

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-73

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm, July 11, '97

1 Who is the third fastest server in men's tennis circuit at the moment?

Rusedski Rusedt Krajick

2 How many warm-up matches will Bangladesh play before the World Cup in 1997?

Four Three Six

3 How many matches has Shahbaz played for Pakistan?

219 220 221

4 What is the position of Bangladesh in FIFA rankings for June?

137 138 139

5 Who lifted CUTE Premier handball league title?

Ansars Menjis BDR

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK

Monica Seles

(American tennis player)

"I'm not in the ideal physical shape I would like to be. I'm trying to improve it."

(Told the former world number one on her current poor form)

M United to play in HK

LONDON, July 1: English football champions Manchester United will make football history as they play in Hong Kong in the wake of the historic handover to China, reports AFP.

United begin their pre-season preparations with a tour to the Far East which includes a visit to Hong Kong where they will face a Chinese select side.

The Premiership champions report for training this weekend and will play in Bangkok on July 17 then in Hong Kong three days later.

They complete their Far East programme by flying to Japan for a final game in Tokyo then end their period abroad with a friendly against Inter Milan in Italy on Sunday July 27.

Zola may join Cagliari

ROME, July 1: Chelsea's Italian forward Gianfranco Zola says he might leave England to play in his native Sardinia after next year's World Cup finals in France, reports Reuters.

In an interview published by La Gazzetta Dello Sport newspaper on Monday, Zola said he wanted to wind down his career at Cagliari, who were relegated to Serie B last season.

"Without new stimuli a footballer doesn't exist," said Zola, who has been a huge success at Chelsea since he joined them from Parma in November 1996.

"That's why I've decided. If it's possible in a year's time, or maybe two, to end my career with Cagliari."

"Of course, I'm only speaking hypothetically. I don't even know if Cagliari will get back into Serie A and, if they do, if they'll want me."

Zola, who turns 31 this Saturday, said he saw the 1998 World Cup finals in France as his last chance to exercise the ghosts of the 1994 World Cup in the United States and last year's European Championships in England.

"The idea of going from the very big to the very little, to chase the biggest victory of all with the national team and then to champion the cause of my homeland...it would be a change of perspective," he said.



With the sixth Asia Cup only fifteen days away, the national team's preparation for the big event is taking its final shape under the tutelage of West Indian coach Gordon Greenidge at the Dhaka Stadium on Sunday. The four-nation tourney, which also involves world champions Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India, will begin in Colombo from July 14. — Star photo

Clubs for uninterrupted cricket

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) yesterday agreed in principle that the domestic fixtures would not be suspended if any foreign tour of the national team coincided.

But the representatives of the Dhaka-based 18 leading clubs sought help of the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Saber Hossain Chowdhury, to implement the decision. To do so they, however, asked for the relaxation of some of the BCB rules and financial support. The decision for an uninterrupted domestic league is no doubt a milestone in our cricketing history.

Some of the members demanded to abolish the pool system while others advocated for relinquishing the existing quota of four pool players for each club to a minimum level. Besides, they have also urged the Board to increase the quota of foreign players quota from two to three in each game.

Saber, who was elaborating country's prospects of attaining the Test status in the meeting of the CCDM at the BCB office last evening, is likely to discuss

about the demands in the Board meeting, scheduled to be held on Saturday.

Termining the club level activities as one of the pivotal elements for the betterment of the game, Saber assured them of all possible cooperation to make local cricket more competitive and attractive.

Meanwhile, Tanveer Haider, the chairman of the CCDM, expressed his confidence in starting the league from October 10 and hoped to complete it by December 31.

Talking to the press Tanveer said that in all 66 matches including 80-over-a-side affairs in the first phase would be held this year.

Moreover, during this period, Bangladesh will feature in three international engagements. It will begin with the visit to Kenya where the national team will take part in a three-nation tourney which also includes Zimbabwe along with the hosts. The invitational tournament will begin from October 10.

Bangladesh will tour to New Zealand in November or December while West Indies are like to make their maiden visit to Bangladesh by the end of this year.

Bima defeat Bankers

Sadharan Bima registered their eighth victory in the Green Delta First Division Hockey League with a comfortable 4-1 win over Sonali Bank in one of the two matches billed for the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The match was locked at 1-1 in the first half. Bima, who three title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra out of the race after they had handed them their only defeat so far two weeks before, made a shaky start against the bankers and went 0-1 down after 31 minutes when Shamimul, the leading Banker scorer in the league put his side ahead with a brilliant field goal. It was Shamimul's eighth goal so far.

But the lead sustained only for three minutes as Gulam Ghaus, one of the two Pakistani recruits of Bima, levelled the margin flicking the ball home from a Morad pass in the 34th minute.

After the breather, Bima, spurred by the equaliser, continued with their domination over the bankers and added three more to their account beginning with again Ghaus who converted a penalty corner in the 36th minute. With yesterday's two, Ghaus, the tall Lahore-based centre forward, has scored eleven goals in the league so far.

Animul made it 3-1 placing the ball home from a Bappi pass in the 46th minute while Morad sealed the match through a solo

effort after eight minutes. With the win Bima, who already confirmed their berth in the inaugural eight-team Premier league next season, raised their tally to 25 points from 14 matches and remained at the fifth position of the 16-team league table. On the other hand, it was the seventh defeat for Sonali Bank same number of matches which kept them glued to their previous collection of 11 points.

Railway won in the other match of the F'pool Ekata lift Khokon Smriti soccer title

Fakirpool Ekata-Krira-Sangskritik O Samaj Kalyan Sangstha lifted the Khokon Smriti Silver Cup football trophy with a 4-1 victory over United Boys Club in the final at the Motijheel T&T ground yesterday.

In an exciting final, Babu and Zahid scored two goals each for the winners while Selim reduced the margin for United Boys.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader witnessed the match as chief guest and distributed prizes. Local MP Saber Hussain Chowdhury and Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid, MP, were also present.

Only hours earlier Dave Allen, public relations officer for English First Division Middlesbrough, said: "We have accepted the bid from Tottenham and we have informed Juninho. It is now subject to him agreeing personal terms."

However, the London club would not comment on how far negotiations with the Brazilian had reached.

"All I can say is that the play is in play," said Tottenham's chief executive Claude Littner. "Who he goes to is up to him."

Juninho, who is leaving Middlesbrough after they were relegated from the Premier league, is understood to favour a move to Spain where he feels greater exposure on television in Brazil would increase his chances of making the national squad for the 1998 World Cup finals.

But both Allen and Littner dismissed reports in Spanish newspapers on Monday that the Brazilian had signed for Atletico Madrid at the weekend.

"That is not true. At the moment Juninho is still a Middlesbrough player," said Allen. "Atletico made an offer some weeks ago but it was desirous."

Tottenham are the only club and have accepted an offer from and the way is clear for them to discuss terms with Juninho."



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Sonali Bank and Sadharan Bima. Bima won 4-1. — Star photo

Gazipur, Comilla in Multidrive v'ball final

Sports Reporter

Last year's runners up Gazipur stormed into the final of the Multidrive 16th national youth volleyball championship with an easy straight sets victory over Gaibandha in one of the two semifinals held at the National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

In a one-sided affair, Gazipur won the first two sets by 15-10 margin and then thrashed the north Bengal outfit 15-0 in the third.

In tomorrow's final scheduled at the same venue at 5:30 pm, Gazipur will take on Comilla who recorded a 3-1 victory over Rajshahi in the other semifinal.

After losing the first set 13-15, Comilla made a brilliant comeback by winning the next three sets 15-9, 15-13 and 15-12.

Both the losers will face each other in a play off for the third place today at 3:30 pm.

Sports Journalists' Day today

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader has greeted sports journalists and sports writers on the occasion of International Sports Journalists' Day today, reports UNB.

They are ensuring transparency and accountability as well as conveying rejoicing on the fields to the readers, the state minister said in a message yesterday, termining the sports writers and sports journalists as the conscience of the sports arena.

He hoped that the sports journalists would hold the government's efforts in upholding the continued progress of the country's sports.

The day initiated by the highest world body of sports writers and sports journalists is being observed every year on July 2 in all member countries including Bangladesh.

Test call for Test

JOHANNESBURG, July 1: Tests between Australia and South Africa later this year could be played under floodlights if cricket's world ruling body goes the go-ahead, reports Reuter.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) is to back an Australian proposal to allow Tests under lights, it was announced on Monday.

Ali Bacher, the UCBSA managing director, told a news conference it would fully support the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) which is to table the motion at an International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in London next week.

Bacher said, "The ACB proposal comes as a direct result of experiencing first-class cricket under floodlights in South Africa earlier this year."

Mark Taylor's Australian team played four games in Cape Town and Newlands where floodlights were turned on as a result of bad light.

Bacher said, "If the ICC gives the go-ahead to turning on the lights in Tests in the event of bad light, the series between Australia and South Africa later this year could be the first to be played under the new dispensation."

South Africa are touring Australia starting in December.

Tug-of-Juninho

MADRID, July 1: Atletico of Spain and Tottenham of England were locked in a battle on Monday to sign Brazilian midfielder Juninho, reports Reuter.

Tottenham had looked the favourites when Middlesbrough said they had agreed to sell the player to the English Premier league side for 11 million pounds (18.3 million dollars).

But later Atletico Madrid Director General Miguel Angel Gil said he expected to sign the Brazilian. He gave no price but Spanish media put it at 20 million dollars.

"There is nothing signed," said Gil, son of club owner Jesus Gil. "Just a verbal agreement with the player. This morning I have spoken with his club... and it is normal that the words should be respected."

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Jason jolts Hampshire



GILLESPIE 5/33 wicketkeeper Ian Healy, Gillespie trapped Will Kendall leg before wicket and then bowled skipper John Stephenson with the next ball. It was Stephenson's second

back into the Test team, leaving selectors to ponder between Kasprovic and Reiffel. It was Gillespie's best bowling on tour so far and couldn't have come at a better time. He returned a match bag of seven for 98.

Gillespie claimed his first two victims on Sunday leaving Hampshire on 71 for two overnight. He then took three for seven in eight overs as Hampshire was reduced to 114 for six before lunch Monday.

After medium pacesman Reiffel had forced opener Jason Loney (30) to edge a catch to

nought of the match. Former England Test batsman Robin Smith added 13 runs in 96 minutes to his overnight 31 before Gillespie had him caught at gully by Shane Warne.

Smith, who had expressed his intentions of winning back his Test place, batted confidently for his 44 runs despite being stuck on that score for 24 balls.

The strong right-hander hit seven boundaries, six of them on the second evening, off 107 balls in his 148-minute occupation of the crease.

The Hampshire tail wagged steadily but Kasprovic helped clean-up taking three for 69 off 14.4 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on Monday, at the end of the three-day match between Australia and Hampshire at the county ground: HAMPSHIRE: First innings 156

AUSTRALIA: First innings 465/8 declared (M Waugh 173, Renshaw 4/22)

HAMPSHIRE: Second innings (overnight 71 for two) Loney c Healy b Reiffel 30 Hayden b Gillespie 2

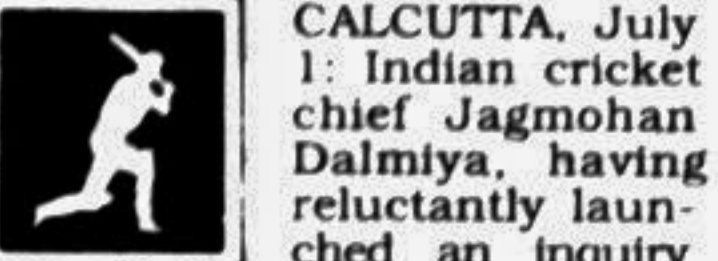
Keach c Kasprovic b Gillespie 6 Smith c Warne b Gillespie 44 Kendall lbw b Gillespie 18 Stephenson b Gillespie 0 Aymes c Blewett b Kasprovic 18 Udal b Warne 21 Renshaw not out 13 Bovill c Healy b Kasprovic 1 Milburn b Kasprovic 3 Extras: (lb-6, nb-14) 20 TOTAL: (all out in 61.4 overs) 176

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-14; 3-91; 4-111; 5-111; 6-114; 7-143; 8-159; 9-160; 10-176.

BOWLING O M R W Kasprovic 14.5 1 69 3 Gillespie 13 6 33 5 Warne 19 3 26 1 Reiffel 8 1 27 1 Bevan 7 3 15 0

Result: Australia won by an innings and 133 runs

Dalmiya doesn't buy it



J. DALMIYA

India's defeat by England in the World Cup semifinal in 1987 may have been fixed.

The article, in the Outlook magazine, alleged that top players had links with illegal bookies and journalists involved in betting rings.

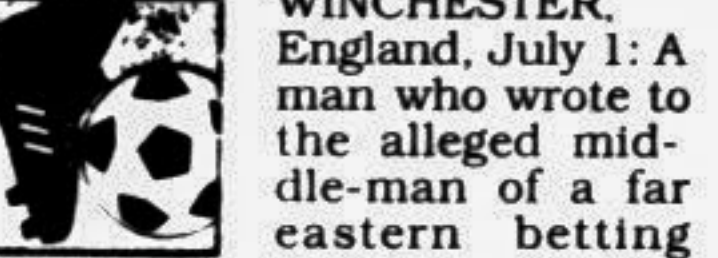
Dalmiya said that despite his reservations, former Chief Justice of India V. Chandrachud, who is carrying out the investigation, would be given full backing and have full access to players and officials.

The board has authorised Chandrachud to call foreign players if necessary," he said.

Dalmiya, who has just taken over as head of the International Cricket Council (ICC), said the inquiry would also examine allegations that former team manager Ajit Wadekar tapped the phones of his own players to see if they had contacts with bookies and see if such methods were "legally permissible."

He said Outlook would also be approached "to dispel the notion that its stories were not circulation gimmicks."

Malaysian in the dock



WINCHESTER, England, July 1: A man who wrote to the alleged middle-man of a far eastern betting syndicate telling him to "tackle Wimbledon" had been prosecuted for illegal betting, court was told Monday, reports AFP.

Malaysian Heng Sun Lim, 32, was being cross-examined by the prosecution about a letter he received from one Ong in Kuala Lumpur in 1987, a year after he arrived in London to study accountancy.

Prosecutor David Calvert Smith referred to the letter and asked Lim: "Did you not know Ong had been prosecuted for betting on football in 1987?"

Lim replied: "I did not know," and when the prosecutor said: "The jury hearing the trial of Lim and three football stars has been told that betting on football in Malaysia is illegal, although Lim agreed it was quite

common. Calvert Smith said the letter, apart from the greetings and the last few words, was about gambling, and Lim said: "Gambling and getting information for him."

Lim is alleged to have been the representative in Britain of a far east betting syndicate which involved former Liverpool star Bruce Grobbelaar and former Wimbledon stars John Fashanu and Hans Segers.

Lim has told the court that he met Ong as a senior player when he was a teenager with the same football club in Malaysia.

He said when he arrived in this country and was living in east London, he wrote to Premiership side West Ham asking if he could become an apprentice, but had been turned down.

In his evidence, Lim said the phrase in the letter "try your best to tackle Wimbledon" referred to his failed application to join West Ham and it was suggested he should try other clubs.

The prosecutor suggested that Lim knew perfectly well the phrase meant that he should get to know people at Wimbledon football club and Lim replied: "Perhaps that is what he is supposed to have meant, but I interpreted it differently."

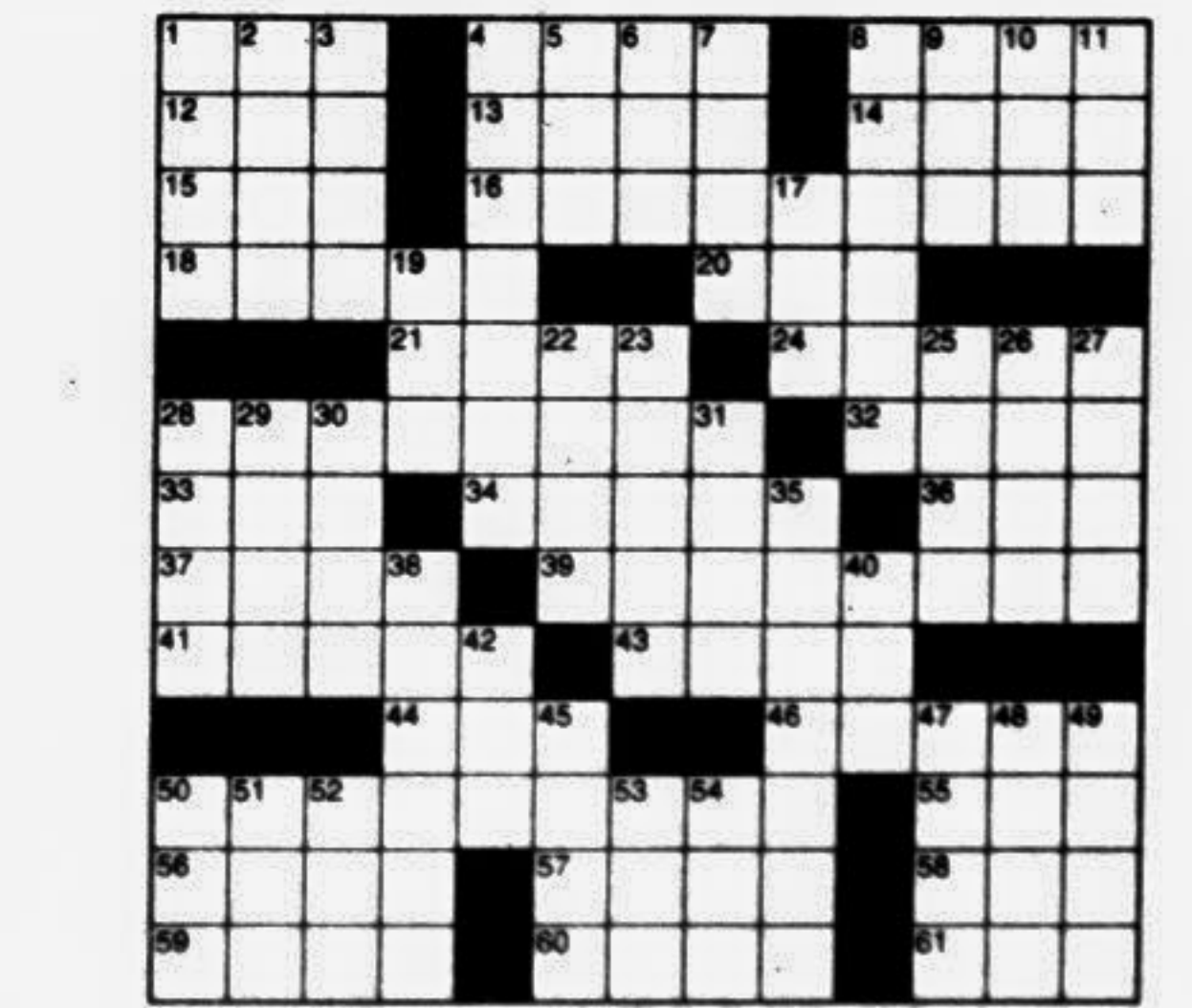
Dahlin misses his mentor?

STOCKHOLM, July 1: Sweden's World Cup hero Martin Dahlin said on Monday he was interested in signing for Blackburn, managed by his former mentor Roy Hodgson, reports AFP.

Striker Dahlin, who starred in Sweden's run to the 1994 World Cup semifinal, was keen to join up with the man who plucked him from obscurity into top class football at Swedish club Malmo in the late 80's.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Journey segment 4 Manicure target 5 Party initials 12 "— was saying..." 13 Noted name in scat 14 — colada 15 Bead, in Boulogne 16 Mound mishap 18 "—, you kid" 20 Longing 21 Strimboli 22 Youthful saviour 24 Neighbor of Cameroon 28 Tall aquatic grass 32 Feeble, as an excuse 33 Actor 34 Earth 36 Piece of comedy 37 Scallopi base 38 Youthful sowing? 41 Olympic Stadium team 43 Already (Fr.) 44 Opposite of



CRYPTOQUIP

B O B A K U L X H K R C H

U R F I R A L J T F B V C H

O D B R V D R , O B V D R R I R T L

U B C C U R J B C X R U K O

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CAN'T HALL AND HEARTY PIZZA DELIVERERS EVER GO ZIPPING ALONG ON PIECYQS?

Today's Cryptoquip clue: U equals I.

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.