

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Sunil Gavaskar
(Indian cricket legend)
"Cricket is a pretty simple game if it is allowed to be kept simple. It is a contest between bat and ball. However, when one gets too technical and involved in theory, then it does not remain simple."

Roost sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-83
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes at 8 pm, Nov 28, '97

- Who lifted the Stockholm Open tennis title?
Bjorkman Ros Poline
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the quadrangular cricket final?
Anwar Ijaz Klusener
- Which county will Wasim lead next season?
Sussex Lancashire Surrey
- Which team won the 18th Damal Smriti cricket tourney?
Abahani Mohammedan Biman
- Who won the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league?
Mariners Armanitola JS Uttara

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

DFB's plan

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Nov 15: The German Soccer Federation (DFB) on Thursday announced it was planning a series of friendship games with Brazil and one with the United States, after an exhibition game with Brazil in Stuttgart on March 25, 1998, reports AP.
Because the current world champions have sold the rights for away games for 200 million dollars over the next years to Nike, the DFB said it had to negotiate with the sports articles company on conditions, including a three planned exhibition games with Brazil through the year 2000.

"Where there were previously 10 hurdles (to overcome in the deal), now there is only one. However, it can still cause a stumble," said DFB spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach after lengthy negotiations.

Agreed to thus far is that the Brazilian team will be allowed to display their own advertisement along the main tribune in Stuttgart's stadium in March. In addition, a second TV transmitter will be set up from the opposite side of the field to produce a broadcast for the South American market, the DFB said.

A contract worked out with the American sports company foresees Brazil playing Germany in the spring of 1999 in the United States, after which the Germans are to play a friendly against the US team, which is also sponsored by the company, DFB said.

Then in 2000, the Brazilians return to Germany for another game to mark the 100th anniversary of the DFB.

No specific times or venues for the games were set and DFB president Egidius Braun must still give his approval of the overall agreement, which the DFB also wants signed by the Brazilian federation.

U-21 football

IRAKLION, Greece, Nov 15: Trayianos Dellas scored one goal and Nikos Limberopoulos added another as Greece's under-21 national soccer team beat England 2-0 Thursday in a first-leg play-off game for the preliminary rounds of the European Championships, reports AP.

Dellas opened the score off a free-kick from outside the area in the 74th minute. Limberopoulos made it 2-0 with a penalty kick in injury time.

Delta Life h'ball

Sports Reporter
Shamsunnahar Hall recorded their second successive victory in the Delta Life Insurance women's handball tournament with a 25-6 thrashing of Lalmatia Girls' College at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi yesterday.

In a one-sided affair, which saw the winners enjoying a 12-3 lead during the breather, Mousumi and Rebeca struck nine goals each for the Dhaka University girls.

In another match, Ayesha scored four goals as Rokeya Hall of DU registered a 6-1 victory over Central Women's College. The winners led the first half 3-0.

In the day's remaining engagements, Siddheswary Girls' College defeated Sher-E-Bangla Girls' College 7-3 while Viqarunnissa Noon School and College handed Ahmed Bawani Academy a 1-16 defeat.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Ahmed Bawani Academy vs Home Economics College (Grd 1, 2:30 pm)
Begum Badrunnissa College vs Ishpani Girls' College (Grd 1, 3:30 pm)

Tour opener today

Bangladesh reach NZ

Sports Reporter



A 15-member Bangladesh cricket team reached Auckland yesterday to feature in a month-long fixture against different provincial selections of New Zealand.

The national team, which left the capital on Thursday morning, was ushered in by a member of the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on its arrival at the Auckland Airport, according to a faxed message received here last afternoon. A handful of Bangladeshi expatriates were also present there to welcome the cricketers, who were later taken to Glen View Hotel in Hamilton, a 90-minute drive from the airport.

Bangladesh, who will play two first-class tournaments on their maiden tour to New Zealand, are scheduled to kick-off their campaign against Northern Conference at the tiny Westpac Trust Park today.

But the national team's Sheffield Shield opener wears on uncertain future as rain has

been forecast in Hamilton for the next 48 hours, revealed a fax sent by a Bangladeshi cricket lover from Auckland.

The national team however will have to face a tough test against a strong Northern Conference bowling attack which includes Test discard left-arm spinner Matthew Hart, 1992 World Cupper Chris Pringle and veteran all-rounder Wamsley.

Meanwhile, rest of the 18-member Bangladesh team — tour manager and chief selector Lutfar Rahman Mahkan, pacer Monjurul Islam and left-arm spinner Saifullah Gem, are expected to leave for Auckland tomorrow.

Two of the late starters along with batsman Azam Khan were earlier denied visas by the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi, and Bangladesh Cricket Board had called off the trip terming the incident as a sheer insult to the Bangladeshis. But a timely intervention by the NZC and the Prime Minister's office of the hosts helped end the stalemate.

Div III cricket

qualifiers

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

Media Cricket Coaching Centre, Pragati Sangha, Daniel Club & Welfare Association and Narayananj Cricket Association won their respective Lotus-Kamal Third Division cricket league qualifiers at different city venues yesterday.

RAJARBAGH CRICKET CLUB: 85 all out in 24.2 overs (Amjed 21, Majed 19; Atiqur 18/4, Biplob 11/3).

MEDIA CC: 89 for two wickets in 13.1 overs (Shawkat 52 n.o., Extras 17).
Result: Media CC won by eight wickets at Dhanmondi Club ground.

RENAISSANCE CC: 154 for nine wickets in 35 overs (Tamal 39, Extras 41; Raja 18/3).

PRAGATI SANGHA: 164 for eight wickets in 29 overs (Rahat 57, Extras 38; Mithu 18/3).

Result: Pragati won by 10 runs at Uttara Friends Club ground.

DANIEL CLUB: 231 for nine wickets in 35 overs (Jafar 58, Himel 27, Extras 59; Amir 36/3).

KALLAYANPUR CC: 187 for six wickets in 35 overs (Farhad 84, Amit 32, Extras 34; Jafar 34/2, Mamun 39/2).
Result: Daniel Club won by 44 runs at T & T ground.

N'GANJ CRICKET ASSOCIATION: 210 for nine wickets in 35 overs (Naimul 41, Sumon 23, Tasequ 25, Extras 44; Akber 30/4).

SHER-E-BANGLA JUBO SANGSAD: 143 all out in 27.5 overs (Mohsin 39, Arshed 21, Extras 47; Mosabbir 37/3, Mo-barak 26/3).

Result: Nganj Cricket Association won by 67 runs at Mohammedpur Eidgah ground.

Inter-varsity

aquatic ends

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 15: Dhaka University clinched the top spot in the inter-university aquatic championships which concluded at the Rajshahi University swimming pool today.

Dhaka University collected 77 points. The hosts finished runners-up with 63 points. Chittagong with eight points came third.

In water-polo final the hosts humbled Bangladesh Agricultural University 6-0.

Professor Abdul Khaleque, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University, gave away prizes after the final. Mahbubur Rahman of DU received the 'Saiful Memorial Award' as the best player.

May threatens

strike action

MELBOURNE, Nov 15: Players' association president Tim May again threatened strike action Saturday after speaking with senior cricketers following the breakdown in talks with the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), reports AP.

On Friday, the board rejected the Australian Cricketers' Association new pay proposal — including a guaranteed players' fund for three years from July 1, 1998 — for the same reason it walked out on the original proposal last month, saying it crossed the boundaries of a players' union.

"The ACB don't want to deal collectively," May said Saturday. "They don't want a guaranteed players' fund which exists with every other major professional sport."

"And the reason they don't want it is because they say cricket is different."

May said the players were running out of options in their bid to create a workplace agreement. He refused to target any particular game in which the players would consider staging a strike.

"The South African tour is just one of the acts, there's Sheffield Shield, there's plenty of cricket," May said.

He said possible strike action was one of the topics he'll be discussing with the players as he goes around the country talking to them.

"It would be irresponsible of me to say when and where without talking to the players first," he said.

Olympiakos

fined

GENEVA, Nov 15: The disciplinary commission of UEFA, European football's ruling body, fined Greek side Olympiakos 150,000 Swiss francs (110,000 dollars) for their fans' unruly behaviour here on Friday, reports AFP.

UEFA took action against the Greek champions because their fans threw smoke bombs and plastic bottles, one of which hit a referee's assistant, during their Champions' League match with Real Madrid on November 5 — the match ended in a scoreless draw.

UEFA also took action against Dutch side Feyenoord, fining them 25,000 Swiss francs after crowd disturbances at their Champions' League home tie against Manchester United on November 5.

The Dutch club have been ordered to pay 25,000 Swiss francs (10,800 for the "improper conduct of the supporters", while United have also been fined 4,000 francs.

Asia's third place at stake



JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia, Nov 15: The cards are heavily stacked against Iran as they go into tomorrow's Asian World Cup qualifying playoff here against Japan, reports AFP.

Coach Valdir "Badu" Vieira has been in the job for barely a week. Iran only knew they had to play the match on Wednesday and had to make a dash for Johor Bahru, the 30,000 capacity stadium will be packed with Japanese fans, and worst of all Iran have hit a slump with one of their top players suspended.

The preparations could have been easier," Vieira admitted after a closed training session here.

"But you know it will be a great shame if Iran do not make it to the World Cup finals. There is such talent to show. I am not completely downhearted."

The match is between the second placed teams from the region's two final qualifying groups. The winner will join South Korea and Saudi Arabia in France next year.

The loser will have to take on Terry Venables' Australian 'socceroos' in another two match playoff starting next weekend. It is a prospect that neither side

relishes and Venables will be watching from the stands.

"The team has already played a lot of games and travelled a lot over the past two months," said Vieira.

"But we have no problem with the hot, humid conditions. We have studied the Japanese team. Kazuyoshi Miura and Hidetoshi Nakata are the only players that we have to be careful about."

Iran saw their fortunes slip alarmingly as Group A progressed. They were top of the table for much of the five nation contest but saw the Saudis overtake them after losing 2-0 to Qatar.

Coach Mohammed Mayeli Kohan was sacked and 53-year-old Vieira, brought in seven days earlier to guide the Olympic side for the 2000 Sydney Games, was quickly promoted.

Iran looked a team in disarray against Qatar. Star midfielder Karim Bagheri was suspended after being sent off. He plays in the German First Division and his absence will put increased pressure on goalscorer Ali Daei and Asian-player-of-the-year Khodadad Azizi, the two other Iranians now based in Germany.

Around two thirds of the spectators in the Larkin Sta-

dium are expected to be Japanese and their national team have seldom been so upbeat since their Group B campaign started.

They ended a bad patch, when Takeshi Okada was brought in as an emergency coach and they beat South Korea 3-0 in Seoul and Kazakhstan 5-1 at home to secure second spot.

Okada has none of Vieira's injury and suspension worries. Japan have been acclimatising to the Johor Bahru heat and humidity since Monday and Okada says he devised a plan to beat the Iranians after finding out they would be the opponents on Wednesday.

Iran have won five of their previous encounters, including one at the 1994 World Cup qualifying tournament in Doha, against three victories for Japan.

But Japan's star striker Kazuyoshi Miura, who is back from suspension, insists "It is our turn to win this time."

Miura went to a temple to pray for victory with fellow veteran Amsashi Nakayama. He came out and declared: "All I can do now is fight to the death."

Goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, now the most popular player with fanatical Japanese supporters, said he had felt nervous during the first World Cup matches.

"But I feel comfortable now, although it's really an important game that could take us to France with one more win. The Iranians play at a very high level and I cannot wait till Sunday."

Japanese players have been dangerously lifting the hopes of their fans, according to some commentators however. The team are notoriously poor travellers and previous disappointments have nearly all come when they play away.

Refs' ruling

is final

ZURICH, Nov 15: Football's governing body FIFA has ruled that refereeing decisions cannot be overturned by declaring void a German federation move to order a replay after TV footage showed the referee was wrong to award a goal in a Bundesliga match, reports AFP.

FIFA said in a statement their committee for legal matters had ruled that all refereeing decisions, especially whether a goal has been scored or not, were final and could not be overturned at a later date by an outside body.

"This, in particular, deals with the question of whether or not a goal has been scored," a FIFA statement said.

The ruling was welcomed by Karlsruhe, who benefited most from it and keep their one point from the game.

Bad smell

stops play!

CAPE TOWN, Nov 15: When players and umpires suddenly fled the field at a cricket match in South Africa, the crowd knew something strange was brewing, reports Reuters.

Smoke, bees, dogs and cattle have been known to halt play in this country, but "bad smell stops play" may take some beating. Yet that is what happened during a first-class fixture at Newlands Stadium where Western Province were hosting Free State on the opening day of the four-day championship.

Ninety minutes into the match, Province captain Craig Matthews was starting his run up when opposite number Gerhardus Liebenburg suddenly raised his hands to his face and recoiled in horror.

A moment later, Matthews also caught a whiff of something in the air.

Players and umpires raced off with shirts and jerseys pulled over the heads and handkerchiefs stuffed into their mouths.

"It was a terrible, bad-eggs, ammonia kind-of smell," said Province chief executive Arthur Turner. "Almost overpowering."

The culprit, it later transpired, was a famous brewery situated next to the ground. "It was a small explosion, nothing serious," said a brewery spokesman.



Italian Fabio Cannavaro (L) and teammate Antonio Conte engage in an aerial tussle during a training session in Naples on Nov 14.

— AP/UNB photo

Jayantha proves

his prowess



CUTTACK, India, Nov 15: Sri Lanka's left-arm spinner Jayantha Silva bagged a five-wicket haul today to boost his chances of playing in the first Test against India next week, reports AFP.

Silva claimed five for 55 as the Board President's Eleven slumped on the rain-hit second day of the three-day match at the Barabati Stadium.

The home team, comprising young Test hopefuls, slumped during their overnight first-innings score of 180 for one to 294 all out shortly before close. Sri Lanka were three for no loss at stumps.

Play was delayed by two hours because of unseasonal rains. Almost three hours of play was lost on the first day on Friday.

Test discard Venkat Laxman carried his score from 87 to 112, his sixth first-class century, but none of the other batsmen made an impression on a drying wicket that assisted turn and bounce.

Silva, the third-choice spinner in the touring squad after

Muttiah Muralitharan and Kumar Dharmasena, proved unplayable in helpful conditions.

Sesamer Ravindra Pushpakumara, another candidate for the first Test starting at Mohali on Wednesday, took three for 63.

The Sri Lankans, who rested captain Arjuna Ranatunga and vice-captain Aravinda de Silva for the warm-up match, are hoping for clear weather on Sunday to gain useful batting practice.

"We are still in the one-day groove," team manager Duleep Mendis said. "I think the boys will welcome a long stint in the middle."

The World Cup champions toured Pakistan earlier this month for a quadrangular one-day series where they were beaten in the final by South Africa.

BRIEF SCORES

BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI: 294 (W. Jaffer 79, V. Laxman 112; J. Silva 5-55; R. Pushpakumara 3-63).

SRI LANKA: Three for no loss.

Farashganj owe Ritu one



A late second half goal by forward Mujibur Rahman Ritu steered Farashganj Sporting Club to their second victory in the Premier Division football league with a solitary goal win over Arambagh Krira Sangha in one of the two Senior Division engagements held at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

After a dull and barren first half, Ritu, the dapper marksman, capitalised on a short pass from his fellow forward Babu Das inside the danger area before sending the ball into the far corner of the net with a brilliant left footer in the 82nd minute.

It was a morale-boosting victory for the old-town outfit which ended a five-match lean patch. After winning the league opener against Youngmen's Club Fakiripool 2-0, they suffered four straight defeats before sharing a 1-1 draw with Victoria Sporting Club last week.

With yesterday's three points, Farashganj are now sharing the fifth spot along with Victoria Sporting Club each having seven points from as many matches, one point adrift of Brothers Union.

On the other hand, Aram-

bagh's bad luck continued. After reaching the season's first major tournament final, the Federation Cup, they have yet to win a match in the league so far in seven engagements.

Although, they put Farashganj under pressure during the second half and created two good chances, Arambagh skipper Mahub Alam Roxy could not take advantage of them.

In the 50th minute, Farashganj custodian Nowshad snatched the ball away from Roxy before the Arambagh striker could do anything with Apu's pass while after six minutes his powerful grounder from a goal mouth melee went wide of the near post.

It was the third defeat for Arambagh against four draws which kept them glued to the bottom of the table along with Youngmen's Club with each having four points from seven matches.

Yellow cards: Montu (Farashganj) and Lipu (Arambagh).

TEAMS

FARASHGANJ SC: Nowshad, Jahangir, Montu, Dulal, Din Mohammad, Selim, Moimul, Chanchal, Mithu (Robi), Babu Das and Ritu.

ARAMBAGH KS: Tony, Lipu (Jaglal), Choton, Biplob, Shamim, Shobib, Minhaz Babu,

Apu, Nana Fandi (Jahangir), Roxy and Palash.

Referee: Monirul Haque

WANDERERS WIN

Earlier, Dhaka Wanderers' Club came behind to register a 3-2 victory over Police Athletics Club in the First Division.

Trailing the first half 1-2, Wanderers' Club staged a brilliant rally in the second session and produced two goals in a span of four minutes to post their third victory in the league. Shafique headed home the equaliser in the 75th minute while Mintu sealed the Policemen's fate with his second goal of the match in the 79th.

Hanif put the Policemen ahead in the 32nd minute while Mintu levelled the margin after seven minutes.

However, Police again went ahead in the 43rd minute through an Azad goal.

Wanderers' raised their tally to ten points from seven matches while Police remained stuck to their previous collection of four points on completion of same number of outings.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division: Agranj Bank SC vs Rahmatganj MFS (4:30 pm)

First Division: Dhanmondi Club vs Wari Club (2:30 pm).

World Team Championship

England retain title



KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15: Defending champions England retained the World Squash Championship men's team title after defeating Canada 3-0 Saturday, reports AP.

Simon Parke, after a brilliant performance against newly crowned world champion Rodney Eyles of Australia in the semifinal Friday, continued his winning streak when he upstaged an injured Jonathan Power of Canada 9-1, 9-0, 9-0 in the first match.

"When I woke up this morning, everything was going just fine, but about 40 minutes before I came to court I got a back spasm and it really interrupted my game," said Power.

Power, the world number

three, collected the first point in the first game but thereafter it was Parke all the way.

"I expected a tough match against Jonathan and I was ready for it, but after seeing him with a physiotherapist in the second game, I knew he cannot make it," said Parke, who is ranked number five in the world.

In the second match, Canada's Gary Waite tried to put his team back in contention but found Chris Walker a tough opponent. The Englishman played with a fast and tight shot and did not give Waite much space.

Walker who took the first game 9-1 in 12 minutes, continued with his tight game to claim both the second and third game 9-3, 9-4 respectively.

"I am glad to be the person who gave the winning point, however it was a team effort and everybody has showed a high team spirit," said Walker.

Dell Harris made it 3-0 for England by beating Graham Ryding 9-1, 9-1 in the third match.

England's coach David Pear-

son said that although his team had gone to Canada at the pool stage, they were confident of retaining the title based on their experience in the last World Championship finals.

"It is nice to win again, but we did not expect an easy win over Canada because they have Jonathan Power who had beaten Parke at the pool stage," said Pearson.

England won the title two years ago in Cairo after beating Pakistan 2-1 in the final.

The coach said England are in a position to retain the title for the third time in two years time.

"We have a young team here, Simon, Dell and Chris could stay in the team while we have the other junior players who could out in next two years," he added.

Meanwhile, Canadian coach Gene Turk promised a better challenge in the next championship.

"Maybe we did not have good luck, especially with the injury of Power, but I believe that we will come again in two years," said Turk.



German Anke Huber plays a forehand against Martina Hingis of Switzerland during their Advanta Championships match in Philadelphia on Nov 14. Hingis won 7-6, 5-7, 6-4.

— AP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 36 Artist intruder | 16 To have one's ducks in — |
| 1 Humboldt | 37 Matisse 58 On (Fr.) | |
| 2 Current locale | 38 Moisture on the DOWN | |
| 3 Correctly quoted | 40 Barrier for | 20 Journey segment |
| 4 First victim | 41 Becker | 23 Tray |
| 5 — impasse 41 | 42 Poet | 24 minutia |
| 6 "Foucault's Pendulum" | 43 Teasdale | 25 Caviar |
| 7 Author for short | 44 Snapshot, for short | 26 Soup type |
| 8 Portland | 45 At an angle | 27 Dedicative |
| 9 Soup type | 47 Sparta's | 29 Buck's mate |
| 10 Seeks nival | 50 Withdraw | 30 Tiny |
| 11 Damages 51 Goose-neck, e.g. | 52 Potsdam pronoun | 32 Unable to escape |
| 12 Dionne Quint's | 53 Soup type | 33 Hens' pens |
| 13 Mom 54 Pinnacle | 55 Bandy of C&W | 34 Do the |
| 14 Lamentation | 56 "— La Douce" | 35 Waits again |
| 15 Wooden shoe | 57 Garden | 36 Accompanying |
| 16 Passenger | | 37 First White House occupant |
| 17 Broker's advice | | 38 Run the meeting |
| 18 Rainbow, e.g. | | 39 Cabbage concoction |
| 19 Charlotte's creation | | 40 Shoestrings |
| 20 Name in Israel's history | | 41 Longest wholly Spanish river |
| 21 Santa's laundry woe | | 42 Nobody, to Nepes |
| 22 — es Salem | | 43 Pronto, in the O.R. |
| 23 You seldom see a new one | | 44 Bud's partner |
- Solution time: 21 mins.**
- READ ACROSS**
1. Humboldt 2. Current locale 3. Correctly quoted 4. First victim 5. — impasse 41 6. "Foucault's Pendulum" 7. Author for short 8. Portland 9. Soup type 10. Seeks nival 11. Damages 51 Goose-neck, e.g. 12. Dionne Quint's 13. Mom 1