

## 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 Australian cricket coach?

Lilie

Marsh

Simpson

2 Who is the Argentine soccer coach?

Passarella

Venable

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?

Nadin

Saeed

Kazmi

5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships?

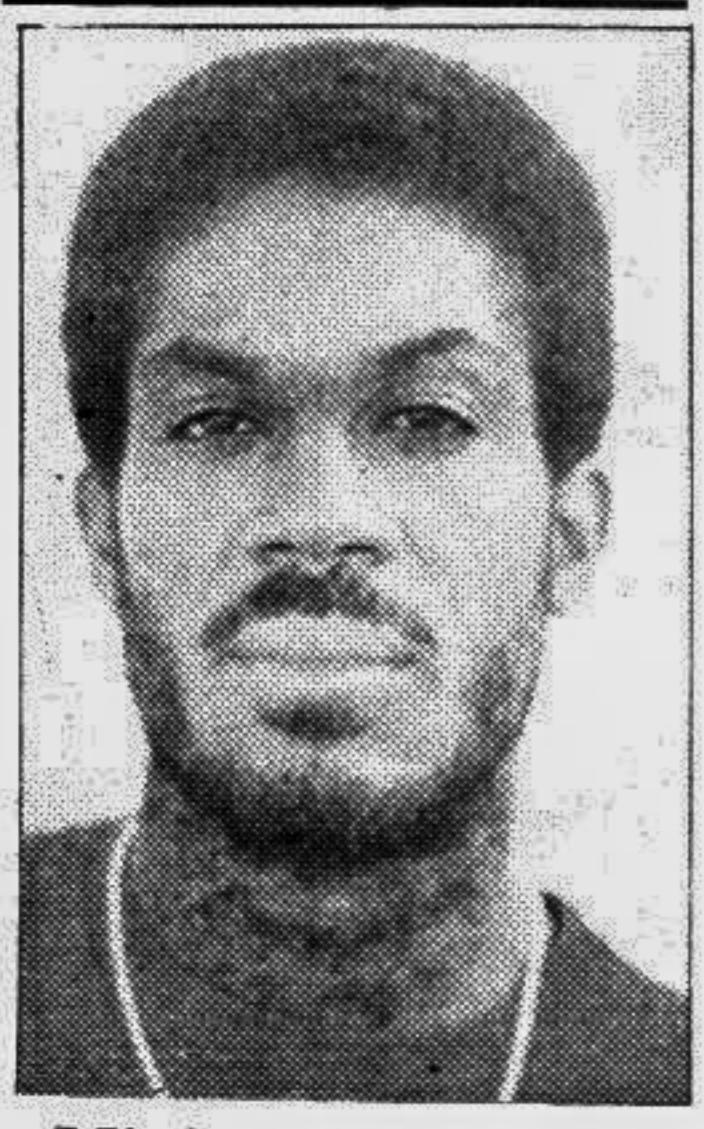
Lima

Tumpa

Zulekha

POWERED WITH  
EN-VITS  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## SPORTS TALK

Michael Holding  
(West Indian cricketer great)  
"I wouldn't pay them tram tickets."

At a loss to describe the Caribbean team's performance in the tour of Pakistan.

Queen's honours

LONDON, Jan 1: Former England winger Tom Finney is knighted and Fiery Welsh striker Mark Hughes gets the MBE in the New Year's Honours list, announced Wednesday by Queen Elizabeth II, reports AFP.

Often outspoken racehorse trainer Jenny Pitman, the only woman to have trained a Grand National Winner, and Martin Johnson, the lock forward who led the British Lions to a series victory in South Africa in the summer, both receive the OBE.

Tessa Sanderson, the 1984 Olympic Javelin champion who appeared in her sixth games in Atlanta last year having first competed in Moscow in 1980, receives the more prestigious OBE to go with the MBE she received in 1985.

Jack Rowell, who stepped down as England's rugby union coach after leading the team to a Five Nations Championship Grand Slam, three Triple Crowns and a World Cup semi-final, gets the OBE while Scottish international goalkeeper Jim Leighton, set to play in next year's World Cup just short of his 40th birthday, receives the MBE.

Finney, now in his mid-70s, stayed loyal to his team, Preston North End, during a 13-year career which ended in 1959 after scoring 187 goals in 431 League games and 30 goals for England in 76 internationals.

That made him a contemporary of Stanley Matthews, who was knighted in 1965.

Sydney 2000

Twelve soccer games at MCG

MELBOURNE, Jan 1: Melbourne Cricket Ground will host 12 soccer matches during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, despite hiccups in its bid earlier this year. Victoria state premier Jeff Kennett said today, reports Reuters.

Australia's second biggest city staged the 1956 Olympics and joins Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra as cities outside Sydney, the main Olympic site, to stage soccer matches for the games to be held from September 15 to October 1, 2000.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

## Premier Division Football League:

Mohammedan SC vs YMCA

Fakirpool

(Mirpur Stadium, 2:15 pm)

## First Division Football League:

Baddi Jagarani vs Dhaka

Wanderers Club

(Army Stadium, 2:15 pm)

## First Division Cricket League:

Cophag FA vs Bangladesh

Railway (City Club)

## Independence Cup notebook

Sports Reporter

Tickets for the Coca-Cola tri-nation Independence Cup will be available at ten selected branches of the Al-Baraka Bank in and around the city.

The tourney involving India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will be held at the Dhaka Stadium from January 10 to 18.

According to the Media Committee yesterday following branches of the bank will sell tickets: Principal Office (Motijheel), Imamganj Branch, VIP Road (Naya Paltan) Branch, Narayanganj Branch, Mirpur Road Branch, Bangsali Branch, Islampur Branch, Kawran Bazar Branch, Gulshan (South Avenue) Branch and Dilkusha Branch.

However, the committee was yet to decide when the tickets would go on sale.

## COIN FOR TOSS

The special coin, which has been issued by Bangladesh Bank to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Independence recently, will be used for the toss at all the matches.

The coin, which has got a face value of Tk 10, costs Tk 1,200 to purchase from the central bank.

## SPECIAL GATES

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has named two gates of the stadium after freedom fighters Shaheed Mushtaque and Jewel who were killed in 1971.

Gate No 1 which is mostly known as VIP Gate, will now be known as Shaheed Mushtaque Gate while the Gate No 3 adjacent to Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee will be called Shaheed Jewel Gate.

## CAMERA

The TV production team of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) will operate 14 cameras including the 'stump cams'. Two will be used for the stumps and another will be

## PCB seeks foreign assistance

LAHORE, Jan 1: (The Dawn): Services of a foreign coach from Australia, England or South Africa will be hired to prepare the Pakistan cricket team for the World Cup Cricket Tournament to be held in Britain in 1999.

Talking exclusive to The Dawn newspaper on Wednesday evening, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Majid Khan confirmed that a coach from either of the three countries would be hired.

"We are negotiating with the boards of the three countries. Whenever a deal is struck, we will hire the coach and ask him to take over the training of the Pakistan senior team", said Majid Khan.

## Redondo won't compromise

MADRID, Jan 1: Real Madrid's Argentinian playmaker Fernando Redondo said here on Monday that he would not follow national coach Daniel Passarella's instructions to cut his hair despite the fact that failure to do so would rule him out of the 1998 World Cup finals, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old Redondo, who played a leading role alongside Inter Milan's Diego Simeone in Argentina's 1994 World Cup side that eventually went out 3-2 to Romania in the last 16, said he may come to regret his stubbornness in years to come.

"Perhaps in five or 10 years I will regret this but there are certain things that I will not compromise and this is one of them," Redondo said.

## Redondo, who joined Real Madrid from Tenerife after the 1994 World Cup finals, fell out with Passarella, who led Argentina to the 1978 World Cup as a player, after the disciplinarian coach said that all his squad should have short hair — leading scorer Gabriel Batistuta also refused but has since been recalled.

I did think about it again but I still came to the same conclusion and it looks like I will be watching the World Cup from my armchair," Redondo said.

Sydney 2000

Twelve soccer games at MCG

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Greg Lemond (C) the three-time winner of the Tour de France preparing for the first leg of the Vietnam Challenge bicycle race on Jan 1 in Hanoi.

## Sport

## 2nd win for Arambagh

Arambagh Krira Sangha earned their second victory in the Premier Division football league beating Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society by a solitary goal at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sajedur Rahman Tushar scored the all-important goal four minutes into the game.

Arambagh have earned 12 points from 14 matches. Rahmatganj remained at 10 points, also playing 14 matches.

In the First Division league, Mirpur Chalanika recorded their 7th win to take sole lead in the league, beating Bangladesh Boys Club by 2-0 goals at the Army Stadium.

Babu scored first for winners in the 25th minute while Sohag doubled the margin in the 35th minute.

Chalanika secured 27 points from 15 outings while Bangladesh Boys remained stuck to 13 points, also playing 15 matches.

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

## BRIEF SCORES

GULSHAN YOUTH: 125 all out in 41.1 overs (Zaman 27, Arif 23; Rajinder Singh 4/30).

SADHARAN BIMA: 126 for three wicket in 25.1 overs (Monti 43 not out, Rajinder Singh 30 not out, Babu 31).

Result: Sadharan Bima won by seven wickets.

A virtuoso all-round performance by Indian Rajinder Singh helped Sadharan Bima to a resounding seven-wicket win over Gulshan Youth Club in the lone First Division cricket league match at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday.

Rajinder captured four wickets for only 30 runs in his nine overs to shot Gulshan out for 125 in 41.4 overs. The genial Rajinder then scored an unbeaten 30 to guide his side to the target of 126 in 25.1 overs.

Rajinder hammered a quartet of fours in his 21-ball undefeated vigil at the crease. The Indian apart, opener Moni, who kept his cool in the face of a sudden slide where Bima lost their first three wickets in the space of eight runs, remained unbeaten on 43. Moni struck four fours and a sixer in his 61-ball undefeated knock.

Emerson for sale

MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Jan 1: Brazilian mid-fielder Emerson was put up for sale by Middlesbrough on Wednesday after failing to return to the club following a trip back home, reports AP.

If one goes by the decision against Afri, Hussain also deserves similar suspension. It is

over hearing that Hussain and Shahid Afridi had gone in mid-November to play in the Dhaka cricket league. The disciplinary committee summoned both the players but only Afridi appeared before them. The hard-hitting one-day opener was penalised 25,000 rupees besides being given suspension from two first-class matches.

Hussain, who was equally guilty in the eyes of PCB, was, however, only fined 25,000 rupees as he didn't appear before them. Hussain, in fact, only returned from Dhaka last week.

If one goes by the decision against Afri, Hussain also deserves similar suspension.

The Pakistan team led by Rashid Latif will take part in the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup starting in Bangladesh from January 10.

Latif, whose five-year career was plagued by controversies, had been disciplined by the PCB twice and was included in the Pakistan team only once in

1997.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) picked a squad on December 26 which surprisingly excluded regular captain Wasim Akram, premium fast bowler Waqar Younis and doughty wicketkeeper Moin Khan.

Along with the significant omissions the cricket board had also been accused of maintaining double standard in team selection.

The Dawn reported that the Pakistan cricket administrators had expressed annoyance

Sub-junior chess

Sports Reporter

The 18th national sub-junior chess championship begins from January 4 under the auspices of Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF).

Interested boys and girls who were born after January 1, 1983, have been asked to submit their names with Tk 60 entry fees at the BCF office before 8 pm tomorrow.

SOFIA, Jan 1: The 1994 World Cup semifinalists Bulgaria will play fellow World Cup finalists and dual World Cup winners Argentina in a friendly as a build-up towards the 1998 finals, it was confirmed here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Juninho has transferred to Atletico Madrid and Ravanelli to Olympique Marseille and Emerson is reportedly keen on a move to Spanish club Tenerife.

Bulgaria, who beat defending champions Germany on their way to the 1994 semifinals, will play the 1978 and 1986 champions in Argentina on March 11.

The Bulgarians see Argentina as ideal opposition as they have been drawn with South American side Paraguay in Group D along with Spain and Nigeria — in what is popularly known as the group of death.

Yokthai's manager immediately said he would appeal the decision to the WBA.

Despite visibly tiring at the end of the 12-round bout, Iida managed to hold off Yokthai's effort to come from behind on points.

Judge Erkki Meronen of Finland scored it 115-112, Waldemar Schmid of Puerto Rico 115-111 and Rodolfo Maldonado of Panama 114-113, all for Iida.

Before a capacity crowd of 7,800 at the Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium in Western Japan, the 28-year-old Iida, the WBA's No. 2 contender, knocked down the 22-year-old champion with a left straight to the face late in the first round.

He piled up points through the first three rounds by stepping in and attacking Yokthai with combination blows.

Yokthai, attempting his fifth defense of the title he won from Venezuelan Alain Goitia in Thailand on Aug. 25 with an eighth-round knockout, began his comeback efforts in the fourth round.

He often forced Iida into the corner and threw a series of body blows that apparently hurt the challenger.

But Venezuelan referee Enzo Montero penalized Yokthai one point in the sixth and again in the ninth for low blows.

AP/UNB photo

## Selectors finalise team today

## Sachin's fate remains foggy

NEW DELHI, Jan 1: Indian cricket, which slid to abyssal levels in the past year, faces its first crisis of the New Year on speculation that Sachin Tendulkar may be sacked as captain, reports AFP.

Indian selectors have reportedly lost patience with the talented 24-year-old batsman, who failed to win any of India's 12 Tests in 1997 and managed just 10 victories in 39 one-day internationals.

The selectors meet Friday to choose a captain and team for a three-nation limited-overs tournament in Bangladesh this month.

Newspaper reports predicted Tendulkar's fall but failed to pinpoint a successor.

One paper quoted an unnamed official as saying Tendulkar had volunteered to step down, although chairman of selectors Ramakant Desai denied any knowledge of such an offer.

"Sachin has not told us he wants to quit as captain," Desai told The Indian Express. "Whatever the decision, it will be entirely ours."

The Express claimed at least three of the five selectors wanted a change, while a fourth is "not exactly averse to the idea."

"Unless the powerful political forces that influence the Board of Control for Cricket in India sway the selectors, the writing on the wall is clear," the paper wrote.

Tendulkar will be replaced