday before rain wrecked proceedings after tea at Swansea, reports Reuter.

Leicestershire, three points clear of out-of-action Yorkshire with a game in hand at the start of the day, reached 298 for three off 73 overs thanks to excellent knocks from Ben Smith (82 not out) and Phil Simmons (79 not out).

The fourth-wicket pair added 154 in 38 overs between lunch and tea to build on the encouraging platform provided by openers Vince Wells (44) and Darren Maddy (43).

The 125th first-class century of Graham Gooch's brilliant career was the highlight at Taunton where Essex finished the day on 417 for six against Somerset.

The former England skipper bludgeoned his way to 186 not out, with Stuart Law (63) and Test discard Ronnie Iani (87) providing excellent support.

On the second day at Southport, a 109-ball century by Brendon Julian strengthened third-placed Surrey's grip on their contest with Lancashire.

The Australian all-rounder hammered five sixes and 13 fours, racing from 50 to 100 in just 33 deliveries, as Surrey piled up 366 for six in their second innings for a lead of 432.

He eventually finished unbeaten on 119, while Mark Butcher and Nadeem Shahid both weighed in with 66 apiece.

Earlier, Lancashire, resuming on 128 for five slumped to 145 all out, Martin Bicknell (five for 48) and Joey Benjamin (four for 38) doing the damage.

Another England discard, seamer Simon Brown, became the first Durham bowler to take 300 first-class with a three for 71 haul as Warwickshire were dismissed for 306 at Durham.

But it was left-arm spinner David Cox who took most of the plaudits.

Cox made his debut against Warwickshire two years ago -- finishing with the worst first-class figures in Durham's history, nought for 163, as Brian Lara constructed his world record 501.

But he went some way towards erasing that bitter memory on Thursday with a career-best five for 97.

GOOCH... 186 n.o.

GOOCH... 186 n.o.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes a crossword puzzle grid and a list of clues for across and down words.