

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:	Imran	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 before the players have had time to settle down in a new environment."Sino eyes 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 Zhivanyansaya standing between them and a clean sweep of the day's nine events, reports AFP.

Zhivanyansaya 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 compatriot Mi Tong and Xu Qian.

The best swim of the evening came from China's Wang Luma, 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 be 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.



BARCELONA, Jan 10 (Reuters): Former England coach Bobby Robson is happy to finish 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 dropped 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 al-

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 Highbury reign ended abruptly at the start of the season.

But the Dutchman's agent Gauke Roura 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 Roura on Thursday.

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

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-dayer against a New Zealand selection starting on Monday in Palmerston North.

"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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

BOBBY ROBSON

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