

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Hansie Cronje (South Africa Captain)

"The conditions would be far different in South Africa. You won't get surfaces which become loose in the first session of a Test. You will get good Test match pitches. There will be bounce and seam movement for the bowlers. No international team would like to play a Test match on a pitch like this one (at Motera)."

After they were defeated in the Ahmedabad Test against India.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-63

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm Feb 14, '97

- Who won the Australian Open women's singles title this year?
Hings Pierce Coetzee
- Which nation lifted the World Series Cup cricket title this year?
Australia Pakistan West Indies
- Who won this year's Frank Worrell Trophy?
Australia W Indies England
- Which team clinched the invitational international hockey title?
PIA Abahani SL Army
- Who won the 18th national junior chess championship title?
Tipu Imon Shakil

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

SAF Games Athletics, swimming training camp

The preliminary training camp for the athletes will start on February 18 at the Mirpur National Stadium to prepare an athletics team for the next South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held in Nepal this year, reports BSS.

A total of 47 athletes including 17 women have been selected for the preliminary camp, according to the Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation.

The federation also selected 12 coaches to conduct the training camp.

The athletes and coaches have been requested to report to the general secretary of the federation by February 17 at 6 pm.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) starts its preliminary training camp on February 20 at the National Swimming Pool at Mirpur.

The federation has selected 36 swimmers including 15 women for the preliminary camp and the selected swimmers have been requested to join the training camp at the pool side on the opening day.

Press Club badminton

Jatiya Press Club badminton tournament-97 begins at the club premises on February 15, reports BSS.

Only club members would be allowed to take part in men's singles and doubles.

Interested members have been requested to enlist their names at the club reception counter by February 13.

NIKE's new deal with Johnson

BOULDER, Colorado, Feb 5: Michael Johnson, who achieved the unique feat of becoming Olympic 200 and 400 metres gold at the Atlanta Games, has signed a new six-year shoe endorsement deal worth 12 million dollars, reports AFP.

The contract signed with NIKE includes performance incentives that could bring additional millions to Johnson, who will share in profits from a new line of training shoes bearing his name.

Abahani Premier Champions, Kalabagan Runners-up BU's parting shot sinks Biman

Sports Reporter



In a renewed tribute to the game's old cliché of glorious uncertainty until the last ball, Abahani Kirira, though quite predictably, confirmed a hat-trick of titles in the 1996-97 domestic cricket season and Kalabagan finished runners-up as Brothers Union left Bangladesh Biman broke with a classic parting shot. It made sure Biman had no chance of entertaining even a statistical fancy of pipping Abahani to the coveted title in domestic cricket fortified earlier both in terms of points and net run-rate. Brothers' robbing of the national flag carrier's theoretical chance of matching Abahani in the run rate did not do the Gopibagh club any good who after a revival of sort flaked off rather lamely. At the end of the storm and stress over the long drawn out struggle for the most coveted title in domestic cricket Abahani finished atop the table clear with 26 points from 16 matches. Though Kalabagan, Brothers and Biman finished with 24 points each, the first of the three stole the march for the runners-up mantle with the superior net run rate.

Although the last day of the Premier league did not mark the fitting sight of celebration

by the champion team and the despaired resignation of the vanquished, Saifullah Gem became the unlikely leader in the wicket-takers' tally as the slow left-arm spinner took five wickets to pave the way for Brothers' 33-run win at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Although the victory did not serve Brothers any practical purpose, the impressive five-wicket haul, however, enabled the youngster to complete a memorable season with the highest 41 wickets. The weaker whose deliveries fetch wickets more because of their slowness and loopy nature than either turn or restrictive character of a flatter trajectory, reaped rich once again as the middle and lower-order Biman batsmen threw their bat around in a purposeless and abortive quest for a fairly reachable victory target. And the cricket team of the national airline chasing a modestly coveted title of 187, was bundled out for 154 in 45.2 overs.

By losing their last match quite unceremoniously Biman not only lost the chance to finish at par with Abahani in points but also slipped to the third position behind Kalabagan Kirira Chakra, who quite fortuitously made the most of the match to emerge as the runners-up on a better net run-rate.

Things looked bleak for Biman from the morning as Brothers, sent into bat in the morning, scored 187 for nine from the stipulated 50 overs with their Pakistani recruit Zahid Ahmed hammering a polished 57 off 71 balls.

Right-ram medium pacer Nazimuddin Manna was Biman's most successful bowler taking three for 40. Off-spinner Shariful Haq Plaban, however, had the most frugal analysis giving away 20 runs for two wickets from his ceiling of ten overs.

They, however, did not dare to translate a day-dream. Moreover, the casual approach of the top order batsmen also contributed to Biman's eventual loss of even the second position behind Abahani.

Pakistani Mansoor Akhter, who opened the Biman innings with Athar Ali Khan, fell for nine while one-down Habibul Bashar Sumon returned for only two. And when Mofizur Rahman Munna dismissed Athar for his third scalp, Biman were reduced to 3/60 in 15.4 overs. After the early debacle, Biman were never comfortable in their chase. And with Saifullah Gem taking over from Munna, the high profile former champions kept on losing wickets at regular intervals.

In a never-ending procession, only Nasir Shawkat fought a lone battle with an unbeaten 38. Gem finished with five for 26 in his 9.2 overs.

SCOREBOARD

BROTHERS UNION				
Jahangir c Ahmedur b Manna	7			
Wahidul c Athar b Manna	23			
Faruque c Plaban b Manna	14			
Aamir Hanif c Mansoor b N Shawkat	11			
S H Bidyut c and b Rafique	28			
Halim Shah c Shaheen b Rafique	11			
Zahid Ahmed b Athar Ali	57			
Mofizur Munna c and b Plaban	11			
E H Monir c Mansoor b Plaban	9			
Sajal not out	15			
Extras: (b-5, lb-3, w-7)	15			
Total: (For nine wickets in 50 overs) 187				
Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-32; 3-47; 4-79; 5-101; 6-101; 7-103; 8-137; 9-187.				
Bowling:				
Manna	7	1	40	3
Babul	7	0	21	0
Nasir	8	1	21	1
Athar	8	0	37	1
Plaban	10	2	20	2
Rafique	10	0	30	2

BIMAN

Ather c Moni b Munna	16			
Mansoor c and b Munna	9			
H B Sumon c Jahangir b Munna	17			
Hasanuzzaman b Zahid Ahmed	17			
Shaheen c Sajal b Gem	10			
Babul run out	6			
N Manna c Faruque b Gem	1			
M Rafique c Munna b Gem	18			
Nasir not out	38			
Ahmedur Rahman lbw b Gem	8			
Plaban c Munna b Gem	0			
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, nb-2, w-23)	29			
Total: (all out in 45.2 overs)	154			
Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-34; 3-60; 4-76; 5-76; 6-77; 7-96; 8-122; 9-147; 10-154.				
Bowling:				
Sajal	5	0	28	0
Munna	10	0	37	3
Hanif	8	0	23	0
Zahid	10	3	13	1
Gem	9.2	2	26	5
Moni	4	0	23	0

Result: Brothers Union won by 33 runs.

STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	P
Abahani	16	13	3	26
Kalabagan KC	16	12	4	24(+39)
Biman	16	12	4	24(+19)
Brothers Union	16	12	4	24(+44)
Mohammedan SC	16	8	8	16
Wari Club	16	6	10	12

Boro rope in Fabio

LONDON, Feb 5: Struggling English Premier league side Middlesbrough have added another Brazilian to their ranks, by signing Emerson's cousin Fabio on a free contract, reports Reuters.

The midfielder went to Middlesbrough in November to visit Emerson, who joined the club from Portuguese champions Porto last year for 4.0 million pounds (6.5 million dollars).

Fabio took part in a training session and, after impressing manager Bryan Robson, played in a reserve game for the club currently bottom of the table.

He holds a Portuguese passport so does not need a work permit to play in England.

Middlesbrough fans have delivered 18,500 signed postcards to the English FA in protest at the docking of three points for unilaterally postponing a match at Blackburn in December.

Tanner suspended for doping

LONDON, Feb 5: Ipswich midfielder Adam Tanner was suspended from football for three months after testing positive for cocaine, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old told a Football Association (FA) disciplinary committee that he has taken the drug in a nightclub on December 7.



Brothers Union lower-order batsman Mofizur Rahman Munna tries to play on the leg side during yesterday's Premier cricket super league match at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Azad confirm Premier berth

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

DHANMONDI CLUB: 169 all out in 42.4 overs (Nasir Khan 73; Aminul 4/29, Sujon 3/18, Shimul 3/34).
AZAD SC: 171 for four in 34.5 overs (Rana 73 n.o., Shahnewaz 43; Anis 2/33).
Result: Azad SC won by six wickets.

Azad Sporting Club confirmed a berth in the Premier Division league next year when they got past Dhanmondi Club by six wickets in their last First Division super league engagement at the Jagannath Hall ground of Dhaka University yesterday.

Chasing a manageable Dhanmondi total of 169 in 45 overs, one down Rana hammered an unbeaten 73 off 85 balls as Azad reached home comfortably in 34.5 overs with six wickets in hand.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Dhanmondi were all out for 169 in 42.4 overs with Majid scoring highest 73 off 92 balls. Medium pacer Aminul was the most successful Azad bowler capturing four wickets for 29 runs while Sujon and Shimul shared the other six wickets conceding 18 and 34 runs respectively.

With yesterday's win, Azad finished their First Division campaign on top of the table having 20 points from 14 matches, two points ahead of Ajax Sporting Club, whose promotion in the Premier league was also confirmed yesterday along with Azad. If Ajax, who have 18 points with just one match left, win their today's clash against Dhaka Wanderers at the City Club ground, they will also join Azad atop the standings.

Johansson Grondona's choice

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 5: Julio Grondona, president of the Argentinean Football Federation, said here on Tuesday that he expected Lennart Johansson to become the next president of FIFA, world football's governing body, reports AFP.

Grondona expects the fight to succeed Brazilian Joao Havelange for the top post in football to be fought out between a European and an African, with Johansson, president of European Football's ruling body UEFA, the favourite.

The Argentine supreme added that he thought it unlikely that someone from his continent would stand after Havelange's long reign.

Graf hopeful of Hanover affair

HEIDELBERG, Germany, Feb 5: Steffi Graf will be out of action for two weeks because of the knee injury which forced her to withdraw from the Pan Pacific final in Tokyo at the weekend, reports Reuters.

The world number one consulted a German doctor about the problem with her knee on Tuesday. The injury was not as serious as feared and the German hoped to be fit to play in a WTA event in Hanover starting on February 17.

Victoria stay in Premier

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

GULSHAN YOUTH CLUB: 63 all out in 26 overs (Babu 4/25, Surjo 3/12, Aslam 2/8).
VICTORIA SC: 67 for no loss in 10.3 overs (Sajid 34 n.o., Ripon 23 n.o.).
Result: Victoria SC won by ten wickets.

Victoria Sporting Club retained their Premier cricket league status when they crushed a hapless Gulshan Youth Club by ten wickets in their last relegation league engagement on the eastern strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low scoring match, Gulshan were shot out for 63 in 26

overs as they decided to bat first on winning the toss. Victoria's new ball bowlers Khairuzaman Babu and Tanvir Ahmad Amir were the wreckers in chief capturing four and three wickets respectively while Pakistani Mohammad Aslam took two wickets conceding eight runs only.

Victoria in their turn took only 10.3 overs to reach home without any loss. Skipper Sajid Hasan and Ripon were at the kill with 34 and 23 respectively.

With yesterday's victory, Victoria completed their six-team relegation league campaign in the second place having gathered 14 points from 16 matches, two points adrift of leaders Agrani Bank who finished on top with 16 points from as many matches.

While Gulshan, who have already confirmed their relegation having been unable to win a single match in the league, failed to break the duck.

In the other match of the day, Surja Tarun Club handed Lalmatia Club a three-wicket defeat at the BKSP in Savar.

Batting first, in a rain-revised 37-overs-a-side affair, Lalmatia amassed 177 for seven while Surja Tarun Club won by three wickets.

Surja Tarun Club scored 178 for seven in 36.5 overs (Zafar Ali 48, Ehsan 28 n.o., Babu 2/41).
Result: Surja Tarun Club won by three wickets.

Tapie, 53, was sentenced in November to eight months in prison, part of a two-year sentence, with 16 months suspended, for offering bribes to soccer players to throw a game so his own team could win.

Tapie turned himself in to Paris' La Sante prison on Monday evening, to meet French legal requirements that he spend at least a night behind bars before his appeal can be heard.

In court, chief prosecutor Germain Le Foyer de Costil launched an attack on Tapie's conduct in bribing three players from the Valenciennes club to ensure victory for his Marseille team in a May 20, 1993 game.

The former owner of the Adidas sports company and urban affairs minister under the Socialists had also been accused to paying coach Boro Primorac to modify his testimony after the match-fixing was revealed.

batsman Nomanullah hammering the highest 41. Among others, former national opener Nurul Abedin Nobel and the other Pakistanis, Kamran added 34 and 31 runs respectively.

In reply, Surja Tarun had to wait for the penultimate delivery of the last over to pocket victory with three wickets in hand. Two Pakistanis — Rehan Farooqi (53) and Zafar Ali (48) were the main contributors.

With yesterday's victory, Surja Tarun finished second last in the relegation league table jointly along with Lalmatia and GMCC who too gathered 12 points each on completion of the stipulated 16 matches. These three teams will now participate in play-off matches after the Eid-ul-Fitr to decide who join Gulshan Youth in the descent to the First Division next year.

Teams	M	W	L	Pts
Agrani Bank	16	8	8	16
Victoria SC	16	7	9	14
GMCC	16	6	10	12
Lalmatia SC	16	6	10	12
Surja Tarun	16	6	10	12
Gulshan Youth	16	0	16	0

Tapie put behind bars

PARIS, Feb 5: Bernard Tapie, former minister, bankrupt tycoon and deputy in the European Parliament, officially went to prison Tuesday after losing his final appeal in a bribery conviction involving the champions Olympique Marseille soccer club he once owned, reports AP.

After three years of legal proceedings, and five hours of deliberations Tuesday, France's highest court rejected Tapie's appeal.

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The former owner of the Adidas sports company and urban affairs minister under the Socialists had also been accused to paying coach Boro Primorac to modify his testimony after the match-fixing was revealed.

"Football has come out of this sordid, stained and dirty," he Costil told the court.

Tapie's lawyer, Emmanuel Pivnicia, had argued, among other things, that the court had no right to rule in favour of prison without special authorisation by the French National Assembly regarding his parliamentary immunity.

Like a man, ready to meet his fate, resigned and courageous, Tapie arrived at Paris' La Sante prison at 8 pm (1900 GMT), lawyer Jean-Yves Liendar said beside a long line of limousines outside Tapie's chic, Left Bank house.

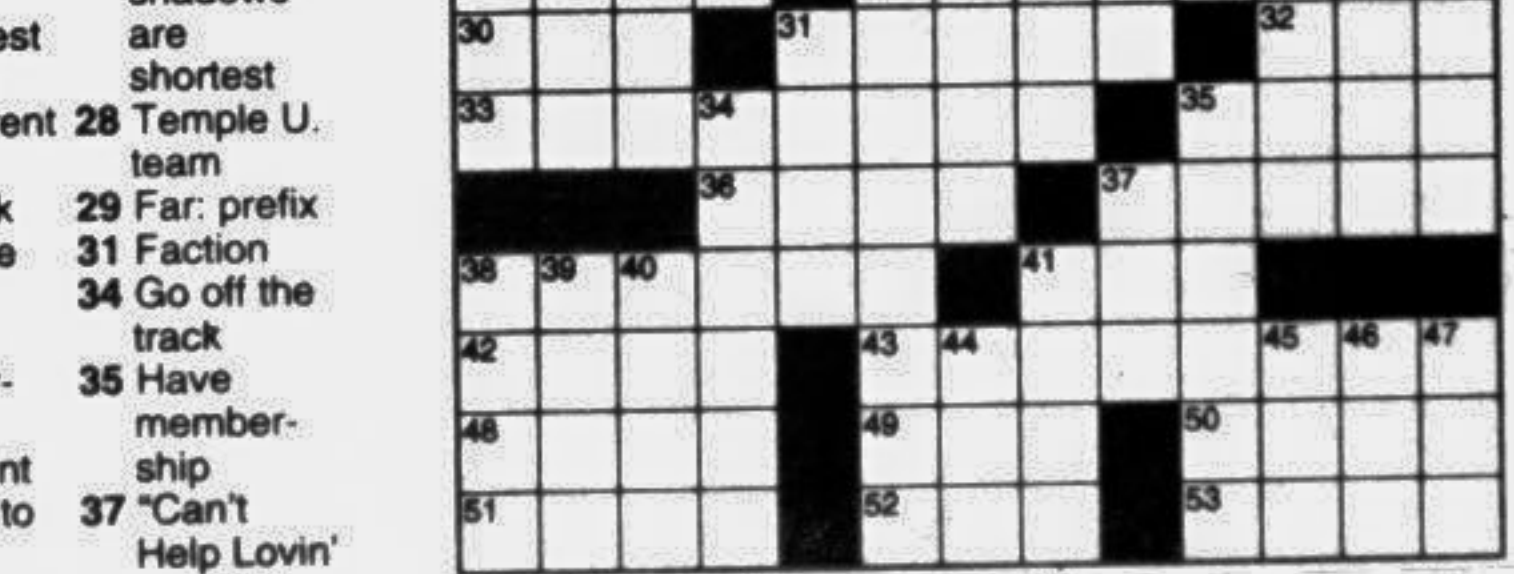
Tapie, a charismatic businessman, worked his way up from a poor Paris suburb to briefly serve as urban affairs minister in 1992.

Filming of his second movie, "Fifi Martingale," with New Wave director Jacques Rivette, began recently and is expected to resume at the end of February.

Tapie starred in director Claude Lelouch's box office hit "Men, Women, Instructions," which was released in August.

In May, Tapie will face a new trial on charges of misusing corporate funds while president and owner of Olympique Marseille.

Also convicted of tax evasion, and barred from holding French office for five years, Tapie is currently in personal and corporate bankruptcy proceedings.



BERNARD TAPIE

The prosecutor said that the immunity issue was aimed at protecting institutions, not individuals. In any event, the flamboyant businessman was forced from the French Parliament in disgrace in September, a move that took away his customary parliamentary immunity.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Entreaty
- 5 West of Hollywood
- 8 Pull an all-nighter
- 12 One of TV's "Friends"
- 13 Fool also-ran
- 15 Extremely happy
- 17 Shake-spearan septet
- 18 Monogram of "The Sage of Concord"
- 19 From the beginning
- 21 U.S. voter since 1920
- 24 Mountain-foothold
- 25 Attention-getter
- 26 Protestant
- 30 Coq au —
- 31 Who says?
- 32 Use plastic?
- 33 Exultant
- 35 Weevil's target
- 36 Paradise

DOWN

- 37 Compact Hi-fi hooky
- 41 Croup holder
- 42 Gyro-based newspaper
- 43 Arlington-based news-paper
- 48 Con
- 49 Haul
- 50 Zip, to Zorro
- 51 Authentic domain
- 52 Hyperion's
- 53 Wax DOWN
- 1 Grand — N.S.
- 2 Reed or Rawls
- 3 Sixth
- 4 Sccluded retreat
- 5 Paddock parent
- 6 "— was saying..."
- 7 Snail
- 8 Fee
- 9 The latest fashion
- 10 Belligerent deity
- 11 Network
- 16 Hold the title to
- 20 Salyr's counterpart
- 21 Undulant
- 22 Where to find
- 23 Diner's
- 24 Fork
- 39 feature
- 40 Song-stress
- 41 James
- 42 Old
- 43 French coin
- 45 Stuntman
- 46 Commotion
- 47 Deviate off course

Solution time: 24 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

B Z R K N E W R W R G J R Z B -
G R L W B D J R I J D R I T W R L
E L J E K N R T I Z G ?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE PROUD LIGHTING SALESPERSON BRAGGED ABOUT HIS BRIGHT IDEAS.

Today's Cryptquip clue: J equals P

The Cryptquip 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.

SUBARU WORLD RALLY TEAM

ABOVE ALL ELSE