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DHAKA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1998

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT France's World Cup winning coach Aime Jaquet promised his wife that he would quit after France '98. Not surprising that. After all, how many wives like football? What is now being revealed as almost a prophecy is his bombastic addendum with the pre-World Cup vow, "After France's victory". The chap should be burnt like Joan of Arc instead of being decorated with fancy ribbons and expensive medals. He is a soothsayer, an evil one, the Brazilians would say. His wife is happy. Not because of the chunk of gold he won but because he kept his word. Are you sure he is normal? Keeping his word with his wife? His own wife!

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-103

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm,
Sept 25 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

1. How many nations are taking part in the 16th C'wealth Games cricket?

2. Who is skipping Barbados in C'wealth Games cricket?

3. Where were the previous C'wealth Games held?

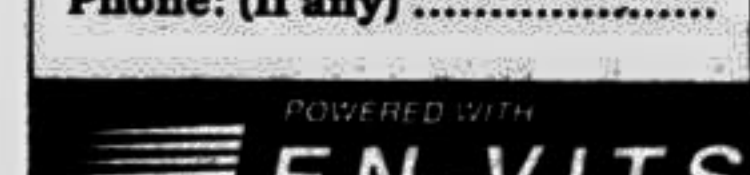
4. How many countries are taking part in the 16th Commonwealth Games?

5. In how many disciplines, is Bangladesh participating in the 16th Commonwealth Games?

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

EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Monica Seles

(Naturalised American tennis player)
The US Open is probably the loudest tournament in terms of everything.

Muktijoddha booters go to Assam today

A 24-member Muktijoddha Sangsad squad leaves for Assam today to take part in the Independence Cup football tournament to be held in Nagaon of the Indian state, reports APB.

India's national champions, runners-up and three other major teams, split into two groups, are to participate in the tournament.

The squad: Jewel Rana, Zakir, Masud Rana, Rakib Hossain, Rajani, Hasan Al Mamun, Iqbal Hossain, Intiaz Ahmed Nakib, Saiful Bari Titu, Golam Gaus, Alfaz Ahmed, Arun Bikash Dewan, Masud Haider, Mostafa Parvez, Resul Karim, Aminul Haq, Arif Hossain Moon.

It also includes SM Jahangir Alam (manager), Matin Chowdhury, Manwarul Haq Khan and Abu Hasan Chowdhury (officials), Shaful Islam Manik (coach), Atiqur Rahman (associate coach) and Jabbar Khan (massageman).



Action from yesterday's First Division hockey league match between Bangladesh Railway and Bachelors' Club at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium. The encounter ended in a 3-3 draw. —Star photo

Gazi jumps out from sinking ship

Cricketers disgrace nation

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh cricket hit its lowest ebb at Kuala Lumpur yesterday when the shames of the national team suffered a humiliating 114-run defeat against Northern Ireland in their last Group C match of the Commonwealth Games cricket competition. The Rubber Research Institute (RRI) ground resembled a funeral party with around a thousand disgruntled Bangladeshi expatriates leaving the field with broken hearts. The match was only left with an academic interest after both Bangladesh and Northern Ireland had confirmed their exit from the fray with two consecutive defeats. Still, the way the Bangladesh, ranked number one among the IOC associate member nations, surrendered against their less colourful opponents, once again failed to give substance to their superficial claim for a Test-status in near future.

Skipper Akram Khan went into the match with a pronounced intention of settling an old score against Northern Ireland, who defeated the touring Bangladesh team at their own den comprehensively last June. But at the end of the day his boys, chasing a moderate target of 172 in the stipulated 50 overs, had to bow to their Irish conquerors after being shot out for a meagre 69.

Bangladesh started their chase in a most horrid fashion, losing half of their wickets for with just 13 runs on the board, a position from where they never recovered and eventually perished in only 21 overs, thanks to some devastating bowling from new-ball bowler Cooke, who ripped through the top and middle-order to finish with fantastic figures of five for 35 from ten fiery overs.

Bangladesh made some adjustments to the line-up that played the previous match against South Africa. Right-arm seamer came in place of out-of-form opener Azam Iqbal to bolster the bowling attack while Mohammed Rafique was promoted in the batting order to

open the innings with Shahriar Hossain.

It was not known whether the team management was in a hurry to catch the first available flight back home, Rafique's role as a pinch-hitter failed to do the trick for think-tank Gazi Ashraf. Rafique was out for a duck. The never ending procession however started when Sharif made a trudge to the pavilion after scoring only one. Khaled Mahmud with 27 was the highest scorer while vice-captain Aminul, who scored 13, was the other willow-wielder who reached the double-figures.

Meanwhile, the coach of the Bangladesh team Gazi Ashraf, while talking to BSS after the disastrous defeat, announced his decision to quit the national duty.

"I have totally failed in performing my responsibilities at the Commonwealth Games. I have been involved with the Bangladesh cricket team in different capacities over the last couple of years and as a coach I have totally failed," said the manager-turned coach.

"It is most humiliating, disappointing, frustrating. I have given my best to the boys and they have given me the worst result. So, the time has come for me to quit," said the aggrieved former national captain. "I will no longer be involved with

the cricket team".

Skipper Akram, who won the toss for the first time in the competition, said: "We did restrict them to 177 which was very much within our reach. It was a good pitch but we failed miserably to perform with the bat. I don't want to make any excuses".

Bangladesh who finished their campaign with three defeats in Pool C, is scheduled to return home empty-handed today.

SCOREBOARD

NORTHERN IRELAND

D Curry c Faruque b Morshed	2
S Smyth c Naimur b Hasibul	20
Gillespie c K Masood b Morshed	31
Patterson c K Masood b Naimur	31
Heasley c K Masood b Naimur	0
McCallan not out	53
Rutherford c K Masood b Aminul	6
G Cooke run out	14
Eagleson c K Masood b Hasibul	0
Anderson b Shafuluddin	3
Extras: (lb-8, nb-7, w-11)	26
Total: (all out in 49.5 overs)	177
Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-37; 3-44; 4-66; 5-67; 6-108; 7-121; 8-160; 9-163; 10-177.	

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Safiuddin	9.5	2	26	1
Morshed	7	2	19	2
Hasibul	10	1	47	2
M Rafique	10	2	31	1
Naimur	5	0	17	1
Aminul	8	0	24	2

BANGLADESH

Shahriar c McCallan b Eagleson	2
M Rafique b Eagleson	0
Faruque c Rutherford b Cooke	1
Aminul c Rutherford b Cooke	13
K Masood b Eagleson	0
Akram Khan c Rutherford b Cooke	3
Naimur c McCallan b Cooke	4
K Mahmud c Patterson b McCallan	27
Hasibul c Gillespie b Cooke	0
Morshed not out	2
Shafuluddin c Heasley b Curry	12
Extras: (nb-3, w-9)	13
Total: (all out in 21 overs)	69
Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-4; 3-4; 4-4; 5-13; 6-32; 7-39; 8-41; 9-62; 10-63.	

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Cooke	10	1	35	5
Eagleson	6	1	15	3
McCallan	4	1	12	1
Curry	1	0	1	1

Result: N Ireland won by 114 runs.

Bangladesh in tough company

Thais included in Asiad

BANGKOK, Sept 15: Thailand's national football side remained in the draw for the 13th Asian Games despite being

suspended from international soccer after a farcical match against Indonesia which sparked calls for a crackdown on soccer corruption, officials said Monday, reports AFP.

But officials announcing the draw for the Asian Games here in December said Indonesia had pulled out its soccer team along with Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

Deputy Prime Minister Bichai Rattakul said Thailand had learned from the shameful Tiger Cup match in Vietnam in August.

"We got a painful lesson and we learnt a hard way," he told reporters and sports officials gathered to witness the draw, adding that the Thai team was young and should move on from past failures.

"I therefore appealed to give them a chance," Bichai said. He told reporters he had received a very good reaction from Peter Velappan, chairman of the Asian Football Confederation. The AFC suspended both teams Friday over a match that they played to lose and called for a task force to tackle resurgent corruption.

Velappan, who attended the

Cantonian shock

Sonali Bank

Sports Reporter

Promotes Cantonian Club staged an upset in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league when they handed title-contenders Sonali Bank a lone goal defeat in one of the two matches at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, forward Nadim Hossain struck the all-important match-winning goal with a brilliant field goal in the 46th minute.

It was the first win for the newcomers against three defeats in four matches which raised their tally to three points. Sonali Bank, on the other hand, suffered their first defeat in four outings keeping them glued to their previous collection of seven points.

In the other match of the day, Bachelors Club and Bangladesh Railway shared the points with a 3-3 draw.

Babu, Shah Alam and Pakistani recruit Aqil scored a goal apiece for Bachelors while Moinuddin struck twice and Monirul Alam scored the other goal for Railway.

Railway now have seven points while Bachelors have two points on completion four matches.

No matches will be played today and tomorrow.

FRIDAY'S MATCHES

Victoria SC v Cantonian SC (2:30 pm)
Bangladesh SC v Sonali Bank (4:15 pm)

C'wealth cricket

Australia shut India out

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15: Captain Steve Waugh scored 100 not out in an unbroken 171-run partnership with Tom Moody Tuesday to overpower India and guide Australia into the semifinals of the Commonwealth Games, reports AP.

Batting first after being sent in by India, Australia struggled in the initial overs, losing five wickets for 84 runs by the 20th over before Waugh and Moody took control, lifting the total to 255 in 50 overs. India ended with 110 for nine in 37.2 overs, giving Australia an impressive 145-run victory.

In other matches, South Africa defeated Barbados by four wickets to set up the first semifinal clash on Wednesday with Sri Lanka, who had qualified earlier.

Also Tuesday, New Zealand defeated Pakistan by 81 runs and will meet Australia in the second semifinal on Thursday.

The day's other match between Scotland and Kenya was won by the Africans. The Scots batted first and scored 156 for seven. In reply, Kenya reached home for the loss of five wickets.

STANDINGS

Final Commonwealth Games cricket league standings on Tuesday (played, won, lost, no result, points):

Group A				
Sri Lanka	3	3	0	6
Zimbabwe	3	2	1	4
Jamaica	3	1	2	0
Malaysia	3	0	3	0

Group B				
Australia	3	3	0	6
India	3	1	1	3
Antigua	3	1	1	3
Canada	3	0	3	0

Group C				
South Africa	3	3	0	6
Barbados	3	2	1	4
Northern Ireland	3	1	2	0
Bangladesh	3	0	3	0

Group D				
New Zealand	3	3	0	6
Pakistan	3	1	1	3
Kenya	3	1	2	0
Scotland	3	0	2	1

Semifinal line-up: Sri Lanka v South Africa on Wednesday, Australia v New Zealand on Thursday.

Chattala Cup

Ctg Abahani meet Regensea in final

CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra moved into the final of the Chattala Cup football tournament earning five points from their three league matches, reports BSS.

Abahani drew 1-1 with arch-rivals Mohammedan in the last league match at the M A Aziz Stadium on Monday.

Bakhtiyar scored the goal for Abahani in the 33rd minute. Mohammedan equalised just before two minutes from the long whistle. At that time Mohammedan earned a corner from which they scored. But linesman Miron raised his flag for off-side.

Referee Nazir Hossain followed the decision. But the players of Mohammedan including coach Bhanu and other officials protested the decision.

Nazir afterwards reversed his verdict allowing the goal, which triggered a fan violence. However, after a 30-minute lull due to the violence, the match was resumed and none of the teams could score in the remaining minutes.

Akram quitting cricket?

LONDON, Sept 15: Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram resigned from international cricket Tuesday and hired a retired judge to help him fight match-fixing allegations, reports AP.

Akram, who has captained Lancashire to two English titles this season, also slammed Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Majid Khan for heading a witch hunt against him.

"The match fixing allegations are) a conspiracy, especially within the board," he said Tuesday.

Akram had planned to play for Pakistan in a Test series against Australia later this month and had quit as Lancashire captain, after 10 years with the county, to concentrate on Pakistan's 1999 World Cup campaign.

The 32-year-old allrounder said it could take two or three years to clear his name but he has not ruled out a return to international cricket.

"I've taken on a former judge from Karachi because I must clear my name for me, my friends, my family and most of all, my son," he told Britain's domestic news agency Tuesday.

"Unfortunately I have to leave cricket. When allegations arise you need to fight it out —

you can't just sit back. "I would love to carry on but I simply can't. But I'm happy because I know that I have done nothing wrong."

Akram said he heard the



WASIM AKRAM

match-fixing allegations against him through the media. "If there's evidence that I've been involved, (the PCB) should come out and fight it in court," he said.

Akram said the allegations probably arose due to "a lot of politics" within Pakistani cricket.

"People begrudge me because I am earning millions and they are not," he said.

"But they're all getting at me in particular. They don't seem to realise it takes six, seven or eight people from a team to rig a match."

The International Cricket Council revealed last week that Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed had been implicated in match-fixing allegations and were being investigated by the PCB.

The investigations commenced with a board committee of enquiry, which was later reinforced by a government judicial commission.

An interim report by the PCB found the three players responsible for match-fixing and recommended they will be banned from Tests until further investigations were completed.

However, Malik and Ijaz were selected to play for Pakistan in the Sahara Cup International series against India currently underway in Canada.

Akram has continued to play for Lancashire, who have already won two limited-overs titles this season and are in the running for the county championship.

Athletics competition starts today

Now it's non-Aussies' turn

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (AP): Now it's time for the rest of the Commonwealth to fight back.

Powered by its dominant swimmers, Australia has won 60 per cent of the gold medals so far at the Commonwealth Games.

Now some of the biggest names in athletics are setting themselves up for gold medal glory.

And they're not Australian. Ato Boldon of Trinidad, Frankie Fredericks of Namibia and Obadele Thompson of Barbados are the three main contenders for gold in the biggest event, the men's 100 metres, and Boldon says the world record is in danger.

Kenya's Daniel Komen, the world 5,000 metres champion, runs the 1,500 and Canada's Michael Smith is gunning for his third decathlon title in a row.

Okkert Brits, the only Commonwealth competitor to clear 6.00 metres, is slated to go in the pole vault for South Africa and former world record holder and European champion Steve Backley goes in the javelin for England.

Maria Mutola of Mozambique, former world champion and three-time world titleholder, is favoured to win the women's 800 metres and Kenya's 10,000-metre champion Sally Barsosio goes in the 5,000.

Olympic champion and world silver medalist Deon Hemmings is aiming for a 400m hurdles gold for Jamaica and Ashia Hansen, England's indoor world indoor record holder for the triple jump, will compete even though she hasn't fully recovered from a leg injury.

The field will include several more European Champions in 100-metre star Darren Campbell of England, Scotland's 200m titlist Doug Walker and Iwan Thomas, who will run the 400 for Wales. Denise Lewis, the Olympic bronze and world silver medalist, defends the heptathlon title for England.

The field would have been even stronger but Colin Jackson, world record holder for the 110 metres hurdles, has pulled out of the Welsh team and England's Jonathan Edwards, world record holder for the triple jump has withdrawn injured.

Canada's world and Olympic titlist and world record holder Donovan Bailey said long ago he wouldn't compete and is sidelined anyway because of an Achilles tendon injury.

The Australians have hit injury problems too. Cathy Freeman, world 400m champion and Olympic silver medalist, is out with foot trouble and Tim Forsyth may be unable to defend his high jump title because of an ankle injury.

The Nigerians won three goals, four silvers and three bronzes at the last Games in Victoria, British Columbia. But

their country has been expelled from the Commonwealth because of human rights violations and their absence here also has weakened the field and will make Boldon's 100m task a little easier.

Hours after jetting in from his training camp in Los Angeles, Boldon, who is world champion for 200 metres, said the hot humid conditions, allied to a friendly track, were ideal for a world record attempt.

The Trinidadian, who has twice run 9.86 this season, said he could eventually lower Bailey's mark of 9.84 to something really spectacular.

"I think I could run in the vicinity of 9.80 or even better," he said. "To break the world record you need humidity, heat, a fast track and a wind that's either positive or not in my face."

"So far, here I see everything falling into line. I feel ready," Fredericks, who flew into Kuala Lumpur Tuesday after competing in the World Cup at a much cooler Johannesburg, has been listed to run in Wednesday's 100m heats although his appearance here has been in

Sahara Cup

Third tie today

Sport Reporter

Arch-rivals Pakistan and India clash in the third of the five-match Sahara Cup one-day series at the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club ground in Canada today.

India won the first match by six wickets on September 12 while Pakistan restored parity winning the second game by 51 runs the following day.

Satellite television channel ESPN will cover the match live from 7:20 pm BST.

Sabrina, Shahana come out ninth

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15: Sabrina Sultana and Shahana Parveen of Bangladesh finished ninth out of 12 countries in the pairs sport rifle three position at the Commonwealth Games in Langkawi today, reports BSS.

They scored 1098 — 35 points less than the gold winning Canadians, Christina Ashcroft and Sharon Bowes.

Sabrina scored 546 while Shahana 552.

Sri Lankan and Indian shooters got fifth and seventh positions respectively.

India is the only Asian country, who got two gold medals in shooting.



STUMBLING SACHIN: India's master bat Sachin Tendulkar, who had a miserable time with the bat, spilling a catch during the Commonwealth Games cricket encounter against Australia yesterday. —Internet photo