

Sport

Column One

Boost
WHIZZ KIDCOMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-78

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm.

Sept 19, '97

1	In which year did Pakistan and India suspend Test tours between them?	
1988	1989	1987
2	Who won the Italian Super Cup football title?	
Vicenza	Bologna	Juventus
3	Who is the England cricket captain?	
Stewart	Hussain	Atherton
4	Who lifted the inter-division women's volleyball trophy?	
Pabna	Khulna	Comilla
5	Which team clinched the Second Division chess league title?	
W.Jatrabari	BUET	Jatrabari

Name

Class

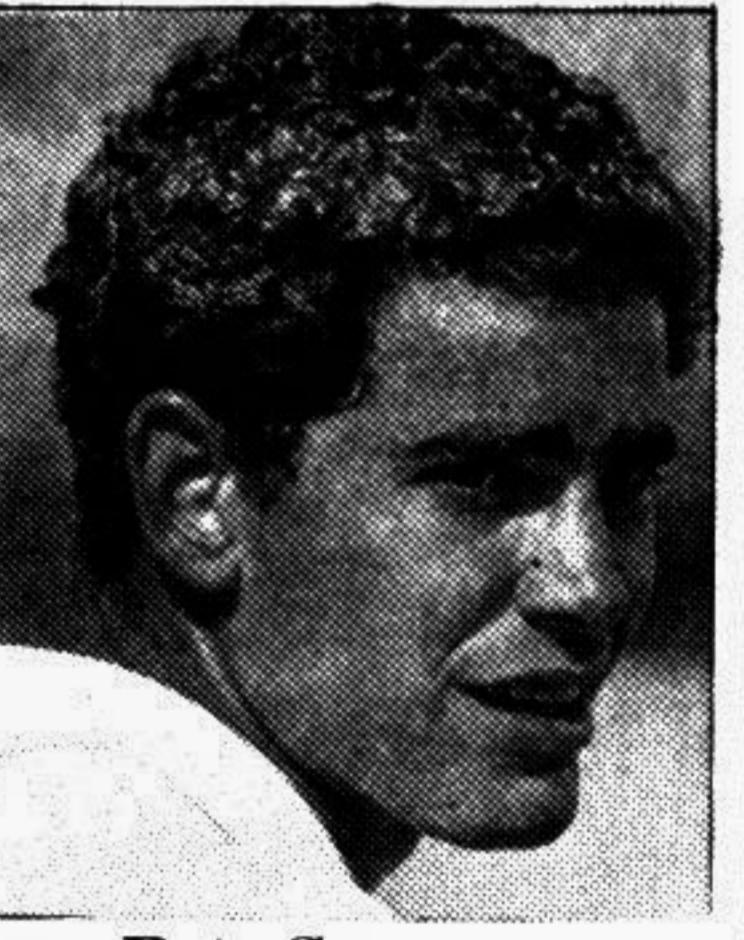
Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras

(World No 1 tennis player)
"Andre Agassi's absence is really hurting the game. Tennis definitely needs him playing."

Boost
WHIZZ KID-77
winner

Afsana Ahmed Moon

Sher-e-Bangla Govt Girls High School. (Remember to bring your ID card and one passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on Sept 10)

WHIZZ KID-77
correct answers

1. The century Saurav Ganguly hit against Sri Lanka in the second one-day was his Ans: First

2. Who clinched the Pilot Pen tennis championship? Ans: Yevgeny

3. Who holds the 800m world record? Ans: Kipketer

4. Who won the 12th schools chess title? Ans: Bobby

5. Who lifted the Pioneer Division soccer league title? Ans: Sk Russell

Marseille ride
on Xavier

PARIS, Sept 5: A solo goal by Marseille a 1-0 home win over Lyon that lifted them to fourth place in the French First Division on Thursday, reports AFP.

Lyon finished with 10 men after goalkeeper Gregory Coupet was sent off three minutes after the goal for bringing down Gravelaine as the striker looked set to score again.

In the 57th minute, Gravelaine broke through the defence on the left to drive a hard shot from 25 metres past Coupet for his third goal of the season.

Captain Laurent Blanc, who also has three goals, could have recovered his status as Marseille's top scorer but missed a penalty for the second time in three games.

Marseille were awarded the penalty when Blanc lobbed Coupet with a long high ball from inside the Marseille half and the goalkeeper brought down Gravelaine as he raced for the ball.

Coupet went off for the foul and Blanc beat substitute keeper Jean-Claude Nadon from the penalty spot only for the goal to be overruled for an infringement by forward Titi Camara.

Nadon made a diving save when Blanc took the penalty again and aimed at the other corner.

Laurent, well organised in defence and dangerous on the break, had the better of the first half, but Gravelaine's goal ended their run of away wins.

Earlier, Le Havre held 1-1 at home by Toulouse. Both teams had a player sent off in the second half.



Action from yesterday SAFF Championship clash between Bangladesh and Maldives in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — Fax photo, courtesy BPJA

Bangladesh begin badly

Al-Amin from Nepal

KATHMANDU, Sept 5: Bangladesh booters once again lived up to their pitiable tag of nervous-performers when the so-called favourites began their South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship campaign with a one-all draw against rank-outsiders Maldives at the Dasarath Stadium today.

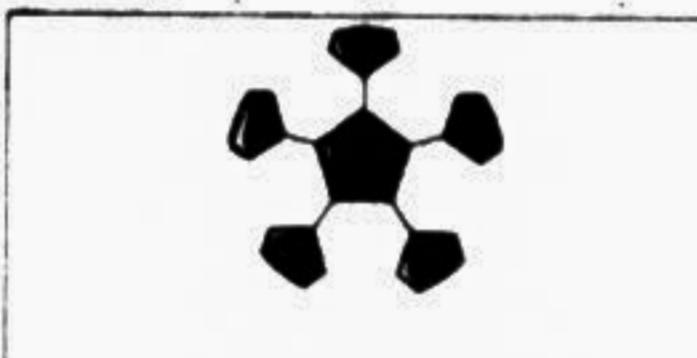
With this draw, which is their third in a row against the South Asian minnows, Bangladesh drew themselves into deep water, making their semifinal going quite tougher.

But, for the islanders it was a moral-boosting victory as they finally found the net of their more illustrious opponents, who conceded their first goal after enjoying an overall record of 13-0, in five outings.

Lirugam Saeed, who returned as the hero at the end of the day, ended the sterile episode for Maldives with a spectacular header in the 59th minute, which terminated Bangladesh's four-minute lead.

The nimble left-winger, latching on to an imaginative right side cross from Mohammad Nizam, rocked the opponents' net with a diving header, leaving Bangladesh custodian Biplob stranded in the middle.

Earlier, in the 55th minute, striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib gave Bangladesh a brief lead shooting home a low Alfaz floater from the left flank. But apart from the two quick goals after the barren first half, it was a boring kick-and-chase display by the players, especially of Bangladesh, who were

SAFF
Championship '97

Soccer match at MCG!

painfully rusty throughout the proceedings and seemingly heaved a sigh of relief after passing off the mandatory and laborious 90 minutes of play.

Waiting under the enormous pressure of expectation to erase the long-standing jinx in the South Asian tourney, the lethargic Bangladeshi foot-

ballers, who appeared to have developed a psychological problem in their attitudes while playing on the ground, failed to play even up to half of their potential when the millions at home were expecting a very logical winning start.

The rated midfielders — Arman, Zakir, Rakib and Alfaz — of Bangladesh were some pale shadows of their usual selves while the star-studded defence tumbled like a fragile wall against every counter-attack of the Maldives.

Albeit, the wayward showings, Bangladesh would have taken the lead in the very first minute had not an Alfaz pile-driver rebounded off the cross-

bars, who claimed a third consecutive men's team title at the gymnastic World Championships on Thursday, reports Reuters.

China's win capped off a successful evening for defending champions, coming on the heels of a third straight win in Romania in the women's event earlier in the evening.

China, Romania keep titles

LAUSANNE, Sept 5: Led by Zhang Jinjing, China claimed a third consecutive men's team title at the gymnastic World Championships on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Zhang, fourth in the all-round in Atlanta, did much of the damage, posting first-place marks on three of six apparatus, the pommel horse, high bar and parallel bars.

Russia, sitting sixth going into the final rotation, salvaged the bronze with a solid team performance on the vault led by Olympic champions Alexei Nemov.

The Russians saw their gold medal chances disappear with a series of misadventures on the high bar where they're best mark from five attempts was a very mediocre 8.98 from Evgenei Chukov.

Japan were fourth followed by the United States and Germany.

While China's appearance at the top of the podium was no surprise, Belarus' second place finish was unexpected — even by the Belarusians themselves.

The United States, with only one member, Dominique Monceanu, left from the team that took gold in Atlanta, suffered from lack of experience, finishing sixth.

Baggio, who scored as a substitute on his recall against Poland in April, sees the '98 final as the last major event of his career, one that has meant continual change.

"In my life, I've always adapted to the situation I found myself in," he said. "When I still had the desire to win things, I chose AC Milan.

"More recently, when the desire was just to play regularly, and prove that I still had something to give, I chose Bologna.

"I knew that I wasn't going to a club who would be fighting for the league championship, but I've got other objectives now and not fighting for title doesn't weight on me."

At 30, and already greying — "It's not worry, it's hereditary, my father went grey early" — Baggio knows full well that next year is his third and final shot at football's biggest prize.

"It's the last chance I've got, and I don't lie with regret that I didn't try," he said. "I'll never play in World Cup again."

Baggio, whose only competition now comes from Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola, is set to be used as a playmaker for one or even possibly two strikers — as he is at Bologna.

Members of the Chinese women's team acknowledge the crowd's applause after being decorated with the bronze medal in the team event at the World Gymnastics Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland on Sept 4.

— AFP/UNB photo

It's all but a rumour!

Sports Reporter

After a week of tranquility at the Bangladesh Olympic Association it is widely tipped that the National Sports Council chairman and BOA secretary general have already buried the hatchet behind the scenes after their brawl became public on August 30.

Both of them maintained the same diplomatic profile and kept on acting as if nothing had happened at all.

Earlier on August 30, a reliable source at sports ruling body told The Daily Star that State Minister for Youth, Sports and NSC chief Obaidul Quader, after a heated exchange with BOA secretary general Golam Quddus Chowdhury, asked the latter to tender his resignation. When contacted, Quddus said that he was not aware of such incident. But sources at the NSC, however, confirmed the news.

The state minister is not quite happy with the existing set-up of the association. And there is a strong speculation that a major shake-up at the BOA is in the offing.

The pain and puzzlement were reflecting on the face of Otto Pfister, the German football coach of Bangladesh, at a post-match session with the journalists.

"I'm very dejected with the performance of the boys," said the blond-haired German who is at helm of the national team for last three years.

"It appeared to me that the boys were mentally blocked.

The FFA (football's world ruling body) has allowed three changes for a match. But if the rules were relaxed I would have changed the whole team today," said Pfister acidly.

"We did not play even the 50 per cent of our normal game. I don't understand what went wrong with the boys.

This result now left us with an uphill task to remain in the race," said Pfister, whose demoralised side will take on giants India in their last group

"Boys seem to be mentally blocked"

Sports Reporter from Nepal



OTTO PFISTER

league match on Sunday. "If we want to win that crucial match the boys would have to play five times better than what they have demonstrated today."

The credit should go to the Maldives team. They played exceptionally well. Especially in the counter-attack, they proved their worth.

On the other hand, his Bolivian counterpart Romulo A Cortez, who took the charge of the Maldives a few weeks back, was very generous in showering his boys with praises.

"I am very happy about today's result. The boys did a great job," said Cortez.

Replies to a query, the Bolivian came up with a different opinion saying that Bangladesh was not at all a better side than Maldives, who conceded as many as 59 goals in their World Cup qualifiers recently.

"This is a different ball game. In this regional meet I think the standard of the six participating teams are all the same," said Cortez.

He however, said, Bangladesh is a more experienced side than Maldives in terms of international appearances. But I must say that Bangladesh is superior to India, he added.

But as far as the record was concerned his statement was far from the reality.

Barisal football

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 5: Abahani Krira Chakra clinched the First Division football league title defeating arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club 2-0 in their last match at the local stadium today.

Tuhin and Roxy were on target for the winners.

Another blow for Hoddle

LONDON, Sept 5: Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham has been ruled out of England's World Cup qualifier against Moldova at Wembley next Wednesday, reports AFP.

Sheringham will be out of action for up to three weeks after damaging his ribs and his withdrawal means England coach Glenn Hoddle will be without his two first-choice strikers.

England captain Alan Shearer has been ruled out until the new year after suffering a serious ankle injury in pre-season and with Liverpool's Robbie Fowler still sidelined, Hoddle will have to find a new partnership up front.

Arsenal's Ian Wright, who featured during England's matches at the end of last season, seems a certain starter and could be joined in attack by Tottenham's Les Ferdinand or Aston Villa's Stan Collymore.

You see what we planted on you?"

"Diego's lawyers will prove there have been certain maneuvers aimed at harming him," Coppola told the Associated Press.

Coppola said lawyers had told federal judge Claudio Bonadio about the phone calls. He said they would now try to have the doping test declared null and void.

Local newspapers say he is likely to be banned for up to two years.

In what increasingly seems to be a desperate bid to save Maradona's career, Coppola also said the urine sample that doctors have been working on may not be his.

"It's possible a mistake has been made. We're working on it," Coppola said.

Judge Bonadio confirmed Thursday he had been told of the anonymous calls to Maradona: "The threats have been proved and if it's true what they did this is extremely serious," he said Thursday.

Maradona told a local television channel this week that he "no longer had the strength to go on." He said he was the victim of a witch-hunt by people who "want to give me a revolver so that I kill myself."

Albanian booter gunned down

TIRANA, Sept 5: A player from Albanian First Division club Teuta has been shot dead, soccer officials said on Thursday.

Midfielder Artaan Koka, 25, was leaving a training session at Teuta's stadium when he was gunned down on Wednesday by three men who were allegedly seeking revenge after a quarrel.

Albania's 1996-97 league championship was interrupted earlier in the year because of armed civil unrest caused by the collapse of Pyramid Investment Schemes.

The association also said Thursday Maradona's lawyers will be told what illegal substance was detected in his urine test.

Maradona tested positive Wednesday in a follow-up analysis that confirmed a test from more than a week ago. Officials would not immediately reveal the exact banned substance but Maradona had admitted he is addicted to cocaine.

Maradona had already tested positive for drugs twice before: in 1991 when he was playing for Napoli and during the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

The latest test could effectively end the 21-year-career of the football legend, who turns 37 next month and has been suspended provisionally.

Lawyers for Maradona say the player has been the victim of a shady plot aimed at ending his career.

Del Piero sidelined

ROME, Sept 5: Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero is out of Italy's World Cup squad to face Georgia after damaging an eye in a training accident on Thursday, the national football federation said, reports Reuter.