

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-101

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

Competition closes at 8 pm, Aug 28, '98, and draw shortly afterwards

1. What is the name of Brazil's new soccer coach?
Zigallo Luxembourg Parreira
2. Who was the player-of-the match in the fifth Test at Headingley?
Butcher Donald Stewart
3. How many Tests will Australia play in Pakistan?
One Two Three
4. Who is the No 1 on ATP rankings at the moment?
Rios Raftel Agassi
5. Michelle Smith has been banned for
2yrs 4yrs 6yrs

Name: _____
 Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
 School Address: _____
 Phone: (If any) _____

EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Ronaldo

(Inter Milan's Brazilian soccer star)

"The important thing is that I'm feeling well now."

After arriving in Milan on Friday.

Nebiolo bucks up Seville

BUDAPEST, Aug 22: IAAF Supremo Primo Nebiolo said Friday that he was confident Seville will be ready to host next year's World Championships from August 20-29, reports AFP.

Nebiolo, who is here for the European Championships, also dismissed talk that heat would be a problem for the athletes. He said there would be only four morning sessions with the remainder taking place after 6 pm — when the temperatures should have fallen.

"The Olympics in Barcelona were hot and here in Budapest it's hot and the poor guys have to run in it, but they appear to feel no pain," the Italian said.



Swede Stefan Holm clears the bar during the men's high jump event at the European meet on August 21. — AFP photo

Baldini runs into renown

BUDAPEST, Aug 22 (Reuters/Inter): Stefano Baldini joined the ranks of great Italian marathon men on Saturday by beating two compatriots for the European Championship gold.

Baldini pulled away from Danilo Goffi in the final kilometres of the race, run mainly along the picturesque banks of the Danube, to win in two hours, 12 minutes and one second.

Goffi took silver in 2:12:11 with Vincenzo Modica then completing the Italian sweep in 2:12:53 for third place.

The race started to unfold at the halfway point with a nine man group getting away from the rest of the field.

By 35km, seven kilometres from home, the leading pack had been reduced to four with the three eventual medallists accompanied by Spain's Alejandro Gomez.

However Modica and Gomez could not stay with the pace set by Baldini as he pressed for home, although Goffi valiantly continued the duel until the Nepstadium was in sight.

Baldini was delighted at recapturing the European title for Italy after the triumphs of Gelindo Bordin in 1986 and 1990.

"For the last month both my coach (Luciano Gigliotti) and I have believed that this gold medal was going to be mine. Luciano said to me that he could see victory in my eyes before the start," Baldini said.

Baldini said he was surprised that Spain, who swept the men's marathon medals at the previous championship in 1994, had not send their strongest runners.

"For me the only threat except from my fellow Italians was going to come from Spain but nothing happened," he added.

Spain has the three fastest marathon runners in Europe this year, including Rotterdam winner Fabian Roncero who is the fastest man in the world this year with 2:07:26.

However all preferred to give the championship, which has no prize money, a miss in favour of outings at lucrative big city races later in the year.

Baldini had the credentials to have been a winner even if the leading Spaniards had been there.

He was the 1996 World half marathon champion and in 1997 he finished second in the London marathon and third in the New York Marathon.

The Italian medal trio, along with eighth-placed Giovanni Rugiero, also lifted the European Cup for the event, awarded to the nation with the fastest combined time of the first four runners home.

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Brits bags another title

DAKAR, Aug 22: Okkert Brits of South Africa won another African Athletics Championships title here on Friday but did little to convince those who doubt his major-event temperament, reports AFP.

Brits, one of a handful of pole vaulters to ever clear six metres, only needed to clear 5.40 m to win the event ahead of Kersley Gardenne of Mauritius (5.20) and Mohammed Bediou of Tunisia (4.80).

The lack of real competition meant that Brits, a multiple African champion but who has been accused of choking at major events, won with ease.

Brits, 23, last year failed to qualify for the World Championships finals despite starting as one of the favourites to dethrone Sergei Bubka. He also failed to clear his opening height at the 1996 Olympics and the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

Moroccan Zahra Ouaziz, meanwhile, fastest over 5,000 metres in the world this year, face a more serious challenge from her rivals but won the 3000 in a time of 8 minutes 53.75 seconds. Ahead of Ethiopians Gemet Gebregiorgis and Yimerashu Taye.

Barcelona give up De Boers quest

BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 22: Spanish league powerhouse Barcelona announced Friday that they have abandoned their long-standing bid to sign Dutch internationals Frank and Ronald de Boer from Ajax, reports AFP.

Barcelona withdrew their interest after they failed to sign the twins ahead of Thursday night's deadline for players to be eligible for the European Champions League.

Barcelona's Dutch coach Louis Van Gaal had made several big-money bids for the twins but Ajax insisted the pair were not for sale.

Ajax last week filed a complaint with FIFA, football's international ruling body, over Barcelona's enticements to the De Boers.

The De Boer brothers lost their bid to break free from Ajax when the Dutch Football Association's arbitration committee ruled earlier this month that they had not presented valid arguments to cut short their contracts, which were renewed for another six years only last year.

Turkey won't allow Yuri

ANKARA, Aug 22: The Turkish Football Federation has discarded France's international striker Yuri Djorkaev from a list of players for a world team that will play Turkey in October for his alleged anti-Turkish views, the Anatolia News Agency said Friday, reports AFP.

Djorkaev, who is of ethnic Armenian origin, has publicly voiced support for an American genocide bill approved by the French Parliament's lower house in May, according to the agency.

The Turkish national team is due to play a team of international stars, including Brazil's Claudio Taffarel and Romania's George Hagi, here on October 29, marking the 75th anniversary of the Turkish Republic's foundation.

Djorkaev, who had also been invited to play for the world team, was then discarded because of his "anti-Turkish emotions," one football federation official told Anatolia.

Voice of cricket wins applause for splendid innings

Sanjiva Wijesinha writes from Colombo

Cricket — once the preserve of Englishmen and their local aspirants — has become Sri Lanka's national sport. One man who has delighted the growing band of fans with his radio commentaries has now been honoured, reports Gemini News Service, for his role in the game's rise.

His voice over Sri Lanka's airwaves is better known than many a national politician.

For more than a quarter of a century, Premasara Epasinghe's illuminating commentaries, delivered in his distinctive rich tone, have entertained the nation and have helped to make cricket the island's number-one sport.

In July, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said thank you by presenting him with a gold award, "In appreciation of outstanding service to cricket."

Although cricket has been played in the country for more than 150 years, having been introduced during the British colonial era, the game remained the preserve of English-educated "brown sahibs" until relatively recently.

Even after independence in 1948, it was taught only in English schools, matches were reported in the sports pages of the English language newspapers, and cricket commentaries were carried only on English radio broadcasts.

To most Sinhala-speaking citizens, who comprise more than 80 per cent of Sri Lanka's population, cricket remained as foreign as croquet, lawn bowls and morris dancing.

But slowly, radio stations began to realise that there was sufficient interest among the non-English speaking public to justify broadcasting cricket reports in the majority language.

Initially, the main interest was in inter-school cricket. The only international games that Sri Lanka — then known as Ceylon — played were when English or Australian teams, making the long sea voyage to play Test matches against each other, would break journey half way for a one-day "whistlestop" game against a hastily cobbled national side.

It was during this era, almost 40 years ago, that Epasinghe began his journalistic career as a freelance reporter for Associated Newspapers, the island's biggest publishing group. His bilingualism and cricketing background stood him in good stead.

He had been a talented wicketkeeper and batsman representing Nalanda College and Vidyalaya University before going on to play first-division club cricket for Saracens, Nondescripts and Bloomfield. Over the years, his descriptive and well-balanced articles proved popular with sports fans.

He was able to demystify cricket without distorting the game, and he continues to write a regular column, *School Cricket Review*, for the *Daily News*.

But it has been his voice rather than his pen that has made Premasara Epasinghe a household name in Sri Lanka.

Soon after Radio Ceylon began broadcasting cricket coverage in Sinhala in the late fifties, Epasinghe was called on to present a short sports round-up programme. He got his first big break as a commentator in 1971 when he was assigned to cover the highlight of the school cricket season — the annual encounter between Royal College and St Thomas' College.

In those early days of Sinhala coverage, the language did not have the terminology to describe many cricketing terms. How, for example, does one



Sri Lanka's Premasara Epasinghe: Household name

translate terms such as "fine leg," "silly mid-off" and "full toss" into an Asian language? Epasinghe and his colleagues came up with equivalent terms, which were soon absorbed into the lexicon.

Gradually, cricket grew in popularity, conveyed into millions of homes and workplaces by Epasinghe's deep timbre. It is not uncommon for fans to watch television coverage, with the volume down, and accompanied by Epasinghe's descriptive commentaries.

It was he who brought news of Sri Lanka's World Cup victory in 1996 — a triumph that has given the game a major boost on the island.

"Cricket," he says, "is today the national game of Sri Lanka — the most popular spectator sport as well as the most widely played."

Former Sports Minister K B Ratnayake, who praised Epasinghe's "beautiful" World Cup coverage in 1996, points out: "A good commentator's task is to describe, not to criticise. There is a world of difference between commentating and merely commenting on a game."

Before he covers matches abroad, Epasinghe reads up on the host city and country, and always weaves some of the local culture into his commentaries. He explains: "People listening in can hear but not see, so you have to paint the scene for them. You have to bring the listeners to the site of the action so that they can see what you are seeing and feel the atmosphere you are experiencing."

Now 61, he continues to work as a public relations officer for a Colombo insurance company. He still broadcasts and writes on a part-time basis — more for the love of the game than for financial remuneration. — Gemini

About the Author: Dr Sanjiva Wijesinha has worked as a medical practitioner in Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Britain and Australia. He writes regularly for Gemini News Service on health issues and sport.

Jana, Martina in last four

MONTREAL, Aug 22: While the fans had their eyes fixed on the new generation of women tennis players Friday, veteran Jana Novotna moved into the semifinals of the Canadian Open, reports AP.

Novotna, 29, won her 19th consecutive match, beating 19-year-old upstart Magui Serna of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 to move within two victories of a fourth straight tournament title on the WTA Tour.

"As always, everybody else is getting all the attention and I am quietly progressing in the tournament," said Novotna, a lanky right-hander from the Czech Republic. "That's the way I like it."

The crowd poured into court No. 1 to watch teenager Anna Kournikova of Russia lose a rain-delayed third-round match to Spain's Conchita Martinez 6-0, 6-3, while Novotna was finishing off Serna on Centre Court.

Martinez later lost 6-3, 6-4 to third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to set up a Sanchez-Vicario-Novotna semifinal Saturday.

Top-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland reached the semifinals with a 7-6, 3-6, 6-4 victory over Sandrine Testud of France. Hingis will face fifth-seeded Monica Seles.

Seles, seeking her record fourth consecutive Canadian title, beat Germany's Anke Huber 6-3, 6-4.

Novotna returned to action this week from a four-week break after winning at Eastbourne, Wimbledon (her first Grand Slam title) and Prague —

the longest winning run on the tour this year.

She has hardly looked rusty, even though Serna, a left-hander ranked 26th in the world who was coming off an upset of two-time champion Steffi Graf of Germany, gave Novotna fits for one set.

"She played incredible tennis against Steffi and I knew she was really confident," Novotna said. "She was serving really well — ailing me and winning her service games quite easily."

But I knew that usually you will get a chance in a match like this and I did in the second set. I started to play better tennis with more variety and I won 11 games in a row."

Serna broke a string on her racket in the second set and never looked comfortable with her backcup weapon.

Novotna, like Graf and Kournikova, has entered the US Hardcourt Championship in New Haven, Conn next week.

The last tuneup before the US Open in New York, the final grand slam event of the year. "I'm very impressed by the way I have started to play," Novotna said. "I think as the tournament goes on and the more matches I play, I will get the feeling again."

"I'm moving well and it feels good."

Nuremberg win

BONN, Aug 22: Two goals by Czech striker Pavel Kuka helped promoted Nuremberg to a 3-2 win at Werder Bremen in the German First Division on Friday, reports Reuters.

Kuka, who joined this year from champions Kaiserslautern, scored in the 19th and 41st minutes of a close battle which Nuremberg won thanks to a goal by Macedonian striker Sasa Ciric in the 62nd minute.

Bremen scored through Dutch midfielder Lodewijk Roembaek in the penalty spot in the 22nd minute and defender Jens Todt two minutes later.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
- 1 Unadorned
 - 2 English
 - 3 Depend
 - 4 Tackle's
 - 5 Coquettish
 - 6 Group of
 - 8 Group of
 - 12 Micro-
 - 13 "Norma"
 - 14 English
 - 15 Deli stuff
 - 17 Lorna's
 - 18 Wool
 - 19 Follows
 - 20 Gardening
 - 21 Barracks
 - 22 Bass
 - 23 Condescend
 - 26 Carol
- DOWN
- 1 Raton
 - 16 Lamb
 - 17 serving
 - 20 Many
 - 21 Makeup
 - 22 Drumstick
 - 23 Meth
 - 24 Come —
 - 25 Personal
 - 26 Pack
 - 27 quorum?
 - 28 Harbor
 - 29 Inseparable
 - 30 Scoundrel
 - 31 Exemplar
 - 32 Son
 - 33 Orchestra
 - 34 Quiz
 - 35 answer
 - 38 Burlap fiber
 - 39 Month
 - 40 McEntire
 - 41 It's gather-
 - 42 "To —
 - 43 VHS alter-
 - 44 Command
 - 46 IRS
 - 47 Predica-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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									49	50
51										53

CRYPTOQUIP

MP JPK LCZUS EBZTLO

LZPU COD NYU TZFLBJ

MKNNYM HZDCEKB HZUSZF?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OFTEN THE FORTUNETELLER PROUDLY CLAIMS SHE COSTS ONLY A MEDIUM PRICE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E 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.

SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

A FINE BIDDING BY SOUTH TO REACH A REASONABLE SLAM CONTRACT

(Hand # 73)

North (D)			East	
♠: AKXX			♠: XXXX	
♥: H X			♥: Q 10 X	
♦: K 9 X X			♦: D XXX	
♣: A J X X			♣: K Q X	
South				
♠: -				
♥: 9 8 X X X				
♦: A Q J 10 X X				
♣: C X X				

BIDDING (East-West vulnerable)

South (Sayeed)	West (Mizan)	North (Akram)	East (Mazumdar)
1D*	2S	1D*	Pass
Pass	Pass	6D	Pass

* Artificial opening
** Artificial, 10-12 HCP

In response to North's artificial opening, South, in the partnership bidding system, should have bid one Spade, showing 7-9 HCP. However, with a strong diamond suit, and five-card Heart, South feared that if he had responded one Spade, truthfully showing his HCP, North might pass with a good four card Spade. Hence, South upgraded his hand and showed 10-12 HCP. West came in with 2 Spades which was doubled by North for penalty. East passed and South jumped to 4 diamonds which was raised to six by North.

THE PLAY

East started with an excellent lead of a Diamond as he intended to reduce ruffing values in both the opponent hands. The declarer won the trick in dummy and played a small Heart when West showed off in Diamonds. Holding AKJ of Hearts, West could not risk playing low and hence went up with the King of Hearts and played the Ace of Heart. The declarer ruffed, and then threw a Club from the dummy on the Ace of Spades, and succeeded in setting up the 5th Heart in the dummy after ruffing three Hearts in the closed hand. Note however that if West played low at the second trick, East could win the Heart trick to lead another Diamond. In that case the contract would have failed by a trick.



SPEED, HIS MOTTO: Abul Hossain Asad "President Rover Scout" has toured Bangla-desh with the slogan "Let the road be for peace, not for death" dedicating it to the five Rover Scouts who died in a road accident on October 23, 1997 in Sylhet. In spite of poverty, Asad has focussed on his noble mission and initiated a world tour on his bicycle. He will soon set out on a cycling expedition with Faruk, (who has already visited Netherlands, Nepal, Bhutan, Belgium, Greece, Maldives, Sp-ain, India, Sri Lanka, Switzer-land, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Portugal, Iran, Italy, Turkey, Austria, Vatican, France, Ger-many, Sweden, Denmark and Norway in 1993-95 as part of a World Tour on bicycle). B M Zakir Hossain and Md Hamidur Rahman Khan. Asad and his mates will propagate the slogan "See Bangladesh, See World" as a campaign to familiarise Bang-ladesh among foreigners.