

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Stephen Waugh

(Australia's one-day cricket team captain) "It was good to win, more so because we could do what we had aimed to. We had just about everything planned out for the day, like going around the wicket to Sachin and bowling because our bowlers did as directed, we final ourselves on the winning side."

After lifting the Pepsi tri-nation series in India.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-94

Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm on May 15, 1998

- 1. Jahangir Talukdar Dulu plays (competitive) Football Cricket Tennis
2. In how many stadia World Cup '98 will be held 9 10 11
3. Gordon Greenidge was a Bowler Batsman Wicketkeeper
4. Bangladesh's current FIFA ranking is 138th 142nd 148th
5. Bangladesh U-16 football team scored 11 goals against Nepal Sri Lanka Guam

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a 'CRYPTOQUIP' section with a grid and clues.

3 advance to zonal semis

Sports Reporter

Faridpur, Kushtia and Dinajpur moved into the zonal semifinals of the 24th national cricket championship winning their respective matches in different venues across the country yesterday.

Faridpur registered a convincing five-wicket victory over Bogra at the Sathkira Stadium. Chasing a moderate Bogra total of 160 in 50 overs, middle order batsmen Towhid and Asad Hammeder unbeaten half centuries as Faridpur sailed home (162/5) with more than eighteen overs to spare.

Towhid scored an undefeated 57 while Asad was not out on 53.

Earlier, opting to bat after

BABF refs' clinic

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation (BABF) has arranged a four-day referees' clinic at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium from May 14.

Participants have been asked to be present at the gym at 5 pm.

winning the toss, Bogra were all out for 160 in 43.1 overs in the face of some inspirational bowling from Biplab and Rahat. Biplab, the wrecker-in-chief, finished with 4 for 25 while Rahat captured three wickets for 15 runs.

Mukhes (29) and Mopesh (25) were the only two notable batsmen for Bogra.

In the two-day semifinal scheduled on May 7 and 8, Faridpur will face Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at the same venue.

Away in Thakurgaon, an all-round performance from Gora helped Dinajpur to post an identical win over Panchagarh.

Gora, who captured four wickets for only six runs in the morning session to help his side book Panchagarh to a paltry 113 in 33 overs, then went on to score 25 as Dinajpur reached 114 for five in only 22.1 overs. Haider Ali scored highest 38.

Dinajpur will take on either Jamalpur or Rangpur in the semifinal starting at the same venue from May 7.

In the other match of the day, Kushtia outplayed Jahangirnagar University by seven wickets at the Bogra Stadium.

Chasing a small Jahangirnagar's debacle, Dinajpur total of 126 in 50 overs. Sumon hammered 51 as Kushtia reached their target (127) losing three wickets and with 16 overs to spare.

Earlier, Jahangirnagar University were bundled out for 126 in 35.5 overs. Sajjad, the man behind Jahangirnagar's debacle, captured five for 35 runs while Ahmed Kamal took two wickets for 20 runs.

The winners will meet either Natore or Tangail in the two-day long semifinal scheduled to begin from May 7.

Open TT from June 1

Sports Reporter The open table tennis tournament, an annual event of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), will be held at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium from June 1 to 4.

Paddlers have been asked to complete their entry formalities at the BTTF office at the Dhaka Stadium until May 25.

The entry fees for singles and doubles have been fixed at Tk 25 and 50 respectively.

Juve zero in on to title

Gunners best in England

UNDATED, May 4 (Reuters): An eventful weekend across Europe saw two more league championships decided in England and Germany, another familiar scene in Italy and a party in France.

ENGLAND: Arsenal were crowned English champions for the 11th time on Sunday when they beat relegation-threatened Everton 4-0, clinching the first half of a possible league and cup double.

An own goal by Everton defender Slaven Bilic, two goals from Dutchman Marc Overmars and a late strike from Tony Adams secured the London Club an unbeatable tally of 78 points with two matches still to play.

Last season's champions Manchester United, their only challengers, cannot finish with more than 77 points.

Arsenal will clinch their second double after 1971 if they beat Newcastle United in the FA Cup final on May 16. Their most recent title successes were in 1995 and 1991.

French coach Arsene Wenger became the first foreign coach to lead a club to the English title.

The result left Everton, European Cup Winners' champions in 1985, in serious danger of being relegated.

GERMANY: Kaiserslautern sealed a historic German First Division title in style on Sunday with a 4-0 demolition of

lowly VfL Wolfsburg. They delighted the 38,000 fans packing their Betzenberg stadium with an impressive display of attacking football to



An ecstatic Patrick Vieira of Arsenal proudly lifts the Premier league trophy after the Gunners won 4-0 against Everton in London on May 3 thus confirming the championship. -AP/UNB photo

make sure of becoming the first promoted club to win the title since the Bundesliga started in 1963.

Their win opened an unassailable lead of four points over defending champions Bayern Munich, who could manage only a dull goalless draw away to MSV Duisburg.

ITALY: Juventus moved to within a single victory of their 25th Italian championship on Sunday with a 0-0 draw at Vicenza.

With second-placed Inter Milan missing the chance to close the four-point gap at the top of Serie A with a scoreless draw at home to Piacenza, Juve need only to defeat Bologna next week in their penultimate match to clinch the title.

Inter, for whom victory would have reopened the door to the title after last week's 1-0 defeat to Juve were left to rue misfortune, brilliant goalkeeping and, again, poor refereeing.

Romaldo, in inspired form in the first half, and Argentine Diego Simeone both hit the post, while Piacenza goalkeeper Matteo Sereni performed superbly.

But Inter's draw means the club will at least finish second guaranteeing a place in next season's Champions League.

FRANCE: Rai and Marco Simone scored two fine goals as Paris at Germain won their second successive final at the Stade de France to lift the French Cup on Saturday with a 2-1 victory over RC Lens.

The pair also scored both goals when PSG won the League Cup a month ago in the first final played at France's new World Cup stadium. They beat Girondins Bordeaux on penalties on that occasion following a 2-2 draw after extra time.

The result was particularly sweet for Rai, as the long-serving Brazilian intends to return home to Sao Paulo at the season.

SPAIN: Brazilian midfielder Juninho played his first game on Sunday after three months out with a broken leg but was unable to stop Atletico Madrid losing 2-1 at Mallorca.

The result left Atletico in eighth place, at least two points adrift of Spain's UEFA Cup places.

Two goals from Nigerian international Gheorge Hincal and another from Spain's national team regular Alfonso Perez gave Betis a 3-1 away victory over champions FC Barcelona.

Betis, battling for a place in next season's UEFA Cup, came back from behind to beat Barcelona who are already savouring their fourth league and cup double.

Athletic de Bilbao leapfrogged over Real Madrid into second spot with a 3-0 victory at home to humble Oviedo.

Cricketers put mind before body

Sports Reporter National cricketers, limbering up for the forthcoming tri-nation one-day tournament in India, underwent a prolonged meditation session at the cricketers' lounge of the Bangladesh National Stadium yesterday.

The mind-grooming course, put into practice for the first time, was conducted by Hamid Quazi drew mixed reaction from the cricketers.

While some termed it as an "excellent experience" others found the strenuous session rather taxing. By and large everyone seemed to have enjoyed the 'Silva method', which Mr. Quazi assured would help the players "tremendously".

The closed-door session which started at nine in the morning continued till eight in the evening. Over 15 million followers across the world and an estimated fifty thousand in Bangladesh consider the Silva Method, marketed by Isometric Limited of the United States, as a successful method of achieving mental toughness.

The four-day programme will continue till May 8, two days before the scheduled departure of the Bangladesh team for India.

In imparting the course, Mr. Quazi was fulfilling his earlier pledge of offering his services free to the national cricketers if Bangladesh lifted the ICC trophy.

Bangladesh along with Kenya and the fancied hosts are taking part in the day-night over-limit tournament, to be played at seven different venues across India.

In the double-leg league, Bangladesh will appear in their first match against India on the inaugural day at Mohali on May 14.

The final will be held at the Eden Gardens in Calcutta on June 1.

Juvenile cricket Agragamee win low-scoring tie

Sports Reporter Agragamee Sangsad extended their unbeaten run to six when the juvenile selection from Shilligur, India, recorded a comprehensive 41-run win over Combined Eleven at the Bangladesh National Stadium yesterday.

The visitors, in defence of a not-so-impressive total of 105 all out in 36.5 overs, lifted their bowling and fielding to magnificent in bundling out the local outfit for a meagre 64 runs in 34 overs.

On a dicey wicket, Agragamee, sent into bat by the homeside, crawled to a modest total with their skipper Sumonta Chatterjee notching highest 20 runs. Kamal and Bikranjit made useful contributions of 16 runs apiece.

Combined Eleven, a conglomeration of players from different districts, lost half their wickets for only 26 runs from where they never recovered.

Sumonta, who led his side from the front with the willow, did one better with the cherry, claiming two wickets for only 14 runs in his seven niggling overs. Leg spinner Ratnes, who did the mop-up operation, finished with two for 18 in his six overs.

The Shilligur outfit is now in Bangladesh on a two-week tour for a series of exhibition matches against different local selections.

Unsporting! JAKARTA, May 4: Indonesian security forces fired a warning shot and released tear gas to calm tens of thousands of football fans angered by the loss of their team, injuring 22 people, a press report said today, reports AFP.

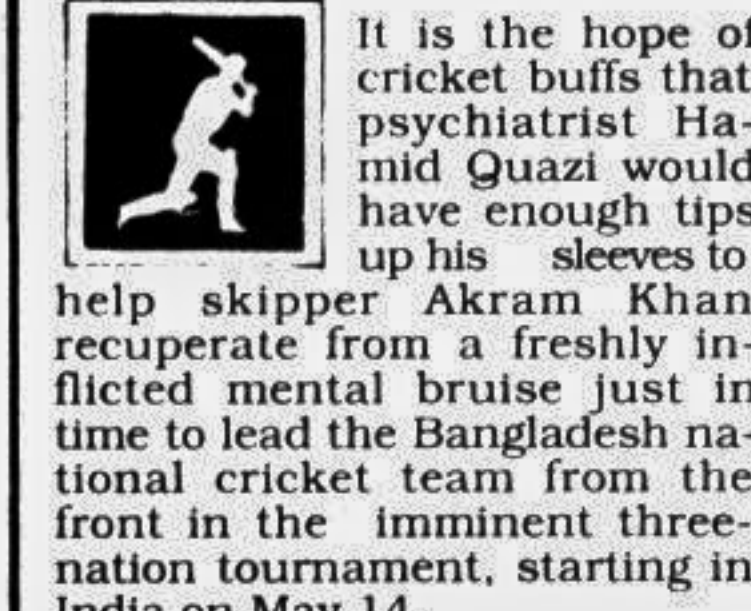
The action was taken against supporters of East Java team Persebaya who threw rocks at opposing fans and police leaving 20 people and two police injured, the Kompas daily reported.

We had to act firmly because the Persebaya supporters were brutally, local military chief Major Masrumsyah was quoted as saying by the daily.

Persebaya lost 2-1 to west Java club Tangerang.

Weight', Akram & Hira

Syed Ashfaul Haque



S H HIRA

It is the hope of cricket buffs that psychiatrist Hamid Quazi would have enough tips up his sleeves to help skipper Akram Khan recuperate from a freshly inflicted mental bruise just in time to lead the Bangladesh national cricket team from the front in the imminent tri-nation tournament, starting in India on May 14.

Ironically the bruise was caused by none other than Shafiqul Haq Hira, a senior member in the selection committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). A usually reticent Shafiq made the most irresponsible, objectionable comment on Akram, who led Bangladesh to ICC Trophy victory last year, while defending the controversial BCB policy of not sharing selection matters with either the captain or the coach.

The national wicketkeeper-turned-selector did not hesitate to berate Akram in an attempt to uphold Board's tight-lipped policy. Board may take pride

in the foolish endeavour of one of its ultra 'loyal' members but the outrageous comment has triggered widespread criticism. Many feel the skipper and his team have been dealt with a crippling blow even before the tournament has actually begun.

"At this moment our captain does not carry that much weight (significance) which is worthwhile," Shafiqul wised up a Daily Star correspondent recently. What could be more shocking for a skipper to be dubbed as a man of no significance after all those years of sincere service?

If Akram is so draffish, why on earth the very capable selectors have retained him as skipper over a period of more than four years? Doesn't it expose the inefficiency of the selectors?

Shafiqul, oblivious to the reality, went on to say, "He (Akram) is not an Azharuddin (the Indian captain). He is still in the process of learning."

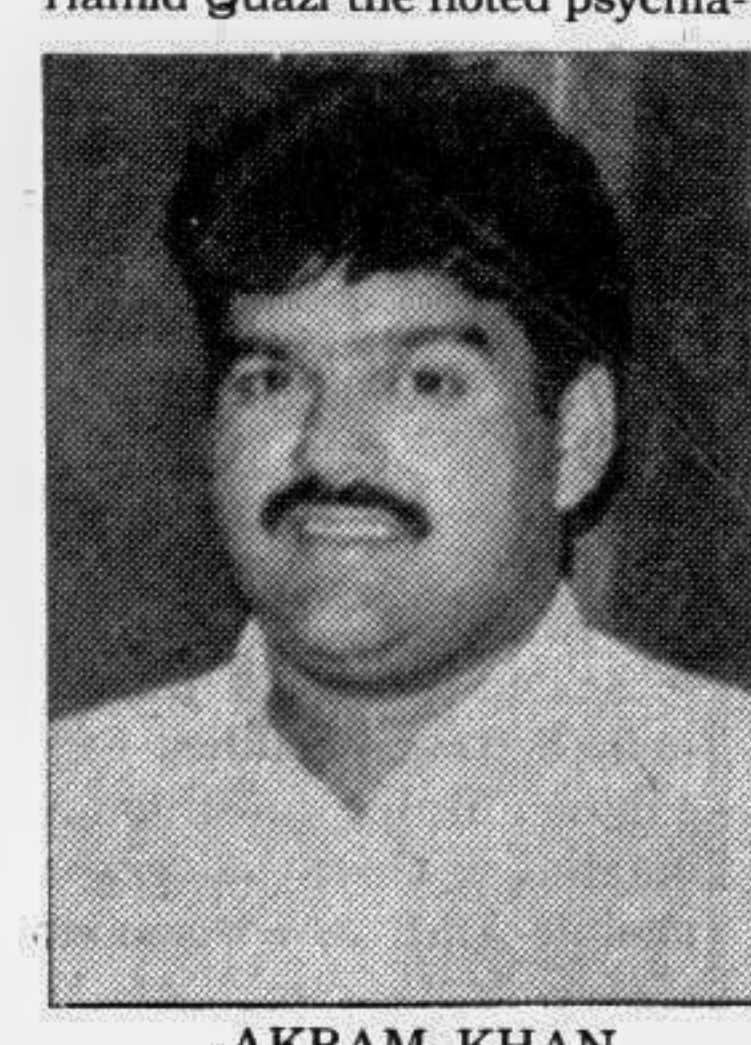
In one sense, he was right. At least, he uttered a universal truth. As Akram is not Azharuddin, Shafiqul himself is no Syed Kirmani, the famous Indian wicketkeeper. Besides, it is also very true that Akram has got more significance than that of Shafiqul in the cricket of Bangladesh.

In the Test-playing countries, captains and coaches are invited to express their observations and suggestions in front of the selection panel. Captain and coach, who know better than anybody about what they need, help the selectors a lot in picking up the best possible side.

Responding to the course of the event, the mild-mannered Bangladesh captain, however, very aptly said, "It's unfortunate that I'm not being consulted. Since they're not considering me before any selec-

tion, it would be decent and logical of them to cop the flak in case of a debacle.

Psychiatrists play a pivotal role in the highly demanding, competitive game of cricket. In these days it has become a necessity to have a specialist psychiatrist in the team to bring the best out of every player. BCB has arranged four intensive Silva Meditation sessions for the cricketers, courtesy Abdul Hamid Quazi the noted psychia-



AKRAM KHAN

trist, better known as Mahi Quazi abroad who has consented to do the job free of cost as part of his pledge for the national team following its success in Malaysia last year. He hopes players will be in totally different shape of mind on completion of this course.

We also hope so. But training players' minds to a new high of performance may not be Dr. Quazi's only job. As a keen follower of the game had thought aloud at the Dhaka Stadium the other day, Mahi Quazi should also consider providing free meditation course to some eccentric selectors of BCB.

Saudis want to go a step further

RIYADH, May 4: (Reuters): Saudi Arabia are confident they can improve on their USA '94 showing in the World Cup in France - but confidence has never been a problem with the Asian team.

Four years ago the Saudis arrived in the US brimming with self-belief, upset Morocco and Belgium and gave the Netherlands a fright on their way to the second round. With talk of "going all the way" the bubble burst as they lost to eventual finalists Sweden and went home disappointed.

Their 1994 star was Saed Owairan, whose goal after a run the length of the pitch against Belgium was one of the highlights of the tournament.

This time round the Saudis are pinning their hopes on slimline striker Sami Al-Jaber and Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira the man who led Brazil to victory in the 1994.

The Saudis also have a superb goalkeeper in the athletic Mohammed Al-Daeeya.

They may well need him in a testing Group C where they face France, Denmark and South Africa.

Saudi Arabia generally play a 4-2 formation, relying on the pacey Al-Jaber and prolific scorer Fahad Mehalhel to provide the attacking punch.

Dashing midfielder Owairan returns to the squad after a one-year suspension but has yet to reach this form of old.

Parreira is fully aware that the 1994 performance was a double-edged sword, creating massive expectations this time around.

"Everyone goes crazy about the World Cup, people get obsessed," he admitted.

The Saudis entered qualifying bolstered by their 1996 Asian Cup win under Portuguese coach Eduardo Vinada.

However, Vingada was sacked during the second phase of qualifying for France in the

wake of a 1-0 defeat to China and replaced by German Otto Pfister.

The Saudis were impressive overall, topping their first round group with ease and seeing off Iran, China, Qatar and Kuwait to clinch their place in France by topping their second round group.

In 14 matches they won nine and lost only two, with inspirational goalscorer Khalid Al-Muwallid, a veteran of USA '94, instrumental in their success.

Last December's Confederations' Cup performances were less convincing, however.

A 3-0 defeat by Brazil was

followed by a 5-0 thrashing by Mexico, and even a 1-0 win over Australia couldn't hide the fact that the Saudis, who were hosting that tournament, had plenty of work to do head of France.

All-round, the squad is stronger than in 1994, having benefited notably from the coaching skills of the experienced Pfister.

Saudi Arabia's traditionally jumpy soccer federation officials, worried about the team's inconsistency and its weak defence, nonetheless replaced the German coach with the more celebrated and experienced Par-

reira, who will be taking charge of his fourth different country in a World Cup finals this summer.

Saudi Arabia are one of the top teams in Asia and, along with fellow finalists Iran, are the only nation to win the Asian Cup three times.

Yet unlike Iran, Saudi's top players have not chosen to go abroad to play in stronger leagues.

The incentive to leave is not great, Saudi Arabia's soccer federation spares nothing in providing for its players and the country boasts some of the best soccer infrastructure in Asia.

It is not uncommon for national team players to be showered with lavish gifts after good performances. One Saudi prince reportedly presented each player a new Mercedes after the team qualified for the 1994 World Cup.

The major weakness is the defensive line where much will depend on Ahmad Madani and Mohammed Al-Khilaifi. The anchors who were generally disappointing in qualifying.

The goals also dried up in the latter part of the qualifying rounds, a worrying development going into a tournament boasting better-disciplined defences than they usually face.

Parreira will be hoping a May training camp in France and several high-quality friendly matches, including Mexico in Paris and England at Wembley, can ensure the team is ready for its World Cup run.

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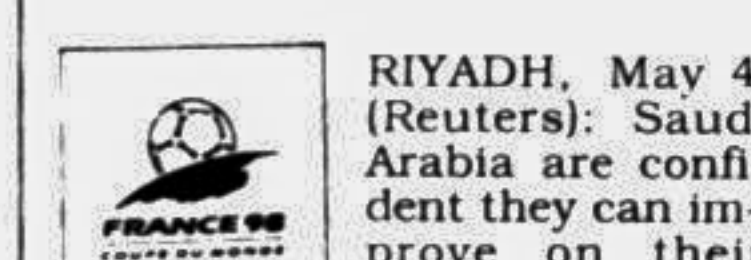
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Tuesday 5th May

(All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.)
3:00 Opening Announcement
Al-Quran, Programme summary
3:12 Recitation from the Geeta
3:15 Patriotic songs 3:20 Sports programme 4:00 The News
4:05 Hizol Tomal 4:50 Education programme 5:15 Open University 6:00 Protests 6:30 The News 6:40 Health programme 7:00 Sangheta 7:25 Bartha Bhawari 8:00 News in Bangla 8:30 Fire Dehka 9:00 Drama serial 10:00 News in English 10:30 Gites Bilchitra 11:30 The News 11:40 Tuesday's programme

BTV

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CHANNEL V

6:00 Turn On T [V] 6:30 VHS, V Hour Special 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:30 Turn On T [V] 9:30 House Arrest 10:00 Turn On T [V] 1:30 By Demand VJ Trey 2:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 3:00 The Indian Top 10 4:00 Turn On T [V] 4:30 Volume Double 5:30 Turn On T [V] 6:30 By Demand VJ Trey 7:30 Liberty-First Day First Show 8:00 House Arrest 8:30 Turn On TV 9:00 Simply South 9:30 Turn On TV 10:00 Liberty-First Day First Show 10:30 Turn On T [V] 11:30 Rewind Special 12:00 Turn On T [V] 2:30 By Demand VJ Trey 3:30 Turn On T [V] 4:00 Speak Easy 4:30 Turn On TV 5:00 The Drum

PTV

8:00 Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd / Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Beauty Care 8:50 Fun Kadha 9:10 Dhanak & Health Tips 10:05 Har Taan Hey Deokok 10:30 English Film: Nagma Improvement 10:55 Milli Nagma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Serial 12:00 Sports Hour 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 The Science Show 2:00 Yeh Jahan (Music video) 2:25 Animated Classics 3:15 Geography & Sammar school 4:20 Mitti Sona 5:00 Allah Huma Labbaik 5:25 Serial 6:25 Aiu Courses 7:00 Serial 7:45 English News 8:15 UN Quiz 8:45 Serial 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabrain & Commercial News & Khushal Pakistan 11:20 VCD Top Ten (Pakistani Video

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 Zee News - Hindi 8:00 Zee News - Hindi 9:30 Zee News - Eng 10:00 Positive Health Show 10:30 Naye Nagmeen 11:00 Hum Zameen 11:30 Zee News Update 11:50 Zee Business News 12:00 Boornvita Quiz Contest 12:30 Hasen Pal (Trailer Show) 1:00 Zee Business Show 1:30 Zee News - Hindi Bulletin 2:00 Hindi Film 5:00 Zed 5:30 Jagran 6:00 Ghoomta Aana 6:30 Insight 7:30 Hasen Pal (Trailer Show) 7:30 The Sholgun Show / Best of India 8:00 Aap Ki Adalat Aap Ki Faisla 8:30 Zee News - Hindi 9:30 Zee News - Hindi 9:30 Zee News - Hindi 10:00 Zee News Round Up 1:30 Boornvita Quiz Contest 2:00 Zee News - Hindi 2:20 Zee Face To Face 2:30 positive Health Show 3:00 Zee News - Hindi 3:30 Help Line 4:00

MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 B &