

Column One

WHIZZ KID

WIN TK, 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-51

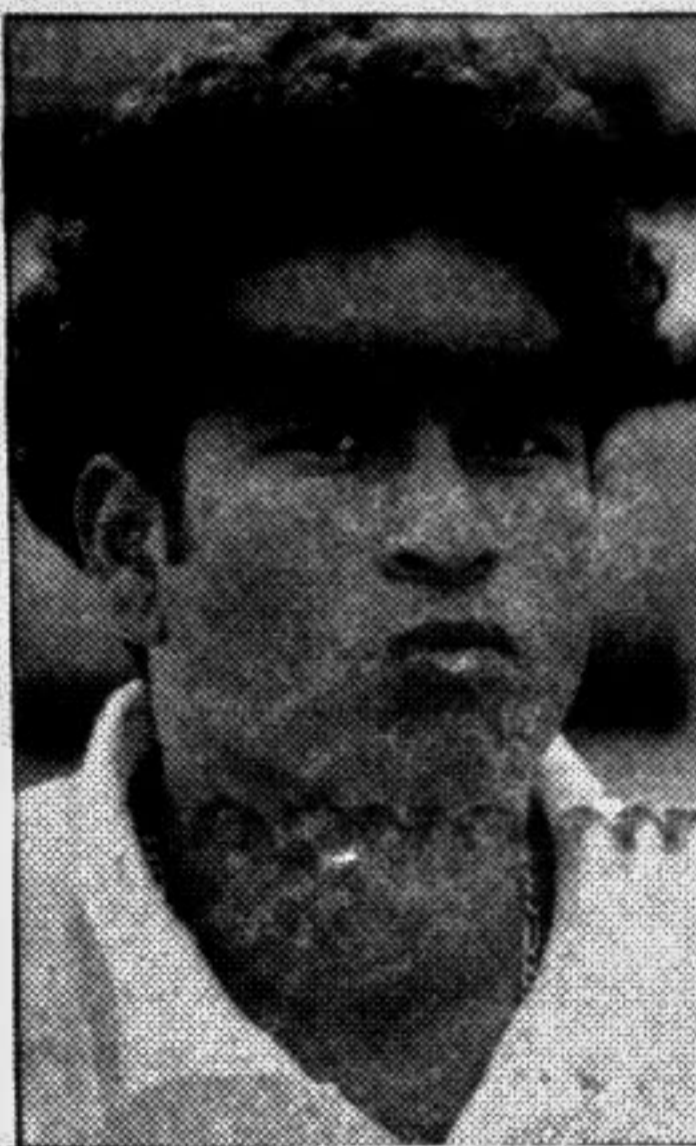
Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes: 8 p.m. August 30, 1996

- 1. The new Zimbabwean cricket captain is... 2. Number of centuries scored in the Headingley Test between Pakistan and England were... 3. Australian Michael Bevan plays county cricket for... 4. The new football skipper of Muktiyoddha Sangsad is... 5. What was the position Brothers Union Club in last year's Premier Division football league?

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

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar (Indian cricket captain) 'I will leave Azhar alone to regain his batting touch because he is such an invaluable member of the team. Easily one of the best batsman in the world.'

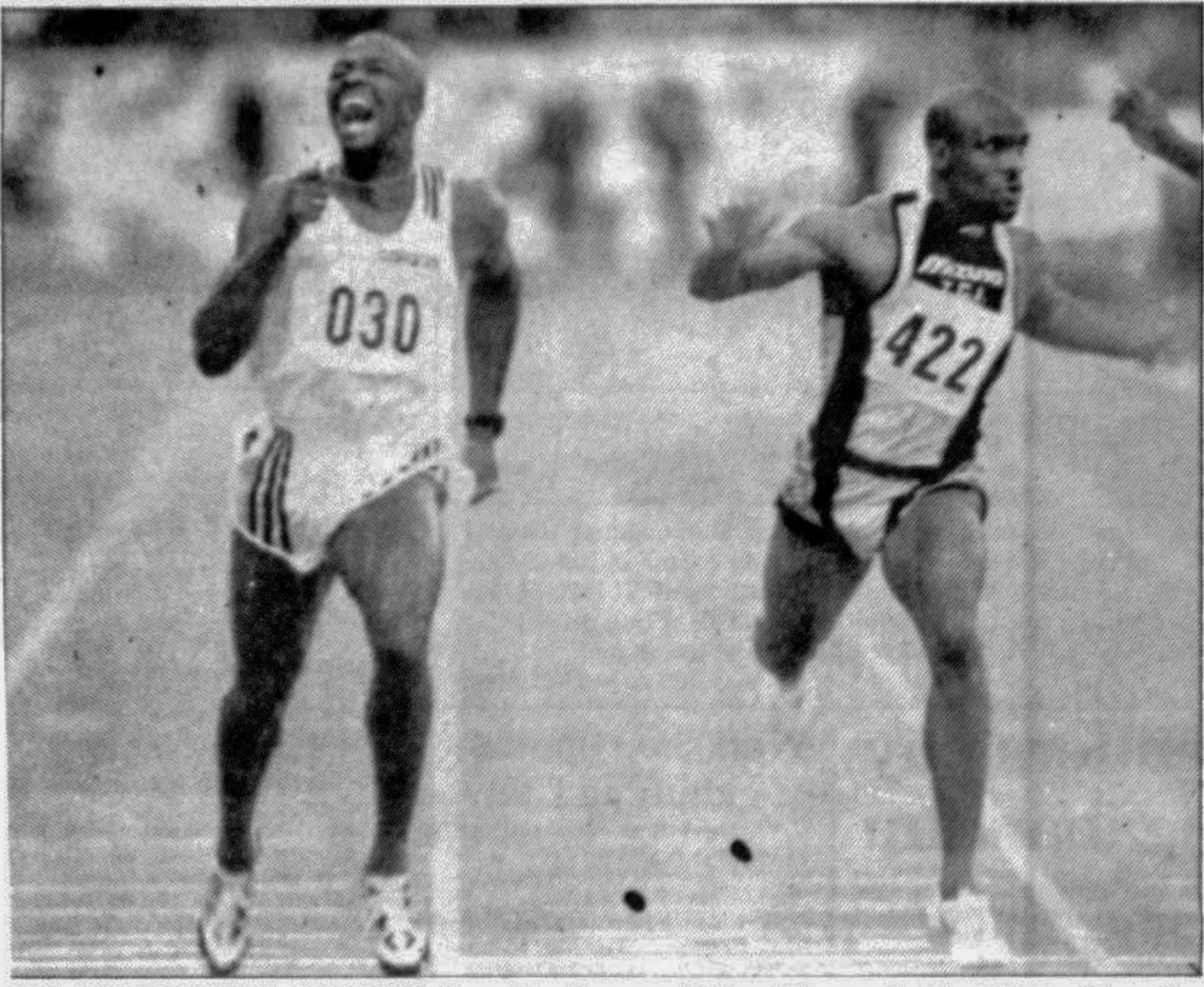
Testing time for Gazza

GLASGOW, Aug 17: Paul Gascoigne will be back for Scottish champions Rangers on Saturday with just two weeks to prove his fitness for England's World Cup opener, reports AFP.

Brox boss Walter Smith is ready to give Scotland's player-of-the-year his first outing against Dunfermline at East End Park. That will leave new England coach Glenn Hoddle with the decision of whether to name Gascoigne in his squad next Thursday for the World Cup qualifying tie in Moldova on September 1.

Brits to get more Sky Sports

LONDON, Aug 17: Armchair British fans will be able to watch 14,000 hours of sports coverage over the next year — an average of 38 hours a day — as Rupert Murdoch's Sky TV bids to strengthen its hand in the British market, reports AFP.



DELAYED DOUBLE DELIGHT: Canada's Donovan Bailey (L) repeats his Atlanta Olympic feat to win the IAAF Grand Prix 100m at Cologne on August 16 with a time of 10.03 seconds. Mitchell (10:07) of USA was second.

Bailey regains composure

COLOGNE, Germany, Aug 17: Olympic sprint champion Donovan Bailey bounced back from defeat with a victory and a smile while former gold medalist Heike Henkel left athletics with a tear in her eye at the Cologne Grand Prix on Friday, reports Reuter.

Bailey beaten over 100 metres at the richest meeting in athletics in Zurich on Wednesday, produced the same strong finish which took him to Olympic gold and a world record of 9.84 seconds in Atlanta to beat a world-class 100 metres field.

Competing in her last major event, the petite, blonde-haired Henkel, the 1992 Olympic women's high jump champion, could only clear 1.90 metres but left her home stadium with a standing ovation ringing in her ears.

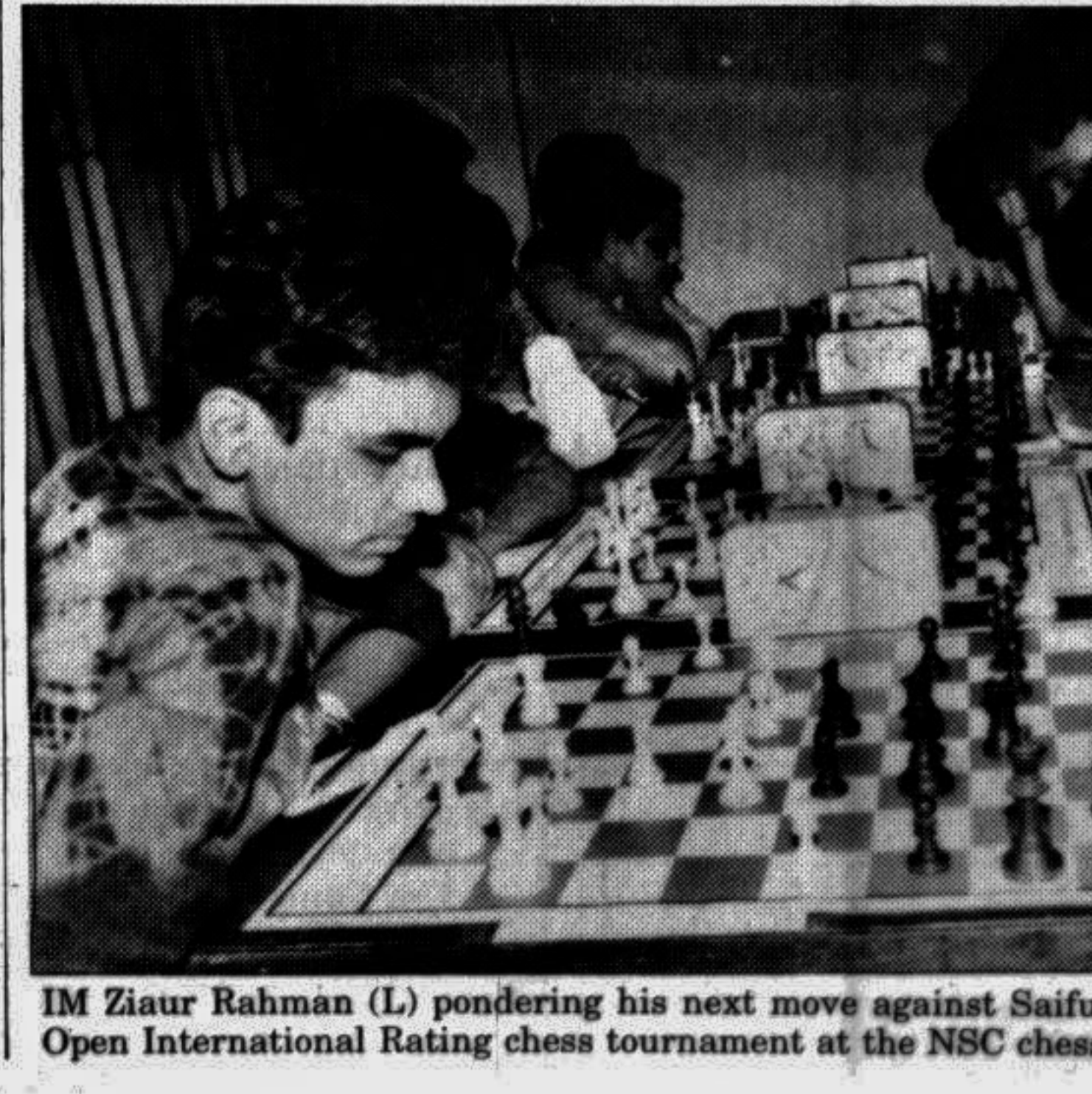
Mitchell, sporting his usual bright green outfit, started brilliantly and was ahead of Bailey halfway. But the towering Canadian ate up the ground in the last 50 metres. Jamaican Michael Green, seventh in the Olympic final, pulled up in severe pain in the last 20 metres with what appeared to be a leg muscle strain.

Cologne organisers tried to liven up a coolish evening by playing music with a strong beat during the distance races and even playing quiet but dramatic movie-type background music and the athletes

stepped up to the start line. But it did not help the distance runners to records. The most emotional moment of the evening did not need any melody at all. Henkel's face said it all.

Hubsudova shuts Date out

MANHATTAN BEACH, California, Aug 17: Anke Huber outlasted Irina Spirlea 6-3, 6-7 (1-7), 6-4 Friday to advance to the semi-finals of the 450,000 dollars Acura Classic, reports agencies.



IM Ziaur Rahman (L) pondering his next move against Saifuddin Loveluru during yesterday's Open International Rating chess tournament at the NSC chess room. Zia won the board.

Rahmatganj on a roll

Sports Reporter Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society recorded their second successive victory in the Danish First Division football league when they defeated promotees Mirpur Chalanika Sporting Club by a solitary goal at the floodlit Mirpur Stadium last night.

Rahmatganj striker Azim netted the match-winner in the 74th minute. The win raised Rahmatganj's tally to six points from two matches while Chalanika who made an impressive start with a victory over Wari Club in their league opener last week, remained stuck on three points.

Zia going great guns

Sports Reporter National champion IM Ziaur Rahman of Biman inched ahead towards the Open International Rating title when he tamed Saifuddin Loveluru of BTMC in the penultimate round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In an English opening, Zia, playing with white pieces, took only 29 moves to edge past Loveluru. The win raised Zia's tally to eight and a half points which keeps him at the top of the table with a half point lead over IM Reefat-bin-Sattar.

Romanian Gabriela Szabo won a tight finish in the women's 5,000 metres in a fast 14 minutes 44.42 seconds. Italian Roberta Brunet was just run out in the final 40 metres, clocking 14.44.50 in second place.

Rain ruins Premier Div football

Sports Reporter Both yesterday's Danish Premier Division football league matches at the Dhaka Stadium — Young Men's Club Fakirerpool vs Agrani Bank SC and Abahani Krira Chakra vs East End Club — were washed out due to incessant rain in the capital.

The matches, however, will now be held at the same time and venue today while the remaining fixture of the Premier league will be shifted bodily.

FIFA assures against 'foul ball'

BOSTON, Aug 17: The international federation of football associations (FIFA), the world governing body of soccer, will guarantee that soccer balls carrying its logo were not hand-stitched by children, US representative Joseph Kennedy's office said on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Massachusetts democrat has been at the forefront of the alleged use of child labour in the manufacture of soccer balls in Pakistan.

Up until recently, few realised that about 25 per cent of the stitching on soccer balls stitched in Pakistan is done by children, some as young as four or five, working up to 10 hours a day, Kennedy said in a statement.

Pakistan exports about 35 million soccer balls a year, about one-third to north America, Kennedy's office said. In July, Pakistani labour minister Ghulam Akbar Lasti ordered the arrest of any contractors found using child labour, but denied that children were employed to sew soccer balls.

St Germain join the pack

PARIS, Aug 17: Cameroon's Patrick Mboma and France striker Patrice Loko scored in the dying minutes to give Paris St Germain a 2-0 home win over Caen on Friday and put them level with maximum points on top of the French First Division, reports Reuter.

Lens came from behind to beat promoted Nancy 3-1 and go top on goal difference, while champions Auxerre, 2-0 winners at home against Lille, PSG and Bastia also have six points and exactly the same goals records after two rounds of the new championship.

European Cup Winners' Cup holders PSG determined to win the league title they slipped from their grasp last season, were all over promoted Caen at Parc Des Princes with their Brazilian playmaker Leonardo in superb form.

But the Parisians looked like they would get no more than a point for their efforts

until their pressure finally told with Mboma's goal in the 88th minute. Loko secured the points when he scored in injury time.

Marseille, who made such a promising return from Second Division ignominy with a 3-1 home win over Lyon a week ago, looked set for another success win when they went ahead at Le Havre.

Striker Xavier Gravelaine, who hit the crucial second goal against Lyon, became the only player to score twice so far in the championship when he found the net in the 40th minute.

But the north coast side equalised through striker Abder Ramdane in the 65th minute and Marseille's frustrations led to their French international Reynald Pedros being sent off with Le Havre's Frederic Brando for fighting off the ball.

Lille had defender Frederic Dindeleux sent off just before halftime at Auxerre and the 1996 double winners made their extra man tell with two

goals in two minutes just after an hour by Algerian international Moussa Saib and former Lille midfielder Antonine Stierski.

Lens, fifth last season, fell behind in the 11th minute to a surprise strike by Nancy defender Sebastien Schmechel against the run of play and the visitors continued to frustrate them for the rest of the first half.

But once Cameroon international Marc-Vivien Foe had headed an equaliser from a corner four minutes after the interval, Lens never looked back.

Defender Eric Sikora converted a penalty on the hour after Czech Republic striker Vladimir Smicer had been brought down and Russian Sacha Rychkov, signed from Belgian club Standard Liege, added the third.

Scottish forward Alan Johnston, formerly of Hearts, scored the crucial second for Rennes in their 3-1 home win over Nice.



Montpellier's Jean Rouviere (R) evades Monaco's John Collins in a French First Division match at Monaco on August 15.

Adopt-an-athlete plan to beat race bias

Mohammed Allie writes from Cape Town The legacy of apartheid still hangs over sport in South Africa, where many national teams, including the Olympic squad, are still predominantly white. A series of programmes is now underway, reports Gemini News Service, to improve matters by promoting black talent.

SOUTH Africa's Sports Minister Steve Tshwete expressed concern that only 16 of his country's 86 competitors in the Atlanta Olympics were black.

White political changes have altered the composition of the government, the nation's sports teams still largely reflect the old, white-dominated order. Exceptions to the rule are soccer and boxing, which have long been largely black sport.

Merit was the only basis for selection for the Olympics, and white athletes had the advantage of years of access to superior facilities and coaching.

However, efforts are now under way to change things so that the sports teams of the future more accurately mirror the nation's racial composition.

While realising there is no quick-fix solution, the National Sports Council (NSC) in conjunction with the newly-established Sports Science Institute, based in Cape Town, has embarked on an ambitious programme of identifying talent at an early age and providing special training.

On one level, sports academies are being established in each of South Africa's nine provinces to provide coaching for talented youth.

"We are unashamed about our intentions to change the demographic make-up of our national teams," says Donny Jurgens, NSC chairman in the Western Cape. "So, although not exclusively so, the activi-

ties of the academies will be focused on disadvantaged communities." Meanwhile, the Sports Science Institute, which conducts research and devises scientific training programmes, has launched an innovative scheme called "Adopt an Athlete."

Participants are athletes who have been identified as having the potential to become national sports stars.

Initially, they will be given one-year membership of the institute, says Jurgens, who doubles up as its outreach and development manager.

"We will build up a file on them and ask a private company to adopt each one through a sponsorship which will cover all their sports science needs."

Jurgens' eyes light up when he talks about the progress already made by the 14 athletes already "adopted." He says: "It's a small start, but at least 14 is better than zero."

He continues: "they've made tremendous strides. We can obviously afford to invest only in those who have the potential to succeed."

"We're not in the business of mass participation. That's the responsibility of the NSC and the various codes. We will restrict ourselves to looking after the talented athletes identified by them."

community. He's going places, literally and figuratively. He'll be playing in the world junior open tournament in Egypt in August, after having reached the third round in a junior tournament in London two years ago.

Dippenaar believes his game can benefit greatly. "I needed to improve my strength, stamina and endurance," he says, "and with the scientific input, this is already happening."

The services provided by the institute are crucial, especially when the world's leading athletes are often on a par in terms of pure physical ability. The psychological and physical conditioning provided by the institute could make the difference between winning and losing.

Another project which sets Jurgens' pulse racing is the Gymnastics 2004 talent-identification project. It has selected 30 of the Western Cape's most promising eight-year-old female gymnasts.

Science is the key to being one step ahead of competitors, he says. "We have so much natural talent in this country, and one we give everyone a chance to participate, we will take the first step." — Gemini News

About the Author: Mohammed Allie is a South African freelance journalist and Cape Town correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation's Africa Service.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 'Leaving the party?' 4 Home of the brave 23 Trouble-maker 37 Exaltation group 5 Earthenware 24 Entree 38 Specialty 6 Gives some Zs 26 Catch 40 The Tentmaker 7 Prior permission 27 Raw rock 5 Staff leader 42 Late Ms. Gabor 7 Prior right 28 Daytime agent 43 Hearth 8 Weapon 29 Collect format 12 Exceptional 48 X rating? 9 Carnival employes 29 Collections 30 Jeans-maker 50 Neighbor of Saudi 10 Actor 31 Lightning bug 14 Dander 51 Moreover 11 Arsenals 34 Witticism 15 Hooch 52 December celebration subject 35 Spider's web, in rhyme 17 Tease 53 Orange coat 20 Turntable 37 PC 18 Picks up the check 21 Upright 21 Dry bread 1 Sandy's water-course 38 Greek cheese 24 Scuff 25 Rose's beau 3 Blunder hood 39 It takes the cake 26 People walk all over them 30 Aachen article 41 Ancient Persian 31 Public meeting place 42 11 Down letters 45 Charities 32 Menlo Park monogram 46 Prince HERALDS KILLY 33 Uses the long form 47 Here, appropriately 35 Hide 36 Death of

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Solution: KYO NYIW IFS OCIKOU AMIM QSZW JCR IGKZMJ: UACOCI JK NSQ GSF IJKR NSQ. Yesterday's Cryptogram: YOUR CUNNING TATTOO ARTIST TRULY HAD DESIGNS ON HER CLIENTS.

Today's Cryptogram clue: R equals W 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.