

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That the following is for the skeptics. After Bangladesh's victory against Italy in Hockey last month, some have even gone to the extent of suggesting that perhaps Hockey was unknown there. Not so.

Hockey was being played in Rome by the beginning of the century, but it is true that the game was largely confined to a select few. However, the sport gained little ground with the populace at large. In 1924 the Milan skating club introduced Hockey as part of their curriculum, but with little success.

The real beginning of the sport in Italy date back to 1935, when a Swiss, Robert Curt, introduced the game in colleges in Genoa. It enjoyed a modest revival, and today is played by a few thousand adherents.

So? Not more than a few thousand play the game here. What is more important, we beat an European nation in an international competition Shabash Bangladesh!

SPORTS TALK



Duleep Mendis

(Former Sri Lankan skipper)
"When we played Test cricket, we were the babes. Defeat was quite familiar. But then the present Lankan team is a transformed unit. It is peaking in one-dayers. It is a fine sense of feeling when the going is great and you are able to beat almost every opponent with ease."



Sports WHIZZ KID competition-55

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm October 25, 1996	1	2	3	4	5
In Test cricket, how many centuries did former West Indian opener Gordon Greenidge score?	18	19	17		
The only hat-trick in the first leg of the Danish Premier Division football league was scored by	Naqib	Tutul	Mizan		
How many balls did Pakistani batsman Shahid Afridi face to score the fastest one-day international hundred?	42	35	37		
Former Bangladesh cricket captain Faruque Ahmed will play next season for	Abahani	Kalabagan	Brothers Union		
The man-of-the-series in the quadrangular cricket meet in Kenya was	Afridi	Donald	Kirsten		

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

WHIZZ KID-54 correct answers

- How many Tests has Wasim Akram played to capture 300 wkts?
Ans. 70.
- The man-of-the-series in the Sahara Cup was
Ans. Kumble.
- The final round of the Meril under-16 national football championship will be held in
Ans. Pabna.
- The new Indian cricket coach is
Ans. Madan Lal
- The captain of Bangladesh hockey team is
Ans. Harun.

WHIZZ KID-54 winner

Riffat Samad
Manikganj Govt High School
(Remember to bring a passport size photograph and your ID card while collecting winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 8 pm, Oct 16.)

The winner of WHIZZ KID-53, Hasanur Rahman of Collegiate School, Dhaka has also been requested to collect his prize at the above mentioned time.)



Spectators encouraging their teams during the national rowing championship yesterday. —Star photo

Hanif upsets Mishra cart

National champion International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman and up-coming player Hasan Hanif were off to brilliant starts in the 13th BEXIMCO Dr. QM Hossain International Masters Chess tournament when they won their respective opening round matches at the NSC conference room yesterday.

In the first of the 13-round Swiss league meet, Zia, the second highest rated (2460) player among the 14 participants, edged past lower rated Viswal Sareen of India. Playing with black pieces and following a Sicilian Talmanov defence, Zia took 34 moves to win the match.

On the other hand, Hanif (2120), one of the lower rated local qualifiers, recorded an upset victory over Indian IM Niroz Kumar Mishra (2390). Adopting a modern defence also with the blacks, Hanif outplayed his superior counterpart after 38 moves.

Zia and Hanif apart, two Indian IMs Sudhakar Babu (2415) and Varugese Koshi (2375) and emerging local sensation Enamul Hossain Rajib (2255) also made a sound start.

On the day, Sudhakar defeated Saifuddin Lovelu (2230), Koshi beat Khandkar Kayes Hasan while Rajib, the national sub-junior champion, tamed Jamilur Rahman.

N'ganj soccer

National junior champion Abdullah Rakib (2250) and IM Mahmud Lodhi of Pakistan shared a point when they drew their opening round clash.

The day's remaining match between top seed IM Reefat-bin-Sattar (2465) and Rafiqul Islam was postponed. The match will be played on a rest day.

The second round will start at 2 pm today at the same venue.

Today's matches
Hanif vs Kayes, Jamil vs Koshi, Lovelu vs Rajib, Zia vs Sudhakar, Rafique vs Sareen, Reefat vs Rakib and Mishra vs Lodhi.

Cruyff fills Gaal's shoes?

AMSTERDAM, Oct 11: Johan Cruyff is emerging as a favourite to take over as Ajax Amsterdam coach next season, Dutch media reported today, reports Reuter.

Louis van Gaal, architect of the Dutch champions' recent triumphs, said on Thursday he would leave the club at the end of the season, increasing speculation that he would join Spanish giants Barcelona who sacked Cruyff in the summer after eight years in charge.

"Of course Cruyff will be a candidate. His return is a serious possibility, although there will be other potential candidates we'll want to consider," Ajax treasurer said.

"We'll be looking for someone who thinks the Ajax way. That's the basis. If that's broken, then it just doesn't work."

Dutch Daily Volkskrant said Ajax chairman Michael van Praag was a keen Cruyff fan and had never ruled out a return to Amsterdam where the former Ajax prodigy was coach from 1985-88.

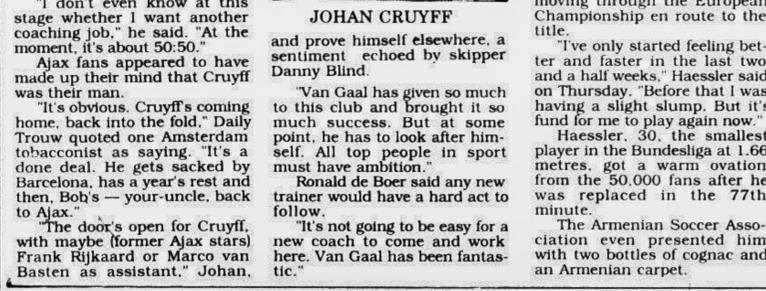
De Telegraf quoted Cruyff as saying he would not make any decision on his future for a few months.

"I don't even know at this stage whether I want another coaching job," he said. "At the moment, it's about 50:50."

Ajax fans appeared to have made up their mind that Cruyff was their man.

"It's obvious. Cruyff's coming home, back into the fold," Daily Trouw quoted one Amsterdam tobaccoist as saying. "It's a done deal. He gets sacked by Barcelona, has a year's rest and then, Bob's — your-uncle, back to Ajax."

"The door's open for Cruyff, with maybe (former Ajax stars) Frank Rijkaard or Marco van Basten as assistant," Johan

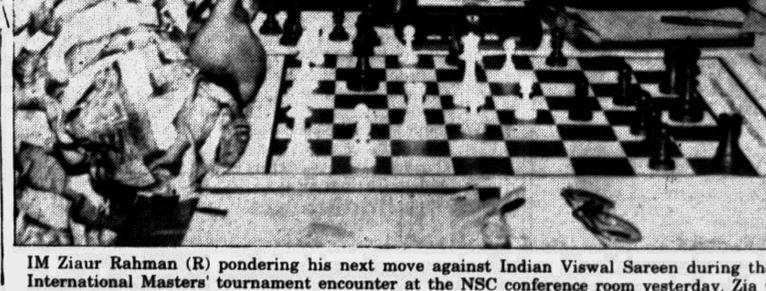


JOHAN CRUYFF and prove himself elsewhere, a sentiment echoed by skipper Danny Blind.

"Van Gaal has given so much to this club and brought it so much success. But at some point, he has to look after himself. All top people in sport must have ambition."

Ronald de Boer said any new trainer would have a hard act to follow.

"It's not going to be easy for a new coach to come and work here. Van Gaal has been fantastic."



IM Ziaur Rahman (R) pondering his next move against Indian Viswal Sareen during their opening Dr QM Hossain International Masters' tournament encounter at the NSC conference room yesterday. Zia won the match. —Star photo

Greenidge may get green signal today

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) may today formally introduce the former West Indian Test opener Gordon Greenidge as the new man in charge of the national team. Greenidge arrived in the capital presumably in this regard a couple of days ago.

The BCCB President Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP will address the local press at a conference this evening at the Board's Dhaka Stadium office, says a press release.

Biman remain unbeaten in AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter
Title aspirants Bangladesh Biman and Wari Club kept their championship hopes alive in the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league after winning their second successive super league matches at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

On the second day of the five-team men's super league, Biman, the only unbeaten side who finished the ten-team first phase with highest 18 points, registered a straight set 3-0 victory over Inter sports.

On the other hand, Wari, trailing Biman by two points, defeated Armanitola Jubo Sangha 3-1.

With yesterday's wins, Biman stayed atop the table with 22 points while Wari remained on the second spot with 20 points.

In the First Division league, held at the same venue, Uttara Youth Club trounced Moham-madpur Boys 3-0, Combined Sporting Club outplayed Mansoor Sporting Club 3-0, Purbachal Parishad tamed Angels Club 3-0, Young Pegasus Club outclassed BSJA 3-0 and Cynthia Sporting Club defeated Bangladesh Bank 3-0.

Besides, in the eve's league, Biman, Brothers Union Club and Biman Juniors won their matches yesterday, beating Swamibagh TTS, Swamibagh Girls and Cynthia Sporting Club respectively.

Nat'l boat race

The 21st national rowing competition was held on the Buriganga yesterday, reports BSS.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak inaugurated the competition as the chief guest.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader, president of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Chief of Army Staff Lt General Mohammad Mahubur Rahman were present at the inaugural function. The president of the Bangladesh Rowing Federation, S M Akram, MP, presided.

Mutaleb Group of Brahmanbaria became champions in the 50-oar boat (Surung) race. In all six events were held.

Later, the Water Resources Minister distributed prizes.

Bagerhat last in Meril qrts

Sports Reporter
Bagerhat trounced Gazipur 4-1 in their opening Meril under-16 national football championship clash at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-0.

Striker Asaduzzaman struck twice in the 16th and 31st minutes while Chandan Das and Nahid Hasan added one each in the 39th and 46th minutes respectively. On the other hand, Nadeem pulled one back for Gazipur in the 72nd minute.

With this win, Bagerhat earned a berth in the quarter-finals where they will face defending champions Jessore on October 14.

Brolin's threat

LONDON, Oct 11: Unsettled Swedish international Tomas Brolin has threatened to retire over a dispute with his English Premier league club Leeds, reports Reuter.

Brolin was signed from Parma in a 4.5 million pounds (7 million dollars) deal nearly a year ago, but has been on loan recently to FC Zurich.

Brolin initially refused to return but changed his mind.

Saurav so close yet so far
Mongia hits maiden ton

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Nayan Mongia became the first Indian wicket keeper in 12 years to score a Test century as Australia battled for survival in the one-off Test here on Friday, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old overcame spirited Australian resistance to score a career-best 137 not out as India reached 319 for six by the close of the second day's play, giving them a first innings lead of 137.

The Australians, shot out for 182 on the opening day, face a massive task as the Kotla wicket continued to deteriorate.

Mongia, drafted in to open the innings in the absence of the banned Naveed Siddhu, and left-hander Saurav Ganguly (66) put on 131 for the second wicket as India reached a promising 144 for one soon after lunch.

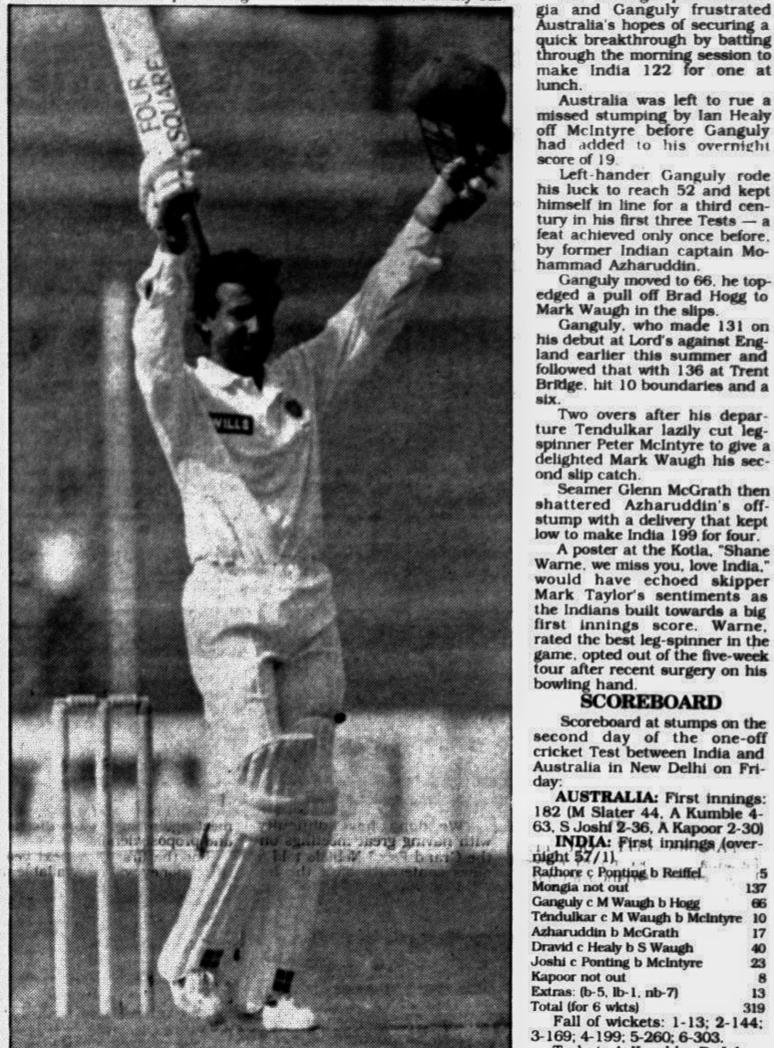
But the Australians fought back in the afternoon session, removing Ganguly, skipper Sachin Tendulkar (10) and former captain Mohammad Azharuddin in the space of 55 runs.

In-form Rahul Dravid then contributed a quickfire 40 in a 61-run stand for the fifth wicket with Mongia, and all-rounder Sunil Joshi (23) put on 43 for the sixth to help India strengthen their position.

Mongia's vigil on the way to his maiden Test century has so far lasted six hours and 26 minutes, during which he hit 17 boundaries.

Syed Kirmani was the last Indian wicketkeeper to score a century when he made 102 against David Gower's England in 1984.

"I have confidence in my bat-



THIS TIME BEFORE THE WICKET ... a jovial Indian wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia acknowledges crowd's cheers after scoring his maiden hundred during the second day's play of the one-off Test against Australia at the Feroze Shah Kotla Ground in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP/UNB photo

Utah, USOC strike a deal

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 11: Let the selling of the Salt Lake City Games begin.

Organisers of the 2002 Winter Olympics have reached "agreement in principle" with the US Olympic Committee on a joint marketing plan — a key element in ensuring the financial success of the Games, reports AP.

The deal which covers 1997-2004, sets out how both parties will share the money from the sale of local and national sponsorships.

The agreement gives Utah organisers early access to 244 million dollars in cash, about a quarter of the 1 billion dollars they need to put on the Games.

"We can start earning money in 1997," organising committee president Tom Welch said. "It's going to help our cash flow requirements as we go towards 2002."

After more than a year of tough negotiations, Salt Lake City officials reported the framework agreement Thursday to the International Olympic Committee executive board.

"It was a difficult agreement to reach," Welch said. "There are two very different needs. ... we have a preference in meeting our cash needs before the USOC meets its cash needs."

The agreement must be signed and formalised by the end of the year to meet an IOC deadline.

"We are extremely satisfied and very happy to learn," that the Salt Lake and US Olympic Committee have reached agreement in principle on marketing questions, IOC director general Francois Carrard said.

"The final document should be in our hands very soon this is very important, even six years away from the Games. It's never early enough."

On Wednesday, IOC vice president and marketing chief Dick Pound expressed frustration at the "glacial speed" of the negotiations and criticised both parties for failing to reach a deal earlier.

"Each side felt it was more important to get the right agreement rather than an early agreement," Welch said.

Once the deal is approved by the IOC, a joint marketing office will be set up to start signing up corporate sponsors.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	split	hangout	40 Across,
1 Lapdog,	Crucible"	2 Columbus	a letter
for short	setting	sch.	opener
4 Yule	40 See 11	3 He may lie	16 Glasgow
purchase	Down	the job	garb
8 Mimicked	41 On	4 Cheese	19 Cartoon-
12 Put to	42 Contents	form	ist's supply
13 Headlight?	of some	5 Beams	29 Mog
14 "Mondo	shells	6 Stout	21 Carte
"Cane"	46 Fashion	7 Opp. of	22 Michigan,
theme	47 "Dies —"	neg.	e.g.
15 Ohioans	48 Ram's	8 Bearse of	23 Items for
17 Met melody	ma'am	"Married...	22 Down
18 Wastes	49 Arab	With	25 Fluffy ac-
not a	50 Shuttle-	cock	cessories
second	cock	9 10 Down,	26 Hundred
19 Prefix	51 Iniquity ate	e.g.	27 Finished
meaning	"between"	10 Pennsyt-	28 They're in
20 Trilling	1 Andy	vania city	a row
22 McNally's	Capp's	11 With	30 Overcrowd
partner			33 Guardian
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Solution time: 26 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP
R U B R C J P V V T Y M K M .
M R E K Q P M M K G D M . V R J K
Y P C J K D M . Q G M U B P E K
P C K K Z U T J C K P Z .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TOY FACTORY NOW PROUDLY FLAUNTS COMIC MOTTO: OUR WORK IS KIDS' PLAY.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: J equals K
The Cryptoquip 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.