

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-86

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

1	Who is the Australia cricket coach?	Lille	Marsh	Simpson
2	Who is the Argentina soccer coach?	Passarella	Venables	Cruyff
3	Which county will Lara lead next year?	Essex	Durham	Warwickshire
4	Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league?	Nadim	Saeed	Kami
5	Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?	Linu	Tumpa	Zulekha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK

John McEnroe

(US tennis great)

"The desire to win doesn't go away."

Khulna football

NEW YORK, Dec 26: Khulna

Newsprint Mills defeated Ulka

Club 2-0 in the Senior Division

league played here today, reports

BSS.

The winners led the first

half by 1-0.

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Khulna football

Primary Independence Cup squad named Exit Athar, enter Faruque

Sports Reporter



National cricket selectors have axed opener Athar Ali Khan and recalled former national skipper Faruque Ahmed

The three-nation tourney which also involves two arch-rivals India and Pakistan, will be held at the Dhaka Stadium from January 10 to 18.

Athar, considered as one of the best batsmen of the country and a proven performer against India and Pakistan in the international arena, who dropped along with Mafizur Rahman Munna and Jewel Hossain Momen for their poor performances in the recent tour of New Zealand.

The selectors, however, surprisingly kept Aminul Islam Bulbul in their primary squad although he failed to impress anyone but them with the willow in New Zealand.

Bulbul apart, skipper Akram Khan, middle-order batsmen Sanvar Hossain, Hasanuzzaman, Habibul Bashar Sumon, opener Javed Omar Belim, medium-pacers Hasibul Hossain Shanto, Saifuddin Ahmed Babu, left-arm spinner Saifulah Khan Gem and wicketkeeper Khaled Masood also found their names in the list.

Faruque Ahmed, captain of the Bangladesh team for the infamous 1994 Kenya tour, was given a vote of confidence by the

selectors for his recent performance with the bat in the domestic cricket.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, star performer in the ICC Trophy, who was left out for the down under tour was also recalled along with all-rounder Khaled Mahmood Sunjon, right-arm seamer Zakir

Two all-rounders — former national skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Naimur Rahman Durjoy, and off-spinner Sheikh Salahuddin were once again, ignored by the selectors.

The team: Akram Khan (captain), Aminul Islam, Sanvar Hossain, Javed Omar, Be-

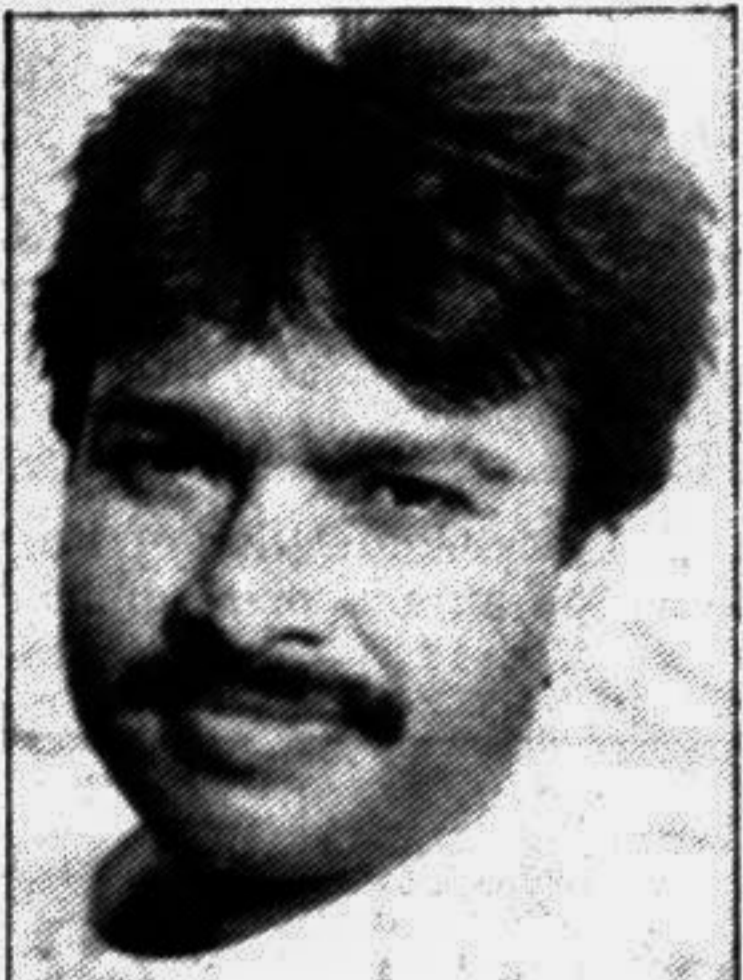


ATHAR ALI

Hossain, off-spinner Shariful Hossain, wicketkeeper Atiar Rahman and opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut.

The only new-face in the 20-member side was a right-hand middle-order batsman Khandkar Nurul Islam Nahid, who is playing for Agrani Bank this season.

Besides, the selectors have included left-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan Sumon of Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani opener Azam Iqbal.



FARUQUE AHMED

lim, Hasanuzzaman, Khaled Masood, Hasibul Hossain, Saifuddin Ahmed, Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Rafique, Khaled Mahmood, Faruque Ahmed, Morshed Ali Khan, Azam Iqbal, Zakir Hossain, Shariful Haque, Atiar Rahman, Saifullah Khan Gem, Shahriar Hossain and Khandkar Nasrul Islam Nahid.

The players have been instructed to report at the Bangladesh Cricket Board at 6 pm on December 28.

National badminton results

Sports Reporter

It's going to be an all Biman final in the ladies' doubles event of the Meril 20th national badminton championships as the national flag carriers dominated proceedings on the fourth day of the meet being held at the Pabna Stadium Gymnasium, according to a faxed message received yesterday.

In the first semifinal Konika and Momo of Biman downed Pabna's Loba and Juthi 15-5, 15-5 while the Biman pairing of Alina and Nuri outclassed Lucky and Aakhi of Ansars 15-0, 15-2.

Results of the men's doubles matches held yesterday: Suman & Polash (Biman) beat Bhanu & Parvez (Cig) 15-2, 15-8; Shakil & Khurshid (Biman) beat Himel & Uzzal (Cig) 15-0, 15-0; Mahboob & Sarwar (Biman) beat Hamid & Sabbir (Sylhet) 15-3, 15-0; Goutom & Bablu (Pabna) beat Enayet & Ruman (Cig) 15-1, 15-4; Zia & Hamid (Ansars) beat Monzur & Khurshid (Pabna) 9-15, 15-9; Gopal & Zakaria (Bogra) beat Miladul & Liakat (BRTC) 12-15, 15-10, 15-7; Azizul Samad (Bogra) 15-2, 15-1; Bhanu & Parvez (Cig) beat Shahidul & Debashish (Pirojpur) 15-4, 15-0; Posta & Ullash (Ansars) beat Kabir & Zihad (Sathkhira) 15-6, 15-3;

Zia & Javed (Ansars) beat Goutom & Bablu (Pabna) 15-14, 9-15, 15-9.

Meanwhile, amidst escalating enthusiasm and refined pageantry the championships started on Dec 23.

The whole arena wore a festive look with lavish display of lighting, banner, festoons and designed welcome gates. Guests were accorded bouquet of flowers and a guard of honour by a smart contingent of girls' guide lining on both sides of the road leading to the gymnasium entrance.

Prof A R Shamsul Islam, retired Principal of Govt. Mahila College, Pabna and a former shuttle expert of the country, inaugurated the championships as the chief guest. In his speech he recalled the rich badminton heritage of Pabna. He said in the forties of this century there was a badminton club in Pabna town named Kamal Kamini Memorial Badminton Club which was not only affiliated with the then Bengal Badminton Association of Calcutta but was also older than it.

Around 50 years back from today, Monoj Guha, an Indian Thomas Cupper and co-player of the badminton pair (other being G. Hemmady of India) that was adjudged by World Badminton Federation as pair number FOUR of the World

Badminton, came to Pabna twice to participate in the exhibition matches and enthralled the audience by his magical display. He continued that it is from the soil of Pabna that two badminton legends Babul and Jilani, who dominated Bangladesh badminton in the seventies and eighties, were born. He expressed his thanks and gratefulness to Anjan Choudhury Pintoo, managing director of Meril Toiletries, for sponsoring championship held for the first time in Pabna. He also thanked the president, secretary of Bangladesh Badminton Federation, the participating teams, president, secretary of District Sports Association, Pabna.

Secretary of the organising committee of the tournament and DSA, Pabna, Shamsul Arif Firoz delivered the welcome address.

President of the Bangladesh Badminton Federation Kutubuddin Ahmed, Jannatul Ferdous MP, sponsor Anjan Choudhury Pintoo, Deputy Commissioner of Pabna and president of the organising committee of the tournament and DSA, Pabna Mahbubur Rahman spoke on the occasion.

The championships is being conducted simultaneously in three courts of the gymnasium hall.

Tyson bit off more than he could chew

NEW YORK, Dec 26 (Reuters): Even those who wouldn't know a left hook from a fish hook know that 1997 was boxing's 'year of the ear.'

It was a year that produced the most stunning ending ever to a heavyweight title fight.

It was a year which saw the most feared fighter of his era become the most derided and a year when the blood sport of off-ended even its avid loyalists after a brutal finish to the most eagerly anticipated bout in many years.

At the same time, Evander Holyfield, the sport's biggest over-achiever and the man who had been expected to collapse in front of the re-focused Mike Tyson juggernaut, became a hero for the ages.

Not only did Holyfield again stand up to boxing's biggest bully, but outside the ring he bestowed grace to a sport, which seems obsessed with shunning any semblance of dignity.

The stage had been set in June for the second act of a drama billed as a rematch between good and evil.

It was Holyfield-Tyson II, a fight that would prove whether Tyson's loss to Holyfield in November, 1996 was just a blip or a neon sign luridly exposing the decline of the man who once defined the sport.

In the first act, Holyfield handed Tyson with remarkable ease, stopping him just short of a knockout in the 11th round.

The rematch began almost where the first fight ended, with Holyfield once again showing no fear, of the vaunted power and aggression of his opponent. Holyfield was beating Tyson to the punch, rocking him with combinations, stealing his heart in front of our eyes.

In the third round Tyson, who later would say he "snapped," chopped on Holyfield's left ear, ripping off the tip and spitting it onto the canvas, sending Holyfield hopping around the ring in pain.

The fight continued, but moments later Tyson bit Holyfield's other ear.

Foreman, who became the oldest heavyweight champion at 45 in 1994 by knocking out Moorer, announced his retirement after the Briggs fight.

Of course, the punching preacher and champion salesman left the door open a crack for a return for the right price. He pushed it open even further later, saying he wanted to fight again on his 50th birthday.

Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes continued to fight at the age of 47, a generous description of prowess irretrievably lost against opponents who had never had it.

The shining talent of boxing's lower weight divisions was welterweight Oscar de la Hoya, whose ostentatious blend of raw talent and matinee idol looks have a yet to be endangered in the ring.

In April, De la Hoya took Pernell Whitaker's WBC title in a desperately close fight. De la Hoya extended his record to 27-0 and retained the title in December when he delivered a brutal beating to Puerto Rican Wilfredo Rivera.

Whitaker's insistence that he is the world's best pound-for-pound fighter stretched credibility in October after he clowned his way to a decision over unheralded Russian Andrei Pestrav in a boring fight.

WBC super-welterweight champion Terry Norris had his showdown with De la Hoya derailed when little known Keith Mullings dethroned him in the ninth round in December.

Roy Jones, who has won titles as a middleweight, super middleweight and light heavyweight and is arguably the best pound-for-pound fighter, knocked out Montell Griffin in the first round of their rematch in August. Jones had been disqualified in their first fight for hitting Griffin twice while he was on one knee.

In a bizarre foul-up by officials, WBA welterweight champion the Quartey of Nigeria had his majority decision victory over Mexican Jose Luis Lopez in October changed to a draw the next day when the WBA said there was a discrepancy in one of the judge's scorecards. The ruling left Quartey with his title.

The lights drew dimmer for several fighters in 1997, including 37-year-old Iran Barkley, the former middleweight and light heavyweight champion.

Barkley, fighting for just 2,500 dollars took his great heart and 104-kg body into a 1997 boxing sideshow against former heavyweight champion Gerry Coetzee.

A plodding Barkley finally stopped Coetzee, ending his comeback.

But with Barkley needing to fight to pay his bills, he may have been the loser after all.

That's a boxing refrain for any year.

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Latif to lead Pakistan

LAHORE, Dec 26: Wicket-keeper Rashid Latif is to captain Pakistan in next month's Bangladesh Silver Jubilee Independence Cup tournament, reports Reuters.

Latif takes over from Wasim Akram, who is in London for treatment to a shoulder problems.

The limited-overs competition in Dhaka also features India, and starts on January 10.

SQUAD: Rashid Latif (captain), Saeed Anwar (vice-captain), Aamir Sohail, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Manzoor Akhtar, Ijaz Ahmed, Shahid Afridi, Yousof Younha, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mush-taq Ahmed, Aaquib Javed, Fazal Akbar, Mohammad Hus-sain.

Women's WC cricket

Aussie-Kiwi finale

NEW DELHI, Dec 26: New Zealand pulled off a dramatic 20-run win against holders England in the southern Indian city of Madras today to take on Australia in the women's World Cup cricket final, reports AFP.

The Kiwis scored 175 for the loss of six wickets in 50 overs after winning the toss. England were dismissed for 155 in 47.5 overs.

The holders appeared to be on the road to victory when they were 78 for three in 28.5 overs.

Australia, who have won the tournament three times, scored a tense 19-run win over hosts India in the earlier semifinal in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The final will be played on Monday at Eden Gardens in Calcutta.

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

GOPIBAGH FA: 150 all out in 43.3 overs (Mortuza 27, Setu 27, Shyamul 27, Ripon 23; Saifulah 2/20, Turkey 2/22, Aminul 2/24).

GMCC: 96 all out in 32.5 overs (Masudul 35, Bablu 26; Ripon 3/8, Shyamul 3/31). Result: Gopibagh Friend's Association won by 54 runs.

Gopibagh Friend's Association defeated Greater Myensinging Cricket Club (GMCC) by 54 runs in a First Division Cricket League clash played at the City Club ground yesterday.

Electing to bat, the Gopibagh outfit collected 150 runs in 43.3 overs.

Opener Setu, middle order Shyamul and lower order Mortuza scored 27 runs each while Ripon chipped in with 23. In reply, GMCC were shut out for 96 in 32.5 overs.

Acme hockey

Sports Reporter

Dhaka moved into the semifinals of the Acme 16th national youth hockey championship with a solitary goal victory over Rajshahi in the quarterfinal at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mamun struck the all-important goal in the 49th minute. In the semis billed for December 29, Dhaka will take on the winners of today's match between last year's runners-up Faridpur and Narayanganj.

Faridpur made it to the last eight defeating Comilla by three goals to nil in one of the other two matches of the day.

Besides, Sylhet qualified for the quarterfinals with a 6-1 thrashing of Pirojpur. In a one-sided affair, Sohel scored a hatrick while Hashem, Ishtiaque and Robert added one apiece to the winners' credit. On the other hand, Manjurul pulled one back for Pirojpur.

In today's quarterfinal, Sylhet will take on Dhaka Education Board.

25th Aga Khan Cup golf on

Sports Reporter

The 25th Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament began yesterday at the Kurmitola golf club, reports BSS.

The two-day tournament was inaugurated by the president of the Kurmitola Club Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman.

The Aga Khan Cup is the oldest and one of the most prestigious tournaments in the country.

The 25th Aga Khan Gold Cup golf tournament began yesterday at the Kurmitola golf club, reports BSS.

WHIZZ KID-85 correct answers

1. In which group have Brazil been drawn for France '98?

Ans: A

2. How many centuries has Atapattu hit in Test cricket to date?

Ans: 12

BOOST

WHIZZ KID-85 winner

Samiul Haque Rafi St. Vincent de Pauls Primary School (Please bring your ID card and a passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk at The Daily Star on December 31 at 7.30 pm).



Victoria's Pakistani recruit Asgar sweeps through mid-wicket during yesterday's Premier Division cricket league encounter against Azad Sporting at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. —Star photo

Victoria trounce Azad

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

VICTORIA SC: 223 for seven in 50 overs (Asgar 36, Munir 34, Nasir Khan 33, Raju 32, Jashim 28; Sabbir Khan 4/50, Sahab 2/25).

AZAD SC: 130 all out in 36.2 overs (Biplab 25, Sumon 19, Sabbir Khan 18; Al-Amin (Sr) 3/20, Ferdous 2/31, Al-Amin Junior 2/34). Result: Victoria SC won by 93 runs.

Victoria Sporting Club finished their first round campaign of the Janakantha Premier Division league on a winning note when they handed promotes Azad Sporting Club a crushing 93-run defeat at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat in the morning, the Victorians amassed a commendable total of 223 for seven in the stipulated 50 overs.

Middle order bat Asgar Khan of Pakistan scored highest 36 of 52 balls while Munir (34), Pakistani Nasir Khan (33), Raju (32) and Jashim (28) were the other notable run-getters. Off-spinner Sabbir Khan was the most suc-

cessful Azad bowler who claimed four wickets for 50 runs from his ten overs while Sahab took two for 24 from five overs.