

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT today a major sporting event without the financial involvement of a host of business houses is nearly unthinkable. Sponsorship became a major source of finance for sport in the 1970s, and takes several forms. Many companies sponsor sporting events, while others give money to individuals who wear the company's logo or motifs while performing.

More recently, some have been alleged to have accepted money to change the fate of a match in order to satisfy betting syndicates. Wonder whose logo the players were wearing then?

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-89

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on March 6, 1998

1 Who clinched the Div I cricket title?

Orient SC S Bina Victoria

2 Which country became Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group 4 champions?

Bangladesh UAE Bahrain

3 What is Pat Symcox's highest score in Test cricket?

108 109 110

4 Who won the Paris Open tennis tournament?

Novotna Huber Pierce

5 Who is the manager of Chelsea FC?

Gullit Vialli Del Piero

Name .....

Class .....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Mohinder Amarnath

(Former Indian cricketer) I respect Bob Simpson as a friend and cricketer, but our own players have coached abroad referring to his own controversial tenure with Bangladesh.

While criticising Indian cricket board's decision to hire the Australian as consultant.

Sino natants top the table

BEIJING, Feb 26: China took six of 17 golds to top the medals table on the first day of the FINA World Cup swimming competition here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

China reaped a total of 22 medals, which included the six golds and eight silvers to edge ahead of Germany in the medals league so far.

But German swimmer Sandra Volkler stole the limelight, winning two women's golds the first day. Volkler, the 50-metre freestyle runner-up in the World Championships in Perth, won first place in the 50-metre backstroke, with a time of 28.54 seconds, and won the 50-metre freestyle in 25.19 seconds.

Although she was the only swimmer to win two gold medals, Volkler said she still wasn't satisfied with her times. "I should have better performances," she was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

Meanwhile, Russian world record holder Alexander Popov overtook his rivals in the final 50 metres to win the men's 100-metre freestyle in 48.99 seconds, a far cry from his own world record of 46.74 seconds set four years ago in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

China's Chen Yan, world record holder of the women's 400-metre individual medley, was edged out to second place in the 100-metre butterfly by her compatriot Hu Qing.



Brothers Union custodian Saidur grips the ball while Abahani forward Mizan (R) looks on during yesterday's Premier Division football Super league encounter at the Mirpur Stadium. Abahani won the match 1-0. — Star photo

Abahani's pre-lemon squash

Sports Reporter

Title-chasers Abahani Krira Chakra kept alive their slim championship hopes in the Premier Division football league with a lone-goal win over Brothers Union Club in their second Super league engagement at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

In an eye-ore of an affair, winger Saurav Raju struck the all-important goal in the 43rd minute to give Abahani their twelfth win in the marathon league.

The outcome of yesterday's match left Abahani with the daunting yet tall task of winning their last two matches against leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club and second-placed Muktiyoddha Sangsad and then await a Mohammedan-Muktiyoddha draw to see their championship dreams come true.

The Dhan-mondi-based club, who have drawn seven matches and lost one, raised their tally to 43 points, four adrift of Mohammedans and three of Muktiyoddha who have 47 and 46 points, in 20 matches.

On the other hand, it was the tenth defeat for the Gopibagh outfit and seventh in a row, which keeps them logged at a distant fourth position with 23 points.

Back to the day's match, Abahani, who were without their leading goal-scorer Makusudul Amin Rana, serving a one-match suspension for receiving his third yellow card of the league in the previous match, began the proceedings with a series of offensives through both the flanks. But, the creative efforts of the mid-fielders went in vain because of poor marksmanship until the 43rd minute when Raju, capitalising on a short pass from forward Mizan at the left side of the box, shot the ball into the far corner of the net with a power-packed right-foot volley past a diving Brothers Union custodian Saidur.

After the breather, the teams remained confined to the mid-field for most of the half.

Abahani, in an apparent bid to save some stamina for the next two matches, remained restrained, while Brothers, seemingly unmotivated, shadowed their counterparts and finished the game without much huff or a puff.

Abahani will meet defending champions Mohammedans on March 3 before facing Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their last match on March 7. Brother will

face Farashganj in their last super league match today at the same venue.

Yellow cards: Bakhtiar and Chanchal (Brothers Union).

TEAMS

Abahani KC: Biplob, Mamun Joardar, Partho, Kingshuk, Prodeep, John, Saurav (Anatoly), Zakir, Sentu, Mizan (Rumil) and Tipu.

Brothers Union: Saidur, Imadul, Chanchal, Swapan, Siraj, Salauddin, Shamim, Asad (Uttam/ Shiplu), Yousof, Zamil (Tutul) and Bakhtiar. Referee: R Alam.

DRAWN IN RELEGATION LEAGUE

Earlier, in the day's first match, Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Victoria Sporting Club shared two goals and the points in a Premier Division relegation league encounter.

Babul put Fakirerpool ahead in the 35th minute while Sujon levelled the score for Victoria in the 81st minute.

Away at the Army Stadium, Shantinagar Club and Police Athletics Club also shared points with a goal-less draw in a First Division relegation league clash.

The players have been asked to report at the BCB office at 6 pm tomorrow.

The course will begin at 4 pm and continue for two hours.

Martial art training camp

Bangladesh-Canada Sports Family and Martial Art Stars Academy will jointly organise a week-long training camp from March 1 at the academy premises at Mirpur National Stadium, reports BSS.

The course will begin at 4 pm and continue for two hours.

Int'l jr tennis Local hopes dashed

Fahim Ahsan Romi and Rahat Kamal Islam of Bangladesh made their exit from the Rupa Insurance-IFIC 12th Bangladesh International junior tennis championship after losing the boys' doubles semis yesterday at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

Indian pair AV Roa and Karan Doctor eliminated their Bangladesh rivals Fahim and Rahat 6-3, 6-2 to reach the boys' doubles final.

In other semi-final, Vijay Kanan of India and Ko Kuan Ming of Taipei defeated Chang Hsin and Chang Yun of Taipei 6-2, 6-2.

In the girls' doubles semis, Dominika Buzova (Czech) and Radhika Tulpule (India) beat Chang Hui Lin and Lu Yen Hua of Taipei 6-3, 6-4 while Sheetal Gautam and Shurati Dhawan of India defeated Chang Hsin Chien and Chang Yun Han of Taipei 6-4, 6-3.

The finals of boys' and girls' doubles will be held today.

In the boys' singles semis, Vijay Kanan of India beat his compatriot Kedar Tembe 6-2, 6-0 while S Zaman of India beat his Taipei opponent Chang Wen Lung by 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

In the girls' singles semis, top seed Uzma of India eliminated Tsuji Namami of Japan 6-1, 6-1 while Dominika of Czech republic defeated Pichaya of Thailand 6-2, 6-2.

The boys' and girls' singles finals will be held on Saturday.

MSC-Biman for the sun to shine

Sports Reporter

The Janakantha Premier Division cricket super league opener between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Biman fell through due to overnight rain at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The match was called off without a single ball being bowled when the Sri Lankan umpires declared the soggy outfield unfit for play. The match, weather permitting, will now be held at the same venue today.

U-14 cricket camp Gordon gets a job

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday picked 24 cricketers for a short-term camp for the under-14 age group.

Gordon Greenidge, technical director of coaching, BCB, who has been rested for long against his will, will conduct the five-day camp at BKSP in Savar. The

coaching programme will begin from May 1.

The selected players are: Riyan Islam, Mohiuddin Siddiki, Mohammad Kalim, Arafat Jahan Khan, Mahmud, Ali Shah, Ibrahim Sagar, Rafiqul Alam, Abdullah-al Mamun, Ashraf, Saif, Hossain, Nazim, Nasiruddin Faruque, Nafis Iqbal, Shariful Islam, Towhidur Rahman, Ahmed Habib, Golam Mostafa, Arif Hossain, Javed Ishtiaq, Ziaul Islam, Sumon and Ali Irteza.

The players have been asked to report at the BCB office at 6 pm tomorrow.

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Of game's gentle giant

"He still remembers the bad times," says Becca. "And he does everything he can to help youngsters. He won't talk about it, but out there in Kingston are a lot of kids who owe him thanks for a better life."

Even when he lost the West Indies' captaincy, Walsh behaved with such dignity that what might have been an unpleasant situation at the start of the first Test passed off unnoticed.

His greatest admirer may be the West Indies physio Dennis Waight, who has looked after the long, lean Walsh body for the past 13 years.

"I sometimes think Walsh does not know when to stop," says Australian Waight. "He will come off the field with an injury and I will say, as I did in Pakistan this autumn, 'that's your match over.'"

But he just grins and asks me to fix him up so that he can carry on bowling. "I've got a job to finish" he says and back out he goes. He is a truly amazing athlete.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Janakantha Premier Cricket Super League: Mohammedan SC vs Biman (Dhaka Stadium)

Premier Division Football Super League: Brothers Union Club vs Farashganj SC (Mirpur Stadium, 4 pm)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Slight-of-hand item 5 Underwear with underwire 8 Harrow's rival 12 Spread 13 Urban music style 14 Verdi heroine 15 Board meeting prop 17 Fax pas 18 Run up the phone bill 19 Pindaric piece 20 Info units 21 Do the Wright thing 22 Featherly accessory 23 San Diego athlete 26 Tomalley provider 30 Adhem's son 31 Festive 32 100 percent 33 Grave 35 All better 36 Stocking stuffer 37 Brewery product 38 Emulate Johnny Bench 41 Conk out 42 Favorite 45 Sutherland solo 46 Certainty 48 To Kill a music style 49 Single 50 Hawaiian pal 51 Sashimi eater's quaff 52 Pale 53 Raw rocks 54 DOWN 1 Ape 2 Inter 3 Stench 4 Johnny's bandleader son 5 Just one of 23 - de deux the bunch 6 Steakhouse request 7 Suitable 8 Child's play 9 Pinball no-no 10 Garfield's pal 11 Entries on Baby's agenda 16 Tiger Woods' target 20 Go up and down 21 Eccentric one 22 Tarzan's son 24 Copper head? 25 Golden, in Grenoble 26 Vegas opener 27 Monkey 28 Easier than 29 Roulette bet 31 Actress Jasmine 34 Ah's mate 35 Run 37 "Ushant" autobiographer 38 Uppercase 39 Vicinity 40 Metronome noise 41 Comical Carvey 42 Poka! hand 43 Model Mac-pherson 44 Ring decisions 46 Intimidate 47 Abbott's first baseman

Solution time: 27 mins.

Austrian Open results

LINZ, Austria, Feb 26: Second seed Iva Majoli of Croatia easily trounced Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-1, 6-1 on Wednesday in the second round of the 450,000 dollars Austrian Open WTA tennis tournament, reports AP.

Playing extremely well, the Croatian champion gave her opponent no chance and won in less than one hour in the last match of the day.

Earlier, two remaining Austrians were eliminated from the tournament.

Italian Silvia Farina ousted Karin Kschwendt 7-5, 6-4 and in a remaining first-round match, eighth seed Anna Kurnikova eliminated Silvia Plischke 5-7, 6-4, 7-5.

The defeat upset Kschwendt less than her play schedule: that she had to play such an important match after having played four days in a row in qualifying rounds.

Kurnikova, 16, who lives in the US state of Florida, had to fight hard to overcome Silvia Plischke after 2 hours and 25 minutes. The Russian will play German Barbara Ritter in the second round.



Rezaul Haque (R) pondering his next move against top seed IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam during their sixth round clash of the fourth United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament on Thursday. — Star photo

Ramesh slips thru' the mesh

Sports Reporter

IM R.B. Ramesh took a solo lead in the Fourth United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament when the third seeded Indian recorded his fifth win at the cost of local Arifuzzaman Sikdar at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the sixth of the 11-round Swiss league meet, Ramesh, who adopted the Queen-Pawn opening with his white pieces and played in the line of Tarash variation, checkmated an unheralded Afir after 40 moves.

Ramesh, with this win, raised his tally to five-and-a-half points and moved atop the 51-player table with a half-point lead over three other players - top seed IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam, national champion Enamul Hossain Rajib and Indian Raktim Banarjee, all of whom finished the day with five points apiece.

After two successive draws, Nguyen was back to his winning streak with an easy victory over Rezaul Haque. Playing with

black pieces, Nguyen fared his opponent after 45 moves.

On the other hand, Rajib, who was jointly leading the table at the end of the fifth round last Wednesday, fell from the race when he was held by Indian Raktim after 42 moves.

Second seed IM Reefat-bin-Sattar remained third in the table defeating Amir Hossain in the sixth round. Reefat, who played with black pieces, won the board after 40 moves to

raise his tally to 4.5 points.

In the day's other matches, Tayeb beat Abul Kashem, Nasir beat Ali Amjad, Shiplu beat Saifuddin Lovlu, Roton beat Zamirul Rahman, Aminul beat Mahubul Afzal, Kayes beat Tipu, Pallab beat Tamima Parveen, Anis beat Tofazzal, Arun beat Krishnapada, Enayet beat Afroza Khanum, Shabana Parveen Nipa beat Arman Monir while Palash beat Taherul Islam.

The tournament will observe a day-long break today. The seventh round will start at the same venue tomorrow at 2:30

pm.

Leading players after six rounds: 5 points-IM RB Ramesh, 5 points-IM Nguyen, Rajib and Raktim, 4.5 points-Reefat, 4 points-Arifuzzaman, Rezaul, Tyebar Rahman, Nasir, Shiplu, Roton and Aminul Islam.

Belgium blank USA

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb 26: Belgium defeated the United States 2-0 in a pre-World Cup exhibition match, yet it took the Belgians one hour to take control of the game, reports AP.

While American soccer has improved much in recent years - and has earned respect accordingly in Europe - the game against the Belgians showed the Americans must do more with scoring opportunities. It's not that they did wrong. They just did not do much right.

Watched by 16,000 fans at the King Baudouin Stadium here, the game came alive in the 23rd minute when Nico Vankerckhoven broke loose on Belgium's left flank, chased the ball hard into the goal mouth and tipped it through the legs of US goalkeeper Casey Keller.

It was an excellent effort but one that did not silence the Americans. Alexi Lalas and Eric Waymald both led US attacks and created scoring opportunities yet could not finish them off.

Of game's gentle giant

WASHINGTON, Feb 26 (Reuters): Trinidadian comedian Tommy Joseph does an impression which brought the house down during the annual carnival.

Although performed left-handed, the widespread action, the sudden dip of shoulders and knees and the last-minute change of ball from hand to hand was unmistakably Courtney Walsh.

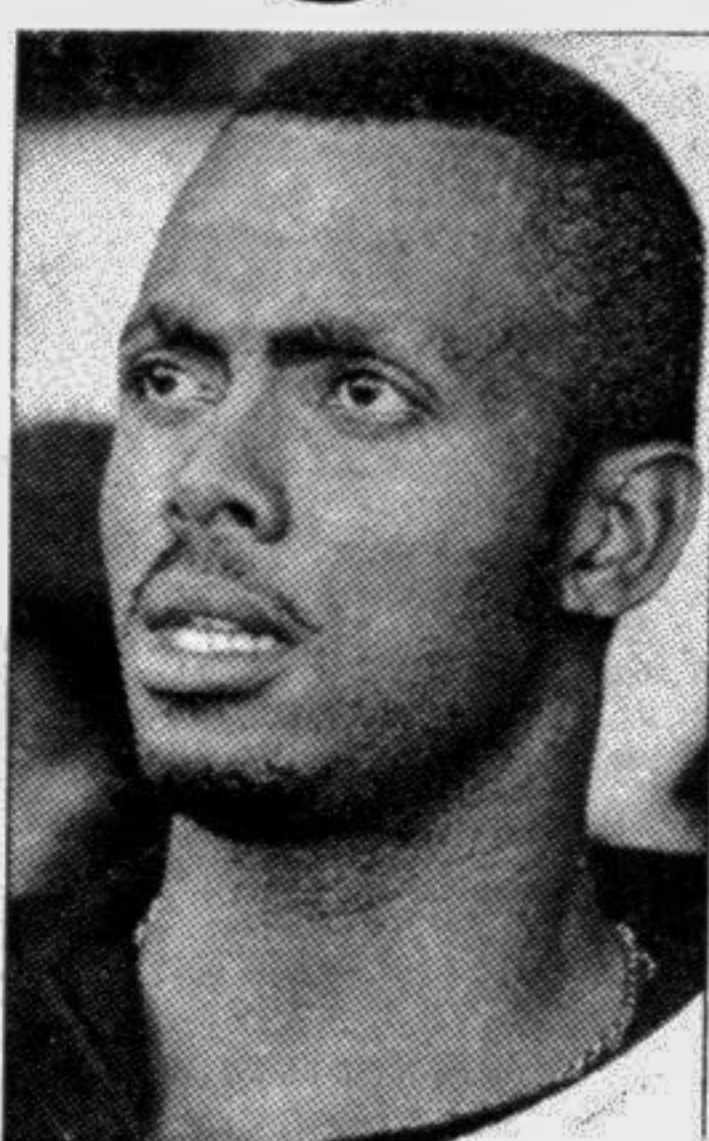
Walsh, who played his first Test 13 years ago, plays 100th Test against England this weekend, needing just 15 wickets to break Malcolm Marshall's West Indies record of 376.

Although he is expected to quit at the end of the current season, he will continue to play for Gloucestershire and for Jamaica as he has without holiday or complaint since 1986.

"He has always made himself available for Melbourne, the club that gave him his first chance," says Tony Becca, president of Melbourne, in Kingston where Michael Holding also grew up.

"He once stepped off a plane from Australia and came straight down here to help us. He says it is by way of gratitude for what we did for him as a young man."

Walsh first went to Melbourne as a seven-year-old, holding his mother's hand as



COURTNEY WALSH

she went to cook meals for the club dining room.

By his teenage years, he was bowling leg breaks for the junior side when the club coach asked: "You ever think of bowling fast?" after that he made a quick trip to the top and was voted club captain at the age of 19.

"Now he cannot do enough for us," says Becca who handed Walsh life membership of the club recently. He has also been given a diplomatic passport by the Jamaican government.

African Nations' Cup Holders, Egypt in final

OUAGADOUGOU, Feb 26: Defending champions South Africa powered their way into Saturday's final of the African Nations' Cup with two goals from star striker Benedict McCarthy, reports Reuters.

The World Cup qualifiers came from behind in the first of Wednesday's semifinals to defeat the Democratic Republic of Congo 2-1 - and set the stage for a showdown against three-times champions Egypt.

"Benni the hero scored once again and we are on the way to the African Nations' Cup final to defend our title," said defender Mark Fish told reporters afterwards. "He's on a roll. Hopefully he can continue that in the final."

Egypt shattered Burkina Faso's dream of a fairy tale final, defeating hosts 2-0 in the second of Wednesday's semi-finals.

South Africa are the only World Cup qualifiers left in the Nations' Cup. Three other World Cup qualifiers - Cameroon, Tunisia and Morocco - went out in the quarterfinals.

Nigeria, Africa's fifth World Cup qualifier, was eliminated from the Nations' Cup this year for boycotting the 1996 finals in South Africa in a political dispute.

South Africa's McCarthy, 20 and Egypt's veteran striker Hossam Hossan were the leading scorers going into Wednesday's semifinals, with five goals apiece.

Each scored two goals on Wednesday, bringing them to within two goals of the all-time scoring record for the competition of nine set by the former Zaire's Mulamba Nadaye in 1974.

South Africa, whose form into the finals was patchy, showed new maturity against a lively Democratic Congo, who were playing their first major competition as the Simbas (lions in Swahili) and went much further than anyone predicted.

Never before had South Africa, who won the title at their first attempt at home in 1996 during the heady aftermath of apartheid, come from behind in the competition to win.

McCarthy's goals, an equaliser driven from the edge

of the box in the 60th minute and the winning goal in the 22nd minute of extra time, set the Bafana Bafana on the road to victory - and the chance of a second successive title.

Egypt have won the title two years in succession - in 1957 and 1959. Ghana achieved the same feat in 1963 and 1965.

Egypt and Burkina Faso played in the second city Bobo Dioulasso where the packed Omnisport stadium contrasted strongly with the almost deserted terraces during the other semi-final in the capital Ouagadougou earlier in the evening.

Hassan scored in the 40th - when the ball rebounded off his foot during a goal-mouth scramble - and in the 71st minute.

Burkina Faso play Democratic Congo in Friday's third place decider - their last match under the white witch doctor, as Troussier is known throughout West Africa.

Saturday's final will be the Bafana Bafana's last under their stand-in coach Jomo Sono, who took over after Clive Barker, architect of their 1996 victory, quit.

CRYPTOQUIP

Z O R A L H W I H K N O L I K L H Z W E L H Z W J N H A N N H O L R X H H J I Z E A Z E I Z W K L I Z W X L K W X

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FIT PLUMBER QUIPS THAT HE'S MOST QUALIFIED TO BE A PERSONAL DRAINER.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: A equals F

The Cryptoquip 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.