

Column One

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-77

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm.

Sept 5, '97

1 The century Saurav Ganguly hit against Sri Lanka in the second one-day match was his

First Second Third

2 Who clinched the Pilot Pen tennis title?

Goran Rafer Yevgeny

3 Who holds the 800m world record?

Reynolds Morelli Kipketer

4 Who won the 12th schools chess tournament?

Parag Bobby Ratu

5 Who lifted the Pioneer Division soccer league title?

Sik Russell Suritola Dilkusha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMIN

SPORTS TALK



Roberto Baggio

(Italian soccer star)

'I was tired of having long hair. My family agreed and my wife Andreina gave it a final snip.'

'On shedding his 'divine' ponytail.'

Inter-division women's v'ball

Sports Reporter

Khulna and Pabna continued their winning run in the inter-division women's volleyball tournament at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Khulna, who recorded victories against Dinajpur and Barisal on Tuesday, posted their third successive win with an easy 15-0, 15-0, 15-1 win over Patuakhali while Pabna, who had earlier beaten Rajbari in their opening match, also extended their streak defeating Narayanganj and Comilla yesterday.

After a marathon five-set victory over Narayanganj (15-11, 11-15, 11-15, 15-3 and 15-1) in their first two matches, Pabna had a comfortable ride over Comilla 15-1, 15-4 and 15-0.

In the day's other matches, Dinajpur recorded a 15-0, 15-12, 15-6 win over Patuakhali while Narayanganj beat Comilla 15-9, 15-1, 15-3.

Hosts take on Pakistan in opener
SAFF fiesta kicks off today

Al-Amin from Nepal

KATHMANDU, Sept 3: The first South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship, involving six-nations of this region, begins here tomorrow.

The stage is all set for a modest opening of the South Asian football fiesta at the Dasarath Stadium at 2:45 (BST) in the afternoon. Prime Minister of Nepal, Loka Bahadur Chand will perform the inauguration of the 10-day tourney which includes all but Bhutan of the seven SAARC member nations. Bhutan preferred to stay off the spectacle citing financial constraints.

Hosts Nepal however will take on Pakistan in the opening match following the 30-minute inaugural ceremony.

The 25,000-capacity Dasarath Stadium, located at the hub of picturesque Kathmandu valley, wore a new-look on the eve of the opening. But, surprisingly though, enthusiasm among the localities is hardly felt at the onset of the biggest regional football carnival, featuring Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal.

Although the All Nepal Football Association (ANFA) put up its best in organising the big sporting event properly, it seemingly did not fare better at the end of the day.

The association has failed to provide practice grounds to all the participating teams and is yet to issue accreditation cards to the foreign journalists, restricting newsmen from performing their duties properly.

Apart from this occasion, Kathmandu hosted another major tournament in the past. The first SAF Games was held way back in 1984.

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Recently injured opener Bryan Young has been replaced with Craig Spearman.

Swing bowler Simon Doull and medium pacer Geoff Allott have been dropped for Shayne O'Connor and Paul Wiseman.

Fleming did not belittle the hosts after their historic win over former world champions West Indies in the World Cup.

Captain Stephen Fleming, leading New Zealand for the first time in a full tour, said their main priority will be to improve his side's middle order batting and expose young players.

"We expected the coach would be here over a week ago but he failed to get clearance from the Indian bank that he works for," Rayani said.

"Kenya are obviously new to the international game but they have good batsmen and all-rounders," said Fleming.

"We are here to develop Kenyan cricket. New Zealand will definitely paint a good picture of Kenyan cricket," he added.

The Kenyans also have their

Minnows Maldives were the first to arrive on August 30. Bangladesh, the perennial favourites yet bridesmaid, reached the Nepalese capital alongwith contenders India and Sri Lanka on September 1.

The tournament, which is going to be staged for the first time in lieu of the SAARC Gold Cup, offers hefty cash awards for the winners. Cash prizes of 50,000 dollars for the winners and 25,000 dollars for the runners-up make it one of the richest soccer tournaments in this region.

"We have our limitations. But we are trying our best to make the tourney a success," said Ganesh Thapa, the ANFA president. The former national player and a very familiar face in Dhaka football added that they would not waste the opportunity to popularise football in their country.

All the six teams meanwhile arrived in Kathmandu and availed the opportunity to take some preparations.

SAFF SCHEDULE

Date	Group	Match	Kick-off (BST)
Sept 4	A	Opening ceremony Nepal vs Pakistan	2:45
Sept 5	B	Bangladesh vs Maldives	3:15
Sept 6	A	Sri Lanka vs Pakistan	3:15
Sept 7	B	India vs Bangladesh	3:15
Sept 8	A	Sri Lanka vs Nepal	3:15
Sept 9	B	India vs Maldives	3:15
Sept 10		First semifinal	3:15
Sept 11		Second semifinal	3:15
Sept 12		Rest day	12:15
Sept 13		3rd-4th place-decider Final	2:45

kicked around.

Not a single banner or

toon depicting the about-to-

open game were seen on the 214

miles of hilly land, let alone

spirit of the fans'.

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GROUPINGS

A	Nepal	India
	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh
	Pakistan	Maldives

Mahanagar Cup
Final round likely to begin Sept 17

Sports Reporter

The final round of the Shamsuddin Spinning Maha-nagar Cup is likely to begin at the Mirpur Stadium from September 17, a Dhaka Maha-nagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) official said yesterday.

Eight teams — four semi-finalists of the 1995 DMFLC Cup and four qualifiers from the first round — will be split into two groups for the second round robin league.

Mohammed Sporting Club and Mukti Jodha Sangsads Kira Chakra, two of the four DMFLC Cup semi-finalists, have been placed in Group One along with two qualifiers Youngmen's Club Fakirpore and Arambagh Kira Sangha while the other group comprises two other qualifiers — Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Farashganj Sporting Club alongwith the remaining semi-finalists of 1995 DMFLC Cup — Abahani Kira Chakra and Brothers Union Club.

Top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals.

According to the draft fixture, which will be passed in a DMFLC executive committee meeting tomorrow night, Mohammed Sporting Club, the winners of the 1995 DMFLC Cup, will take on Federation Cup runners-up Arambagh Kira Sangha on the opening day.

Federation Cup champions Abahani Kira Chakra will begin their second round campaign against Farashganj Sporting Club on the following day.

The two semifinals have been scheduled on September 24 and 25 followed by the final on September 27.

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