

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT I was pretty much amused to learn that someone in the Bangladesh side of the border can have his 'sashoor bari' on the Indian side and vice versa. The remarkable aspect is that although you can actually see your in-laws, visiting them may be rather tedious. Well, some of you wouldn't actually mind that.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-55

Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options. Questions include: 1. In Test cricket, how many centuries did former West Indian opener Gordon Greenidge score? 2. The only hat-trick in the first leg of the Danish Premier Division football league was scored by...

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

SPORTS TALK



Kimiko Date (Japanese tennis player) 'I have achieved all I could. I felt a sense of fulfilment, particularly last year and this year, because I think I played evenly balanced matches with the top players in the world.'

Hangin football Netaiganj score once each half

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 18: Netaiganj Krira Chakra beat Sonakanda White Club 2-0 in a Hanging Shipping First Division football league engagement at the local Osmani Stadium here this afternoon.

Khulna football

KHULNA, Oct 18: Khulna Shipyard Club outplayed Moushumi Eleven 7-1 in the Bull-Head Premier Division football league here today at the local stadium, reports BSS.

Melbourne gets the nod

SYDNEY, Oct 18: Melbourne has won the right to represent Australia in its bid to host the 2006 Commonwealth Games, the Australian Commonwealth Games Association said today, reports AFP.

National Sports Conference All talk and no play, again?

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed

Any convention of people, more so a national conference, convened with good intentions has its share of successes, some emanating naturally. The National Sports Conference 1996, the second of its kind, the previous one being held last year, was no exception.

Judging from the enthusiasm of the organisers the immediate accomplishments must include commitment of the government to be the major patron of sport in this country. With six keynote speakers, half-a-dozen discussants in each session and about three hundred delegates from Teknaf to Tetulia, the large gathering of like-minded people in the verdant serenity of Savar has to be beneficial.

The following is for the sceptic. While many speakers and discussants at Savar have been harping on the same line for many years now, one may look the other way considering that their age-old proposals are far from being tested; implementation is fielding at deep mid-on. However, some of them should be well advised to update their theses.

A new government does not mean that any process of devel-

at lower levels should precede large congregations. The National Sports Conference should never have been held without having similar seminars and workshops at regional levels.

The process should start at the Thanas, from where representatives should convey recommendations to District conferences. These should be followed by conventions at divisional levels. The culminating National conference would then only be better informed about the grass root level, more equipped to tackle problems of any magnitude.

Group discussion involving small groups of field workers, players experienced sports personalities and relevant specialists should evaluate the existing situation; analyse physical, financial and manpower needs; bring out implementable recommendations at each level of conference.

The capital has been dictating terms for more than 25 years. As a result, anyone who wants to play in the limelight, be an organiser worth his salt migrates this mega-city, making the districts and thanas inactive. Did the Savar and antecedent conferences get a feedback from areas the mofussil

and other subject specialists, should have been mailed to thanas and districts. Instructions should be sent to thanas, districts and divisions on the format of their respective conferences, the agenda, funding, eligibility to participate, etc.

Sports today is a commercial undertaking. Millions are spent to host an international and other meets. Campaigns to be host of Olympic Games and World Cup competitions in any sport can cost mind-boggling amounts. A national conference on sport cannot today negate economists, financial wizards, advertising geniuses and other professionals, all of whom can make effectual contributions to the cause of Bangladesh's sport. For the sniggering men of sport undermining the role of fall and sundry in developing a national sports plan, the message from outside the stadiums is: You have tried for more than 25 years, some of you have been involved simultaneously in three to four disciplines and federation, you have exhausted your potentials. Let there be light from outside your arena. Pump in fresh blood. May be our sports and games need a transplant. Open your hearts to the nation. After all, it a national sports policy that you



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader speaking at the closing ceremony of the national sports conference 1996 at BKSP, Savar yesterday. — Star photo

opment has to begin from the last swearing-in. In that case we will have to work in five-year packages. That will be devastating for a country disadvantaged by nature and a tradition of slow growth rate. The Savar meet should have had in its agenda an evaluation of the last meeting. Why could not the proposals of the 1995 meet be implemented? Who were responsible? What were the drawbacks? Where did the last conference fail? Sorting out these queries at the outset of the Savar meet could have avoided boring and wasteful repetitions. The present should always plan for the future with enlightenment of the past. It may help to remember that failures of the past can often be more educational.

Contemporary conference science requires that meetings

delegates represent. How many districts have had football leagues in the last 25 years? Other games and thanas are much behind in the agenda. How many nationals have been held outside the Dhaka? And why? Not to decentralise a particular sport, but perhaps to satiate narrow political ends of federation chiefs. Oiling of the chief by his federation subordinates cannot be ruled out.

A national conference of any nature can be appreciated for the sheer effort on the part of the organisers. But, the methodology adopted for the Savar meeting cannot be. Questionnaires prepared by an expert body comprising of organisers at all levels including sporting clubs, former and current national players, journalists, government officials, medical practitioners, psychiatrists

are striving for. Involve the nation.

Without doubt, the decision of the government to earmark some games in which we have greater potentials for preferential treatment is a step in the right direction. The proclamation to this effect at Savar should be put into practice immediately.

The next national conference is perhaps only a year away. In preparation of that the body to prepare the questionnaire should be announced immediately. Instructions for thanas, districts and divisions should be readied. Conferences at thana level should start as soon as possible.

If no scribe needs to type a similar dispatch after the next national conference, the purpose of this report would have been amply fulfilled.

Chung's counter-attack

SEOUL, Oct 18: South Korea's soccer chief on Thursday hit out at reported criticism by FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter that bickering between Korea and Japan was hampering the build-up to the 2002 World Cup finals, reports Reuter.

Chung Mong-Joon also repeated his suggestion Japan and South Korea should stage a play-off to decide which country hosts the final match.

"I think it would be an exciting way of deciding the matter," he said in a written answer to questions submitted by the news agency.

The Asian neighbours with a history of mutual loathing were jointly awarded the finals in May after a bidding contest so bitter and costly that FIFA could not bring itself to choose an outright winner.

"I think it is very strange that anyone should be suggesting that there have been difficulties in getting us to co-operate," Chung said.

"Nobody can stop co-hosting or prevent a magnificent first World Cup for Asia."

Chung, a leading business tycoon and a Member of Parliament, is president of the South Korea Soccer Federation and led the country's bid for the finals.

Blatter was quoted as saying in an interview in November's World Soccer Magazine that, far from coming closer, South Korea and Japan were moving further apart.

"This is not the marriage we

want," he reportedly said. Blatter said it was hard enough simply to arrange a date for representatives of the countries to meet, and he complained they were at odds over how many teams should compete.

Japan wanted to invite 40 teams so matches could be spread out among more cities, while South Korea was insisting on 32, Blatter said.

Chung said Japan and South Korea that FIFA, in a letter from Blatter, had specifically instructed them to hold off until a working group had made its report.

As for the reported dispute over teams, Chung said: "I cannot understand why anyone would be suggesting there is a dispute between Korea and Japan, because Korea has not commented on this matter." He added that Blatter's

comments were "not in anybody's interests."

Chung said a play-off was just one way of resolving the thorniest question of the World Cup finals — which country will get the honour of the last match.

"But there are other options," he said.

Chung has previously suggested, only slightly tongue-in-cheek, that since Japan had boasted so loudly about its 'virtual-reality technology', the final should be played in South Korea and beamed to Japan where fans could watch the match as though it was live in front of them.

"There are many issues to be resolved for the successful co-hosting but with the honesty and commitment of all parties involved, I know we can reach agreement to stage a fantastic World Cup," Chung said.

Bailey's 50m world mark ratified

MONACO, Oct 18: Canadian Olympic champion Donovan Bailey's eight-month-old world indoor 50 metres record has finally been ratified after doubts about the validity of the start, reports Reuter.

Bailey, who set a world record in the Olympic 100 metres final in Atlanta this year, clocked 5.56 seconds in Reno, Nevada, on February 9.

The mark was ratified this week by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). "There was some doubt about the validity of the start, but USA Track and Field provided sufficient documentation to confirm the regularity of the race," an IAAF statement said.

National sports confce concludes

Sports Reporter The national sports conference concluded at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Proshikhan yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader attended the closing ceremony as chief guest. Sports Secretary A S M Shahjahan and Brig Ali Hasan, DG, BKSP, were also present on the occasion.

Around fifty speakers delivered lectures and commentaries in six sessions held during the three-day conference, inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday.

DMFLC action Kang barred, Tutul fined

Sports Reporter Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee has barred Mohammedan Sporting Club's South Korean coach Man Young Kang from entering the ground for a month for his unbecoming behaviour at the Dhaka Stadium during the Danish Premier Division football league match between Mohammedans and Abahani on October 8.

Kang, who out of convention, called his booters outside the ground for a briefing during the match, will face the month-long ban in the Premier league matches once the return league begins on November 8.

Besides, Dewan Shafiul Arfin Tutul, the manager of Abahani, was also fined Taka 25,000 for his misdeeds on the same day. After Abahani's Jhangir was shown the red card, Tutul entered the ground and argued with the referee.



MAN YOUNG KANG

According to DMFLC president Abdur Rahim speaking last night, the punitive measures have been imposed basing on the recommendations of the



TUTUL

Disciplinary Committee. Meanwhile, local football lovers gave the decisions a big hand, welcoming the measures and praising DMFLC for its timely action.



Fabinho (M) of Brazil and Argentine Anibal Matellan (R) fight for the ball during their first match of the Supercopa quarterfinals in Buenos Aires on Oct 17. The tie ended in a draw and the second game will be played in Brazil. — AFP/UNB photo

Nat'l U-16 championship Khulna lift title

Sports Reporter

Khulna lifted their second Meril under-16 national football championship when they defeated hosts Pabna 2-1 in the final of the fourth edition at the Pabna Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw encounter witnessed by a strong local crowd of 20,000, the first-half was locked 1-1.

Khulna, the winners of the inaugural under-16 championship in 1984, were ahead in the match through forward Mofiz as early as in the sixth minute while Anwar Faisal Iko restored parity for the home side in the 36th minute amidst thunderous rapture from the gallery.

However, Khulna's Pranotosh ensured his side do not go for the extra time or tie breaker with the all-important match-winner tucked away in the 64th minute.

Post and Communications Minister Mohammad Nasim

witnessed the match as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners. BFF vice-president and chairman of the tournament committee Anjan Chowdhury Pintu was also present on the occasion.

Yellow card: Khairul Islam, Mamunur Rashid (Khulna), Rafiqul (Pabna).

TEAMS

KHULNA DSA: Saleh Ahmed, Ashraf, Paltu, Mohsin, Rabi, Pranotosh, Khairul Islam, Rahat, Mokhtar, Mamunur Rashid and Mafiz.

PABNA DSA: Abdur Razzak, Mushtaq Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Zahid Hasan, Selim Reza, Zakir Hossain, Mahmud Hasan, Abu Sayeed, Tariqul Islam, Anwar Faisal and Kamrul Hasan.

Referee: Maruf Sikdar

ORDER OF MERIT

Table with 3 columns: Year, Champions, Runners-up. 1984: Khulna, Barisal. 1985: Chittagong, Dhaka. 1986-88: Not held. 1989-95: Jessore, Comilla. 1996: Khulna, Pabna.

Shilton alive & kicking

CAMBRIDGE, England, Oct 18: Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton will make a surprise appearance for Third Division Cambridge at Rochdale on Saturday — at the age of 47, reports AFP.

The ex-England hero answered an SOS from United boss Tommy Taylor after Scott Barrett failed to recover from an ankle injury suffered at Fulham in mid-week.

By far the oldest player in the professional game at 47, Shilton — who has 125 England caps — has the chance to further his ambition of making 1,000 league appearances.

He only needs another four and looks certain to get at least two for Cambridge before Barrett's return. Taylor commented: "It's no gimmick, we were looking for an experienced player to fill in for a short period and Peter has been playing regularly for West Ham reserves."

Since leaving Plymouth as manager two years ago, Shilton has been on the books of Bolton, Wimbledon and Coventry before joining West Ham this season as their number three keeper.

Gazza on a sticky pitch

GLASGOW, Oct 18: Troubled Rangers star Paul Gascoigne, accused of battering his wife in a drunken rage, was back into training on Friday — behind closed doors, reports AFP.

Gascoigne, who has been lying low since reports that he attacked his wife of 14 weeks Sheryl in a hotel on Sunday, could be glimpsed training with other team members at Glasgow Rangers Ibrox Stadium.

The 29-year-old England star rushed into the stadium evading journalists and photographers positioned at the gates.

His club were clearly determined to keep the media at bay as their midfielder prepared for Saturday's vital Premier Division clash with Aberdeen.

Gascoigne is believed to have had talks on Thursday with Sheryl at a secret hideaway after Sunday's alleged bust-up at the elite Gleneagles Hotel.

His 31-year-old wife was pictured in the Daily Mirror with bruises to her face, her arm in a sling and two bandaged fingers.

League clash with Ajax, which resulted in a club fine estimated to be 30,000 pounds.

Rangers have declined to comment on the disciplinary action or the player's domestic troubles.

Gascoigne is also facing a showdown with England coach

mind.

Football association director of public affairs David Davies said: "Glenn Hoddle is obviously concerned about the events of the past 24 hours. He will speak to Paul when the time is right."

Reuter adds Rangers will persevere with under-fire Gascoigne despite his latest fall from grace.

Gascoigne has not asked for a transfer in the wake of his sending-off against Ajax and allegations that he assaulted his wife at the Scottish hotel.

Manager Walter Smith hinted on Thursday he may leave Gascoigne out of Saturday's match.

If the problems Paul has had off the field have led to a tension which has meant he can't handle the pressure of playing and has led to him being sent off, then over the next period of time I'll have to look at it," Smith said.

Gascoigne was dismissed by German referee Hellmut Krug for kicking Ajax defender Winston Bogarde in the first half of their European Champions' League match.

If left Rangers a man short for more than an hour against the 1995 European champions with Ajax already 1-0 up, the Dutch went on to win 4-1 and Gascoigne received a verbal volley from Rangers skipper Richard Gough.



Ladies enjoying the tug-of-war yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Gift of the Magi gift 4 Skewer 8 Cavour 12 Headquaff 13 Can. prov. 14 Autumnal stone 15 Actress Charlotte 16 Paucity 17 Options list 18 Under way 21 City, Virginia newspaper 25 Point the finger at 26 Task 27 Botheration 30 Posterior 31 Skillet 32 Attracted 33 Past 34 Tackle-box item 35 Fare, perhaps 36 Prompt 37 Dog's dog? 38 Under way 45 Let's Make a Deal 46 With 47 Across, Fort Knox item 47 See previous clue 48 Artist 49 Gustave Smart actor 49 Model Mac-pherson 60 Cretan mountain 81 Command to Fido 82 Bridge Solution time: 23 mins.

Cryptogram puzzle grid and text. Text includes: IPF NFZSJ JBIFU QJHBF... Yesterday's Cryptogram: THE MOVIE THEATER USHER AVERS THAT HE QUALIFIES FOR THE TITLE OF MARQUEE. Today's Cryptogram clue: N 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.