

Column One

Boost sports
WHIZZ KIDCOMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-78

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm.
Sept 19, '97

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

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK



Manoj Prabhakar

(Former Indian cricketer)

"It would be virtually impossible for me to prove anything. On the betting and bribery probe."



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 ended 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 relaxed mood, but their double strike delighted none other 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 operat-

ing 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 compla-

cent. 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 other-

wise razor-sharp Indian attack.

Nizam was adjudged man-of-

the-match by local daily

"Gorkha Patra".

Yellow card: Khalid Ahmed

Jamil (India).

GROUP B STANDINGS

Team P W D L G F A Pts

India 2 1 0 5 2 4

Maldives 2 0 2 0 3 2

Bangladesh 2 0 1 1 1 3 1

First semifinal: Sri Lanka

vs Maldives, Wednesday, 3 pm.

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Cricketers'

transfer

starts today

Sports Reporter

The four-day inter-club

cricketers' transfer for the

Premier and First Division

leagues will commence at the

Dhaka Stadium this afternoon

under the auspices of Cricket

Committee of Dhaka

Metropolitan (CCDM).

The transfer, which was

scheduled for a September 7

start, but deferred for three

days following requests from

clubs in a bid to raise their

funds, will begin at 5 pm and

continue up to 7:30 pm for the

first three days. On Saturday,

last day of the transfer, the time

will be extended up to 8 pm.

A club is allowed to register a

maximum of four players from

the 19-member national pool

announced by Bangladesh

Cricket Board (BCB) last July.

The following are the members

of the national pool: Akram

Khan, Aminul Islam, Minhazul

Abedin, Athar Ali Khan, Sha-

hriar Hossain, Sheikh

Salaududdin, Mazfuz Rahman,

Enamul Haque, Saiful Islam,

Naimur Rahman, Hasibul

Hasan, Zakir Hasan, Habibul

Bashar, Javed Omar Belim,

Mohammad Rafique, Anisur

Rahman, Zakir Hossain, San-

war Hossain and Khaled Mah-

mud. Keepers Khaled Masood

and Jahangir Alam have been

exempted from the pool as spe-

cialists wicketkeepers.

Besides, a club can also reg-

ister four foreign players of

whom they will be allowed to

field two in a match.

a. Token Tk 200

b. Token on commission Tk 1000

c. Transfer form Tk 100

d. Registration fees Tk 100

Locals Tk 100

Foreigners (Premier) Tk 1000

Foreigners (Div I) Tk 500

e. ID Cards Tk 50

Locals Tk 100

Foreigners Tk 100

Duplicates Tk 100

On Wednesday,

Australia, who will win

Group Four if they beat Belarus

twice in their last two matches,

will take a significant step

closer to the finals if they win

the first of those games in

Minsk on Wednesday.

Yugoslavia will knock Spain

off the top of Group Six if they

win in Slovakia, but Spain,

who are not playing on

Wednesday, should still win the

section.

There is a make-or-break

match in Vilnius between

Lithuania and Ireland, who are

involved in a three-way battle

with Macedonia for the run-

ners-up spot behind Romania

in Group Eight.

Romania have long-since

wrapped up first place but with

Lithuania and Ireland, who are

involved in a three-way battle

with Macedonia for the run-

ners-up spot behind Romania

in Group Eight.

There are two matches in

Group Nine with Germany host-

ing Armenia and Albania play-

ing Northern Ireland in neutral

Zurich.

Although they had to battle

back to draw 1-1 with Portugal

in Berlin on Saturday,

Germany should have no trou-

ble defeating Armenia, who

won their first-ever World Cup

qualifier 3-0 against bottom

team Albania on Saturday.

In the South American Zone,

Argentina and Colombia can

each guarantee a place in

France by winning their re-

spective qualifying games on

Wednesday.

Argentina, leaders of the

group with 25 points, are away

to Chile, while Colombia, sec-

ond with 24, take on table-

topping Venezuela at home in

the steamy Caribbean port of

Barranquilla.

Fourth-placed Chile need a

win to keep their own hopes

alive while Peru and Uruguay

clash in Lima knowing that the

loser can say goodbye to any

realistic chance of reaching the

finals.

Colombia, who seem to be

back on the right track after a

few stutters, may feel they can

prepare the celebrations in ad-

vance against opponents who

are still without an away point

and have picked up only three

points in 14 games overall.

Argentina have a more diffi-

Booters
return
today

From Sports Reporter
KATHMANDU, Sept 9: Bangladesh football team will be heading for home tomorrow after completing a disastrous campaign in the ongoing SAFF Championship here.

Bangladesh, who drew with Maldives in their inaugural match before succumbing to a 3-0 humiliation against India, finished last in Group B with only one point.

Each players got 100 dollars, a gift from the chief-of-mission Anjan Chowdhury Pintu for refreshment but they felt hardly elated in the fear of a la 'Aunt Shelly' reception at home by the hostile millions.

Bangladesh, who came here in the city of temples to end the long-standing jinx, once again failed to deliver the goods in their ninth attempt at the regional meet.

The fate of their German coach, Otto Pfister also hangs in the balance. Especially, the high-flying football organisers, who will be paying for his blood to save their thick skins, have already shown signs to pounce on the best available scapegoat.

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