

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-78

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm, Sept 19, '97

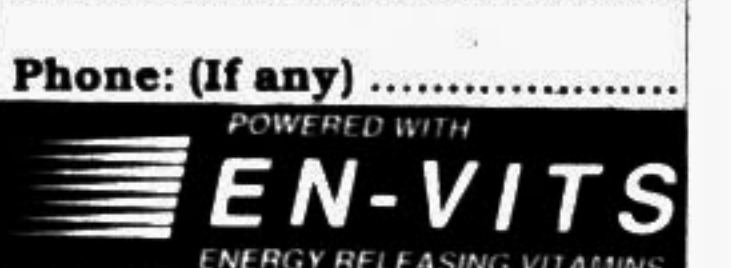
- 1. In which year did Pakistan and India suspend Test tours between them?
1988 1989 1987
- 2. Who won the Italian Super Cup football title?
Vicenza Bologna Juventus
- 3. Who is the England cricket captain?
Stewart Hussain Atherton
- 4. Who lifted the inter-division women's volleyball trophy?
Pabna Khulna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

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras

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

Boost WHIZZ KID-77 winner

Afsana Ahmed Moon

Sher-e-Banglanagar 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 striker Xavier Gravelaine gave Marseille a 1-0 home win over Lyon that lifted them to fourth place in the French First Division on Thursday, reports Reuter.

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 Naudon 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.

Lyon, 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 here 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.

Lurugam 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 Bibop stranded in the middle.

Earlier, in the 55th minute, striker Intiaz 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

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

Wilting 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-

piece. A brief drizzle during the lemon break seemed to have brought luck for Bangladesh when Nakib broke the evening's duck ten minutes into the second half.

But then Otto Pfister, the German coach of Bangladesh, pulled out Zakir at a stage when players seemed to have clicked collectively. His replacement Nurul Haq Manik turned out to be a very bad choice at the end. The substitution of Zakir, who was quite effectively operating down the middle to keep opponents' defenders on their toes, eventually changed the complexion of the game during the rest of the time.

The strange replacement made by Pfister put a serious question mark on his elusive credentials when he preferred to push forward an ageing Manik on a rain-soaked slippery field.

The disappointing result now left Bangladesh with a daunting task of defeating India in their last Group B match to move into the semifinals.

Another draw or a defeat might kill off the dream for the trophy at the nascent stage.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Biplob, Jewel Rana, Masud Rana, Rajani, Hasan Al Mamun, Masoom, Zakir (Manik), Arman, Rakib, Alfaz (Tipu) and Nakib.

MALDIVES: Aslam, Nizam, Rasheed (1), Rasheed (2), Azmoon, Mahfooz, Asif, Ibrahim, Ismail (Latheef), Saeed and Ghafoor (Luthfi).

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 Reuter.

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

Baggio believes in himself

FLORENCE, Italy, Sept 5: Roberto Baggio, who missed a penalty as Italy lost the World Cup final in 1994, said on Thursday he now wants to win it in France in 1998, reports AFP.

Baggio is likely to be in Italy's starting line-up for the first time in three years when they face Georgia in Tbilisi next Wednesday, and has no doubts where he wants to go to lead.

"Yes, I want to win a World Cup," he said at Italy's training camp at nearby Coverciano. "I have had enough of just taking part in them."

Baggio, who scored as a substitute on his recall against Poland in April, sees the '98 finals 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 weigh 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.

Silver medalists behind Russia at the Atlanta Olympics China ran away with the men's title piling up a total of 226.117 points, almost five points clear of second-placed Belarus.

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 Evgeni Ghukov.

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.

Ivan Ivankov, the 1994 all-round champion who has been out of action since tearing an Achilles tendon just prior to the Olympics, did not compete on all apparatus in order to rest

the injury for the all-round competition but still contributed a pair of third place finishes to the Belarus cause.

China Gogean led Romania to a third consecutive women's team title on Thursday then announced it would be her last competition.

Gogean, who recorded top marks on two of four apparatus, nailed down a third straight gold medal for her team when she closed out the competition with the day's best score on the floor bringing Romania's total to 153.720.

"This is my very last competition," said Gogean, who will turn 20 next Tuesday. "I won't compete any more."

Russia, silver medalist behind the United States in Atlanta, once again settled for second place with 153.197 while China took the bronze with 152.001.

Ukraine, with out the services of injured all-round world and Olympic champion Liya Podkopayeva, narrowly missed a medal finishing fourth ahead of France.

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.



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 tranquillity 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.

Soccer match at MCG!

MELBOURNE, Sept 5: The Melbourne Cricket Ground will host Australia's World Cup football qualifier against an Asian nation on November 29. Soccer Australia announced here today, reports AFP.

Australia will play the fourth-placed nation from the 10 team Asian qualifiers, which begin later this month in a home-and-away series for a place in next year's World Cup finals in France.

The Asian team will play at home in the first leg on November 22.

Asia's finest battle for WC glory

Sports Reporter

Asia's World Cup qualifying puzzle will be solved when the final round of matches get underway today.

Ten teams split into two groups will fight for places in next year's finals in France.

Group A features 2002 finals co-hosts Japan, South Korea together with the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, Group B comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, China, Iran and Qatar.

Top two teams of each group qualify automatically.

A playoff between the group runners-up will determine who claims the third place. The fourth-ranked team will play Australia later in the year to find out the other place.

Star Sports is expected to show the matches.

Albanian booter gunned down

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

Midfielder Artan 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, the officials said.

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.

Brescello baffle Juve

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy, Sept 5: Antonio Conte saved league champions Juventus from defeat at Third Division Brescello on Thursday in an Italian Cup second round first leg that ended 1-1, reports Reuter.

Midfielder Conte, the former Juventus captain returning on form this season from a long injury layoff, scored the equaliser in the 56th minute after the Turin giants were reduced to 10 men.

Juventus, without injured Italy international striker Alessandro Del Piero, had Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero sent off in the first half.

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.

Del Piero was hit in the face by a ball during a Juventus training session. Doctors said he had a dislocated retina in his right eye and would be sidelined for at least a week.

It is the second time the striker has suffered an eye injury. In June, he was hit in the face by a ball in the European Cup final and damaged the retina of his left eye.

This latest injury means he will miss the Group Two clash against Georgia in Tbilisi next Wednesday as well as Juve's Italian Cup match against Serie C side Brescello on Thursday.

Coach Cesare Maldini has decided not to replace the gifted 22-year-old forward, saying Italy would travel to Georgia with a 19-man party.

Del Piero's absence paves the way for Roberto Baggio to return to the Italian first team after missing the four-nation Tournoi de France in June through injury.

"Boys seem to be mentally blocked"

Sports Reporter from Nepal

KATHMANDU, Sept 5: When the Sri Lankan referee Sena weera A Sunil blew the final whistle a mixed uproar was seen in the middle at the Dasarath Stadium here this evening.

The jubilant Maldives booters along with a few thousand supporters at the rangasala (stadium) engaged in a on-field celebration in front of the baffled and bewildered Bangladeshi players and officials.

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 FIFA (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 acridly.

"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



OTTO PFISTER



league match on Sunday.

"If we want to win that crucial match the boys would have to play five time 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.

Replying 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.

Cricketers' transfer from Sept 10

Sports Reporter

The four-day inter-club cricketers' transfer will now commence on September 10 which was previously scheduled for the 7th of the same.

The decision was taken unanimously in an emergency meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) at the Dhaka Stadium last night.

Talking to the reporters after the meeting, CCDM general secretary Jalal Yunus said they had taken the decision to defer the transfer, which will end on September 13, following requests from seven out of 22 Premier and First Division clubs. The clubs are — Mohammedan SC, GMCC, Bangladesh Boys Club, Lalmatia Club, Dhaka Wanderers Club, City Club and Sadharan Bima KS.

Meanwhile the Damal Samriti cricket tournament, which was scheduled for a September 26 start, may be delayed for four or five days because of Bangladesh's participation in the Hong Kong Sixes which will be held on September 27 and 28.

Bangladesh alongwith nine Test playing nations and the hosts are to feature in the six-a-side tourney.

According to the decision, Premier Division clubs will receive Tk 30,000 while the First Division clubs Tk 15,000 from last season's gate money.

In the coming season, six Super League clubs of the Premier Division will earn Tk 75,000 each while the rest six Premier sides will be richer by Tk 50,000 each from the sponsored money. The First Division clubs will receive Tk 25,000 each.

Janakantha, a national Bangla daffy, will sponsor the Premier Division league for next three seasons. CCDM has signed a lucrative contract worth 50 lakh with Janakantha.

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.

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.

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Diego's day of reckoning

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 5: Football star Diego Maradona has been called to appear before the disciplinary committee of the Argentine Football Association (AFA) on Tuesday after testing positive for a banned substance, report agencies.

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.

Guillermo Coppola told the Associated Press that the former Argentine captain had received threatening phone calls this year from people planning "to set him up" to have him test positive for drugs.



DIEGO MARADONA

Maradona allegedly received another call this week from an unidentified person saying,

"You see what we planted on you?"

"Diego's behavior 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."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gone 39 Menagene 40 Ghena's capital 41 Colorado 42 Walkuku is there 43 Paulo, Brazil 44 Bread spread 45 Comic actor 46 Roadway border 47 I am sane 48 Well occupant of rhyme 49 Speck 50 Lapdog, for short 51 Burma 52 Shave offering 53 Camelot name 54 Gone by 55 Melody 56 Distress 57 Minute status 58 Blood-hound's clue 59 Suable

DOWN

2 treasure 3 Gridlock member 4 Gieves up 5 Plus 6 Lion 7 Old card game 8 Dave Barry's output 9 Reo, for one 10 Under-stands 11 Loyalist 12 "Once... at time..." 13 Bambi's aunt Ena, e.g. 14 Nearing the 15 Hic mark in menswear 16 Blind as — 17 Relinquish 18 Biggers hero 19 Withstand 20 Tablet, perhaps 21 Piccad 22 Patronize the library 23 Beautiful companion?

Solution time: 24 mins.

AWAY HUG OCTO BREA INA THIS LEAK GUMBHOES ENRICH SENORA PLAGIANTIC NEW AIR ESTEE ONO TORE SHERLOCK IMA EITNA ACTORS OERER FULFROOT DIVA RATE POLA OWED ALL RENT Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

I U X Y B B Z W M E I U P Z Q E I X X B X I M Z W Y U Q Z W W Y E X M X Y P Z X M Q V Q Z X X Q I X X U Q V W Y Z U

Yesterday's Cryptquip: FOR DELIGHTFUL RECREATION, THE NUCLEAR SCIENTIST COULD GO FISSION.

Today's Cryptquip clue: E equals B

The Cryptquip 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.