

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-91

Post to Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm on April 3, 1998

- 1 Who are the winners of Janakantha Premier cricket league? ... 5 How many teams will participate in the ICC knock-out in Dhaka next October?

Name Class Roll No. School Address

EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



Mike Atherton (Former England captain) "A combination of our failure to win the series and my own form which has been well below my previous standard, has led me to believe it is time for someone else to lead the side."

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Mar 27: Shahid Zia Smriti Club clinched the championship in the first Mayor Gold Cup cricket tournament. The winners defeated Provati Sangha by 86 runs in the final match at Rajshahi Government College playground yesterday.

Pakistan win rivals' war

CHENNAI, Mar 27: In the tussle for supremacy between the two hockey sub-continental giants, Pakistan scored twice without reply in the second half to drub an injury plagued India and clinch the glittering Pepsi Gold Cup winning the eight-match series 4-3, reports PTI.

The Indian dominated first half was barren and the visitors took the lead through Babar Abdullah in 45th minute. Tahir Zaman made it 2-0 in the 55th minute. Both the goals were scored by the Indian defence with intelligent moves.

More than India's defeat, the hosts' lack of form, style, assessment and calculations came as a disappointment to the almost packed stadium. India failed to cash in despite their dominance in the first half as they were not swift in their passes and acting captain Mukesh Kumar was seen carrying the ball a little too long inside the circle.

Pakistan's win was made possible mainly because of fewer mistakes than committed as compared to India. Who were indulged in wrong passes and lack of positional play.

India's chief coach Vasudevan Bhaskaran said, "We played well today despite Pilla's absence. But Pakistan's first goal against the run of play with the ball going off Baljit Singh Saini's stick put the rivals in some sort of command." Commencement of the match was delayed by over 10 minutes as the synthetic turf needed more watering as it had totally dried up. The rival players found some difficulty in trapping the ball as the turf became too bumpy.



A triumphant Pakistan captain Tahir Zaman lifts the Pepsi Gold Cup after his team has won the eight-match hockey series against arch-rivals India at Chennai on Mar 26. Pakistan beat India 2-0 in the last match to clinch the series 4-3. —AP/UNB photo

Mike left out of warm-up tie

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 27: Michael Atherton, who resigned as England captain after their 3-1 Test series defeat against the West Indies, has been left out of the one-day team for a warm-up match today, reports Reuters.

Although Atherton will not take part in the warm-up game against the Vice Chancellor's XI at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown. He has been told he could still play in the five-match one-day series if England run into trouble.

"No one is left out of consideration completely," Adam Holloake, England's skipper for the one-day series, said on Thursday.

"It is great to have Mike's experience in the squad and if our batsmen run up against a problem with the West Indies fast bowlers he is the sort of player we will need as back-up." The only change anticipated on Sunday when the first one-day international is played at the Kensington Oval is the return of left-handed batsman Graham Thorpe in place of medium-pace bowler Angus Fraser. Thorpe is currently nursing a stiff back.

Under Holloake's leadership, England beat the West Indies in the final of the Sharjah Champions Trophy competition late last year. "I hope we can revive the spirit of Sharjah," said Holloake.

"If we do well in this competition I hope to be chosen as captain for the Texaco trophy one-day matches against South Africa in England in May."

Brian born to be boss?

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 27 (Reuters): Heated debate over the merits of Brian Lara's captaincy continues in the Caribbean despite West Indies 3-1 series victory over England.

Lara was handed the leadership after West Indies under Courtney Walsh were white-washed 3-0 in Pakistan, and his start by any standards is impressive.

But Lara still has his critics who claim ill-judged tactics by England in the second Test at Queen's Park Oval gave West Indies victory.

For their part, England players believe the West Indies victory in the fourth Test at Georgetown, Guyana was due to Lara winning the toss on a pitch which spinners in the latter stages.

England were also favourites to win the fifth Test when heavy rain washed out most of the final day while winning the toss was crucial again in Antigua when Lara was able to put England in on a lively pitch, bowl them out for 127 and score 500 for seven declared in the best batting conditions of the match.

Lara did not call up Curtly Ambrose more often on his home track at Antigua Recreation Ground. Ambrose bowled only 37 overs in the Test, 20 fewer than Courtney Walsh, and did not bowl a ball in the last 50 overs.

On the other hand, it was Lara's decision to switch Walsh to the pavilion and that brought Walsh a sequence of three wickets for four runs in eight balls that wound up the Test with just 40 balls left.

Three men who should know claim Lara is a natural skipper. "He is the best in the Caribbean and he must be West Indies captain," wrote Colin Croft, fast bowler turned writer and broadcaster, before Lara's appointment.

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Champs stay a step ahead

LONDON, March 27: It was a disappointing night for most of the 12 World Cup qualifiers playing warm-up internationals on Wednesday, with victories for only three of them, reports Reuters.

The only victorious teams were world champions Brazil, who beat fellow qualifiers Germany 2-1 in Stuttgart, Spain, who crushed Sweden 4-0 in Vigo, and Denmark, who beat Scotland 1-0 at Trox Park in Glasgow where Brian Ladrup performed the unusual feat of scoring the winner for the away team on his club's home pitch.

England, Jamaica, Norway and Belgium all drew, while there were defeats for World Cup hosts France, Bulgaria and Australia.

a third-minute goal from Sergei Yuran, pouncing on a blunder by French reserve goalkeeper Lionel Letizi.

Letizi allowed Yuran to dispossess him on a backpass and slot home from close range.

England also benefited from a goalkeeper trying to secure a 1-1 draw with Switzerland in Bern.

The visitors, trailing to a 37th-minute header from English-based Ramon Vega, who crushed Sweden 4-0 in Vigo, and Denmark, who beat Scotland 1-0 at Trox Park in Glasgow where Brian Ladrup performed the unusual feat of scoring the winner for the away team on his club's home pitch.

Germany central defender Juergen Kohler was sent off after 35 minutes for a vicious tackle on defender Caufu, while Brazilian captain Dunga was redcarded in the 57th minute for a second bookable offence.

Brazil took the lead after 27 minutes when Cesar Sampaolo headed home a Roberto Carlos corner. Germany equalised in the 65th with a fine goal from substitute Ulf Kirsten, who weaved through the Brazil defence to score.

France, the World Cup hosts, went down to a disappointing defeat in Russia, who won with 2-1.



Brazil's ace striker Romario (No 11) is dispossessed off the ball by Germany's Christian Woernis (L) during a World Cup warm-up match at Stuttgart on March 25. Brazil won 2-1. —AP/UNB photo

Catching in the dark!

LONDON, Mar 27: Learning to catch cricket balls in the dark could brighten England's Test hopes in the future, English psychologists claimed today, reports AFP.

Researchers have found that catching skills can be improved by practising in a blacked-out room lit only by ultra-violet light.

The catcher sees nothing but the glowing ball and is not distracted by anything else in his or her field of vision.

As a result, say the researchers, attention is focused fully on the sources of information relevant to catching.

Dr Simon Bennett, from Manchester Metropolitan University, said subjects who took part in trials in which they were thrown 30 balls from a tennis machine improved their catch success rate from six to 22 after practising for a number of sessions in conditions of interspersed light and dark.

When they practised only in the light they could not manage more than an average of 18 catches. Catching practise held only in the dark was not as successful as that held in alternate light/dark conditions, however.

Presenting his findings at the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton, Dr Bennett said: "One explanation for this phenomenon is that in normal light there's lots of information, much of which is distracting, such as the background and movement and things picked up in the peripheral vision."

"By removing these sources of distraction you are directing the subject to the information relevant to improving his skills."

Alec, bookies choice

LONDON, Mar 27: Alec Stewart emerged on Wednesday as the British bookmakers favourite to take over from Michael Atherton as England cricket captain, reports AFP.

Coral reported a flood of money pouring on Stewart to be in charge when England take on South Africa this summer.

The heavy betting clearly suggests that the cricketing public believe Stewart is the man for the job, said a spokesperson for Coral.

They immediately cut his odds to 5-6 favourite from 7-4 leaving current vice-captain Nasser Hussain unchanged at 9-4 and easing Mark Ramprakash out to 9-2.

Atherton remains a 10-1 chance in case he performs a takeover about turn and one-day captain Adam Holloake is 8-1.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Engineer

Construction & Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 105-106, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/Revenue/Bid-01/98/442 Dated: 15-3-98

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

- 1. Bids sealed covers for certain packages of works of Health and Family Welfare Facilities under GOB Revenue Budget are hereby invited in different packages by CMMU, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Contractors pre-qualified for GOB Revenue Budget works in CMMU may participate in bidding for works. Those bidders who would be selected for works under GOB Revenue Budget against bid wide Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/Revenue/Bid-01/98/148 dated: 28-01-98 as well as the contractors who have work(s) in hand under CMMU having progress lower than 80% would not be eligible for participation in this bid.

The Daily Star TV Guide

TV Guide listings for Saturday 28th March. Channels include BTV, CHANNEL V, STAR MOVIES, ZEE INDIA TV, DD 7, ZEE TV, ZEE CINEMA, ESPN, MUSIC ASIA, TNT CARTOON. Programs include The World in 80 Days, Khabrain, Zee Business News, 7-30 Kahane, 8:00 Scooby & Scrappy, etc.