

Column One  
SPORTS TALK



**Zaheer Abbas**  
(Former Pakistan star batsman)  
"Pakistan has another quality pace bowler in the making - Abdul Razzaq. You will hear a lot about him in the future."

**Sports WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

**Sports WHIZZ KID competition-68**

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Competition closes 8 pm, May 2, '97

- |   |   |        |           |           |
|---|---|--------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Who won this year's British Open squash title?  | Janet  | Nicol     | Eyles     |
| 2 | Who won the Lipton Championship tennis title?   | Hingis | Seles     | Novotina  |
| 3 | Who lifted the international water polo trophy? | Army   | Sri Lanka | Navy      |
| 4 | Who clinched the national women's chess crown?  | Nipa   | Rani      | Eva       |
| 5 | Which team won the Top Five volleyball title?   | BDR    | Army      | Air Force |

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

**AFC's crusade against drug**

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 26: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has launched an all-out war on drug abuse in the sport, its general secretary Peter Velappan said today, reports AFP.

All national associations are now required to step up efforts to eradicate this menace from the sport," he said in a statement here.

Velappan said this would be done through campaigns to educate all officials, players and coaches on the negative influence of drugs.

National associations are also encouraged to arrange Random doping tests of players in their national leagues and for those selected for all national teams as well as the Olympics and the World Cup, he said.

"We do not need drugs in football. Drugs are a football just do not mix," Velappan said, adding, "We want all national associations to take up the challenge to eliminate this problem from Asian football."

Velappan disclosed that the AFC executive committee had agreed that the AFC medical committee would formulate the rules and regulations governing doping tests.

**MLS' face-lift mission**

NEW YORK, Apr 26: Major League Soccer clubs, attempting to improve their international profile, are inviting prominent international clubs to play in the United States throughout the year, the league said Friday, reports Reuters.

Three clubs have announced international matches, with the Los Angeles Galaxy leading the way with a match in Los Angeles against English Premier League's Aston Villa. The match is scheduled for May 21 at the Rose Bowl.

Also announcing international matches were the New York New Jersey Metrostars and the Kansas City Wizards.

The Metrostars will host top Turkish club Galatasaray, which formerly featured Columbus Crew and US national goalkeeper Brad Friedel. The match is scheduled for Giants Stadium on July 16.

The Metrostars are also playing an exhibition against the Colombian national team at Giants Stadium on May 14.

Kansas City will be playing its first international match on April 30, when the squad travels to Bermuda to take on that island-nation's national team.

The meeting will mark the first away contest by an MLS team against a national team. The Bermuda national team is coached by the legendary Clyde Best, a former standout for West Ham United of the Premier League.

# Football claims its share

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Mahanagari Club Samiti has decided to approach Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a bid to avail its share of the Dhaka Stadium during the rainy season.

The decision was made by the association, a guild of 20 Senior Division football clubs, in its meeting held at the Arambagh Krira Sangha office yesterday evening.

It was also decided in the meeting that a letter would be sent immediately to the Bangladesh Football Federation, the game's ruling body in the country, requesting it to put forward their demand to the proper authority.

In a press release issued after the meeting, the association extended its felicitation to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for country's success in the sixth ICC Trophy and in a way appreciated PM's decision to give the Dhaka Stadium to cricketers so that they could take uninterrupted preparation for the World Cup to be held in England in 1999.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meeting, SA Sultan, the president of the association said that football had been cornered painfully and it was high time for the authority to give more attention to this popular game.

"We are also happy for our cricket performance, but that does not mean we have to forget football. We agree that cricket should have a separate stadium, but then where will we go. According to NSC's calendar we were supposed to use the Stadium from April to September and we had all the programmes drawn up in that line. But suddenly the stadium has been taken away from us," said Sultan who is also the President of Arambagh Krira Sangha.

He said, "Football used to earn 14 million takes from Dhaka Stadium every season which was a great monetary help for the clubs to prepare their teams. This will be reduced to only three million if we play in Mirpur Stadium.

Where will the additional money be come from then?"

When asked about their future course of actions if the plea got cold-shoulders Sultan said, "We don't think we will be deprived. So we have not thought yet in that line."

About the inter club booter's transfer which is scheduled to start May 5, Sultan said, "The date for the transfer was announced in line with the previous plan of holding the league at the Dhaka Stadium. If that does not happen, the start of the transfer will be automatically delayed."

The Dhaka Stadium, however, has always been an apple of discord between the BFF and BCB, and the football federation has managed to be in the winning side somehow. Even in the middle of cricket season, prior to ICC tournament, cricketers were ousted from the Dhaka Stadium, only to pave the way of holding an invitational football tourney early this year.



The members of the victorious national cricket team, who are basking in the glorious success of the recently concluded ICC Trophy, seen attending a reception accorded by Mohammedan Sporting Club at a local hotel yesterday.

## Antlers on a roll

TOKYO, Apr 26: Brazilian striker Mazinho fired home his sixth goal of the season as he led defending champions Kashima Antlers to a fourth straight win in the J-League today, reports AFP.

Only eight minutes into the match the writing was on the wall when Mazinho, who scored a hat-trick in the season opener, put the Antlers one up against Jubilo Iwata off a headed pass from Atsushi Yanagisawa.

Jubilo came back in the 24th minute, but they lacked speed in their attacks as their two forwards, Italian star striker Salvatore Schillaci and Massashi Nakayama, were sidelined because of injuries.

Yasuo Manaka hit a sizzling 30-metre shot in the 89th minute to decide the match.

The Antlers remain the only team yet to be beaten with a 4-0 record, leading the field with 12 points.

Shoji Jo, who transferred from Jet United Ichihara to Yokohama Marinos, also scored his sixth goal of the season as the 1995 champions staged a come from behind vic-

tory in the last five minutes over his old team 2-1.

Jo nodded home a Takahiro Yamada pass to equalise the match at 1-1 in the 85th minute and then Yamada struck home the winner two minutes later.

Marinos improved their record to 4-1 to trail the Antlers alongside Cerezo Osaka with identical 10 points. Cerezo were 2-1 winners over Urawa Red Diamonds.

Kashiwa Reysol relied on their Brazilian strikers Edilson and Jamelli, who scored their third goals of the season each to beat newcomers Vissel Kobe 3-1. Vissel continued to struggle as Danish star Michael Laudrup has been sidelined due to a foot injury.

In other games, Sanfrecce Hiroshima defeated two-time champions Verdy Kawasaki 2-1, while Shimizu S-Pulse whipped Kyoto Purple Sanga 3-1.

Gamba Osaka missed their new lethal weapon as Patrick Mboma of Cameroon left for home for his international mission. They crashed to a 0-1 defeat, giving Avispa Fukuoka their first win of the season.

## Cesare's cause of concern

FLORENCE, Italy, Apr 26: Italy's coach Cesare Maldini warned on Friday that the presence of so many foreigners in the Serie A could soon cause problems for the national team, reports AFP.

Italian sides like holders Juventus and Inter Milan may be through to the finals of the European Cup and UEFA Cup respectively, but the 65-year-old believes there could be danger ahead.

## Arrigo in Roberto rage

FLORENCE, Italy, Apr 26: Roberto Baggio fired a poisoned dart at club coach Arrigo Sacchi on Friday, when he said the Italian national squad was better off under Cesare Maldini, reports AFP.

Maldini, has recalled Baggio to the squad after he had been ignored for nearly two years by Sacchi who has also given Baggio a long spell on the bench since taking over as coach at AC Milan.

And Baggio did not miss the opportunity to make a comparison with the Sacchi era though without mentioning the coach by name.

"It's great to be in a group which doesn't have the tensions that used to be there before," Baggio said at their Coviciano training base here, "you can work well, with great a sense of calm."

"I've found the squad at Coviciano to be strong, united and able to work really well and much more tranquil than the national team used to be."

As for himself, Baggio said, "My greatest wish is to stay in the national squad and take part in the 1998 World Cup finals. I'll be 31 by the end I know it could be my last chance to take part in such a major event."

"But for the moment, I'm happy just to be here. And if I could play that would be just the maximum."

Though Baggio has been linked with a number of possible moves away from Milan, the striker insisted he wants to stay with the Italian champions.

"I'm being talked about a lot at the moment, but what I want most is to stay and play at Milan," he said, "because if I don't play, I can't hope to be in the national team."

"The idea of playing for Napoli is a wonderful one, but



ARRIGO SACCHI

## David calms things down

LONDON, Apr 26: Rangers chairman David Murray Friday backed fed-up Walter Smith's outburst on Paul Gascoigne - then offered the England maverick the olive branch of contract talks, reports AFP.

Manager Smith expressed his exasperation at Gascoigne's off-field life earlier this week, insisting he had brought shame on the Scottish champions.

But Murray revealed on Friday that rangers will soon be having more talks with Gascoigne's representatives on a new deal to keep him at Ibrox beyond the summer of 1998.

Gascoigne, who will be 30 next month, has 15 months left on his contract but Smith's comments sparked speculation that he may depart sooner rather than later if Rangers are made an offer for their 4.3 million record buy.

"He's under contract for 15 months and although Walter has made his thoughts public I think it was the appropriate time to make it," said Murray.

"We've been playing a very difficult season and it is not helpful along the way if a manager comes out and says things which don't help the squad."



Spanish cyclist Javier Mauleon of the ONCE team stands on the winners' podium after receiving the yellow jersey on Apr 25. The Spaniard finished second in the third stage of the Alentejo tour to take an overall lead.

## Imtiaz lifts Korean Cup golf title

A day-long Korean Cup golf tournament was held at the Kurmitola Golf Course here on Friday, reports UNB.

Brig Imtiaz A Chowdhury emerged as the winner in the event where 202 golfers including a good number of ladies took part.

In Sook Kim was the ladies winner while Faruque Ahmed came as the medalist (best gross).

Chief of Army Lt Gen Muhammad Mahbubur Rahman attended the tournament as chief guest and awarded prizes among the winners.

Korean Ambassador Tae Kyu Han, Japanese Ambassador Yoshikazu Kaneko, Director General of NSI Maj Gen Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman were also present.

## Metropolis Div III cricket from May 10

Metropolis Third Division cricket league of 1996-97 season involving eleven teams will begin from May 10, reports UNB.

The teams are - Young Pegasus, Shantinagar B, Postal CC, Magbazar Jubo Sangha, Young Cricketers, New Eagles, Prograti Seba Sangha, Ekata Samaj Kalyan, Manipur CC and CCS Blue.

## USOC soups up training complex

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, Apr 26 (AP): The height of luxury for an athlete at the US Olympic Committee's training complex used to be a corner of an Army surplus quonset hut.

How times have changed.

Capping a decade of growth and movement from the old days of amateurs only into the world of millionaires winning gold medals, the USOC was set Saturday to open a 23.7 million dollars expansion of its headquarters sporting stylish rooms for athletes and a chance for visitors to get a close look at Olympic training.

The president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, made a rare trip to the home of the USOC to help dedicate the new visitors' center and athletes' residences, and to get a glimpse of the practice sites that will produce future US Olympic teams.

He'll get a chance to scan a computer library of facts on every Olympic athlete the United States has had since the first modern games in 1896. He'll walk down a promenade lined with silhouettes of athletes in each Olympic and Pan American Games sport, and read a little bit about each event. And he'll peek into rooms for athletes that are complete with cable TV, refrigerators, computer hookups and laundry facilities.

This is such a big difference from what we had before," gymnast John Macready said. He and teammate Garry Denk were the first athletes to move into the new dorms.

"Before, it was much like a college dorm," Macready said. "Now, it's unbelievable. We have everything we need. It really shows that the USOC wants us to succeed."

The new facilities were paid for through a special fund-raising project headed by Bill Hybl, elected last October as the committee's president. The money was separate from regular USOC budgets, so the new facilities were built without taking any funds away from the athletes or Olympic teams.

Officials expect tourists to be drawn to the new complex, with the lure of free tours and a chance to rub elbows with Olympic athletes.

"Last year, we had 95,000 visitors. Now, we expect more than 250,000 a year," said J. Michael Wilson, general manager of the visitors' center. "By 2000, we expect to be welcoming 500,000 people a year."

Final preparations for the center's opening were hindered as officials and staff dug out from 2 feet (0.6-metre) of snow that hit Colorado Springs on Wednesday night and Thursday.

## Philip flips a reminder

LONDON, Apr 26: Derbyshire's former England paceman Philip De Freitas dropped a hint to the England selectors on Friday as he took seven Kent wickets in the English county championship - though his day was marred when he went off with a groin strain, reports AFP.

However, the majority of the other matches were ruined by bad weather not before superb Sussex prospect Keith Newell scored a maiden first class century and England international Ronnie Irani scored a career best 123 not out for Essex.

Defreitas recorded his best figures for Derbyshire, taking seven for 64, although Kent scored 333, with their Zimbabwean spinner Paul Strang hitting 69, while another former England paceman Martin McCague of Northern Irish percentage but raised in Australia ended on 53 not out.

Derbyshire were 59 for two chasing 337 to win after recovering from losing both openers Kim Barnett and Adrian rolling with just 14 on the board.

Newell, who became the second centurion for Sussex after

Neil Taylor's excellent 127 on Thursday, took 197 balls including 15 fours to get his century against Northamptonshire. Sussex best by troubles in the winter losing leading batsmen Alan Wells and Martin



PHILIP DEFREITAS

Speight as well as three of their frontline bowlers, moved from 344 for six to 411 for seven - a lead of 96 on the first innings.

Newell 91 at the start of play finished unbeaten on 107 while paceman Paul Jarvis made 64, before falling when the paper

had taken their seventh wicket partnership into three figures. Newell's progress was halted by the weather after lunch.

Irani's fifth first-class century helped Essex to set of Hampshire a daunting target of 528 for victory, only for the weather to intervene.

Irani, who resumed the third day on 95, reached three figures in 211 minutes off 173 balls hitting 14 fours.

Ashley Cowan joined Irani after Mark Ilett's dismissal for 42, and the pair pushed the score up to 442 for eighth before Essex declared with Irani 123 but Hampshire could reach only three without loss before the rain.

Little or no play was possible at several venues, including the Oval where championship favourites Surrey moved from 172 for seven to 209 for eight in the 80 minutes play possible today in replay to Somerset's 463.

Durham skipper David Boon, the former world class Australian batsman was kept on his overnight 85 because of the weather, although he was more relieved than frustrated as on 201 for six in reply to Lancashire's 506 he only has one day to hold out.

## Foreman goes on forever

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Apr 26: George Foreman steps into the ring for the 80th time here today when he puts his highly regarded World Boxing Union (WBU) heavyweight title on the line against Lou Savarese, reports AP.

For Foreman, the title of the upstart sanctioning body is apparently less important than taking another step on the road to history.

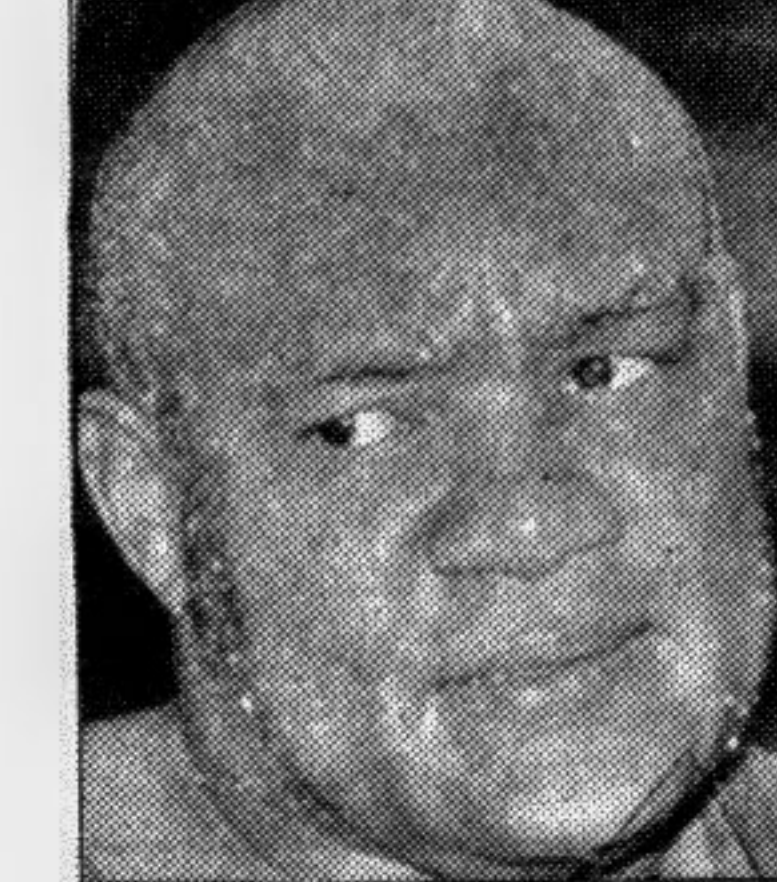
"I just want to do something no one has ever done before, to be honest about it," said the 48-year-old preacher whose ring career has been spanned for four decades, "that's fight into my 50s."

Savarese, 31, brings a 36-0 record to the bout established against mostly unknown opponents.

He gained a measure of re-

spect in November when he stopped Buster Mathis Jr with a sixth-round knockout that sent Mathis into retirement.

Foreman said he chose Savarese from a television list of possible opponents that included one-time Mike Tyson-beater Buster Douglas.



GEORGE FOREMAN

## Navy hockey

KHULNA, Apr 26: The annual hockey championship of the Bangladesh Navy got underway at BNS Titumir playground here today, reports BSS.

A total of eight teams from different ships and establishments of the Bangladesh Navy are taking part in the four-day meet.

BN Patrol Craft Squadron beat BNS Haji Mohsin by 2-1 goals in the opening match held today.

In other two matches BN Dockyard beat BNS Titumir 3-0 and Frigate Squadron defeated BNS Shaheed Mozamem 2-0.

Earlier, the Commodore Commanding Khulna formally inaugurated the meet as the chief guest.

Foreman, who held the world heavyweight title from 1973-1974, when he lost it to Muhammad Ali, became the oldest champ in history when he captured the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association titles from Michael Moorer in November of 1994.

He eventually relinquished both of those titles rather than fight designated challengers, and apparently now is more concerned with longevity than championships.

Last month, Foreman said he was thinking past Savarese to a possible future fight with reigning WBA champion Evander Holyfield, or former world champion Mike Tyson.

But as Saturday's bout with Savarese loomed Foreman changed his tune.

"I just want to stay active," he said later, "I'm not really after anybody in particular."

In fact, Foreman would not be the only boxer to fight into his 50s many have done it including Jack Johnson, the 'Galveston Giant', who scored his last knock-out in 1932 when he was 54.

Foreman comes into the bout with a record of 75 wins and four defeats 68 of his victories coming inside the distance.

## Sirimongkol retains belt

PHUKET, Thailand, Apr 26: Thailand's World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight champion Sirimongkol Singmanasak retained his crown with a fourth round knockout win over number eight contender Javier Campanario of Spain in his second title defence today, reports AFP.

The lanky Sirimongkol, 19, fought for the initiative with sharp left jabs to the face and powerful right and left hooks to the head and body, while Campanario appeared fearful of his opponent with most of his punches missing the target.

Early in the fourth round, Sirimongkol landed a spectacular combination of left hooks to the body and right hooks to the jaw, putting the challenger down for an eight-count.

The Thai champion wasted no time and landed more left and right hooks to finally drop Campanario for a count of ten ending the bout after one minute and 56 seconds of the fourth round.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Off-key	41 Old	5 Push firmly	8 History	12 Impetuous	13 Lamb's dam	14 Formerly	15 They're nothing new	17 Pronto, in the E.R.	18 Carriage in a Disney-land ride	19 Garb	21 Half-ton	22 Line of fashion	23 Arthur or Lillie	26 Energy	28 Old market-place	31 Itsy-bitsy bits	33 Ill-lit	35 Oklahoma city	36 Town of central Italy	38 Crony	40 Red Sox legend, to															
DOWN	2 fans	3 Peruvian	43 Sign of assent	45 Obelisk	47 "Fideles" dam	51 Off base	52 Civil War battle site	54 Novelist	55 Spelldown	56 Skirt length	57 Peacock-tail spots	58 Bishop's balliwick	59 Fit of peevishness	61 nass	62 hardener	10 Cicatrix	11 Head of France	16 Bon mot	20 Source of caffeine	23 Life story	24 Dawn goddess	25 Daughter of Oedipus	27 "Great Expectations" hero	29 Inlet	30 Wood-shaping tool	32 Tennis-match format	34 Sea cow	37 Expert	39 California city	42 Bedouins	44 Consider	45 Stupefaction	46 Vacationing	48 Olie's cohort	49 DeVito sitcom	50 Send forth	53 Born

Solution time: 21 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP  
ACHSHIW JX H QPGSTDI  
OTFA HWKJDO HCC  
SPOGVDIO XDKDI H  
QPV OGD DI  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Typically, A THIRSTY PHYSICIAN IS ONLY A DRY DOC.  
Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals V  
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.