

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

CONTEST FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-85

TICK THE CORRECT ANSWERS
Competition closes at 8 pm on Dec 26, 1997

- In which group have Brazil been drawn for France '98?
A B C
- How many centuries has Alopattu hit in Test cricket to date?
1 2 3
- Who is the national soccer coach of Saudi Arabia?
Hodgson Parreira Jacquet
- Who were Bangladesh's opponents in the World Youth Cup cricket qualifiers' final?
HK Nepal PNG
- How many teams are taking part in the Premier Division cricket league?
10 12 14

NAME
CLASS ROLL NO
SCHOOL ADDRESS



SPORTS TALK



Ajit Wadekar
(Former Indian cricket manager)
"The job I like best in cricket is that of the manager."

Nat'l kabadi from Dec 26

Sports Reporter
The national kabadi championship will begin at the court adjacent to Dhaka Stadium from December 26.

Metz take solo lead

PARIS, Dec 19: Metz will lead the French First Division into 1998 thanks to an impressive 3-0 victory over reigning champions and European Cup campaigners Monaco on Thursday, reports Reuters.
A goal by defender Philippe Gallot in the 24th minute and a 65th minute penalty from Bruno Rodriguez helped Metz on their way to their ninth home win of the season.
Belgium's Danny Boffin sealed Metz's victory with a goal after a counter attack in the 71st minute.
Metz have 42 points, one more than Monaco who had won their seven previous games.
The game had been in doubt because of heavy rain but it did not affect the quality of the football.
Monaco, who have been drawn against England's Manchester United in the European Cup quarterfinals in March, put pressure on in the second half, as a draw was enough for them to remain in top spot. But they looked tired.
In the other match of the evening, Le Havre beat Nantes 1-0 seven other matches are taking place on Friday before the three-week winter break.

Le ruled out

BEIJING, Dec 19: Le Jingyi, China's only gold medal swimmer at the Atlanta Olympics, won't compete in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle events at the Perth World Championships because of fatigue and injury, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday, reports AP.
Le, who holds the world records over 50 and 100 metres will concentrate instead on the women's 4x100 freestyle relay and "won't compete in her two speciality individual events," Xinhua quoted her coach, Zhou Ming, as saying. Le won the 100 freestyle at Atlanta.
Le, 22, "is too tired after a very competitive season," Zhou said. "She recently caught a bad cold twice and her training is sporadic."
Shan Ying, who won the 50m and placed second behind Le in the 100m at the National Games in October, is now top contender in freestyle sprints at the Championships to be held from January 8-18.

V-Day sports

The Victory Day sports competition of Physical Education College was held at the college ground in the city yesterday, reports UNB.
State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Kader distributed prizes.
TODAY'S MATCHES
Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League:
Agrani Bank SC vs Surjo Taran Club (BKSP)
Wari Club vs Victoria SC (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)
First Division Cricket League:
Bangladesh Boys Club vs Bangladesh Railway: (City Club)
First Division Football League:
Badda Jagarani vs BRTC SC (Mirpur Stadium, 2 pm)



Action from Premier Division league encounter between Abahani and Farashganj at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Tipu does it once again

Sports Reporter
An 85th minute goal by substitute forward Tipu steered Abahani to their eighth win in the Premier Division football league with a solitary goal victory over Farashganj Sporting Club in their return leg clash at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.
Super-sub Tipu, who also scored the winner against Agrani Bank last Sunday, replaced forward Mizan in the 69th minute with Abahani seemingly heading for a draw against the organised old-town outfit.
The striker proved his worth within 16 minutes heading home the decider after Partho crossed from the right.
The result allowed Abahani to join their arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in second spot having raised their tally to 28 points from 13 matches, four adrift of leaders Mukhtijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra.
On the other hand, it was the seventh defeat for Farashganj in 13 matches against three wins and three draws which kept them glued to their previous collection of 12 points.

Midfielders Zakir, Sentu, Anatoly and John, never played to their potential and failed to provide any support to Amin Rana and Mizan up front.
In the 25th minute, Mizan's long range shot from 25 yards was brilliantly parried by Nurul diving to his left and six minutes later he kept out a Sentu grounder diving this time to his right.
After the breather, Abahani made two changes to the midfield — Ratu and Jahangir came on in place of Anatoly and Sentu — but without effect until Tipu put the issue beyond doubt.
Yellow Card: Partho, Ali Mansoor (Abahani) and Jahangir, Moinul, Farhad (Farashganj).
TEAMS
ABAHANI KC: Biplab, Partho, Prodeep, Ali Mansoor, Barun, Anatoly (Rajul), John, Zakir, Sentu (Jahangir), Amin Rana and Mizan (Tipu).
FARASHGANJ SC: Nurul Islam, Dulal, Montu, Din Mohammad, Jahangir, Selim, Moinul (Mithu), Chanchal, Ritu, Farhad (Rabi) and Babu Das.
Referee: Maruf Sikdar
DULL DRAW
In the day's other match, Mirpur Chalantika and Dhaka Wanderers Club shared points in the First Division league with a 2-2 draw in their return leg clash. Rabi and Hanif scored one goal each for Chalantika while Apu and Echo struck one apiece for Wanderers.
With the draw, Chalantika raised their tally to 23 points while Wanderers earned 17 points from 13 matches.
Meanwhile, the other First Division encounter between Badda Jagarani Sangsad and BRTC Sports Club schedule at the Army Stadium, was postponed for unavoidable reasons. The match will now be played today at the Mirpur Stadium at 2 pm.

German clubs to follow 'em

BONN, Dec 19 (Reuters): German giants Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund are increasingly convinced that shares are the surest way to future success.
Both want to latch on to a Europe-wide trend to transform themselves from mere sports clubs to wealthy traded companies.
But both also face some tough obstacles.
Dortmund's president Gerd Niebaum and his Bayern counterpart Franz Beckenbauer both cited a stock market listing among their main priorities after being re-elected this month.
Niebaum, who will rule the mighty Ruhr Valley club until 2001, said his goal was to turn Borussia into a shareholding company by 1999 at the latest.
"To stay competitive, we must follow the English example and change our structures to become a joint stock company," Niebaum said.
Several British clubs have gone public over the past few years, most notably English champions Manchester United who were floated in 1991 and have become one of the country's 250 biggest quoted companies.
Just day after Niebaum's election, Beckenbauer won a vote for another three-year term as president of Germany's most prestigious team.
"We are under a lot of pressure from sponsors and television," the former World Cup hero said.
"Either we stay as we are and in five, 10 years at the latest, we're finished. Or we take a new direction and that means becoming a public company."
Elsewhere in Europe, clubs have the same ideas. Italian heavyweights AC Milan are planning a stock flotation in 1999 while Lazio and Vicenza would like to hit the markets before that.
In France, Sports Minister Marie-Georgie Buffet has accepted the idea that the clubs may become public companies.
French professional soccer clubs are associations and are not allowed to be quoted on the stock market.
The problem is similar in Germany where the mutually owned clubs cannot now seek a share listing but that may be about to change.
The German football federation has been reluctant to change its rules to allow the widening of the gap between the rich clubs and poor but is expected to allow the clubs to change their status.
With pressure coming from clubs such as Bayern and Dortmund, this could happen late next year.
While struggling with outdated structures and understaffing, the German clubs have grown significantly over the past few years and now have business volumes the size of medium-sized companies.
Bayern, had turnover of 165.2 million marks (93 million dollars) and profit of 15 million marks this year.
That is up from a turnover of 74.3 million marks and a profit of only 200,000 marks in 1994, the year Beckenbauer became its president.
The number of club members, who might be regarded as potential share buyers, rose to 71.157 this year from 33,000 three years ago, the number of fan clubs climbed to 1,532 from 850 across the country.
Money has been flowing into Dortmund's coffers too, helped by their tremendous run in the European Cup which ended with a shock win over Juventus in last May's final in Munich.
Borussia ended 1997 with a record annual turnover of 129.7 million marks compared with 95.4 million the previous year.
The figures clearly show that in terms of economics and finance, we are a very healthy club," Dortmund's manager Michael Meier said proudly.
With lucrative sponsorship and television deals, stadiums often full even for low key league games and plenty of merchandising items available for the fans, the commercial opportunities are there.
The German clubs want to exploit them to the full, with Bayern looking to shares to help raise funds for a gigantic new stadium now in planning.
Even smaller clubs are following the same path, despite a relatively modest annual turnover of 49 million marks, last season's runners-up Bayer Leverkusen are not short of ideas.
The club — from a small industrial town outside Cologne — have already persuaded a famous American chain to open a fast food restaurant inside their Ulrich Haberland stadium and they are now planning to build a hotel in it.
It remains to be seen whether people will be wanting to spend their holidays in Leverkusen.



River Plate's Uruguayan superstar Enzo Francescoli celebrating with teammates holding the South American Super Cup after the Argentine club defeated Sao Paulo of Brazil 2-1 in the final in Buenos Aires on Dec 17. — AP/UNB photo

Islamic Games Another silver for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter
Athlete Rahima Khatun of Bangladesh clinched another silver for Bangladesh at the second Islamic Women's Solidarity Games in Tehran.
According to a faxed message received here yesterday, Rahima finished second in the 800 metres. Besides, Shammi Akhter bagged a bronze in 60m hurdles.
Rahima Khatun Juthi came fourth in the 1500 metres run and Nilufar Yasmin sixth in the long jump.
Sabrina Sultana, a gold winning shooter in the Commonwealth Games, finished sixth.
The team will return home today.

National TT Good day for Ansars, Biman

Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Biman emerged group champions in the men's team event of the JCBL 22nd national table tennis championship after winning their group finals at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.
Ansars beat Satkhira by straight 3-0 sets in Group A while Biman defeated Munshiganj in same fashion in Group B.
In the women's team semifinals, Bangladesh Biman outplayed Rajshahi 3-0 while Bangladesh Ansars overcame Narail by 3-1 sets to reach the group finals.

No SAF Games until 1999

NEW DELHI, Dec 19: The biennial South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, which were due to be held in Kathmandu this year, have been put off until 1999, Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) secretary general Randhir Singh said on Tuesday.
"The Kathmandu SAF Games have been rescheduled for 1999," Singh told Reuters.
"The organisers had sought time to complete building the infrastructure in downtown Kathmandu and the Games had to be deferred."
Athletes from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Maldives and Bhutan compete in the multi-discipline Games, which have been held once every two years since their inception in 1985.
"Nepal wanted the 1997 SAF Games postponed by one year but that would have meant a clash with the Asian Games," Singh said.
The OCA charter debars any regional competitions during the year of the Asian Games. — (Source: Internet)

BFF's new venture

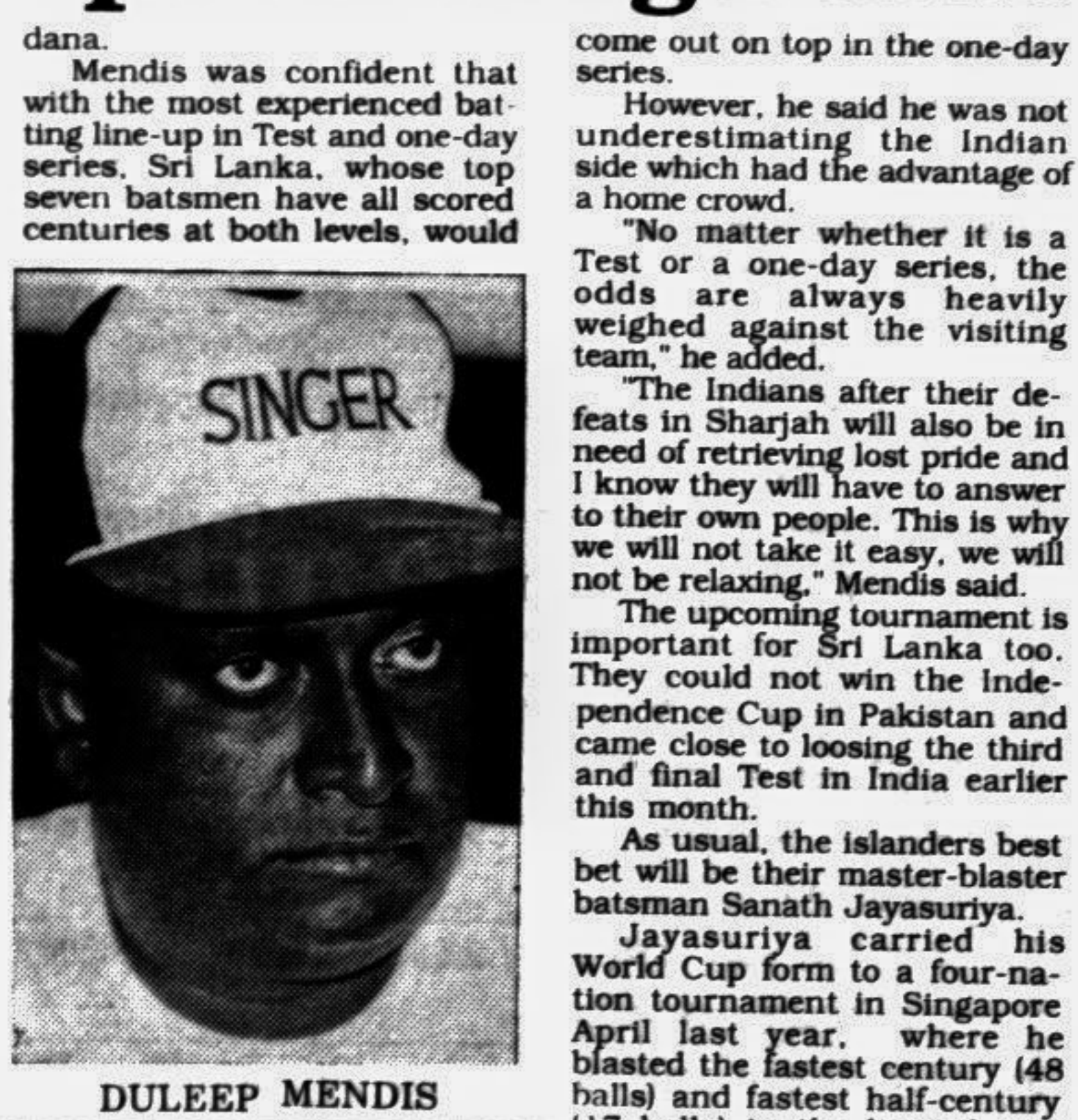
Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is going to introduce a countrywide national league from March next year.
It was decided at a meeting on December 12, says a press release yesterday.
The inaugural league, which will be held on home and away basis, will involve eight teams — one from each division and top two teams from Dhaka Metropolitan Premier League.
The BFF will also hold a meeting on December 26 with all district sports associations to work out details.

Philips sports results

Sports Reporter
Shahjahan Sharif and Rehana Begum emerged champions in the men's and women's group respectively in the Philips annual sports 1997 which was held at the factory premises in Mohakhali yesterday.
Obaidul Rahman Khan, the Executive Director of Transcom Electronics Limited, was present in the half-day long competition as chief guest and distributed prizes.
Zafar Iqbal and Lt Col (ret'd) Shahrir, the president and secretary of the Philips Club, were also present on the occasion among others.
The winners of different events:
Men
100m — Hasan Imam Sumon; 200m — Shahjahan Sharif; 400m — Shahjahan Sharif; 1500m — Shahjahan Sharif; long jump — Hasan Imam Sumon; high jump — Nazrul Islam; pole vault — Shahjahan Sharif; hop step & jump — Shahjahan Sharif; shot put — Rupert Gomes; discuss — Rupert Gomes; javelin — Nurul Islam; hammer — Rupert Gomes.
Women
100m — Rehana Begum; 200m — Rehana Begum; balance race — Rabeya Khanum; Cricket ball throw — Rehana Begum; discuss — Hasina Begum; javelin — Hasina Begum.
Others
Boys' (under-10) race — Shaiful Islam; Girls' (under-10) race — Nurun Nahar; boys' (under-5) race — Mamun; girls' (under-5) — Farzana; 100m (male, over-40) — Rupert Gomes; musical chair — Mrs. Shamsun Nahar; dress as you like — Mr Mosharraf Ali; lucky pair — Mr & Mrs Arunul Haque; 4x100m relay — Bangladesh Lamps Limited.
Besides, the Union team defeated the management team in the other relay event of the day.

Lankans return to India Mendis expects tough time

COLOMBO, Dec 19 (AFP/AP): World Cup holders Sri Lanka leave today for the second and final leg of their tour of India with cautious optimism of yet another series win.
Manager Duleep Mendis said he did not expect the three one-day internationals to be a cakewalk even though Sachin Tendulkar's team did not qualify for the final of the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah.
"Just because India lost in Sharjah we are not going to change our approach," Mendis said. "If you take one-day cricket, we always go out to win."
Sri Lanka have won two recent battles with India: twice in the Asia Cup here and again in the three match one-day series that followed.
Sri Lanka make two changes to the usual 14-member squad with experienced batsman Romesh Kaluwitharana replacing injured wicketkeeper Lanka de Silva and medium-pace Ravindra Pushpakumara replaced by spinner Upul Chandana.
Mendis was confident that with the most experienced batting line-up in Test and one-day series, Sri Lanka, whose top seven batsmen have all scored centuries at both levels, would come out on top in the one-day series.
"However, he said he was not underestimating the Indian side which had the advantage of a home crowd."
"No matter whether it is a Test or a one-day series, the odds are always heavily weighed against the visiting team," he added.
"The Indians after their defeats in Sharjah will also be in need of retrieving lost pride and I know they will have to answer to their own people. This is why we will not take it easy, we will not be relaxing," Mendis said.
The upcoming tournament is important for Sri Lanka too. They could not win the Independence Cup in Pakistan and came close to losing the third and final Test in India earlier this month.
As usual, the islanders best bet will be their master-blasters batsman Sanath Jayasuriya.
Jayasuriya carried his World Cup form to a four-nation tournament in Singapore April last year, where he blasted the fastest century (48 balls) and fastest half-century (17 balls) in the limited over version. Pakistani sensation Shahid Afridi topped that with a 37-ball hundred four months later.
The three one-dayers will be played on Monday at Guwahati, at Indore on December 25 and on December 27 in Goa.



DULEEP MENDIS

Azhar retaliates

NEW DELHI, Dec 19: Former Indian captain Azharuddin today said he had been made a scapegoat for India's lacklustre performance at the Champions Trophy cricket tournament in Sharjah, reports AFP.
Azharuddin told the Press Trust of India that some journalists had carried "motivated and personalised reports... which could even lead to the ruin of Indian cricket."
"I am not blaming the entire media but only a section of which, for whatever reasons, blames me whenever India loses," the former captain told PTI.
"There are also 10 other players in the team. Am I the only player to be blamed for the losses? How can they single me out for criticism?"
In Tuesday's match against the West Indies, a commentator from a Hong Kong-based television channel had said: "There is no tomorrow for Azhar if India loses", the former captain told PTI.
The Indians, who needed to cross the West Indian score of 229 in 45 overs to move ahead on superior run-rate, caved in for 188 after losing their last nine wickets for 62 runs.
Azharuddin ran himself out for four after Rahul Dravid refused his call for a sharp single. India were jeered by some 15,000 supporters at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium after the defeat and went home losing all their three matches.
Azharuddin added that some reports doubted his honesty.

"I have always played with the interests of Indian cricket uppermost in my mind. After having played for nearly 14 years and having given so much to the country, I am deeply hurt at the aspersions cast on my integrity."
"I don't know if it is jealousy or a conspiracy (against myself) which leads them to write such reports," he said.
On Thursday, Azharuddin was retained by Indian selectors for three one-day matches against Sri Lanka beginning next week.
Referring to the alleged comment on his doomed future



M AZHARUDDIN

Confederations Cup Brazil in final

RIYADH, Dec 19: Romario and Ronaldo scored in the second half to take Brazil to the final of the FIFA Confederations Cup with a 2-0 victory over Czech Republic Friday, reports AP.
Brazil will face in Sunday's championship either Uruguay or Australia, who faced each other in Friday's second semi-final.
Both teams played cautiously in the first half but Brazil had the more threatening chances, with Romario shooting over the bar of an open goal and Juninho and Leonardo bursting through the Czech defence several times.
Ronaldo, who as usual was marked heavily throughout the match, was able to shrug off his marker in injury time of the first half and received a ball from Romario that split the Czech defence, but his shot saved the outside of the post.
Brazil, who like the other teams have complained of the tournament's compressed schedule, wanted to end the match in regular time and pushed forward after the break, launching repeated attacks.
In the 54th minute, Atletico Madrid's Juninho played a through ball to Romario, who slotted home to open the scoring.
Seven minutes before the end, Ronaldo got his first goal of the tournament, tapping the ball into Pavel Srnec's net.
With Ronaldo, Romario and Roberto Carlos in the lineup, Brazil entertained the crowd of 40,000 that came to support them and they were given the now customary standing ovation at the end of the match.
The match cost Brazil the services of Junior Balano and Flavio Conceicao, who were injured in the second half and were replaced by Goncalves and Cesar Sampaio.
The Czechs found it hard to cope with the Brazilian style of play, with Denilson's and Juninho's runs on the wings causing havoc.
Ronaldo and Romario bedevilled Czechs defenders, who resorted to fouling to stop them.

Nat'l pairs bridge on
Sixteen pairs qualified for the final round of the national pairs bridge championship for the Fazl-Sohhan Trophy which began in the city yesterday, reports BSS.
President of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation Farooq Sobhan inaugurated the two-day meet. Manzoorul Islam, chairman of the Islam Group — the sponsor of the championship — also spoke on the occasion.
The final round will be played in two sessions today beginning at 9.30 am.

Mario's testing affecting team?

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 19: Soccer legend Pele is criticising Brazilian national team coach Mario Zagallo saying the interminable switching and testing of different players has kept the team from achieving cohesion, newspapers reported Thursday, reports AP.
Pele said that Zagallo's failure to decide on a line-up going into next year's World Cup was the reason for the Brazil's recent lacklustre performance.
"This business of calling them up today to play tomorrow wears out the player, the coach and the team. All of Brazil can see the team isn't playing well," Pele was quoted by the O Globo newspaper.
On Thursday, a number of players agreed with Pele's assessment.
"One day you're playing the other day you're not, that's the team's problem right now," Roma defender Cafu told Globo television.
In a veiled reference to Nike — which has multi-million dollar sponsorship deal with the Brazilian team — Pele also criticised the team's heavy schedule of exhibition matches.
Those in charge shouldn't accept the inhuman schedule imposed by the sponsors. Most of the time, the games are against weak teams that don't benefit anyone. O Globo quoted Pele.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP
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E I B J W I H M W E X M W I
G C T D J Q M J J X R E M W I
A C Y M L J Q I T L I M H
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DO AIRLINE PILOTS
SOMETIMES TRY TO SETTLE PASSENGERS BY DROP-
PING BALMS
Today's Cryptquip clue: H equals M
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.