

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN

TK, 2000/-

PRIZE BOND

EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-61

Tick the Correct Answers  
Competition closes : 8 pm  
Jan 17, '97

1	How many teams are taking part in the Bangabandhu Cup football tournament?	12	13	14
2	How many new national records were set up in the Sixth Bangladesh Games?	20	23	27
3	Which team clinched the gold in the 20th Sher-e-Bangla Cup football competition?	DU	Narayanganj	Bangladesh Army
4	The skipper of Bangladesh under-16 cricket team visiting Calcutta is	Inuran	Tushar	Saleh
5	The century South African opener Gary Kirsten scored against India in the second Test in Cape Town is his	4th	5th	6th

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

SPORTS TALK



Ian Botham  
(Former English all-rounder)  
"It is wrong for journalists to criticise because the players have had time to settle down in a new environment."

Sino eves rule the day

BEIJING, Jan 10: China's women swimmers celebrated another golden evening at the Short-course World Cup here Thursday, with only Russia's Nina Zhyvanensaya standing between them and a clean sweep of the day's nine events, reports AFP.

Zhyvanensaya needed a new European record of 59.01 in the 100m backstroke to see off China's Jia Yuanyuan.

In the women's 50m breaststroke, China's Han Xue came within two-hundredths of a second of her own short-course world record, clocking 31.00 sec. ahead of compatriots Mi Tong and Xu Qian.

The best swim of the evening came from China's Wang Luna, who upset Olympic 200m freestyle champion Claudia Poll of Costa Rica in the 400m freestyle event.

Poll, who took the 200m title here Wednesday, was unable to respond to a last gasp surge by Wang, who touched home in 4:05.45.

Meanwhile, reigning 200m individual medley world champion Lu Bin, continued her poor return to international competition after a two-year doping ban, with a lowly sixth place in the 100m backstroke.

Lu, who was one of seven Chinese swimmers who tested positive for banned substances at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, also finished sixth in both the 50 and 200m backstroke finals of Wednesday.

"She's not to disappointed," said Chinese national coach Zhao Ge.

After all, she's been out of competition for a long time so she had no real expectations here.

Thursday's victories for the Chinese women's team took their total tally in the Beijing leg of the eight-round World Cup series to 13 out of a possible 17 titles.

Zhao said the performance had gone a long way to restoring confidence after the team's dismal showing in Atlanta, when they managed just one gold.

"Everyone's spirits were low after the Olympics, but this has been a real boost, especially for the younger swimmers who were intimidated by the occasion in Atlanta."

In many ways, we were just treating this event as an intensive training run, so the results are even better than we had hoped," Zhao said.

Bacher, Majid optimistic

Sports Reporter



MAJID KHAN  
Bacher, Chairman of the ICC Development Committee, while speaking at a dinner last evening. The reception was also attended by Obaidul Quader, Minister for Youth and Sports; former Pakistani Test star

Majid Khan, Member of the committee and Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP.

Both Bacher and Khan emphasised on the seriousness of their mission to Bangladesh. The couple are in Dhaka to evaluate the cricketing infrastructure in the country in view of BCB's petition for ODI and Test status. The committee will file its report around February to enable the June agenda of the ICC meeting in London.

Bacher added that Bangladesh's priority for now would be to attain ODI status and then follow it up with gaining full Test standing. Cricket being a major sport in a handful of countries, Bacher added that the ICC has a definite plan to globalise the sport. He was hopeful that in the 2003 World Cup in South Africa there would be 16 finalists.

Speaking on the occasion, Majid Khan opined that after independence Bangladesh has done well in cricket. He was particularly full of praise for the schools cricket here, which he said was very well organised. However, with a note of caution, Majid added that Bangladesh needs technical assistance and there is room for improving the technical infrastructure. Majid emphasised on the role of the government to provide good cricket grounds so that the game can get better.

The BCB president supplemented the committee's statement by saying that Bangladesh was also serious about its appeal for status. Saber Chowdhury expressed his conviction that soon cricket would be the number one sport in the country.



ALI BACHER  
The minister was introduced to the committee members and dignitaries present.

Majid Khan and Bacher will be witnessing the Abahani-Kalabagan match today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Barca Bobby's best choice

BARCELONA, Jan 10 (Reuters): Former England coach Bobby Robson said he would like to see his contract with Barcelona rather than take over from Kevin Keegan at Newcastle United.

Although "flattered" at reports linking him with the Newcastle job, in a statement on Thursday issued through Sky Sports he said: "At the moment I am on a two-year contract with the biggest and best club in the world and I have to say that I am happy here."

My interest is simply to bring success to this club. I have no more to say than that."

Barcelona vice-president Joan Gaspart said earlier: "Robson, who is a complete gentleman, called me personally on Wednesday and said that they (two Newcastle representatives) had telephoned him and wanted to come and see him."

According to Gaspart, Robson was prepared to listen to a possible offer, but would explain that he was very happy at Barcelona.

Gaspart added that Robson, 63, had said he not only wanted to stay in Spain, but also wished to bring "titles and victories" to Barcelona.

Earlier, in London, a big bookmaking firm dramatically stopped taking bets on the next Newcastle manager after Robson's and midfielder Peter Beardsley odds dropped from 12-1 to 2-1 joint favourites.

"Basically we are of the opinion that there are now certain people out there who know

more than we do," explained William Hill spokesman Graham Sharpe.

"It appears that the Newcastle board may have drawn up a short-list and from the betting patterns we have observed today, our original odds-on favourite, Kenny Dalglish, is not on it."

"The vast majority of the cash we have been taking has been for two contenders, Bobby Robson and Peter Beardsley. We have a potential pay-out of all



BOBBY ROBSON  
most 100,000 pounds on either Robson or Beardsley."

There has also been betting support for Robson's fellow exile in Spain, John Toshack, who is set to leave Deportivo at the end of the season and is reported to have had talks with Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall.

Toshack, who starred alongside Keegan in one of the great Liverpool sides in the 1970s, sought to play down speculation regarding a move to Newcastle, but perhaps significantly, refused to rule himself out of the job.

"At the weekend I announced I would probably not be renewing my contract at Deportivo," Toshack said on BBC radio.

"Then, with Keegan resigning a couple of days later, people may be thinking that our relationship is such that we speak more often than we do and are putting two and two together."

"I have a contract till June 30, which in normal circumstances I would expect to fulfil. To be honest, I don't know where I'll be working after that."

AFP adds from London that, Holland's Johan Cruyff has ruled himself out of taking over the reigns at Newcastle following the resignation of Keegan.

The former Barcelona coach, one of the leading contenders as an 8-1 shot behind Dalglish was sacked from the Spanish side last year and was linked to Arsenal after Bruce Rioch's High-boury reign ended abruptly at the start of the season.

But the Dutchman's agent Gaume Rouras said Cruyff would not even be considering the Newcastle job.

"He's taking a complete break this season, he will not be training any team," said Rouras on Thursday.

"Next month he will sit down and consider next season and maybe he will come back to training," he added.

Saturday set for tune-ups

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, Jan 10: Promoter Don King would have a nice fight card Saturday night if Terry Norris and Felix Trinidad were fighting each other instead of unknown challengers, reports AP.

Unfortunately they're not. Leaving Nashville with what figures to be a lopsided string of four title fights in the music city's first major boxing event.

Norris defends his IBF and WBC 154-pound (70-kilogram) titles against the IBF's seventh-ranked contender, Nick Rupa, while Trinidad puts his IBF welterweight title on the line against England's Kevin Lueshing in the first sports event at the new Nashville arena.

Both fighters, though, already are looking past the bouts to a late May or early June meeting for the two titles held by Norris. That fight already is signed, and will make both Trinidad and Norris several million dollars.

"When I beat Norris, I'll show everybody I'm the best fighter, pound for pound, in the world," said Trinidad, who is undefeated in 30 fights with 26 knockouts. "I've had good fights with very good fighters, but this one will be very special."

Trinidad, who has had trouble making the 147-pound (67-kilogram) welterweight limit, will move up in weight to challenge Norris for his titles in a highly anticipated match-up of two big punchers who also are stylish boxers.

"The great fighters have to fight other great fighters to be truly considered great," said Joe Sayatovich, who manages Norris. "These are two fighters willing to do that."

First, though, Norris has to beat Rupa, and Trinidad has to get by Lueshing on Saturday in fights that have titles at stake but appear to be little more than tune-ups for each boxer.

It will be a knockout, but I don't know exactly when," Trinidad said of his bout against Lueshing, a British boxer who has lost once in 20 bouts.

"Don't blink, you'll miss the fight," said Norris (44-6, 28 knockouts), who has more knockouts than Rupa (26-4-1) has wins.

The fights are part of a card that also features Frankie Ran-

dall in a defence of the WBA 140-pound (64-kilogram) title against France's Khalid Rahilou, the WBA's top-ranked contender, and Henry Akinwande in a WBO heavyweight title defence against fellow Briton Scott Welch.

The Akinwande-Welch fight marks the first time two British fighters have fought for a heavyweight title in the United States, although the WBO crown is considered to be a fringe title at best.

Akinwande, who gave Russian Alexander Zolkin a beating on the Mike Tyson-Exander Holyfield undercard, is 31-1 with 19 knockouts, while Welch

is 19-2 with 16 knockouts.

Akinwande vowed at Thursday's final pre-fight press conference to dispose of Welch within three rounds after Welch taunted him and tried to go after him while the two posed for pictures.

"I should've decked him right there," Akinwande said.

Martin was dropped from the card earlier this week after King said she cut her lip in training, but she claimed that she was willing to fight. Martin reportedly has been in discussions with King rival Main Events Inc for possible representation.



An aerial tussle between Malaysia Red forward Tuan Kamree and PSM midfielder Syamsuddin Batola during yesterday's Bangabandhu Cup final at the Dhaka Stadium. —Star photo

Bankers beat GMCC

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

AGRAHI BANK 50: 175 all out in 49.2 overs (N Alam 51, Quamrul 31; Mehmood Hamid 5/29, Rafiqul 2/13)

GMCC: 133 all out in 46.2 overs (Mehmood Hamid 41; Shahid Iqbal 4/14, Shuvro 3/15)

Result: Agrani Bank won by 42 runs.

Agrani Bank recorded their fourth victory in the Premier Division cricket league when they handed Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club a 42-run defeat at the Dharmadhi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring affair, Agrani Bank batted first and scored 175 before being bundled out in 49.2 overs. Chasing the moderate target to post victory, GMCC slumped to 133 losing all of their wickets in 46.2 overs.

Shahid Sayeed, responsible for the GMCC debacle, captured four wickets conceding only 14 runs in his ten tight overs. He found able support in his bowling partner Shuvro who took three wickets for 15 runs.

Earlier, Agrani Bank managed to reach 175 mainly because of middle-order bats Nasirul Alam who scored highest 51 runs. Among others Quamrul added 31 runs to the winners account.

It was the fourth win for the bankers so far in eight league matches while GMCC suffered their seventh defeat yesterday on completion of ten matches.

Rain the spoiler

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 10: England bowed out at Academy XI for 201 today in the first match of their New Zealand tour, but rain forced the game to be abandoned, reports Reuter.

England, fresh from a 3-0 one-day international drubbing from Test minnows Zimbabwe were deprived of valuable batting practice after the rain came down in the break between innings.

All five England bowlers took wickets in the one-day game but the Academy side recovered well from early trouble at 99 for five.

Craig McMillan hit an aggressive 58 and Greg Loveridge made 54, frustrating the tourists by featuring in a ninth wicket stand of 45 with Shayne O'Connor.

England dismissed the home side in the 41st over after morning showers reduced the contest to 46 overs a side.

Fast medium bowler Andrew Caddick claimed three for 44 including the wickets of both openers and Loveridge.

England bowler Dominic Cork, who missed the Zimbabwe leg of the tour and is vital to England's hopes in New Zealand, took one for 39 from his seven overs.

"The weather's done us once again but at least it's given us a chance to have a bowl and give Dominic a good opportunity to get some overs under his belt," coach David Lloyd said.

England's next game is a four-day against a New Zealand selection starting on Monday in Palmerston North.

Liberian booter sentenced to death

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10: Malaysia's high court today sentenced a Liberian footballer to death for trafficking in 237.3 grams (8.36 ounces) of heroin concealed in the hollow of the heels of his shoes, reports AFP.

Nobias Weah Ezike, 30, looked calm when judge K C Vohrah found him guilty of trafficking in the drugs at a youth hostel in Kuala Lumpur last March, Bernama news agency reported.

Under Malaysia's drug laws, anyone caught with 15 grams and above of heroin (0.52 ounces) or 200 grams (7.05 ounces) of cannabis faces a mandatory death sentence.

In his judgment, Vohrah said Ezike, of Abia state, "was aware of the nature of the drugs concealed in the hollow of the sole of each shoe."

Vohrah said Ezike had only one pair of shoes when he checked into the hostel but had contended they belonged to another man named John Williams.

"Where then were his own shoes? John Williams is clearly a fictitious figure and it is clear that the accused's story is a lie," Vohrah ruled.

Ezike's counsel Bhagwan Singh said he would file an appeal.

More than 100 people, a third of them foreigners, have been hanged for drug offences in Malaysia since the law was introduced in 1981.

Four-nation hockey results

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Reuters): Results from a four-nation hockey tournament on Thursday:

Malaysia 5 Switzerland 2 (halftime 2-1) Scorers: Malaysia — Arul Selvaraj (17th), Chairil Anwar Abdul Aziz (28th), Apthar Singh (40th), S Kuan (52nd), M Kaliswaran (56th).

Switzerland — Stefan Bircher (2nd), Christian Cavallet (36th).

South Korea 5 Belgium 2 (halftime 4-1) Scorers: South Korea — Song Seong Tae (3rd, 14th, 53rd), Kang Keon Wook (4th), Hong Kyung Seub (7th).

Belgium — Joeri Beunen (22nd), Jean Willems (56th).



(From L to R) Musa, Leandro and Fatari of the PSM Football Club pose for photograph after being nominated as Bangabandhu Cup's leading performers by different sports journalists' associations. Musa and Fatari got the highest scorers' awards while Leandro was voted as player-of-the-tournament. —Star photo

Henman humbles Goran

SYDNEY, Jan 10: Unseeded Tim Henman defeated number one seed Goran Ivanisevic today in a thrilling semifinal round at the Sydney International tennis tournament, reports AFP.

Henman, fresh from the finals of the ATP Tour event in Doha, Qatar, last weekend, mastered the big-hitting Croatian's serve and turned the match into a crowd-pleasing volleying game.

The up-and-coming Henman had never gained a final berth in an ATP Tour final before this year.

The victory is likely to push the 22-year-old into the ranks of the top 20, a remarkable effort for the player who languished at number 99 at the start of last year. He is currently ranked at a career high 24.

Henman said he ignored Ivanisevic's tantrums in the 4-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-1 battle, as well as his obvious lack of interest in the final set.

The fiery Croatian sent his racket spearing into the ground in the tense second set smashing to two pieces and kicking the remnants off the court.

Certain to be upmost in the Briton's mind in the finals here Saturday will be his three-set loss to American Jim Courier at Doha after a 1996 run of seven semifinals without a victory.

He will play Carlos Moya in the final after the Spaniard defeated compatriot Albert Costa 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) in the other semifinal.

The dashing Spaniard, 20, said he had mixed feelings about beating his country's number one on the way to his first hard court final.

"He is one of my best friends here on the tour. It's not nice to beat him but I had to do it," he laughed.

HINGIS-CAPRIATI SHOWDOWN  
In the women's semifinals a rejuvenated Jennifer Capriati



Happy New Year! Now that it's a New Year, let's start out by designing an exercise program that we can live with throughout 1997. If you really want to be successful in your goal of being more physically active this year, you should plan for it now — not wait until this month or next month and expect yourself to suddenly change behavior.

Here are some exercise questions to help you begin this new programme:

I can commit to spending: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, days a week getting exercise (circle only one). I know that I can devote per exercise session: 30, 45, 60, 90 minutes (circle only one). I have access to the following: Weight room, Aerobics room, Health club, Swimming pool, Tennis court, Racquet ball court, Gym, Hiking trail, Walking trail, Bike path, Home exercise equipment, Pet that needs walking, Other (circle all that apply). My goals are: Weight loss, Aerobic fitness, Increased muscle strength, Stretching, Other (circle all that apply). I enjoy the following activities: Walking, Hiking, Dancing, Bicycling, Row boating, Using exercise machines, Stair Climbing, Soccer, Running, Swimming, Tennis, Racquet ball, Water exercises, Other (circle all that apply).

Look over this list carefully, keeping in mind that overall exercise focus should include aerobic conditioning, improvement of body strength and stretching. If you listed weight loss as one of your goals, exercise can help, but adopting a healthy lifestyle, by making the nutritional changes will be

only way that you can really achieve this goal! This list is meant as a guide to get you started exercising in 1997. Remember to check with your doctor before starting any new exercise program. Start slowly and build endurance. I recom-



mend doing at least three aerobic activities a week, for a minimum of 20 minutes per session. Weight training can be done every other day if you want to exercise more often and you can break up these sessions by concentrating on your upper

consolidated her remarkable comeback effort by despatching fellow American Lindsay Davenport in a see-saw 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 affair.

Speaking after the match number four seed Davenport was full of praise for her opponent, who is out to wipe the slate clean after facing drug and shop-lifting charges when she left the tour in 1993.

"I think everyone knows how talented and how good she can be," Davenport said. "I think it's great that she's back and playing well."

"That could be one of the great stories... if she turned out to be better now than she was when she was 14 or 15," she said.

Capriati was more optimistic than ever today clearly delighted to be in with a good chance to win the tournament she claimed in 1993, the last victory before her extended break.

"I had confidence in myself that I could do well and it's turning out great," she said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scandalous

4 Freebie

8 Made like

12 Noshed

13 Carpenter's

14 Traditional

15 Aries

16 Hand off

17 "And giving

18 Conical

21 Office-

22 Luau mu-

23 Wallpaper

26 Wrath

27 Wrathful

30 Vacation-

31 "A Chorus

32 Erase

33 Cowpoke's

34 Diving bird

35 Evander

36 One way

20 to win

37 Ziering of

38 Snatched

45 Frenzied

46 Milieu for

35 Across

47 Conk out

48 Yam

49 "Zip-

50 Nappa "org-

51 Oklahoma

52 Major

53 Toronto

1 Artist

19 Municipality

20 out a

3 Showroom

4 De Niro,

24 Idolater's

25 Clinton's

26 Squid

27 Work on the

28 Lummo-

29 Aachen

31 Win a

32 Refuse to

34 Royal flush

35 Scout's

36 Answered,

37 Central

38 Petruchio's

39 Somalian

40 One's per-

41 Verdi opera

42 Tote board

43 Stead

44 Campus

CRYPTOQUIP

FCAM CM WBFCGKN FLBK

DBTFLF "BQK MNUBMF

TKG DGFL CM LWG UBMA

K Q M "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ONE UNEMPLOYED TAXIDERMIST TRULY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN STARTING A GNU.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: M equals N

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.