

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?	Jansen	Nicol	Eyles
2	Who won the Lipton Championship tennis title?	Hingis	Slees	Novotna
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

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.

"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 football just not mix," Velappan said, adding. "We want all national associations to take up the challenge to eliminate the 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 Reuter.

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 the 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 Mahanagar 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.

The association, however, felt that during the rainy season, cricket had got nothing to do with the wet outfit of the Dhaka Stadium. And if cricketers use the corner strips of the national stadium, as they did in the past, football matches can well be arranged simultaneously. Moreover, the association also pointed out that BCB can also cash in on the indoor facilities of the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) during the period.

The association hoped that the authority concerned will sincerely consider their demand for reallocation of Dhaka Stadium to football for the rainy season, from April to October, and give a decision within next fifteen days.

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.

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 which used to be there before," Baggio said at their Coverciano training base here, "you can work well, with great a sense of calm."

"I've found the squad at Coverciano 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 of the year and 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 be 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.

For the moment, I repeat my future is with Milan."

Many believe Baggio wants to stay because Sacchi is not expected to last as Fabio Capello is now widely expected to return from Real Madrid to coach the side he took to four Italian league titles and one European Cup in his five seasons in charge.

"He's under contract for 15 months and although Walter Smith 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."

Baggio's call-up followed injury doubts over Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola, but the hero of Stamford Bridge had no complaints.

ARRIGO SACCHI

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 taka 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.

— Star photo

Antlers on a roll



TOKYO, Apr 26: Brazilian striker Mazinho fired home his sixth goal of the season as he led defending champions Ka-shima 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 hattrick 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 victory 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 Jameli, 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.

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