

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-100

3 Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm,
Aug 7, '98, and draw shortly
afterwards

1 Who won the 'Golden Boot' in France '98?	Suker	Vieri	Ronaldo
2 Who won France '98?	Croatia	France	Brazil
3 Who was the captain of Argentina at France '98?	Ortega	Veron	Simone
4 What was Holland's position in France '98?	Third	Fourth	Fifth
5 Michael Owen plays for	L'pool	M United	Arsenal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



GIRL POWER: American Federation Cup quartet of (L-R) Corina Moriari, Monica Seles, Lisa Raymond and Mary Joe Fernandez arriving for an official photo session at the Neptuno Fountain in Madrid on July 23. — AFP photo

Hingis, player-in-charge

SION, Switzerland, July 24: World number one Martina Hingis will lead the strongly favoured Swiss on home clay against defending champion France on Saturday in a Federation Cup World Group semifinal, reports AP.

But the Swiss teenager will get plenty of help from up-and-coming Patty Schnyder, who has actually outshone her teammate so far this season winning five titles.

"The bar is very high," said French captain Yannick Noah, who guided France to the title last year. "We are facing a team that has the world No. 1 and a player who just won two tournaments back-to-back. The team will also benefit from the support of 8,000 spectators."

The Swiss are the first to admit they have the upper hand.

"We're the favourites," said Hingis, who trails Schnyder with just four titles to her name this year. "I'm No. 1 and Patty just won her fifth title of the year. For us it's this year or never."

France's task has been made even tougher in the absence of its two best clay-court players — world No. 13 Sandrine Testud and No. 14 Mary Pierce.

Disliking Pierce's attitude in previous Fed Cup ties, Noah refused to reinstate the former Australian Open champion. Team veteran Testud, who won France's decisive match in its final against the Dutch last

year, is nursing the ankle she sprained in Palermo last week.

Instead, France will lean heavily on world No. 10 Nathalie Tauziat, who lost to Jana Novotna in the final at Wimbledon this year.

Notoriously weak on clay, Tauziat is unlikely to inspire fear among the Swiss. Each of Switzerland's players has beaten the 30-year-old this year, including Swiss No. 3 Emmanuelle Gagliardi.

Noah, who refused to reveal the rest of his line-up until the last possible moment on Friday, will likely choose to fill out his team with world No. 34 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 36 Julie Halard-Decugis, seriously plagued by injury the last two years, and doubles specialist Alexandra Fusai, ranked 40 in both singles and doubles.

The only slight concern on the Swiss side are Hingis' scanty tennis schedule these past weeks and Schnyder's heavily loaded one.

"When you're winning, fatigue doesn't exist," said world No. 11 Schnyder, who just played 14 matches over the past two weeks. "In Austria as in

Sicily, I never had to exceed my limits."

Hingis, on the other hand, has not played since she was eliminated in the semifinals of Wimbledon by Novotna. Taking a week off to follow the World Cup finals in Paris, the 17-year-old returned to Zurich only last week to resume training.

"It won't be anything like the tie against Argentina last year in Zurich," Hingis predicted. "I don't think the load on our shoulders is exactly crushing."

"However slim the odds might be for his team, Noah is still optimistic."

"It's my fifth tie in the Fed Cup and it's the first time we're facing an opponent stronger than us on paper," said Noah, who also led two French men's teams to Davis Cup triumphs.

"I don't need to motivate my players for this tie."

"They know that victory here would be more than delicious."

In the final on September 19-20, the winners will take on either the United States or Spain playing in the other semifinal in Madrid.

SPORTS TALK



Davor Suker
(Croatian superstriker)
"Taking the second penalty was very tough. My heart was beating fast."
After Croatia beat Romania.

WHIZZ KID-99

Boost winner
Rubina

Viqarunnissa Girls' High School.

(Please bring your ID card and a passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star on July 29 at 7:00 pm).

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

THE KEY IS TO PRESERVE ENTRIES TO THE DUMMY (Hand # 49)

North	♠ S XX	♥ H A 10 9 8 X	♦ D A X X	♣ C A X X
West	♠ S A Q 10 X X	♥ H K Q J X X X	♦ D X	♣ C X
East	♠ S K J 9 X	♥ H X X	♦ D X X X	♣ C Q X X X
South (D)	♠ S XX	♥ H -	♦ D K Q J 10 9 X	♣ C K J 10 9 X

BIDDING (East-West vulnerable)

South (Sayed)	West (Mazumder)	North (Akram)	East (Mizan)
2D*	2H	Double	Pass
3C	3S	4NT	Pass
5C	Pass	6D	Double
Pass	Pass	Pass	

South opened 2 Diamonds from two good suits but 10 HCP. With additional tens and nines in both the suits and Heart void he thought, they might have a game in either Diamond or Club. West overcalled 2H which was doubled by North for penalty. South felt uncomfortable with the double. Hence, he showed his second suit. West came back again in Spades but North with 3 Aces wanted to bid six which he did in spite of the fact that South did not have any Ace. North thought his partner was likely to have Spade King, and hence 6 Diamonds were there.

THE PLAY

South did not have a stopper in Spades, but like North, West also thought that South had it. As East doubled six Diamonds, West opened the King of Hearts which was taken with the Ace, a Spade loser was thrown on the Heart Ace. South led a small Diamond from dummy toward the King, and when West showed out on the Queen. South entered dummy with Club Ace and took the Club finesse. When it worked he entered dummy with the Ace of Diamond for another Club finesse. A careful play to preserve sufficient entries into dummy for Club finesse was necessary to bring home the slam contract.

East tried to tell West by doubling that he had the King of Spades and hence, a Spade lead was requested. West failed to get the message.

South planned very early in the game to place the Queen of clubs in East hand as West was unlikely to have too many losers in Clubs and Diamonds to bid Spades at three level once he was doubled in two Hearts.

Change in qtrs

WASHINGTON, July 24: Not even a rainstorm could cool Michael Chang in the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, reports AP.

The top-seeded Chang cruised to his 14th straight victory Thursday at the Fitzgerald Tennis Centre with a 6-4, 6-1 third-round victory over Martin Damm of the Czech Republic.

A two-time Legg Mason defending champion, Chang also won two singles matches here last September in a Davis Cup semifinal against Australia.

"DC's been a good place for me. I feel comfortable with the courts, the setting and the crowd support," Chang said.

Chang was serving for the first set at 5-3 when a flash of lightning caught the players' attention. Damm broke Chang as play continued to the sound of not-so-distant thunder.

During the changeover at 5-4 the storm hit and play was delayed for almost 90 minutes. Chang broke Damm's service after the delay to win the first set and then cruised to victory in the second set.

Playing in much cooler conditions after the storm, unseeded Sebastian Lareau of Canada, sixth-seed Vincent Spadea and seventh-seed Jim Courier advanced with third-round victories.

Courier took care of Davis Cup teammate Justin Gimelstob 6-3, 6-4 and will face Chang in a

quarterfinal Friday.

Advancing earlier Thursday were third-seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, fifth-seed Filip DeWulf of Belgium and 14th-seed Scott Draper of Australia.

Draper beat fourth-seed Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-2, 6-4. The left-hander from Brisbane had bounced Byron's brother, Wayne, out of the tournament in the second round.

Ferreira took care of his second straight crowd-pleaser. On Tuesday Ferreira stopped the comeback of Jimmy Arias and on Wednesday he ended the run of qualifier David Caldwell, who grew up in Richmond, Virginia.

Caldwell couldn't handle Ferreira's serve, which clocked 123 mph.

Caldwell, 0-5 on the Tour before his two victories this week, fell 7-5, 6-3.

Second-seed Andre Agassi played a third-round match later Thursday night.

Redknapp still out of action

LIVERPOOL, July 24: England midfielder Jamie Redknapp has undergone further surgery on the knee that ruled him out of the World Cup and may miss the start of the new season, reports Reuters.

The Liverpool player went under the knife on Thursday in a bid to sort out a cartilage tear in his left knee and is expected to be out of action for three weeks.

WHIZZ KID-99 correct answers

- How many goals has Del Piero scored at France '98? Ans: 0
- How many times have Uruguay won the World Cup? Ans: Twice
- Who was the highest scorer in Italia '90? Ans: Schilachi
- Who scored highest number of goals for Holland in France '98? Ans: Bergkamp
- How many ODI centuries has Tendulkar scored so far? Ans: 17

Reader's Opinion

Who was the winner in France '98?

Everyone is asking the same question, what happened to Brazil? Pessimists would like to accuse the players for being insincere, the skeptic would smell corruption or some kind of "European conspiracy", and there must also be the minority of optimists who would like to believe that 3-0 defeat against France was nothing but a momentary aberration. The big question, how could the USA '94 champions go down so meekly?

USA '94 was not won by a dazzling Brazilian team, such as those of 1982 and 1986, but by a dull and uninteresting one. But the supporters were content; success after 24 years was the only consideration, everything else seemed unimportant.

One wonders what are the differences and similarities between that Brazilian team of USA '94 and the team this time. The difference was basically in defence, this time the defence was not as neat as it was in '94. As for the similarities, there are many and these are quite significant too. Even this Brazil didn't bother much about their midfield, and most importantly there was little change in their approach towards the game. It was Roberto Carlos and Cafu, the wing-backs, and at times Dunga near the 18-yard box, who would try to find Ronaldo

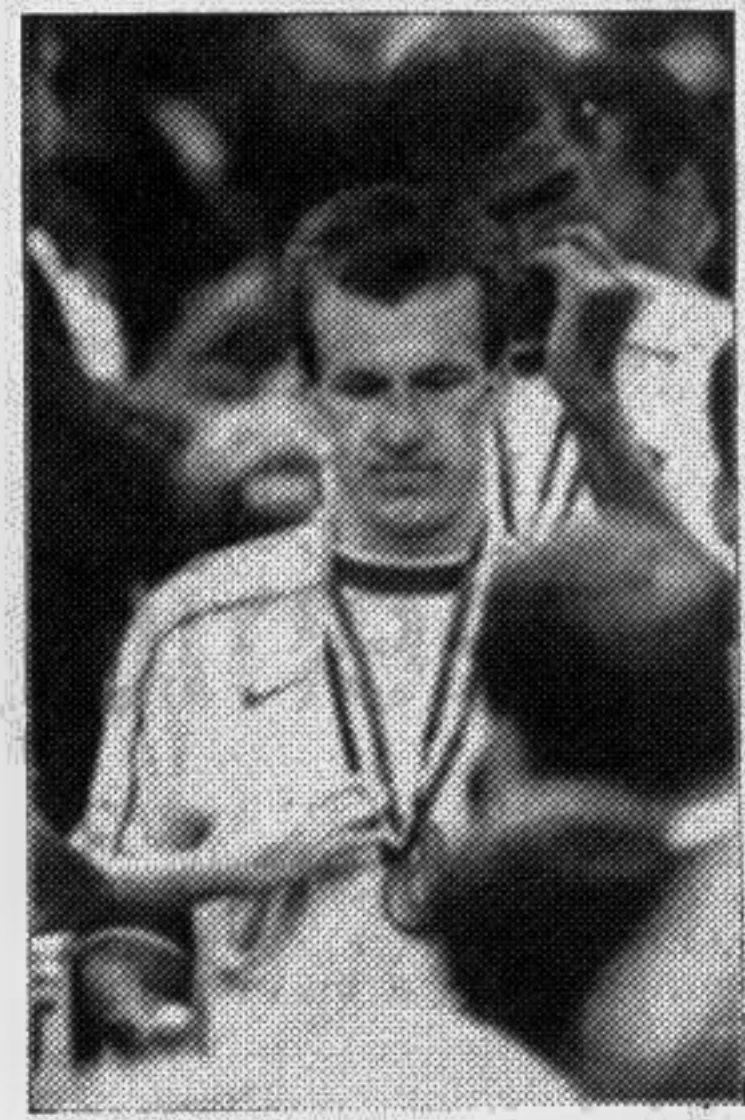
or Bebeto up-front. Only occasionally did we see Rivaldo trying to initiate an attack from the midfield.

The upshot of all these was that with a relatively weak defence and with no serious ambition to play attacking, Brazil failed to dominate in most of their matches. Using wingers extensively can be quite effective as is displayed by Holland who used specialised wingers. But using wing-backs as the main source of attack, as Brazil did, has a serious flaw; after running some 60 odd metres of distance the player can't put a decent cross most of the time. It therefore becomes virtually impossible to keep a constant pressure on the opponent. Why on earth then did Brazil adopt this tactic? Well, the wing-backs were brought in as a defensive measure because the coaches were afraid to use specialised wingers. Using wingers means you lose out in defence and you do it because you want to dominate the game, whereas using wing-backs means you are not ready to sacrifice your defence in any case but if attacking opportunities come by you would like to take it. It's simply a matter of attitude that is likely to be reflected in the team's overall approach to the game.

If you take a closer look you'll see that this strategy didn't really pay off. There were only two matches, namely those against Morocco and Chile, that Brazil really dominated the field. Among the four semifinalists, in their 5 matches till the quarter final, Brazil was the team with least number of attacks (13 goals from 31 attacks). France was the untidy side when it comes to scoring (10 goals from 68 attacks) but still with the highest number of attacks. Holland, and even Croatia, had more attacks to their credit than Brazil (Holland scored 11 goals from 53 efforts, and Croatia converted 8 of their 34 attacks into goals). It's true that till the semifinals Brazil was quite successful in scoring but their journey was far from comfortable, they had already conceded 5 goals by then. France, on the other hand, dominated all their matches; they were not being able to score was simply because their strikers were going through a bad patch, they missed at least half a dozen open-nets.

Italy was the only other team in the quarterfinal that didn't have a positive attitude and they couldn't advance any further. Brazil reached the final simply because their scoring efficiency was very high, otherwise they were hardly overwhelming for their opponents (in fact it was quite sad that Holland had to leave in a penalty shootout; they were the better side that day). France, despite their problems with the finishing touch, played purely attacking and dominated each and every match they played. They had an overcrowded midfield that served double duty — apart from creating numerous opportunities it hindered opponents' attacks right at the origin.

The author is a student of Dhaka University



THE FALLEN IDOL: A young fan touches the finalist medal of Brazilian team captain Dunga, followed by teammate Junior Baiano, after Brazil were defeated 0-3 by France during the final of the soccer World Cup '98 at Stade de France in Saint Denis on July 12. — AP/UNB photo

102 entries for US Open

WHITE PLAINS, New York, July 24: One hundred and two of the top 104 ranked men's players have entered the 1998 US Open tennis championships August 31 - September 13, tournament director Jay Snyder said Thursday, reports Reuters.

Leading the list of entries is world number one Pete Sampras, who will try to match Australian great Roy Emerson's all-time record of 12 Grand Slam singles titles and the Jimmy Connors' mark of five US Open singles titles in the Open era in the process.

The only men from the top 100 not entered in the Open are 62nd-ranked American Chris Woodruff, who is injured, and number 81 Boris Becker of Germany, who is retired from Grand Slam play.

Veron snaps back

BUENOS AIRES, July 24: Argentine midfielder Juan Veron accused journalists on Thursday of waging a vendetta against him, denying allegations he tested positive for cocaine and ecstasy before the World Cup, reports Reuters.

Veron, who had just been bought by Parma from Sampdoria for 20 million US dollars, said a radio report on Wednesday that he tested positive for the drugs in the season before the World Cup in France was false.

"They want to sink me. They can't stand the sight of me, especially after what happened with the journalists (at the World Cup)," Veron told local radio.

Veron played in all of Argentina's five matches, until they were knocked out in the quarter-finals by the Netherlands and had a tense relationship with the media.

Argentine Football Association president Julio Grondona declined to comment on the allegations about Veron.

"The test was carried out the season before the (World Cup) and although that gentleman's investigation has been very good, I don't have the right to say anything to anyone," Grondona said.

"The only thing I can say is that I am not obliged to say anything," he added.

Just before the finals, Argentina's team doctor said one

player from the squad had failed a medical screening in Buenos Aires for a banned substance. The player was not named.

Widespread rumours that one or more Argentine players had failed dope tests at the World Cup were denied by FIFA on July 2.

Cyclists protest

TARSCON-SUR-ARIEGE, France, July 24: Led by Laurent Jalabert, the Tour de France riders today refused to start the 12th stage of the race in protest against the on-going drugs scandal enveloping the sport, reports AFP.

Just minutes before the stage was due to start, world No. 1 Jalabert addressed race officials on the tour radio station, saying the riders had decided to boycott today's stage.

"This is a special day," Jalabert said. "The riders are disgruntled by everything that has gone on. We will not be treated like cattle. Today, we will not take to our bikes. It's finished."

Race director Jean-Marie Leblanc announced the start of the 222-km stage from Tarcon to Cap d'Agde would be delayed while he met with riders and team officials in an attempt to break the impasse.

Benfica begins to pay off its debt

LISBON, July 24: Cash-strapped Lisbon club Benfica has sold some of its real estate to raise money and pay off some of its massive debts, according to news reports Thursday, reports AP.

The 30-time champions raised 900 million escudos (4.9 million dollars) from the sale of a plot next to its 120,000-capacity Stadium of Light, sports daily A Bola reported.

Benfica vice-president Jose Capristano said the club had paid an overdue first instalment of 150 million escudos (824,000 dollars) on a bank loan of 600 million escudos (3.2 million dollars), according to the paper.

A Lisbon judge last May froze Benfica's bank accounts because of nonpayment of the instalment.

Capristano reportedly told Portuguese journalists in Austria, where the Benfica squad has a pre-season training camp, that players would be paid their June and July salaries when they return to Portugal next week.

Capristano also said Benfica would pay English club Manchester United the outstanding sum, believed to be about 3 million dollars, on Czech player Karel Poborsky, signed last season, according to A Bola.

Poles ready to face FIFA

GENEVA, July 24: The Polish government held its ground on Thursday after FIFA threatened to suspend Poland from international soccer unless sacked federation officials were reinstated by August 7.

"If Polish teams are suspended, then this may be the price that needs to be paid for the recovery of Polish soccer," the ministry's spokesman, Pawel Krzykowski told Reuters.

The ultimatum came after a delegation from FIFA and UEFA failed to resolve a dispute between the Polish football federation (PZPN) and the Polish government.

In May, the Polish sports minister Jacek Debski suspended the whole leadership of the PZPN, accusing them of incompetence.

He dismissed the officials after they denied his inspectors full access to association files during an official investigation. PZPN accepted it failed to

make all documents available but said the sports minister over-reacted.

FIFA rules say that national associations must be independent of government.

A delegation from FIFA and UEFA travelled to Poland this week but failed to get the guarantees they wanted from Debski.

In a statement on Thursday, FIFA said if the sacked members were not reinstated "FIFA and UEFA may suspend the Polish football federation with immediate effect and for an undetermined period of time."

"They will be prevented from participating in international competitions involving both national representative teams and club teams."

Krzykowski, a spokesman for the physical culture and tourism office, said officials would like to meet FIFA and UEFA representatives again to seek a compromise, but said the ministry would not back down on its decision.

On Monday Debski offered a compromise, calling on the



Boris Becker executes a forehand during his ATP tournament match against Spaniard Felis Mantilla at Stuttgart on July 23. Becker won 7-6, 7-5. — AP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Network of 40 Jims
5 Despondent
8 Last writes?
12 Memorization method
13 Aloof
14 Disgusting
15 Finished
16 Born
17 Busy with
18 June 1
20 Victor's due
22 Uno plus uno
23 Capp and Pacino
24 Film role for Lucille Ball

DOWN

21 Urdu is spoken here: abbr.
22 Perseus
23 Newscastron
24 Tend (to)
25 "Who am I — judge?"
26 Tea container
27 Maryland state bird
28 Worldwide abbr.
29 11 Ring
30 Freight train component
31 Family room
32 Metamorphic rock
33 Audience
34 Freight train component
35 Lindbergh book
36 Metamorphic rock
37 Audience
38 Freight train component
39 "Metamorphoses" poet
40 "Nautilus" captain
41 Greek peak

Solution time: 23 mins.

WANT RAW SMUT
OMOG ASH TIRE
MINDANAO ANNE
BREAD ACROSS
HOMEBIAS AIL
ALL MINSK UKE
YEN TITEA ARIES
SAC OPEN
BATHES AGAIN
LURE MINNELLI
AREAWA ROLLE
BALLO GEM STIVE

Yesterday's answer

CRYPTOQUIP

S G B M T C Q W Z Q J M L Q Z
A B T U A E B P P N J S Q
L U U W A Q B G U Q C U
P U N L C S E B M P A B

Yesterday's Cryptquip: HOW DISTURBING! THE POOR, DISCOURAGED BAKER THREW IN THE SPONGE CAKE.

Today's Cryptquip clue: P equals L. The Cryptquip 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.