

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 Jatrabari BUET Jatrabari

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
IN-HOUSE RELEASED VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



A goal mouth melee during yesterday's SAFF Championship clash between India and Maldives in Kathmandu. The match ended in a two-all draw. — AFP/UNB photo

Maldives stun Indians

From Al-Amin

KATHMANDU, Sept 9: A late strike from Mohammad Nazim saw a rejuvenated Maldives come from two goals behind to hold tournament favourites India to a 2-2 draw in their last group league match of the first South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship at the Dasarath Stadium here today.

The heroics of the once-considered rank-outsiders not only put them into the semifinals but also wiped out the remote chance of the beleaguered Bangladesh team of staying in the six-nation tourney. Maldives, whose prowess proved against tournament's top two teams, will take on Sri Lanka in the first semifinal on Wednesday.

On the other hand, India will face their perennial rivals Pakistan in the second semifinal on Thursday.

Back in the day's match, with the final whistle only seven minutes away and Indians set to complete their group league campaign with an all-win record after their 3-0 thrashing of Bangladesh, Nazim came from nowhere with a spectacular 30-yarder to stun his awe-inspiring opponents.

The agile defender of Maldives, after receiving the ball in the middle, took a few steps before unleashing a sudden right-footer, which crashed into the upper left-side corner of the net, leaving the bemused Indian custodian Juje Siddi stranded in the middle. Nazim's one-stroke brilliance, not only dented the ego of the high-flying Indians but also earned him

the man-of-the-match award.

The Indians, who started the match as firm favourites, duly went 2-0 up when Baichung Bhutia and Jo Paul Ancheri materialised two set-piece balls.

Baichung, the highest-ever paid Indian footballer, gave his side a 30th minute lead heading home a Tushar free-kick from the right. Ancheri then came with a brilliant header ten minutes into the second half to double the margin.

With the semifinal place already confirmed the Indians came into the match with a re-

laxed mood, but their double strike delighted none other much than Bangladesh, whose outside chance for a place in the last four through the back door was then only a goal away. But that was not to happen as Maldives magnificently bounced back into the match in the 65th minute following a handball conceded by rookie Indian custodian Juje Siddi.

Siddi, who was playing only his second international match, instead of clearing a back pass from his teammate grabbed the ball prompting the referee to award Maldives a freekick from about seven yards.

Ibrahim then stepped up to shoot the ball home past the nine-man Indian wall. The much needed breakthrough changed the whole complexion of the game with the fired-up Maldives front-line giving the Indians a torrid time by operating scores of assaults. Their conviction eventually paid off when Nazim came up with the stunner.

Although, the islanders left

no stone unturned to match their more fancied opponents in every department of the game, the Indians were only to be blamed for being complacent. Besides, the injudicious changes made by their coach Sayed Naimuddin had also backfired.

Naimuddin in a surprise move pulled out Amit Das and Tushar, the Bengal duo who were instrumental in India's 3-0 win over Bangladesh, which had effectively blunted the otherwise razor-sharp Indian attack.

Nazim was adjudged man-of-the-match by local daily "Gorkha Patria".

Yellow card: Khalid Jamil (India).

GROUP B STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PC
India	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Maldives	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Bangladesh	2	1	1	1	3	3	1

First semifinal: Sri Lanka vs Maldives, Wednesday, 3 pm.

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