

# Column One

## SPORTS TALK



**Shahid Afridi**  
(Promising Pakistani all-rounder)  
"My job is to bowl, but I have discovered that I can bat as well."

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-72

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Competition closes 8 pm, June 27, '97

|   |  |          |         |        |
|---|--|----------|---------|--------|
| 1 | How many countries will participate in the sixth Asia Cup cricket?                 | Four     | Six     | Three  |
| 2 | The number of associate members in the International Cricket Council are           | 21       | 26      | 23     |
| 3 | Who has scored a double hat-trick in the Green Delta First Division hockey league? | Sadek    | Kamal   | Siam   |
| 4 | The Bangladesh vice-captain in the 6th Asia Cup is                                 | Minhajul | Aminul  | Saiful |
| 5 | The new French Open champion is  | Bruguera | Kuerten | Chang  |

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....



## Errata

In our issue on Monday under the heading "Bangladesh gain one-day cricket status" it was inadvertently mentioned "When the neighbours — India and Pakistan — obtained the Test status immediately after the partition in 1947, the cricket-crazy-country wandered in the wilderness for more than two decades". In fact India got the Test status in 1932 while Pakistan joined the elite group in 1951.

— Sports Editor

# Mariners back on track

**Sports Reporter**

On the other hand, the defeat pulled Wari down to the eighth spot with their previous collection of 17 points.

The match was locked 1-1 in the first half.

Biaka, the Mariner skipper who scored a hat-trick against Bachelor's Sporting Club last month, put his side ahead in the fifth minute converting a penalty corner. But the lead was sustained for only 11 minutes as Wari levelled through Rubel who pushed the ball home capitalising on a defence splitting right side cross from Imran.

The result remained unchanged for next 30 minutes before Mariner centre forward Musa scored the winner flicking the ball home from a Biaka



Action from Green Delta First Division league clash between Mariner Young's Club and Wari Club at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

pass in the 48th minute.

## F'GANJ'S SIXTH WIN

In the other match of the day, Farashganj Sporting Club recorded the sixth victory defeating Dhaka Ansars 3-1.

In a one-sided affair, Tajinder Singh, one of the four Indian recruits of Farashganj, struck twice in the 24th and 67th minutes while Mahbub added the other in the 66th minute.

Babul reduced the margin for Ansars in the 30th minute.

With yesterday's win, Farashganj moved to the sixth place in the table having raised their account to 19 points, one point lead over seventh place Sadharan Bima.

On the other hand, it was the eleventh successive defeat for Ansars which kept them at the bottom of the table along with Police with both having no points.

Meanwhile, there will be no matches today because of the maintenance of the synthetic turf of the stadium. The league will resume tomorrow with two matches. In the first engagement Bangladesh Sporting Club will face Bangladesh Railway while holders Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Ajax Sporting Club in the next.

## World youth soccer

### Morocco win opener

**KUALA LUMPUR, June 17:** Morocco came from behind to ruin Malaysia's football party with a 3-1 win in the opening match of the World Youth Football Championships here on Monday, reports AFP.

Morocco now need to draw one of their remaining league matches against Uruguay or Belgium to qualify for the pre-quarterfinals. Malaysia will have to win both their games to move ahead.

The first game in the three-week tournament was preceded by a colourful hour-long opening ceremony.

Among the guests were FIFA president Joao Havelange, general secretary Joseph Blatter and chief organiser Sultan Ahmed Shah.

# Rise of Russia's Mafia

**MOSCOW, June 17:** The weekend killing of a senior business executive at Russia's top soccer club, Spartak Moscow, has highlighted how far sport in the former Soviet Union has fallen victim to organised crime, officials said on Monday, reports Reuters.

Vladimir Radionov, general secretary of the Russian Football Union (RFU), said Larisa Nechayeva, the second senior Russian sports official shot dead in the last two months, had received threats recently and looked nervous the last time he saw her.

"It looks like the commercial interests of different companies clashed in this case and relations between them took a dangerous turn," Radionov told Reuters. "As often happens nowadays, they started settling scores."

Police in the Vladimir region, east of Moscow, were still investigating the apparent contract shooting of Nechayeva, who was the director general in charge of finance and sponsorship at the league champions.

She was number two to club president Oleg Romantsev, the former head coach of the Russian national side.

A club source said she was a particularly close associate of Romantsev, an authoritarian figure who retained close control over the club during his 1994-96 tenure with the national squad.

Nechayeva and another woman on the Spartak management team, named by police only as Rudzake, were gunned down at a club villa on Sunday afternoon. Her driver was in intensive care.

The murders came less than two months after the unsolved assassination of Russian Ice Hockey Federation president, Valentin Sych, who was sprayed with bullets as he drove to work.

Sych, 60, had spoken out against pressure from business groups who take advantage of post-Soviet Russia's legal vacuum to employ the sort of Mafia-style tactics that have made contract killings common place across the country.

One senior Russian soccer official said on Monday he was alarmed by the general rise in the use of sports clubs to launder Mafia money. Other allegations, never proved, that have circulated in the Russian sports world in recent years involve the abuse of special tax breaks and widespread match-rigging.

Some of Russia's biggest sports stars, now based abroad, say they fear to return home for fear of pressure from crime gangs.

Spartak spokesman Alexander Lvov conceded Nechayeva's murder was a contract hit. But he hotly denied any suggestion the club, four times Russian champions in the past five years and one of the richest in the country, had any links to the underworld.

There is no connection to organised crime. This contract killing could have been prompted by any kind of reason — personal contacts, other private matters," he told Reuters television on Sunday. "It has nothing to do with allegations of the so-called criminal entourage around our club."

He added he was not aware of any threats towards Nechayeva. Other Spartak officials declined to comment on Monday.

## Div III soccer

**Sports Reporter**

A brilliant hat-trick by Shakil guided Lalbagh Sporting Club to a 4-3 victory over Maghbar Kisholoy Sangha in one of the two Third Division football league matches held at the Army Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-2.

In a see-saw encounter, Shakil scored in the 6th, 22nd and 27th minutes while Javed added the other in the 57th minute. On the other hand, Arif, Jashim and Liton scored one each for Maghbar in the 34th, 38th and 65th minutes respectively.

In the next match, Kawran-bazar Pragati Sangha beat Fire Service 2-1.

Meanwhile, the day's other match between Deepali Juba Sangha and Rahmatganj Sporting Club scheduled at the Rajuk ground, ended in a goal-less draw.

## BCA gets recognition

**Bangladesh Carrom Association (BCA)** has been recognised as a national sports organisation, reports UNB.

The association also got the affiliation of National Sports Council (NSC) following the recognition on June 3.

The BCA was floated in December in 1989 with Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University as convener.

## Headquarters

**Bangladesh Coast Guard**  
DOHS Joar Sahara  
Baridhara, Dhaka-1206  
Phone-872915

## Wanted House on Rent for Residence

Required a multistoried building with 10,000 sqft floor area in areas adjacent to Joar Sahara, Baridhara in Dhaka for residence & store of Bangladesh Coast Guard. The building should have adequate water, electricity, gas & bathroom facility. Besides there should be open spaces around the building and parking lot for 8/10 vehicles including 2/3 bus/truck.

Interested house owners are requested to contact the undersigned with expected rental of the house & other details.

**M M Rahman**  
Commander BN  
Director (Works)

DFP-14231-11/6  
G-1685

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

|                |              |               |             |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| ACROSS         | 41 Tar, in   | DOWN          | 16 Writer   |
| 1 Writer       | 43 Bumped    | 1 Dandy, in   | 17 Writer   |
| Janowitz       | into         | 2 Curly       | Seton       |
| 5 Recipe       | 45 Catch-    | 3 Cripple     | 20 Tackle   |
| measure        | phrase       | 4 Jockey      | moguls      |
| 8 Madison      | 47 Swoop     | 5 Slooplike   | 23 Legisla- |
| Avenue         | award        | 6 Exploita-   | tion        |
| 12 The         | 51 Blue hue  | 7 Assumes     | 24 Sib      |
| beginning      | 52 Fishing   | 8 Fruit-      | 25 One-     |
| — era          | vessels      | craft         | masters     |
| 13 Gls' enter- | 54 Initial   | 9 Flirta-     | 27 Flirta-  |
| tainers        | stake        | tion          | tiously shy |
| 14 Zest        | 55 Charged   | 10 Concerning | 29 Apiece   |
| source         | particle     | an attitude   | 30 Feeding  |
| 15 Warships    | 56 First     | 8 Fruit-      | time?       |
| of a sort      | course,      | packer's      | 32 Uses     |
| 17 Farming:    | maybe        | activity      | mouth-      |
| 57 CEO         | 57 Flat-     | bottomed      | wash        |
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| 19 Nehemiah    | 37 Actress   | Thomp-        | 38 Calcut?  |
| 21 Caustic     | solution     | 42 Playful    | prank       |
| 22 Revue       | segment      | 44 Major oil  | city        |
| 23 Rudimen-    | tary lesson  | 45 Attempt    | 46 Letter-  |
| 26 Joan of     | 28 Klutz     | 47 Letter-    | man's       |
| 31 Mountain-   | eer's        | 48 Night      | 49 Gunk     |
| foothold       | 50 Catch     | 51 Stinger    | or          |
| 33 "Mayday"    | 52 Stinger   | 53 Stinger    | or          |
| 35 Waxed       | 53 Stinger   | 54 Stinger    | or          |
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Players and officials of the Bangladesh Rifles team pose after becoming champions in the Cate Premier league with a 28-28 draw against Menjis KC at the handball court near Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo



THE ORIENTAL CHARMER: Mercurial former Pakistan captain Shahbaz Ahmed (L), who arrived here yesterday to feature in the Green Delta First Division league in favour of Mohammedan Sporting Club, having a light practice session alongwith his teammates at the National Hockey Stadium in the afternoon.

# Brazil reach last eight

**SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia, June 17:** Brazil rallied with three goals in the second half to defeat Mexico 3-2 Monday night and advance to the quarterfinals of the Copa America, report agencies.

Luis Hernandez scored for Mexico in the 13th and 37th minutes. Brazil came back in the second half with Aldair scoring in the 48th minute, Camilo Romero in the 59th and Leonardo in the 77th.

Even though the Brazilians won the match, the Mexicans won cheers for their fighting spirit. Mexico dominated the world champions in the first half, keeping ace strikers Ronaldo and Romario isolated.

Brazil ended the game with ten players after Flavio Conceicao was sent off in the 89th minute for delaying the game.

Brazil now have six points in Group C, followed by Mexico and Colombia with three each. Costa Rica have yet to earn any.

Mexico face Costa Rica and Brazil play Colombia on Thursday in the final first round games in the group.

## Shahbaz in city

**Sports Reporter**

Former Pakistan captain Shahbaz Ahmed (32) arrived in the city yesterday morning to don the Mohammedan Sporting Club colours once again for the remainder of the Green Delta First Division hockey league.

This is the second trip for the Faisalabad-based hockey magician who earlier in 1994, inspired the black and whites to lift the league championship. Shahbaz, better known as an artful dodger, has played 221 matches for his country. His last appearance was during last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta.

After leading Pakistan to their World Cup triumph in 1995, Shahbaz retired. But following a request by the then Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he resumed his chequered career.

Before coming to Bangladesh, Shahbaz was playing in the Dutch pro-league.

Shahbaz is the second of the four Pakistanis likely to play for Mohammedans. Waheed Shahid has already played one match while compatriots Tahir Zaman and Kamran Ashraf are expected to arrive soon.

After a light practice session in the afternoon, the mercurial forward completed his registration formalities last evening.

## BDR clinch Cute Premier h'ball title

**Sports Reporter**

Bangladesh Rifles emerged unbeaten champions in the Cute Premier handball league title with a 28-28 draw against Menjis Kira Chakra in the last match held at the court near Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw affair, Menjis, spearheaded by three Indian players Gora, Rajesh and Guru Singh, led the first half 15-12.

But a second half rally by the riflemen enabled them to make a brilliant comeback and drew the match with 28-28 at the end.

BDR's Jahangir scored highest eight goals while Rafique added six goals. On the other hand, Gora and Guru scored ten goals apiece for Menjis.

With the draw, BDR, who have earlier won six matches, remained atop the eight-team league table having raised their tally to 19 points, three points adrift of Menjis who finished third with their previous collection of 16 points. Bangladesh Police earned the runners-up trophy with 18 points to their credit.

## HK, a test case for China

**HONG KONG, June 17 (Reuters):** There is a corner of a foreign field which is forever England — if the Hong Kong Cricket Association has anything to do with it.

The sun is setting on Britain's empire in Hong Kong with the handover to China on June 30, but the quintessentially English game of cricket is set to live on.

Hong Kong's cricket heroes of tomorrow will even be joining in the handover celebrations — kitted out in red shirts, white trousers and Hong Kong Cricket Club caps for a big sports parade on July 3.

And the Hong Kong Cricket Association believes China's new special administrative region could be a launching pad to attract another one billion potential cricket devotees.

The perennial problem in Hong Kong, one of the most crowded and frenetic places on earth, is finding enough space to play cricket.

The association has set up six cricket centres where 450 Chinese children have enrolled.

"Kids living on the 30th floor don't have much space and like children everywhere they love to whack around a ball," said association executive director Russell Mawhinney.

"Finding grounds is a difficult problem. We are tightly squashed in here," he said.

The New Zealander eagerly promotes cricket to the Chinese. "It is a non-contact sport that takes plenty of grey matter. We think we have advantages over other sports. It can be played by all shapes and sizes," he said.

Hong Kong also has 50 adult cricket teams but the association is keen to develop the sport among young Chinese so that it

does not have an elitist image as a genteel and obscure game for expatriates only.

"Twenty-two 'weitos' (westerners) running around a field won't get much sympathy," Mawhinney said in an interview.

So that association has been going with bat, ball and instruction video in hand to explain the intricacies and attractions of the game to the authorities in the new Hong Kong.

"It is pretty basic stuff, what it is, how you play it. Some take a negative stance but most are overwhelmingly supportive," Mawhinney said.

"Hong Kong could be a pilot model to take into China but it is going to take a big cash injection. The International Cricket Council is on the case," he said.

Seeing China on the international cricket stage may be a pipe dream at the moment but Mawhinney said, "It is not inconceivable in 15-20 years."

But what of the expatriates sailing off into the sunset as 156 years of colonial rule end in Hong Kong? Would they rather that the game — as English as a cup of tea or a bowler hat should die with them?

"There is a certain amount of ambivalence on the part of some expats who will be leaving anyway," Mawhinney said. "But it is best to focus on the kids. This is something to be proud of and it will ensure the survival of the game."

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— Star photo