

Column One SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram (Pakistan cricket captain) Aravinda is in a class of his own. He is capable of anything, with the bat, ball or in the field. There are few better match-winners than him.

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

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Sports WHIZZ KID competition-68 Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes 8 pm, Apr 25, '97

Table with 5 rows of quiz questions and multiple choice answers (A, B, C, D).

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues for Across and Down.

Baggio going to Gunners?



LONDON, Apr 12: Italian superstar Roberto Baggio is ready to quit Serie A and take his chance in the Premier...

The unsettled striker wants to emulate his fellow countrymen Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea) and Fabrizio Ravanelli (Middlesbrough) and his former San Siro teammate Patrick Vieira (Arsenal)...

And 29-year-old Baggio, star of Italy's 1994 World Cup campaign that took them to the final, wants to play in the Premier...

My dream is to come and play in England so I can show the world I am still a great player, said Baggio today.

The place to be and to catch the eye right now is England. It's becoming the greatest stage in the world.

My friend Gianfranco Zola

has proved you can still play for Italy and live in London at the same time.

A team that is involved in Europe would be the ideal choice, he added. Although Manchester United are also keen on snapping up Baggio, Arsenal are the favourites.



ROBERTO BAGGIO

Gunners boss Arsene Wenger is reported to have met the striker's agent earlier this week to discuss a possible nine million pounds deal.

The breakdown of the cash would be a five million pounds transfer fee and one million pounds-a-year in the player's wages over four years.

Baggio, who cost Milan 10 million pounds from Juventus two years ago, still has two years left on his contract. But there is an escape clause should he wish to play abroad.

He is said to have been unhappy at the Italian club since former national coach Arrigo Sacchi returned to the San Siro earlier this season.

I had such great hopes when I joined Milan, but there is no future between Sacchi and I. The breakdown is complete.

The last two years of my career have been totally wasted. But I still feel I have much to offer.

Wenger has held Baggio in high regard for some time and tried to sign him when he was manager at Japanese club Grampus Eight.

Passarella rebuffs report



RIO DE JANEIRO, Apr 12: Daniel Passarella, Argentina's beleaguered national team coach, denied on Friday that he had fallen out with the president of the country's soccer federation and said he would not resign, reports Reuter.

Meanwhile, Francisco Maturana, coach of Argentina's next World Cup opponents Ecuador, made an appeal for the importance of the match on April 30 to be kept in perspective.

His comments appeared to be aimed at avoiding the build-up of a warlike atmosphere, following the unsavory incidents which hit the South American qualifiers last week.

In Buenos Aires, Passarella dismissed as lies reports that he had been involved in a blazing row with Julio Grondona president of the Argentine Football Federation.

Reports published on Thursday said the coach, known for his strong personality, had threatened to resign during the meeting. It was also reported that Grondona was fed up with the way Passarella had chopped and changed the squad.

If they want me to go, they're going to have to get rid of me, Passarella said on Friday. The meeting with Grondona was very relaxed. Anything else they say is a lie. There was no shouting, he gave me his full backing.

Passarella has been under fire since last Wednesday's debacle when Argentina lost 2-1 to Bolivia in La Paz, had two players sent off and were involved in a brawl that held up play for 10 minutes near the end.

Although the Bolivian team and police were fiercely criticised, Argentine public opinion was also angry at the national team's conduct.

Passarella was blamed for creating a bad atmosphere in

the run-up to the game, storming out of a news conference the day before and play in La Paz at 3,600 metres above sea level.

Since returning to Argentina, Passarella, who during the games argued incessantly with officials on the touchline, has refused to talk.

It's important that people remember that I haven't seen my family for a month, he said, adding: I have nothing against the Bolivian people.

The defeat, the latest in a series of bad results in the competition, left Argentina fifth in the South American qualifying group and out of the qualifying places. The top four of the nine teams qualify for the finals in France.

Ecuador, who have never reached the finals and lead Argentina on goals scored visit Buenos Aires for another crucial game.

Maturana, their Colombian coach, seemed to have learned from Passarella's experiences when he tried to play down the importance of the match.

As far as I understand, this

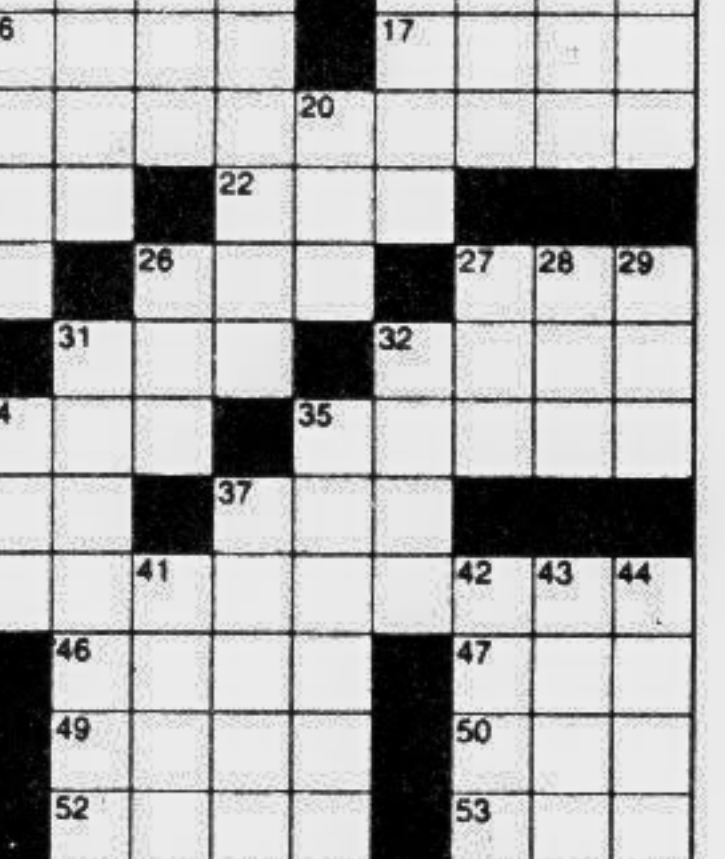
Ref's concern compounded

ZURICH, Apr 12: FIFA said they would investigate Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger who on Thursday lost his appeal to UEFA against a life ban for attempted bribery, reports Reuter.

In another development, UEFA said on Friday it was planning to look into another match-fixing allegation, involving Roethlisberger and Bayern Munich.

Roethlisberger, once recognised as one of soccer's top officials, was suspended by UEFA after they found he solicited a bribe to fix a European Cup Champions' League match between Grasshopper Zurich and Auxerre on October 30.

But the ban extends only to UEFA-related activities and does not apply worldwide.



CRYPTOQUIP

Yesterdays Cryptogram: A TRUE MINER IS A MAN WHO SURE DIGS WHAT HE'S DOING.

Today's Cryptogram clue: K equals F. The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that K equals O, O equals Q and so on, you can decipher the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Chang, Rafter reach final

HONG KONG, Apr 12: Top seed Michael Chang battled to a 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory Saturday over fourth-seed Thomas Johansson of Sweden to advance to the final of the 328,000 dollars Salem Open, reports AP.

In the final, Chang will meet fifth-seed Patrick Rafter of Australia, who beat American qualifier Brian MacPhie 3-6, 6-1, 3-0. MacPhie retired in the third set because of an arm injury.

The final will be a rematch of the 1994 clash, when Chang defeated Rafter.

Chang, seeking his third Hong Kong title, overcame an erratic first set in which he had his serve broken three times, to end Johansson's 14-match unbeaten streak and advance to his fifth Salem Open final.

It was a strange match in that I lost my serve three times in the first set and still won it, said Chang, ranked No 3 in the world.

I settled down a bit after that and I was pretty happy with the way I played, he added.

Rafter is hoping to avenge his 1994 defeat. He has also lost to Chang in their last three meetings.

I think I owe him one now, said the 43rd-ranked Rafter.

The Australian said he felt 24-year-old MacPhie, who reached his first ATP Tour semifinal, has a good future.

He is a great player and I am sure that if he continues to play like this, he will do well.

Left-handed MacPhie, ranked 308th in the world, was the surprise of the tournament, having defeated second-seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland in the second round.

I am disappointed with the way everything worked out, but I felt my arm hurt in the first set and it got progressively worse, MacPhie said.

Jadeja cracks century



GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Apr 12: Preparing for the crucial fifth and final Test, India's batsmen gained valuable batting practice against Guyana on the opening day of their tour match at Bourda Oval here on Friday, reports AFP.

Opening batsman Ajay Jadeja led the way with a stroke-filled 106, Saurav Ganguly missed out in an innings of 90, and Mohammad Azharuddin showed a return to form in making 59 as India reached 293 for five at stumps with Robin Singh unbeaten on 26 and Syed Karim on one not out.

Choosing to bat under sunny skies on a hard, easy-paced pitch, India lost Navjot Sidhu to the bowling of fast bowler Reon King, who ended with three wickets for 59 runs off 24 overs to be the most successful Guyanese bowler.

However, a 143-run stand between Jadeja and Ganguly gave India the base for a formidable total. They carried the total to 91 for one at lunch before the opening batsman reached the century in the afternoon period. He was bowled by King to be the only wicket Guyana claimed in that session.



JADEJA ... 106

to see India to 183 for two at tea. Ganguly had been joined by the off-colour Azharuddin and they propelled the tourists forward in a partnership of 82 for the third wicket.

West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul, captaining Guyana because regular skipper Carl Hooper had returned to England on personal business, captured both Ganguly and Venkata Laxman for nought in quick succession with his leg-spin to leave India 244 for four.

Azharuddin and Singh pushed the total along to 288 before the former Indian captain offered a return catch to King.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the four-day first-class match between Guyana and India at Bourda Oval on Friday:

Table with 2 columns: Player and Score. Includes India's first innings and Guyana's first innings.

Full of wickets: 1-19; 2-162; 3-244; 4-244; 5-288

To bat: S Joshi, N David, D Ganesh, A Kuruvilla.

Table with 5 columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers and their statistics.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Notice Inviting Tender No. 202/1996-97

- 1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Special Class-I (one) & Class-II (one) Building Contractors/Firms and Class-I (one) Sanitary and Plumbing Contractors/Firms of PWD who have successfully completed minimum one no. 150mm or higher mm dia deep tubewell installation work in PWD for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, Dhaka PWD Division No. III/Eden Building PWD Division, Dhaka & Medical College PWD Division, Dhaka in their respective office chamber up to 12-00 Noon of 24-4-97 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the contractors/firms who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. No tender form and schedule will be sold to the contractors/firms who have no VAT Registration.
- 2. Name of work : Installation of 150mm dia deep tubewell at the site of Bangladesh Television at Rampura, Dhaka during the year-1996-97
- 3. Estimated cost : Taka 8,33,753/00
- 4. Earnest money : Taka 16,676/00
- 5. Time allowed for completion of the work from the date of issue of work order is 60 (sixty) days
- 6. Tenderers shall have to obtain permission to purchase the tender documents from the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka PWD Circle-II, Dhaka showing their eligibility for this work and for this purpose. The intending tenderers will have to supply to the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka PWD Circle-II, Dhaka with requisite papers about their experience in installing 6" dia or higher dia deep tubewell at least 3 (three) days before the date of receiving the tender. The certificate of their performance in installation of minimum 6" dia deep tubewell, obtained from the Executive Engineer or from the Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer must accompany with the tender. The contract documents consisting of BD Form No 2911, notice inviting tenders, schedule of items, special terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer as mentioned in Sl. I, during office hours on all working days on payment of usual charges of Tk. 400/- (Taka four hundred) only (non-refundable) per set of tender documents and Tk. 25/- (Taka twenty-five) only (non-refundable) per copy of Bangladesh Form No. 2911 up to 23-4-97. The contract documents may be purchased by the Contractors/Firms themselves or by his/her authorised representative on production of Registration book of enlistment and written permission from the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka PWD Circle-II, Dhaka.

Md Mohsin Farroque Executive Engineer DFP-7703-31/3 Dhaka PWD Divn No IV, Dhaka Telephone No. 9557108

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Entertainment guide listing TV programs, movies, and sports events across various channels like BTV, Channel V, STAR PLUS, STAR MOVIES, STAR SPORTS, ZEE TV, EL TV, PTV, and DD 7.