

Column One SPORTS TALK



Saurav Ganguly (India's new cricket sensation) Azharuddin has influenced me the most. His first three Test matches and hundreds inspired me a lot. I have been a fan of Azhar since 1984...

WIN TK, 2000-PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-53 Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm September 27, 1996. Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options.

Hockey team leaves Sept 25

A 19-member Bangladesh squad will leave here Wednesday for the Italian city of Cagliari to take part in the 14-team preliminary round of the ninth men's hockey World Cup beginning on September 29...

Earlier, Bangladesh has been placed in Group B along with Ireland, Kenya, Poland, Scotland, USA and the hosts while Group A includes Canada, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Switzerland and Wales.

RU aquatic From RU Correspondent. RAJSHAHI, Sept 22: Sayed Amir Ali Hall clinched the inter-dormitory aquatic championship by claiming eight out of 13 golds and also won the water polo event on the concluding day of the meet today.

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Bangladesh beat Iran

Faisal Murshed from Yerevan, Armenia. IM Reefat bin-Sattar suffered a stunning defeat as Bangladesh squared a lowly-rated Iran with a shaky 2.5-1.5 points win in their sixth round engagement of the 32nd Chess Olympiad here on Saturday.

With this narrow margin victory Bangladesh, who are already out of the title race, raised their collection to 13 points from six matches in the 14-round Swiss league meet.

Yesterday was a rest day. Earlier, GM Niaz Murshed who played with white, crushed the lower rated Aria Nazed. The King's Indian game lasted less than three hours, since Niaz's convincing King side attack was too much for his opponent to handle. Black resigned in 30th move.

IM Ziaur Rahman 2460, who seems to be in good form also, beat Mamouri Mehdi 2210 of Iran easily. In the queen pawn game, Zia held the advantage throughout and won a pawn in the middle game. In the ending the unfancied Iranian, had no chance.

Kayes Hassan on the fourth board did well to defend an inferior game against unrated Shojat Ghana. In the King's Indian opening Kayes opponent had the initiative but failed to capitalize on it.

MEN (Round by Round) Round 1 Mozambique won 4-0 Round 2 Russia lost 0.5-3.5 Round 3 Czech Rep lost 0-4 Round 4 Angola won 4-0 Round 5 India drew 2-2 Round 6 Iran won 2.5-1.5

WOMEN (Round by Round) Round 1 Ukraine lost 0-3 Round 2 IBCA lost 0.5-2.5 Round 3 Angola won 3-0 Round 4 Finland lost 0.5-2.5 Round 5 Ireland won 2-1 Round 6 Philippines won 3-0

AP adds: Russia maintained their lead in the even after team leader Gari Kasparov agreed to a draw against Armenian player Vladimir Akopyan.

In the sixth round, Russia beat Armenia 2.5-1.5 and now have 17.5 points to 16.5 of Britain, Spain and the Czech Republic.

China, who once led the tournament, found themselves ranked third, sharing the spot with Hungary with 16 points each. Britain's leading player, Nigel Short, agreed to a draw against Zurab Azmajparshvili of Georgia.

Hungarian player Judit Polgar, who ranks No. 9 in the world, was playing against the French leader, Joel Lautier, and also agreed to a draw. Another draw was that between Pia Gramling of Sweden and Romanian grandmaster Maria Mihai.

The Netherlands' Jan Timman agreed to a draw with Boris Gelfand, the leader of the Belarusian team.

Leading men's results: USA 3.5, Iceland 0.5, Russia 2.5, Armenia 1.5, Spain 2.5, China 1.5, Britain 1.5, Georgia 1.5, Hungary 2.5, France 1.5, Cuba 2, Bosnia 2, Croatia 2.5, Germany 1.5, Poland 3, Egypt 1, Netherlands 2.5, Belarus 1.5, Estonia 2, Uzbekistan 2, Sweden 2, Romania 2, Argentina 3, Slovakia 1, Ukraine 2, Kazakhstan 2, Bulgaria 3, Portugal 1, Czech Republic 4, Peru 0

Leading women's results: Georgia 2, China 1, Ukraine 2.5, Vietnam 0.5, Hungary 2, Romania 1, Russia 3, Slovakia 0, Yugoslavia 2.5, India 0.5, Moldova 2, Kazakhstan 1, Germany 2, Latvia 1, Bulgaria 3, Indonesia 0, Mongolia 1.5, Britain 1.5, Israel 3, USA 0, Cuba 2, Greece 1

STANDINGS Men: 1 Russia: 17.5, 2 Britain, Spain, Czech Republic: 16.5, 3 Hungary, China: 16, 4 Armenia, Cuba, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Netherlands, Bulgaria, USA: 15.5, 5 Georgia, France, Poland, Uzbekistan, Estonia, Argentina, Sweden: 15, 6 Germany, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan: 14.5

Women: 1 Ukraine: 14.5, 2 Georgia, Russia: 13.5, 3 China: 13, 4 Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria: 12.5, 5 Romania, Moldova, Germany, Israel: 12, 6 Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Cuba: 11

Polgar in a mess!

Hungarian star Judit Polgar, who doesn't seem to be in good form (she lost 2 games in succession against China and Portugal), has been making a lot of mistakes. She is living in the fourth floor of Hotel Ani but Saturday forgetfully went up to the fifth floor and in the dark

corridor (due to power failure), mistook Bangladesh team as the Hungarian team! Aware of her mistake she apologised and went into the room of her Hungarian teammates but didn't realise that she was on the fifth floor. She had to apologise again since she was in Reefat's room!!!

scored 10 times against Leeds in 11 matches in his career, netted the only goal of the game after 59 minutes as Newcastle chalked up their fifth, successive win in cup and league matches.

Arsenal, whose new manager Arsene Wenger does not arrive until the end of the month, also put their recent troubles further behind them with a 2-0 win at high flying Middlesbrough.

John Hartson (third) and Ian Wright (27th) scored the goals that gave the gunners victory and moved them up to third place, a point behind Newcastle and three behind Liverpool.

Blackburn, champions in 1995, stayed bottom still searching for their first win after drawing 1-1 at home with Everton who had Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson sent off near the end.

Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit said: "We played more against ourselves than Liverpool today. The goals came from individual errors and mistakes. We avoid similar performances if we are to improve. None of my players did what I know they can do today."

Liverpool, who have won five and drawn two of their opening seven matches to lead the standings by two points over Newcastle, totally outclassed Rudd Gullit's team who started the day in third place and were unbeaten themselves.

Despite their emphatic win which establishes Liverpool as serious contenders for the title they last won in 1990, Evans kept his feet firmly on the ground.

"We can't complain about the first seven matches, but we've not been brilliant or played out of our skin. We've ground out results and worked hard for them, and we probably deserve to be top. It's nice, no one is getting carried away, and I just hope we can improve from here."

Robbie Fowler opened the scoring with a cleverly taken header after 15 minutes before man-of-the-match, Czech striker Patrick Berger, playing in place of Stan Collymore rounded keeper Kevin Hitchcock for the second three minutes before half time.

A headed own goal by Andy Myers put Evans' men 3-0 up just before the break and further goals by Berger after 49 minutes and John Barnes, whose 57th minute shot took a wicked deflection off Dennis Wise, put Liverpool 5-0 up.

Frenchman Frank Leboeuf scored a consolation for Chelsea with an 85th minute penalty after Mark Hughes was tripped in the Liverpool box.

Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit said: "We played more against ourselves than Liverpool today. The goals came from individual errors and mistakes. We avoid similar performances if we are to improve. None of my players did what I know they can do today."

Liverpool and Manchester United are now the only teams in the division yet to lose, but the champions slipped from second to fourth after an entertaining 0-0 draw at Aston Villa.

Newcastle leapfrogged over Manchester United into second place after their 1-0 win at Leeds United, who had former England defender Carlton Palmer sent off for two bookable offences inside four minutes in the first half.

Alan Shearer, who has now scored 10 times against Leeds in 11 matches in his career, netted the only goal of the game after 59 minutes as Newcastle chalked up their fifth, successive win in cup and league matches.

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MSC-Muktis' match today

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will involve in a crucial 3rd league tie when the two-tier Danish Senior Division football leagues resume today after a scheduled day-off on Sunday.

The clash of two heavyweights, the second match of the Premier league engagements slated for today, kicks-off at 6 pm.

Mohammedans, the leaders of the 10-team elite group with 16 points from six engagements, will be looking forward to better their impressive record of 13 wins and four draws against a new look Muktiyoddha, who are yet to defeat the black and whites since their emergence as a major force in 1994.

For Muktiyoddha, who are jointly sharing the second position with defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra, collecting 14 points each on completion of the six matches, an elusive win can do a world of good in their chase for a maiden league title.

TODAY'S MATCHES Farashganj vs Bangladesh Boys 4 pm (DS) Mohammedan SC vs Muktiyoddha 6 pm (DS) Police AC vs BRTC SC 4:30 pm (MS) Wari Club vs S Bima 6:30 pm (MS)

Simba Cup stays in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 22: South Africa retained the four-nation Simba Cup despite being held 0-0 by Ghana in the final match of the tournament at Loftus Versfeld on Saturday night, reports AFP.

The African champions finished with seven points, one more than Australia and three ahead of Ghana while World Cup giantkillers Kenya propped up the standings without a point.

Although lacking stars like Abedi Pele and Anthony Yeboah, the legendary black stars matched 'bafana bafana' (the boys) despite finishing with only nine net goals.

Suleiman Gharib, a major in the Kenyan army, set off Shamo Quaye and Foster Bastios during the second half in a fiercely contested clash watched by a capacity 55,000 crowd.

Quaye was harshly dismissed for a clumsy tackle on Jerry Sikosana and Bastios joined him after pulling down African Nations Cup hero Mark Williams from behind.

Sammy Adjet, Patrick Alilotey, the Dutch based teenager fulfilling an unfamiliar defensive role and Jacob Netey were cautioned during a game where the stretcher bearers worked overtime.

South Africa did not escape the wrath of the referee with Sizwe Motaung making a 73rd minute exit for a second bookable offence and Innocent Buthezi and Shaun Bartlett getting yellow cards.

Ghana had vowed to avenge a three-goal Nations Cup semifinal hiding last January and overcame the early loss through injury of star defender Frank Amankwah to match the home team.

With play constantly disrupted by fouls, injuries and off the ball incidents, chances were few especially in the first half and South Africa goal closest when Richard Kingston saved spectacularly from Jerry Sikosana.

South African midfielder Johan 'Shoes' Moshoeu, hero of the midweek triumph over Australia, was just off target twice in the second half before Kingston foiled Thoma Madigage with a superb reflex save.

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Fed Cup squash begins today

The third Federation Cup squash competition, organised by the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation (BSRF), begins today at the Dhaka Club Squash Complex, reports AP.

The nine-day meet, likely to be participated by 65 players, will be inaugurated at 5 pm by BSRF president Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury.

Hyundai Tigers due Sept 26

A 31-member Ulshan Hyundai Tigers Club team is scheduled to arrive in the capital on September 26 to play their away leg engagement of the 7th Asian Cup Winners' Cup football championship against Mohammedan Sporting Club.

The strong South Korean outfit, who had earlier handed Mohammedans a crushing 5-0 defeat in Seoul on September 14, will meet the black and whites at the Dhaka Stadium on September 28.

DC Gold Cup football

From Our Correspondent. GAIBANDHA, Sept 22: The Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament, under the aegis of Jaipurhat District Sports Association, began at the local stadium today.

In the inaugural match hosts Jaipurhat scored an impressive 3-0 win over Panichgarh. Earlier, AFM Yahid Chowdhury, Commissioner Rajshahi Division, declared the meet open in a colourful ceremony.



South African forward Thomas Madigage (No.7) dribbles waltzes through the Ghanaian defence during their four-nation Simba Cup match at Loftus Versfeld in Pretoria on Sept 21.

Montella ruins Roma's day

ROME, Sept 22: Substitute Vincenzo Montella struck a second half hat-trick on Saturday as Sampdoria ruined as Roma's perfect start to the season with a 4-1 away victory, reports Reuter.

Montella, who came on after the interval, scored twice in 10 minutes after Argentine Abel Balbo had given Roma a 53rd minute lead with his third goal in three matches.

The 22-year-old striker, signed from Genoa in the close season, completed his hat-trick in extra time.

Roma's first defeat of the season put Parma on top after a hard-fought 3-2 home win over arch-rivals Reggiana. Parma head inter, held 1-1 at the San Siro by Lazio, on goal difference.

Sampdoria join Roma and Bologna in a three-way tie for third place on six points although Bologna have a game in hand and can go top if they beat champions Milan on Sunday.

Gianfranco Zola scored Parma's winner in the 60th minute, turning home Euro Cup Chelsea's cross after the visitors had twice levelled the scores.

Instead Montella gave Roma a lesson in finishing, aided by ex-international Mancini who

In a fiercely-contested match, Reggiana's Gianluca Sordo was shown a red card after coming on as a second-half substitute. Parma's Roberto Mussi joined Sordo on the sidelines as a result of a vicious tackle.

Roy Hodgson's Internazionale, victorious in both their opening matches, fell behind to Giuseppe Signori's 33rd minute opener for Lazio before Frenchman Jocelyn Angloma leveled the scores in the 39th minute.

In a tense finale, Lazio repelled a wave of later attacks to claim their first point of the season and move off the bottom of the table.

Roma revitalised under Argentine Carlos Bianchi's management will blame their surprise defeat on the poor marksmanship of Uruguay's Daniel Fonseca.

By the time Balbo dashed between two defenders to volley home just after the interval, Fonseca should have headed up the match but the South American squandered a number of chances.

Instead Montella gave Roma a lesson in finishing, aided by ex-international Mancini who

dribbled past two defenders and the goalkeeper to score Sampdoria's third from the tightest of angles.

Parma's new manager Carlo Ancelotti led Reggiana back into Serie A last season, but his old side were in no mood to regard their former boss.

Twice, they fought back from a goal down. Firstly Romanian Loan Sabalu's volley canceled out Parma's opener, an 11th minute own-goal from Belgium's Georges Grun.

Then, new signing Sandro Tovalieri cancelled Chiesa's 40th minute penalty, before Zola settled the contest.

In Spain, Brazilian striker Romario celebrated his recall to the Valencia line-up by scoring what turned out to be the winner in the club's 2-1 First Division victory over Tenerife.

It was Valencia's first win of the season after two defeats and one draw and an excellent morale-booster before the mid-week UEFA Cup showdown with Bayern Munich.

Enrique Romero put Valencia ahead and Romario then rose to head home midway through the second-half.

Tenerife pulled on back with a superb free-kick from Bosnian front-runner Meho Kodro but Valencia stayed clear.

In other matches, champions Atletico Madrid hammered Logrones 3-0.

Away in Germany, Russian striker Sergei Yuran scored twice in the last seven minutes as Fortuna Dusseldorf stunned previously unbeaten VfB Stuttgart 2-0 sending the Stuttgarters tumbling from the top of the table.

Bayern Munich, unbeaten in their first seven games, took over at the top after a 1-0 win at home to SC Karlsruhe. Alexander Zickler grabbed the only goal in the 18th minute.

Bayern now have 17 points with Stuttgart on 16 and Cologne and Borussia Dortmund are on 13 points after two-time champions Dortmund suffered a stunning 5-1 setback away to Borussia Monchengladbach, whose goalscorers included unsettled German international Stefan Effenberg.

Newly-promoted VfL Bochum continued their heartening start in the Bundesliga with a 3-1 win at home to Hamburg SV thanks to goals from Polish international Henryk Baluszynski, Croatian Zoran Mamic and Kai Michalke.

Fellow newcomers Aminia Bielefeld went down 1-0 at home to Schalke, whose strike came from Matin Max after 16 minutes.

FC St Pauli and Cologne drew 0-0, while Munich 1860 beat Hansa Rostock 4-2 away and MSV Duisburg got their first win of the season with a 3-2 triumph over Werder Bremen in a pair of matches played on Friday night.

Bayern Leverkusen round out the seventh-round when they host SC Freiburg on Sunday.

Rossi turns forty

VICENZA, Italy: Paolo Rossi, Italy's hero of their 1982 World Cup triumph, is celebrating his 40th birthday here on Monday with a plea for more excitement in a sport he no longer enjoys, reports AFP.

Rossi, whose six goals at the 1982 finals in Spain guided Italy to victory, retired at the age of 31. A property developer who now lives in Vicenza, he enjoys horse riding and scuba diving.

Football is a sore point. Though the former Juventus star still watches his local Serie A club Vicenza, he clearly believes the Italian Championship has lost its way.

"I hardly enjoy it at all," he told the Gazzetta Dello Sport on Sunday.

"It's the football of constant harrying, of tactics, of teams playing a short game within a 20-metre area."

"And the players with a touch of fantasy are being sacrificed."

"The World Cup two years ago was a disappointment and the recent European Championships were a bore: 10 matches decided by penalties. There's no room for goals anymore."

"Something has to change, like the off-side rules. They shouldn't be completely abolished, but at least be limited to the penalty area."

Rossi was no kinder to Italy's unpopular national coach Arrigo Sacchi.

"I don't like his way of playing," Rossi said. "I'm not doubting the fact that he's a solid coach, it's just that I can't remember a single great game played by his team."

He then corrected himself, saying "They did well at the World Cup, and came second, but what we saw was not beautiful football. And at Euro '96, we could have done a great deal more."

"I think most people would agree with that I say: We no longer love the national team because it no longer has an identity. Sacchi makes too many changes, systems are the only things that count for him. He's taken all the personality out of the team."

Rossi still dons his boots occasionally. The man whose hat-trick 14 years ago toppled Brazil and whose goal broke the deadlock with West Germany in the final, now plays celebrity matches for club Italia.

But he concluded: "I'm out of football now, and I don't get nostalgic nor it."



PAOLO ROSSI

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Oodles 35 Fact 54 Extra 13 Drinks to excess 39 Botanist 54 Extra DOWN 18 Humor magazine 6 Track 40 Heavy weight 2 Lunar dent 21 Uses a towel 11 Trattoria aroma 42 "Oops!" 43 Cardinals' home, for short 4 Rotary-phone part 15 Quarter-back Dan 44 Like mid-August 5 Lean one 27 Future 16 Long 46 Same old crossover 5 Spoke 29 Unaffected 17 The Silence of the 47 Pressing the machine (Latin) 7 You lovey 31 Fundamental 19 Upper boundary 49 Somewhat up-to-date 9 Bring forth 32 Starry 20 Like fine cheeses 51 Funt prop 10 Capitol group 33 She danced for Herod 22 Guy's mate 52 Wodehouse valet 11 Big bash 34 Aries appellation 23 Quote 53 Constitu-bash 36 Flourish 24 Crowd together, in olden times 54 Extra DOWN 37 Brand new, in a way 38 They munch on clothes 26 Some of them have dual air bags 40 Heavy weight 2 Lunar dent 4 Rotary-phone part 15 Quarter-back Dan 44 Like mid-August 5 Lean one 27 Future 16 Long 46 Same old crossover 5 Spoke 29 Unaffected 17 The Silence of the 47 Pressing the 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