

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition closes at 8 pm, Oct 3, '97

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 5 questions about sports events and winners.

Registration form fields: Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone.

EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lankan explosive batsman)

Valle fills vacancy

AACHEN, Germany, Sept 23: Louis del Valle of the United States became the new World Boxing Association (WBA) light-heavyweight champion Saturday when he stopped 34-year-old Dutch opponent Eddy Smulders for the vacant crown in the eighth round of a scheduled 12-round contest, reports AFP.

The referee called a halt to prevent Smulders, who had been floored in the seventh, from taking further unnecessary punishment.

McEnroe wins

PARIS, Sept 23: John McEnroe defeated Johan Kriek 6-4, 6-4 to win the fifth Compaq Senior tournament Sunday in Paris, which is part of the ATP Senior Tour of Champions, reports AP.

Mansour Bahrami of Iran downed Henri Leconte of France 6-4, 3-6, 10-6 to win third place.

The tournament took place in Paris at the Croix Catalan in the Bois de Boulogne in western Paris.

The tournament brought together eight players of the world's best seniors for the four-day event.

Show cause notice on Nannu, Athar?



Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) reportedly has served show cause notice on country's two national stalwarts Minhasul Abedin Nannu and Athar Ali Khan, but the reasons are yet to be known.



NANNU

The cricket board is reported to have served the notice on disciplinary grounds last week. But the official available at the BCB office yesterday refrained from making any clear comment on the issue.

"I heard only that Nannu and Athar were served with the show cause notice. But don't know much of it as I was out-stationed that time," said BCB secretary Tanzeem Ahsan Saad to the correspondent last night. Saad expressed his veiled ignorance when asked why BCB did not disclose the sensational issue to the press.

Meanwhile, a reliable source preferring anonymity told that the two cricketers were charged with the accusation of misconduct during the Asia Cup tournament in Colombo. Nannu, the former national captain, have reportedly been asked to clear his position for failing to appear in Bangladesh's second group league encounter against Pakistan.

Incidentally, both the seasoned cricketers were earlier penalised by the BCB for one month along with Faruque Ahmed and Enamul Haq Moni. The quartet were suspended for failing to turn up with the national team from the United States, where Bangladesh played a couple of exhibition matches last year.

The bold decision, an unprecedented incident in the annals of country's cricket, taken by the newly appointed cricket boss Saber Hossain Chowdhury

Cairns digs deep to save NZ

HARARE, Sept 23: Chris Cairns anchored New Zealand to a draw against Zimbabwe on the fifth and final day of the first Test in Harare Monday with an innings of monumental patience, reports Reuter.

Cairns — who recently pummeled Kenya's attack for 14 sixes in a one-day innings of 157, showed outstanding self-discipline in batting for four hours and 20 minutes to score an undefeated 71 and see his side to safety.

The last hour of the match was tense as New Zealand went into the period on 268 for seven with Cairns to shepherd the tail.

Eighteen year-old Daniel Vettori survived 50 minutes ringed by as many as eight close catchers before he gave a bat-pad catch with 25 minutes still to play.

That brought in 23-year-old debutant Shayne O'Connor to negotiate the final 25 minutes against the leg spin of Paul Strang and Adam Huckle in fading light.

Despite frequent appeals for bat-pad catches he survived as New Zealand reached 304 for eight, having lasted the 106.4 overs sent down by Zimbabwe in the day. New Zealand had resumed on 64 for two.

Cairns entered the fray six overs before lunch with his side on 116 for four having been set an unlikely victory target of 403.

He lost opener Blair Pocock (52) in the first over after the interval to further reduce the visitors to a perilous 122 for five.

Partnerships of 78 with Adam Parore (51) and 66 with Chris Harris (4) crucially took up two hours and 40 minutes to slow Zimbabwe's progress to what would have been only their second Test victory in 23 matches since admission in 1992.

Both batsmen fell to leg before decisions, Harris just before the start of the last hour.

Cairns' 10th half century in 24 Tests came up in four minutes short of three hours but the turning point for Zimbabwe may have come just before.

On 46 Cairns edged pace bowler Heath Streak through the hands and legs of player coach David Houghton at first slip. If Houghton had held it, the chance would have reduced New Zealand to 215.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand in Harare on Monday: ZIMBABWE: First innings 298 (G Flower 104; C Cairns 50)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 207
ZIMBABWE: Second innings 311-9 dec (G Flower 151)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 64-2)
Pocock lbw b Streak 52
Spectator c A Flower b Huckle 33
Horne c A Flower b P Strang 0
Fleming lbw b B Strang 27
Astle c G Flower b B Strang 0
Cairns not out 71
Parore lbw b Huckle 51
Harris lbw b Streak 41
Vettori c G Rennie b Huckle 13
O'Connor not out 1
Extras: (b-6, lb-6, nb-2, w-1) 15
Total: (for wkts 1-63; 2-64; 3-116; 4-116; 5-122; 6-200; 7-266; 8-296)

Bowling: Streak 21 3 52 2
B Strang 26 10 56 2
Whittall 5 1 19 0
P Strang 42 17 76 1
Huckle 31 9 84 3
J Rennie 3 1 5 0

CHRIS CAIRNS... 71 n.o

Phil Russell in capital

Sports Reporter
Phil Russell arrived in the capital yesterday to give a final touch to his unfinished job in the Dhaka Stadium.

The South African groundsman, who had earlier come to Dhaka last April to prepare a hosts of sporting wickets, will resume his work at the national stadium, where as many as ten pitches including five for matches were awaiting for the final preparation.

Weather permitting, the South African expert is expected to prepare the wickets by the first week of October.

Meanwhile, the BCB, who sought the technical assistance from abroad in their bid to prepare lively wickets, is hopeful to play the final round matches of the Damal Smriti tourney at the big bowl.

The season's curtain-raiser will start from October 1. The first round matches however will be held at different city venues other than Dhaka Stadium.

FIFA TV series!

ZURICH, Sept 23: FIFA will produce its own weekly television magazine programme beginning next year, the world soccer governing body said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The FIFA TV series, which will be produced by ISL Television Productions, will include action and updates from international competitions, coverage of World Cup qualifying matches, player profiles, features, some of which will include footage never previously shown, as well as commentary on current issues.

"FIFA TV will be the first genuinely international football magazine programme, which will balance coverage of the key issues affecting major football markets with the progress of the developing football nations," FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in a press release.

Each of the 50 episodes will be 26 minutes long, the first will be shown next January.

Tim survives a scare

TOULOUSE, Sept 23: British number two Tim Henman was taken to three hard fought sets here on Monday before beating Daniel Vacek 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 in the first round of the 400,000 dollar ATP tournament — and blamed it on going to sleep, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old Henman, who was awarded a wildcard entry but seeded second, beat the 65th ranked Vacek in one hour and 38 minutes but was fortunate not to have gone out in straight sets.

The Briton made a shaky start by losing the first three games to Vacek. But the left-hander made a brilliant comeback winning six of the next seven games to take the first set 6-4.

Henman, ranked 20th in the world, lost all control in the second set barely getting a first serve in and the Czech, who had also taken him to three sets in the New Haven tournament this year, eased away to level the match.

"I fell asleep for a while and I didn't really concentrate on my serve. I got myself into a difficult situation but I still felt that I was playing well," Henman said.

However, Henman, who said he had a blister on his big toe in the third set, bounced back in the deciding set and benefited from a more effective service while a tiring Vacek failed to keep his game at the same level to take the set and the match.

Henman, who said he will play in the 1 million dollar Basle tournament after Toulouse, will next face German Nicolas Kiefer, like the Briton a Wimbledon quarter finalist this year but ranked 71 in the world, who beat Sweden's Patrik Federiksson 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

"I met Kiefer two years ago in a challenger tournament which he won in three sets," Henman said.

The other seed to appear on the first day Dutchman Jan Siemerink came through in straight sets against the 1996 world junior champion Sebastian Grosjean of France while Maurizio Martelli ousted Henman's compatriot Chris Wilkins, who had come through the qualifiers also in straight sets.

Ravanelli fails to return

LONDON, Sept 23: Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli is yet to return to Middlesbrough despite manager Bryan Robson's demand that he come back on Monday, reports Reuter.

Ravanelli has gone to Italy, amid media reports he is trying to set up a transfer to ACC Milan, and has not trained at the English First Division club for almost three weeks.

Robson had said Ravanelli should return by Monday if no firm offer had been received.

"I have given him time and opportunity to sort himself out," Robson said on Friday. "If nothing is resolved he has to come back to Middlesbrough."

A club spokesman, asked about Ravanelli, said there had been "No developments" but would not comment further. Journalists said there was no sign that Ravanelli had returned to the club.

Everton agreed to pay 7.5 million pounds (12 million dollars) for the Italian last month, but the deal fell through because of Ravanelli's financial demands. Newspaper reports at the weekend said Everton were still interested in the striker.

Trekking fifty years of Pakistani cricket

Muhammad Shan Gul

Hockey was considered to be Pakistan's national game during the country's early years. Cricket came much after — in 1952 — when Pakistan played its first official series against India under the stewardship of the late Hafiz Kardar.

We lost the series but there were some memorable performances by Nazir Muhammad and Fazal Mahmood. The late Nazir carried his bat for a hundred at Lucknow and became the first Pakistani batsman to bat through an innings without being dismissed. Fazal Mahmood managed to hit the record books too by dismissing twelve Indian batsmen in the same Lucknow Test, which the Pakistanis won.

However, it was not until the 54 Oval Test match that the cricketing world which revolved around six odd countries, was forced to take note of Kaffar's Pakistani team. The Pakistanis aided by a masterful Fazal Mahmood beat their former colonial masters on their home soil. And from that point onwards the craze and passion for cricket in Pakistan only heightened with every passing year. Hockey, like all other sports was soon forced to take a back seat.

Since cricket was considered to be the Englishmen's sport and was popular among our former rulers, it caught on with the people of our part of the subcontinent. This perhaps seems to be the only reason why an impoverished and newly independent country selected to expensive sport of cricket as a national pastime rather than

Things started to look up by the early 70s when Intikhab Alam, the sharp leg-spinner took over the reigns of the team. Intikhab, a shy but engaging and universally popular character, captained Pakistan at a stretch for nineteen Tests and with notable success in England in 1974 when a strong Pakistan team not only held their own in three drawn Tests but went through the seventeen tour matches without defeat, the only side to have achieved this since Bradman's in 1948. Zaheer Abbas outshined all others on this tour after he scored his second double hundred — 240 at The Oval. Much before this tour, the Pakistanis had started to deliver as a team.

With a group of talented players backing him to the hilt, Intikhab in style and took Pakistan cricket to new heights. We had a perfectly balanced team by the time the Pakistan team toured England in 1971. There was the run hungry Zaheer Abbas, tenacious Asif Iqbal, big Sarfraz who could move the ball, unorthodox Majid Khan who eyed the ball early, all-rounder Mushtaq Muhammad and the safest pair of hands behind the stumps, Wasim Bari. Also there was the new ball pair of Asif Masood and Salim Altaf and the wrist and finger spin of Intikhab and Perviz Sajjan. This team was reputed to be one of the strongest teams at the time and the players just fed this popularity to the hilt.

Zaheer sprang on the Test scene with a superlative 274 in only his second Test match. Majid played some good innings, too, on the same tour and Mushtaq chipped in with his usual fitting contributions. Though the team failed in winning a Test, the 1971 tour will always be remembered for these individual performances.

As the years progressed, the team matured with every passing match. By the mid 70s, the middle order was bolstered by the presence of Javed Mianid, who scored a hundred on his debut against the Kiwis and the bowling strength was further amplified by the coming of age of Imran Khan. Imran came into his own in the Sydney Test of the 1976-77 when he took twelve wickets and never looked back.

Another feat was against Australia in Melbourne wherein he ran through the Aussies line up in a space of a few deliveries. Majid Khan also delivered during the same years and one can never forget his hundred before lunch against the Kiwis when he punished the Kiwi bowlers beyond repair.

By the time we re-established cricket relations with India, the Pakistan team had become a force to be reckoned with. The historic 78 series saw the crowds pouring in to witness the best version of the Ashes. Such was the joy on winning the series against India that the government declared two national holidays. There were festivities galore and Zaheer, who managed another double hundred, Javed who scored consistently throughout the series and Imran were praised to the extent of being declared superstars.

But before this series Pakistan cricket received a major blow when all the so-called superstar players — Wasim Akram, Wasim took over from where Imran left and has done commendably well in handling his players. He has a strong team with the likes of Saeed Anwar, Inzamam, Waqar, Saqlain Mushtaq and Aaqib and once he returns from the county circuit he can get back to the drawing board.

From Kardar to Akram, the story of Pakistan cricket has more or less been exciting and impressive. Courtesy — Friday Times, Pakistan.

Nagano ponders on new plan

NAGANO, Japan, Sept 23: Nagano Winter Olympic officials are considering new environmental friendly ways of raising the starting point of the men's downhill race, which the International Ski Federation says falls short of Olympic standards, reports AP.

Suggestions presented by federation, known by its French acronym FIS, will be passed on for government consideration. Makoto Kobayashi, director general of the Nagano Olympic Committee, told reporters Tuesday.

International Ski Federation secretary general Gian-Franco Kasper assured Japan that the proposed course would not damage surrounding national park land.

Kasper said no fences or nets would be built under the new proposal and that television crews would be able to film the event without hurting the environment.

The men's downhill will be one of the main events of the Feb. 7-2 Games, the first Winter Olympics in Asia since the 1972 Games in Sapporo, Japan. But the course has been panned as too easy for a top international competition.

The Ski Federation and the International Olympic Committee want the start raised to 1,800 metres (5,940 feet) from the current 1,680 metres (5,544 feet).

They say the course, which can be completed in about a minute and a half, compared to two minutes for most World Cup events, is not up to Olympic standards.

bamboozled the English batsmen with his leg breaks and googlies. On the same tour the Lord's Test owing to a double hundred by Mohsin Khan and an equally effective spell of medium pace bowling by Mudassar Nazar, who was branded the man with the golden arm. It was after 27 years that Pakistan had beaten the Englishmen!

The Pakistan team under Imran also beat the touring Indians in the 82-83 season. Zaheer, Mianid and Mudassar made hay with the bat while the great Khan ended the series with 40 wickets in six Tests. This was the same series in which Mianid and Mudassar equalled the world record for the highest third wicket partnership. Both of them scored double hundreds and punished the Indian bowlers at Hyderabad to register a 451 run partnership.

Imran faced serious injury problem in early '83 which is why the team failed to win the Prudential World Cup. After he became fit and returned to the folds of the team, he took Pakistan cricket to greater altitudes. He never looked back and improved and matured with the passing years. Under his captaincy, the Pakistanis drew with the West Indians in the '88 away series, beat the English convincingly in the '87 tour, beat the Indians in the '87 series, managed another drawn series against the Windies at home and beat the Sri Lankans in an away series.

It was Imran who taught the players how to beat the opposition. It is he who imbued in his team members the never say die style and it was Imran who was able to get the best out of his team members. It was owing to Imran's providence that Wasim Akram, the most natural and the best ever left-arm fast bowler to play the game was selected to play for Pakistan. It was Imran who spotted the nippy and fearsome Waqar Younis and the effective and intelligent Aaqib Javed. Undoubtedly, Imran Khan was the best thing to happen to Pakistani cricket.

It was under Imran's shrewd and astute captaincy that the Pakistan team realized its dream of winning the World Cup. Wasim Akram, the Pakistani trump card, backed his skipper to the hilt and bowled exceptionally well throughout the tourney. The skipper himself scored consistently and his innings of 71 in the final against England was timely and

important in the context. Even though Imran retired after winning the World Cup, his legacy was carried forward by one of his prodigies — Wasim Akram. Wasim took over from where Imran left and has done commendably well in handling his players. He has a strong team with the likes of Saeed Anwar, Inzamam, Waqar, Saqlain Mushtaq and Aaqib and once he returns from the county circuit he can get back to the drawing board.

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Asif Iqbal Rizvi, the Pakistani all-rounder from Hyderabad was the only cricketer who performed consistently well throughout the mid and late 70s. It was Asif who injected the spirit of tenacity into Pakistan cricket. He taught his teammates how to cope under pressure and how to carve out wins when the chips were down. By playing many a match-saving innings himself, he showed his team members how to escape narrow defeats.

People are wrong when they say that Imran was responsible for rejuvenating the Pakistani team. I believe that this happened much before Imran took over the mantle of captaincy. It was Asif Iqbal who first exhibited methods of warding off a rampaging opposition. It is a pity that Asif's role in the development of Pakistan cricket has often been overlooked.

With the coming of the 80s things took a turn for the better but only after Javed Mianid had been dismissed as skipper of the Pakistan team. After Javed had been appointed the skipper in 1981, nine senior players rebelled against his appointment and the situation normalised only after Imran Khan, the man who was to play an unmatched role in the cricketing history of Pakistan, replaced him in 1982. It was at this point that the battle lines were drawn between the Karachi and Lahore cricket associations.

After Imran took over the captaincy, things improved with every passing day. He instilled discipline in each team member, worked on his fast bowlers and encouraged match winners like Qadir, who had been ignored in the past. It was due to Imran's foresight that Qadir was included in the '82 England bound squad and Qadir

opting for football or basketball.

The craze for cricket was kicked off with Abdul Hafiz Kardar, the quiet, determined and orthodox captain of Pakistan in the country's first twenty three Test matches. The late Kardar was responsible for organising and putting together a disciplined cricketing institution. Though Kardar did not fare well himself, he was instrumental in placing our cricket board on an even keel and guarding its autonomous structure. He led the country to a position of respect in the cricket world not only as a captain but also as an administrator of almost unimpeachable authority.

In those early days there were not as many Tests played as there are today and in the first decade Pakistan featured in only 39 Tests. The home series against the Kiwis in 1955-56 turned out to be a true ego-booster because the Pakistanis won the series. There were some remarkable individual displays by Imtiaz Ahmed, who became the first Pakistani to score a double hundred, and by Hanif Muhammad and Waqar Hassan, both of whom managed big hundreds. Zulqifur Ahmed, a genuine off-spinner also struck form in the same series and took 19 Test wickets.

The Pakistanis then took on the Kangaroos in a one off Test at home in 1957 and won it under Kardar's prodigious leadership. Fazal Mahmood, the handsome and likeable fast bowler ran through the Australian batting at Karachi and returned a thirteen-wicket haul to wrest the initiative.

The Pakistanis played the all-powerful West Indians for the first time in the 1957-58 season. We lost the five Test series 3-1 but the series will always be remembered for two innings. The first by Hanif Muhammad at Bridgetown, Barbados, where he batted for record sixteen hours and ten minutes to make 337 against the might of Hall and Griffith. Mind you, helmets had not been introduced at the time! And the second by the legendary Sir Gary Sobers, who scored 365 at Kingston, Jamaica.

The 60s brought with it a lean patch for Pakistani cricket. Going down after being well placed became habitual for the uninspired Pakistanis. Kardar was dismissed as skipper and the captaincy was transferred, first to Hanif Muhammad and then Javed Burki. Hanif, because of his rigidity and Burki, owing to his bending over to please the gora approach, could not lead the team from the front and this was when the downhill began. The players had no one to look up to, the rot had set in and the team disintegrated by the mid 60s. We hardly won a Test during this dismal period although there were some handy individual performances.

During these abortive years, the only consolation that came to Pakistan was a series win against the Kiwis in 1964-65. The Pakistanis took on the Englishmen and the Australians three times during the 60s but failed to come up trumps even once. We did not play the Windies at all during the 60s and played one odd series against the Indians before the '65 war put an end to cricketing ties between the two countries. The Indo-Pak cricket fixtures were resumed in 1978.

Imran Khan

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Fowler starts scoring

LONDON, Sept 23: Steve McManaman scored a superb individual goal and England teammate Robbie Fowler grabbed his first of the Premier league season on Monday as Liverpool overran Aston Villa 3-0 at Anfield, reports Reuter.

Fowler, in the starting lineup again after injury, got the scoring underway with a 56th minute penalty.

McManaman, who grabbed a crucial UEFA Cup first leg round equaliser at Celtic last week with a brilliant solo goal, scored another in the same style in the 79th minute.

Yet again, he ran from inside his half with the ball, dodged

retreating defenders and drove the ball to the right of keeper Mark Bosnich for his third goal of the season.

"In the second half we passed it quick, closed down well, moved quickly and we knew we would get the goals," said McManaman, captain in the absence of injured Paul Ince.

"I just managed to intercept a pass... I hit it low and thankfully it went in again."

German international Karl-Heinz Riedle, who came on as a late substitute in place of Fowler, made it 3-0 in the 88th minute with a clinical finish after teenage striker Michael Owen had done all the hard work.

Owen, who won the opening penalty when the referee ruled he had been downed by Gareth

Southgate, ran with the ball from the half-way line and tricked his way past the defence into the box.

He then unselfishly hit the ball square to the German, who shot neatly between Bosnich's legs.

It was Liverpool's fifth successive win over Villa at Anfield and a depressing first return to his old hunting ground for Villa's former Liverpool striker Stan Collymore.

Liverpool moved up to sixth place in the league while UEFA Cup rivals Villa are down in 11th. Manager Roy Evans said it was the most exciting Liverpool performance he had seen all season.

"I was absolutely delighted. For the first time this season I think we played good football and created chances... normally we've got a goal ahead and conceded the initiative."

Rugby Sevens own web-site

In keeping up to speed with the 90s, the Dubai Rugby Sevens, sponsored by Emirates Airline, has for the first time launched its own completely independent web-site, says a press release.

"This move further supports our objective of making this year's tournament the biggest ever," said Gary Chapman, Emirates' Chief Director Group Services.

The web-site, titled rugby-sevens.com will be packed with information about the tournament, the teams, the sponsors as well as the history and development of Sevens rugby in the region. The site will feature articles on the participating teams, players, sponsors and activities at the stadium.

An Apres Sevens-page will be devoted to filling in both visitors and locals with useful information, such as hotels, restaurants, car hire, sporting facilities and of course, the top spots to enjoy the hospitality and convivial atmosphere associated with rugby worldwide.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes ACROSS, DOWN, and CRYPTOQUIP puzzles.