

Sport

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

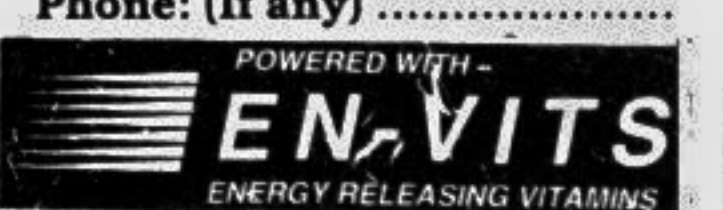
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-90

Tick the Correct Answers

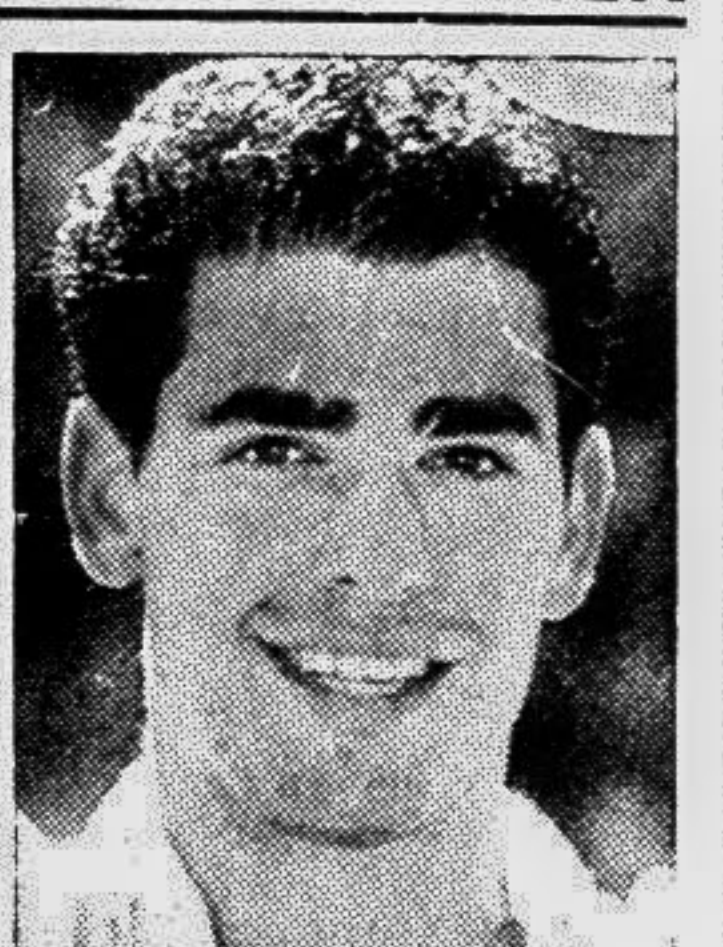
Competition closes at 8 pm on March 20, 1998

- 1 Who won the fourth United Insurance International Masters' chess title?
2 How many ODI centuries have been scored by Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar?
3 Who keeps wicket for South Africa?
4 Emerging tennis star Anna Kournikova is...
5 Who lifted the girls' singles title of the 12th Bangladesh International junior tennis championships?

Name:
Class:
Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



Pete Sampras (World's No 1 tennis star)
In order to get to number one and stay there you have to play well every week. It's much more important to be ranked number one at the end of the year than it is at the beginning of the year.

Wanderers win

Dhaka Wanderers Club defeated BRTC Sporting Club 3-0 goals in the Metropolis First Division football Super League match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB. Wanderers Club collected 30 points and BRTC 35 points after the match, which was the last Super League engagement for both teams.

BOOST WHIZZ KID-89 winner Sajjad Hasan

(Dhanmondi Boys High School)
(Please remember to bring your ID card and a passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star on March 11 (8:00 pm).

WHIZZ KID-89 correct answers

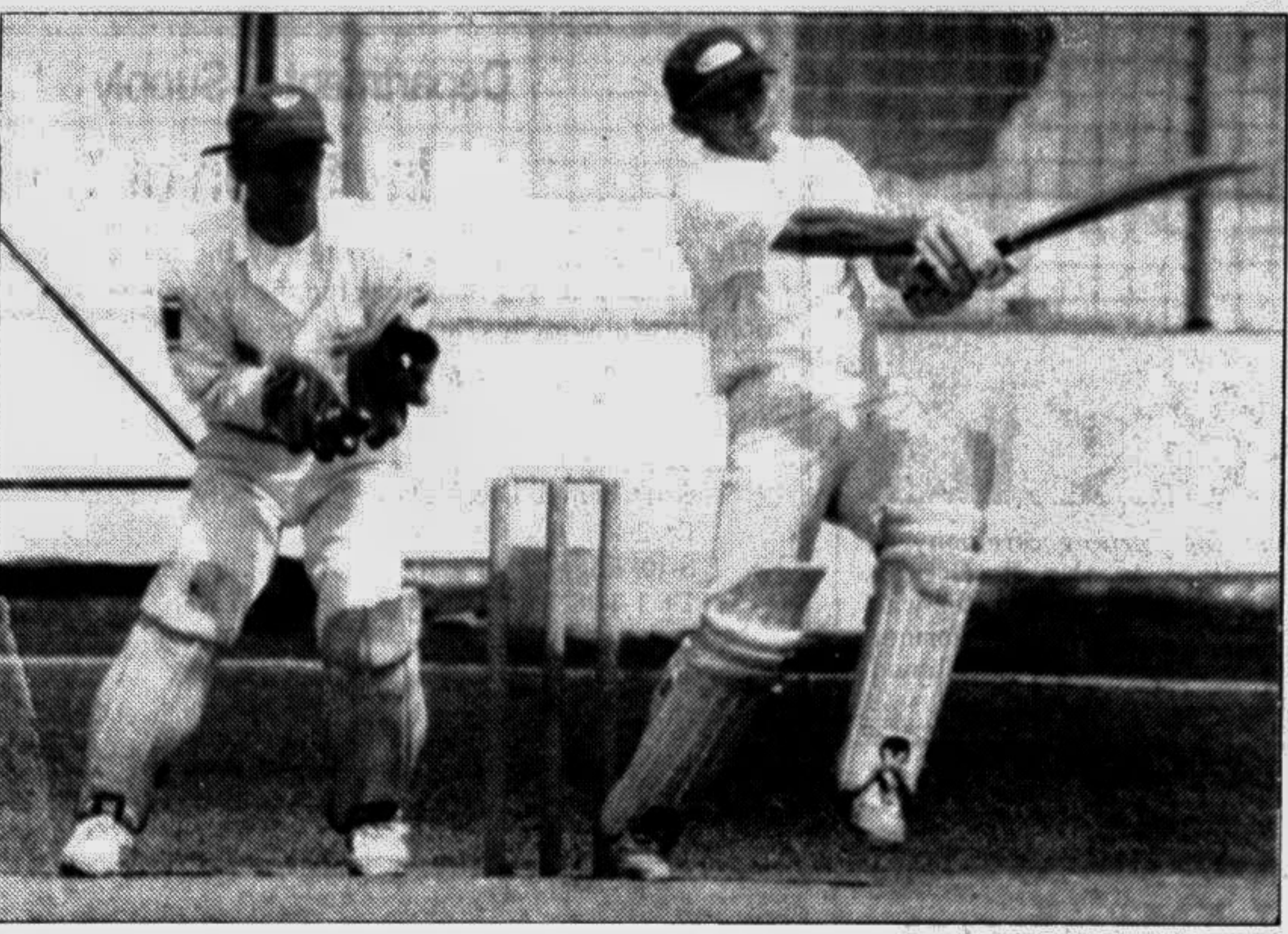
- 1. Who clinched the Div 1 cricket title? Ans. S Bina
2. Which country became Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group 4 champions? Ans. Bahrain
3. What is Pat Symcox's highest score in Test cricket? Ans. 108
4. Who won the Paris Open tennis tournament? Ans. Pierce
5. Who is the manager of Chelsea FC? Ans. Vielli

Judo, karate camp

The seven-day judo and karate camp concludes in Mirpur today, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS. The successful trainees will be given certificates on the occasion.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Janakantha Premier Cricket Super League: Biman vs Surjo Tarun Club (Dhaka Stadium)
Janakantha Premier Cricket Relocation League: Azad SC vs Ajax SC (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)
Premier Division Football Super League: Abahani KC vs Muktijoddha Sangsad KC (Mirpur Stadium, 5 pm)



The classy but inconsistent Sajjad Ahmed of Kalabagan pulls during a Janakantha Premier Division super league encounter against Abahani at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Azam Iqbal sounds a timely warning to national selectors

Abahani in Garden of Eden

Sports Reporter

Reigning Champions Abahani Krira Chakra overcame yet another rocky hurdle in their bid to retain the Premier cricket league title when they posted a cake-walk eight-wicket victory over giant-slayers Kalabagan Krira Chakra in an important Super League encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The outcome of yesterday's match left the popular Dhanmondi outfit four points clear at the six-team super-league having raised their tally to 24 points. A win from their remaining two matches against Biman and arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club will confirm for Abahani their second successive league triumph. On the other hand, the defeat was a big blow for last year's runners up Kalabagan who remained third in the table with their previous collection of 18 points, two adrift of second-placed Mohammedans and Brothers Union who have 20 points each. In a low-scoring affair, Abahani, chasing a moderate Kalabagan total of 195 in 50 overs, overhauled the target and reached 198 in 45 overs with eight wickets in hand, thanks to an unbeaten 121-run match-winning partnership between opener Azam Iqbal and his skipper Akram Khan which took their side to their 12th win of the league in 14 matches. Azam, the right-handed opener who has proved his consistency with the bat throughout the season, laid the foundation of his side's victory with an unbeaten 89 off 148 balls, his fifth half-century in the league. The dark batsman from the port city Chittagong, who lost his opening partner Al-Shahriar (2) on 5 in the very first over, added 72 runs for the second wicket along with one-down Naimur Rahman (25) before he made the match-deciding century partnership with burly Akram Khan. In his more than three-hour stay at the crease, Azam, who with yesterday's 89 scored a total of 505 runs in 14 matches of the league and 156 runs in his last three Super League matches, hammered seven sweetly timed hits across the rope playing an array of cricketing shots. He was given timely support by his skipper Akram Khan who chipped in with an unbeaten 67 off 87 balls inclusive of five boundaries. Earlier, Kalabagan, after electing to bat first, could muster only 195 for the loss of nine wickets in their stipulated 50 overs. Pakistani opener Manzoor Elahi, the hard-hitting right-hand Kalabagan batsman who scored a century in the previous match against Biman, top-scored with run-a-ball 40 with the help of seven boundaries. The tall former Test cricketer, the lynch pin of many a Kalabagan win, was going great

Mike-Don honeymoon over

NEW YORK, Mar 6: Mike Tyson sued his longtime promoter Don King for 100 million dollars Thursday, charging that King fraudulently siphoned off millions of dollars from his boxing winnings, reports Reuters. The suit against King and his company Don King Productions Inc was filed in US federal court in Manhattan and also seeks a court order rescinding the 1994 contract Tyson signed with King while the former world heavyweight champion was serving time in Indiana state prison on his 1992 rape conviction. A spokesman for King said his organisation had not seen the suit and "therefore we have no comment." Tyson is currently suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission for biting heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield's ears in their rematch last June. He can apply for reinstatement of his boxing licence no sooner than July 9. The suit claims King secretly reduced Tyson's share in the profits, manipulated accounts and made improper deductions "year after year," including the years he was in prison. Van Miert said the three

EU, CFO talk tickets

BRUSSELS, Mar 6: The European Union and World Cup organisers held talks Thursday amid new EU charges that the France '98 ticket allocation discriminated against foreigners, reports AP. The French organising committee met with administrators of the executive commission of the 15-nation EU to explain the seat distribution for the World Cup, a procedure which has angered many European qualifying nations that are unable to satisfy ticket requests. "Why do they discriminate," asked EU Commissioner Karel Van Miert Thursday. The EU has already sent an official warning letter to the French organising committee, known by its acronym CFO. It was the first step in a lengthy procedure that could result in heavy fines if the ticket allocation does not respect fair-trade rules. Both sides met at EU headquarters for 3 1/2 hours. The CFO delegation, led by director general Jacques Lambert, withheld comment on the meeting and said it would address the issue in the response to the warning letter, expected early next week. Under the current conditions 65 per cent of tickets are to be sold in France while only 20 per cent at most are reserved for the qualifying nations. Van Miert said the three

Avishka kept waiting

Sports Reporter
Avishka Gunawardana, the left-handed Sri Lankan batsman who arrived in the city on Thursday night, could not play his first match for Abahani yesterday against Kalabagan Krira Chakra due to some technical problems. The stockily built opener has come as a replacement for former Indian Test cricketer Raman Lamba who died in the city on February 23 after sustaining a severe head injury at the Dhaka Stadium on February 20. It was learnt that the Bangladesh Cricket Board, in the absence of its President Saber Hossain Chowdhury, could not give a decision to the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), the organisers of the Janakantha Premier cricket league, whether it should allow Abahani to bring a substitute foreigner in place of Lamba. Abahani had already registered four overseas players as per the rules. Instead, the Board has asked the CCDM to consider Abahani's request on a human

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BAGAN-AKC SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes Kalabagan KC and Abahani KC sections.

Ind-Pak hockey Focus shifts to Karachi

KARACHI, Mar 6: Arch-rivals Pakistan and India clash here on Saturday under floodlights, both aiming to brighten their fortunes in the fourth Test of the eight-match hockey series, reports AFP. India staged a comeback with a 4-3 win at Lahore on Thursday to reduce Pakistan's margin to 2-1. Pakistan won the first match in Peshawar by 4-1 and second in Rawalpindi by 2-1. The series will be wrapped up with four Tests in India from March 19 to 25. The Indian camp was optimistic and determined to gain the psychological advantage of squaring the away leg of the series. The tourists are to keep the same starting line-up that won the match in Lahore while the home side will bring outside right Rahim Khan for Haider Hussain. Pakistani captain Tahir Zaman and ace forward Shahbaz Ahmed were unanimous in saying Pakistan will leave the third Test loss behind them. "I think we had an off day at Lahore but we will produce a good result in the final match in Pakistan," Tahir said. Pakistan and India are engaged in a hockey series after a lapse of almost 10 years.

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Kiwis clinch the series



ASTLE ... p-o-m

NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 6: The New Zealand black caps scored an effortless nine-wicket win over Zimbabwe in a one-day cricket international here today, reports AFP. It gives them an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the five. Match series with a game to play Sunday. New Zealand's Nathan Astle scored his fifth one day hundred in 136 balls and shared in another century opening stand with Lorne Howell in the somewhat lifeless match. But it was a decisive response to the shock one run loss on Wednesday. In reply to Zimbabwe's 207 for eight, New Zealand reached 211 for one in 45.2 overs with Astle not out 104 and captain Stephen Fleming unbeaten on 33. Fleming was thrilled to wrap up the series with a game to play. "We played pretty well in the last game (at Christchurch) but we blew the last 25 overs," Fleming said. "Tonight we wanted to do it for all 100 overs and we managed that Nathan and Lorne are playing fantastically at the moment. Nathan has kicked on from the series against Australia and Lorne is so dangerous because he hits the ball so hard." Astle's innings was one of the finest of his 64-match career. He waited for the loose ball and when it arrived -- and sadly for Zimbabwe it was often -- he duly placed it away from the field. Astle's innings was all the more notable because the sand based outfield slowed balls that

would normally have gone to the boundary. He only hit three fours although three were three mighty sixes amid a high percentage of ones. Astle and Howell provided New Zealand with another

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets. Includes New Zealand and Zimbabwe sections.

NEW ZEALAND

Howell c Wishart b Viljoen 66
Astle not out 104
Fleming not out 33
Extras: (lb-3, w-5) 7
Total: (for one wkt) 211
Bowling: O M R W
Strydom 6 1 23 0
Rennie 7 0 35 0
Whittall 10 0 43 0
Strang 7 0 38 0
Viljoen 6 0 30 1
Flower 8 0 30 0
Goodwin 1.4 0 9 0

Player-of-the-match: Nathan Astle (New Zealand). Result: New Zealand win by nine wickets. New Zealand lead five-match series 3-1.



A goalmouth melee during the third Test of the eight-match series between India and Pakistan in Lahore on Mar 5. India won 4-3. — AP/UNB photo

WC is a different ball game

TOKYO, Mar 6 (AP): They didn't act like a team coming off a 5-1 victory. No smug smiles, no clowning around, no self-congratulatory remarks -- just matter-of-fact comments about what needed to be done. With their mind firmly set on the World Cup, less than three months away, the Japanese soccer team knows beating Hong Kong (0-2) in the Dynasty Cup tournament, which also includes China and South Korea, both (1-1), is mere child's play compared to the challenge that lies ahead in France. "There's no point at which I'm satisfied," said midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata after Wednesday's game in Yokohama. "Just being 100 per cent isn't enough." Japan (2-0), who also beat South Korea 2-1, will face China (1-1) in their final game Saturday and hope to clinch their third consecutive Dynasty Cup title. But even more than the title, the matches serve as a critical testing ground for the team's strategies ahead of the World Cup. The road to France wasn't easy for Japan. With only one win after the first six matches in the final round of the qualifying playoffs late last year,

things looked hopeless. The coach was quickly fired. Under new coach Takeshi Okada, Japan had to muster victories over South Korea, Kazakhstan and Iran to earn its World Cup berth. Even now, Okada has doubts about his team. "There's plenty of material we need to work on," he told reporters. Scoring opportunities will be fewer and far between at the World Cup, and Okada was clearly worried about the lack of coordination among his players, especially in their offense. Passes were going one way; players were running another way. The first World Cup match for Japan, now No. 9 in the FIFA rankings, is against Argentina, who have won the World Cup twice. Still, the sobriety the team has shown recently underlines a new maturity among some of the players, who have been prone to the flamboyance characteristic of the stardom they enjoy here. Over the last several months, Nakata has emerged as the nation's new heartthrob. Decked in Giorgio Armani threads and his trade mark sunglasses, Nakata is on the covers of magazines side by side with movie actors and rock stars.

Nakata, rumoured to have ambitions for a career with a European league, has said he prefers to be appreciated for his soccer skills, rather than for his other qualities. Although among the youngest players on the team at 21, Nakata, whom the Japanese media has dubbed "the genius," is clearly the central player. In the match this week against Hong Kong, he scored two of Japan's five goals, including a penalty kick, assisted a goal by Wagner Lopes and showed fine footwork and passing throughout. At a recent charity auction in Tokyo, the sneaker that Nakata wore in the qualifying match against Iran sold for 1.72 million yen (13,000 dollars), more than 100 times their market value. With World Cup fever heating up, other players are also becoming celebrities. Three players are featured on posters for Parker pens -- the World Cup's official pens -- now up on almost every Tokyo train. The ad has the players' autographs and a message from each about the word "challenge." "You can't get started if you don't take up the challenge," writes 30-year-old forward Masashi Nakayama.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Hoover, for one; 4 End of the XIXth century; 7 Pop flav; 8 Jellyfish form; 10 Umrlaut turned 90 degrees; 11 Speechifies; 13 Fifths little piggy's route; 16 Indubitably; 17 Acts the robot; 19 Gum-yielding legume; 20 Gymnast Korbut; 21 Disdain; 23 Bonfire aftermath; 25 Obsessed seaman; 26 Aware of; 27 Actress Dawber.
DOWN: 1 The little people?; 2 Billions and billions; 3 Work unit; 4 Cat type; 5 Sculptors' supplies; 6 Big fib fellow?; 7 Either "Unforgettable" members; 8 York or Pepper; 9 Streisand hit; 10 Islet; 12 Polluted conditions; 14 Abba of Israel; 15 Plato's H; 19 Sailor; 20 "Eureka!"; 21 Self-hairs?; 22 Regained consciousness; 23 Oppositionist; 24 On the shelves; 25 Mimic; 26 Anything but that; 28 Politician's specialty; 29 Baby hooter; 30 Caffeine-influenced; 31 Cronies; 32 Win-nose; 34 Squabbles; 35 Sacrosanct.
Solution time: 22 mins.
LEFT ASP, BROZ, ACRE, TOG, RAVE, SHEA, HOT, CAKES, JELLY, POT, GYRIER, ELLS, JOE, BANDY, HOTS, PUER, AGE, PAY, ERA, HOTFOOT, HINNY, LOR, WIN, GIRONI, HOT, TOBS, HOTWATER, ILLA, ETTIE, ARM, ALIAN, MOOR, DIS, NOBS.
Yesterday's answer

Cryptogram puzzle grid with clues: S F F N B Q Q A B Y K N S Q S M D U F S M T Q Y K B V K S O A Q N B Z M K B Y V M Y V S T O U D Z Z B U U. Yesterday's Cryptogram: IN VERMONT THEY'LL VERY APTLY JOKE THAT A SKI JUMP IS JUST A SOAR SPOT. Today's Cryptogram clue: Z equals C. The Cryptogram 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.