

Sport

GG's cricket camp
Back to basics

Sports Reporter
The Pepsi ACC trophy camp will resume at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) this morning under the supervision of Director of Coaching Gordon Greenidge. A total of 45 cricketers, including 14 of the Commonwealth squad who lost all the three first round C matches, have been invited to the camp. A 14-man crew will be named by the selectors on September 22, two days into the camp. Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury and Imran Ahmed will assist Gordon while another coach, Daulat Zaman, will join the camp within couple of days. The team will leave the capital for Nepal on October 1. Bangladesh, pencilled in group A along with Papua New Guinea (PNG), Malaysia, Maldives, Brunei and Singapore in the 12-nation meet, will take on PNG in one of the four matches billed for the inaugural day on October 3. On the following day, Bangladesh will meet Malaysia before facing Maldives on October 6. The last two matches against Brunei and Singapore are scheduled for October 7 and 9. The other group comprises of UAE, Fiji, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan and hosts Nepal. The two top teams from each group will qualify for the cross-over semi-finals. The winners of the trophy will earn a berth in the four-team Asia Cup to be held in Dhaka next March.

Dhaka tourney
appeals to
Waugh

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19: Australia will be determined to win the debut knockout tournament of the International Cricket Conference (ICC), known as mini World Cup, to be held in Dhaka next month, Australian captain Steve Waugh said today. "We would like to register the name of Australia in cricket history as the first champions of the mini-World Cup in Dhaka—a curtain raiser to the next year's World Cup in England," the smiling Australian told BSS. "It would be a thrilling one for me to receive the cup in Bangladesh in presence of all the Test playing nations," he said. The mega event will take place from October 24 to November 2 with nine Test-playing countries taking part in two groups on knockout basis. The countries are—Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Zimbabwe. Regarding the introduction of non-Olympic sport like cricket in the Commonwealth Games, he said it is unique that the event has been introduced in the Games here, and the two-week stay in Kuala Lumpur has convinced me that it has a future at the Games. He urged the concerned authorities to keep cricket as a sport also in the next Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002. The Manchester Games authority is considering to introduce football as a discipline in the games for the first time. Waugh expressed his discontent at the reluctance of other countries in sending their best cricketers to the Kuala Lumpur Games. "Australia fielded its national side because we were serious about winning the gold," he said.

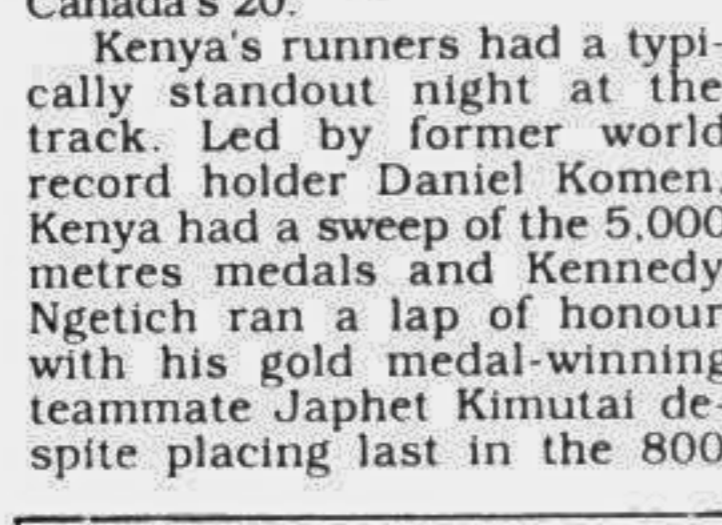


Australian Jagan Hames hurls the javelin to capture gold in the men's decathlon on Sept 18. — AFP photo

C'wealth Games roundup

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19: Australia lost at their national game but gained a new national heroine Saturday as hockey player turned sprinter Nova Peris-Kneebone capped a remarkable transformation with the Commonwealth Games 200-metre title, reports AP. While Australia's cricket team missed out on a gold it was favoured to win, Peris-Kneebone gave the medal standings leader its most unexpected victory. Only competing because world 400-metre champion Cathy Freeman was sidelined, Peris-Kneebone lunged to a 02 second win over Jamaica's Juliet Campbell. Two years ago in Atlanta, Peris-Kneebone became the first Australian Aboriginal to win an Olympic gold as the women's field hockey team triumphed. She quit hockey to try out for the track team, but her performances this season were not good enough to win her a place in the 100- or 200-metre events. Freeman, Australia's first Aboriginal world track champion, pulled out of the Games because of a foot injury and Melinda Gainsford-Taylor's knee injury allowed Peris-Kneebone to contest the sprint double. "I had no idea. I wanted to see it up on the scoreboard," Peris-Kneebone said after the tight finish. "I knew it was extremely close. It's like when I won my hockey gold medal, I just couldn't believe it until later on. Peris-Kneebone is a popular figure whose star will now rise even higher. She was named Young Australian-of-the-year in 1997 and recently was given the honour of being the first Australian to carry the Olympic torch when it arrives ahead of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Peris-Kneebone's medal helped Australia to another unexpected position, atop the track and field gold standings with nine to England's seven. Late on Day 9, Australia had 69 overall, to England's 24 and Canada's 20. Kenya's runners had a typically standout night at the track. Led by former world record holder Daniel Komen, Kenya had a sweep of the 5,000 metres medals and Kennedy Ngetich ran a lap of honour with his gold medal-winning teammate Japhet Kimutai despite placing last in the 800 metres after an extraordinary pacemaking triumph. Ngetich stretched the field and ran the speed out of South Africa's Olympic silver Medalist Ezekiel Sepeng. Former world champion Maria Mutola led virtually all the way in a Mozambique 1-2 finish in the women's 800 metres. Countrywoman Argentina Paulino took the silver in 1:58.39. England's Diana Modahl, the 1990 tilted returning to the Games after a positive drug test—later ruled invalid—was third in 1:58.81. "I'm really happy. I'm relieved," said bronze medalist Modahl, who has campaigned for four years that she was innocent and is suing the British Athletics Federation for damages. "I feel that this chapter is over. The fight is not over but it's certainly an ending to the last four years." Australian Darryn Hill and Canada's Tanya Dubnicoff claimed the men's and women's track cycling sprint events, both winning their best of three finals 2-0. Hill, the former world champion, was too strong for compatriot Sean Eadie, while defending champion Dubnicoff continued her strong form by beating world championship silver medalist Michelle Ferris of Australia. Australia's Olympic champion women's hockey team advanced to the final against England. Australia thrashed New Zealand 7-3 and England beat India 2-0. The shooting competition was overshadowed by news that a Pakistani competitor had been summoned to the Commonwealth Games doping control center Saturday for a second drugs test. Bernama news agency, quoting a source it did not name, said the shooter was asked to come to Kuala Lumpur immediately from Langkawi Island, site of the Games' shooting competition. Australian Annemarie Forder won the women's air pistol final with a games record of 480.6 points while compatriot Susan McCready won the women's sport rifle final from Sharon Boves of Canada and Malaysia's Roslina Bakar. India's Jaspal Rana beat South African Allan McDonald in a shootout in the men's centre-fire pistol final to take the gold. Canadian weightlifter Akos Sandor, 21, took triple gold in the men's 105-kilogram division. His 167.5-kg snatch eclipsed the old Commonwealth Games mark by 7.5 kg, and his total of 360 beat the previous record by 2.5. New Zealand's Darren Liddell doubled his country's gold tally with a clean sweep in the over-105 kg category. Australian diver Vyninka Arlow survived an official protest from Canadian Myriam Boileau to take the women's 10-metre platform diving gold. Arlow nailed her final dive, a 3-1/2 somersault with pike. Boileau messed up her last attempt and officials rejected her protest that she was distracted by a loud horn set off in the crowd. Australia completed a double win at the diving when Shannon Roy won the men's 3-metre springboard.

MUMBAI, Sept 19: The president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Rajshingh Dungarpur, today said he did not want to comment on the International Management Group (IMG) threat of withholding payments due to the board for not sending a strong squad to Toronto for the Sahara Cup against Pakistan. "I don't want to comment on the issue as we will be discussing it in the annual general body meeting to be held at Calcutta on September 23 and 24," Dungarpur told PTI here. The IMG, who are the promoters of the ongoing one-day series at Toronto, were upset with the board for not sending Sachin Tendulkar, Commonwealth Games skipper Ajay Jadeja, leg-spinner Anil Kumble and all-rounder Robin Singh for the five-match series. The four cricketers went to Kuala Lumpur to take part in the Commonwealth Games where cricket made its debut. However, the Indian team failed to make it to the semifinals. Earlier, one of the IMG top officials has said from Toronto that the company was exploring the possibility of taking legal action against BCCI. A section of the agreement between IMG, BCCI and Pakistan board stipulates that the best teams be sent to Toronto which has not been the case with BCCI, he said.



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Assam Cup football
Muktijodha win

Sports Reporter
Premier Division league champions Muktijodha Sangsad Krira Chakra got off to a flying start in the Assam Independence Cup football tournament with a thumping 3-0 win over Assam Police in their inaugural match played at the Naogaon Stadium in Assam, India, yesterday. According to a telephone message received here from the north-east Indian province last night, Muktijodha led the first half 1-0. National striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib put the all-reds ahead in the 21st minute while Alfaz Ahmed doubled the margin in the 77th minute. Midfielder Zakir then sealed the fate of the match with another goal during 'injury time' after being brilliantly fed by Alfaz. With yesterday's win, Muktijodha brightened their semifinal prospects in the six-team meet. Drafted in group A, Muktijodha Sangsad will take on Punjab Electricity Board in their last group match tomorrow at the same venue.

Dungarpur
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Jarni, Kluivert
set to make
derby debuts

MADRID, Sept 19 (Reuters/Internet): Croatian international Robert Jarni is set to start his first competitive game for Real Madrid in the Spanish first division derby match against Barcelona on Saturday night. Jarni, who signed for the European champions from Real Betis last month, beat Spanish under-21 international Jose Maria 'Guti' Gutierrez in the race to replace Brazilian World Cup star Roberto Carlos at left back. Roberto Carlos is suspended after being sent off against Valladolid last Sunday. Otherwise Real Madrid are expected to be unchanged from the side that played in the first two Spanish league games and won 2-0 in the European Champions' League against Inter Milan on Wednesday. Indications from the Barcelona camp are that Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert has been preferred to Brazilian international Sonny Anderson as the Spanish league and Cup double winners' target man. Kluivert is unlikely to be overawed by the occasion though. He has played against Real Madrid in their Santiago Bernabeu stadium twice before. During the years he was an Ajax Amsterdam player, and scored a goal on both occasions, a pre-season friendly and a European Cup encounter.

Guivar'h not
happy with the
Gullit dealing

PARIS, Sept 19 (Reuters/Internet): French World Cup striker Stephane Guivar'h, sidelined at Newcastle since Ruud Gullit took over from Kenny Dalglish, said it would be better for him and the Premier league club if he left. "I'm world champion, I was twice leading scorer in France and here I'm second choice," Guivar'h told sports daily 'L'Equipe' ahead of Saturday's English league tie against Coventry. "I know I'm going to be on the bench. If I have to remain a substitute I'd rather find a way out to make up for lost time elsewhere," he said. France's leading scorer for the past two seasons, when he played for Rennes and Auxerre, Guivar'h signed with Newcastle on a \$5 million contract at the start of the season. "Dalglish was planning to field me and Alan Shearer up front. Gullit wants Shearer each side. That's why I'm on the bench," he said. "I'm calm, solid but it can't go on for ever. It's nobody's interest. It's not mine and it's not Newcastle's who paid a lot of money for my transfer and pay my wages each month."

Div II soccer

Muslim Institute, Prantik KC and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha won their respective matches in the metropolitan Second Division football league yesterday, reports UNB. Muslim Institute defeated Mohakhali Eleven 3-1 after leading the first half 1-0 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. Prantik KC outplayed City Club 3-0 after dominating the first half 1-0 at the same venue. At the Army Stadium, Eskaton S S trounced Little Friends Club 5-1 thanks to a hat-trick by Tansen. Tansen struck in the 8th, 16th and 29th minutes. Mehediuddin netted two other goals in the 71st and 79th minute.

Indian cricketers embroiled
in renewed controversy

NEW DELHI, Sept 19 (India Abroad News Service): Is cricket in Toronto just a five-match series between arch rivals India and Pakistan or something more? The 'something more' could be anything. Hastily brokered deals, messy compromises and unsavoury controversies, as one Indian newspaper darkly suggested. The media here has been seized with such possibilities ever since India had to send two cricketing teams to two different tournaments—the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur and the Sahara Cup in Toronto—a week ago. What really upset sports aficionados—and sports commentators—is the way India tamely bowed out of the Commonwealth Games a couple of days ago. "It was as if they had decided to give the game away on a platter to Australia," remarked a journalist. "After all it is the sponsored Sahara Cup where all the moolah is," he remarked sarcastically. The Indian Express, for one, carried a lead editorial and a huge spread on the top of the sports page today. "Something's rotten in Indian cricket," it said. "And the stench, curiously enough, become unbearable whenever the Indian team shifts camp to Sharjah or plays Pakistan in Toronto." Accusing the cricketers of placing pelf over patriotism, the paper's editorial, titled "Flag versus logo", minced no words. "The fizz and the froth, the magic and the moolah of all those Cola and beer promos can be distracting—and understandably so. But when it goes straight to the heads, when corporate funding threatens to wipe out national pride... then it's time to think again, boys." India crashed out to Australia at a shocking 110 for nine, and not long after they had the Aussies squirming at a pathetic 84 for 5. It was hinted, not just once, that India was in a hurry to lose in Kuala Lumpur so that some of the star players of that team could make it to the Sahara Cup in Toronto in the nick of time. A wire agency said that four of the Indian Commonwealth squad—Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh and Anil Kumble—had booked their tickets for Toronto even before the shameful match against Australia in Kuala Lumpur. According to the report, an official of the India Olympic Association (IOA) had feared that the Indian squad wouldn't have much of an incentive to play against Australia since their tickets for Toronto had already been booked. "What has upset us most is that even before the Australia India lost to Australia, Tendulkar, Jadeja, Kumble and Robin Singh would be leaving for India and then maybe to Toronto," the Indian contingent's deputy chef-de-mission S.M. Ball was quoted as saying. There were speculations that, had India actually won the match against the Aussies, the team would have to stay on in Kuala Lumpur. The tournaments were beset with controversy even before they began, with the IOA and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) engaged in a slugfest over where the "best" squad should go. While IOA pitched for the Commonwealth Games, where cricket has made a debut as a medal sport, the BCCI was reportedly under a contractual obligation to send it to the Sahara Cup in Toronto. Eventually, the team was split, with Mohammad Azharuddin leading the Sahara squad but after relinquishing the four important players to the Commonwealth team. There have been conflicting reports about whether the four have made it to, or can make it to, Toronto in time where one player who had suffered an injury had to be replaced. But at least one major sponsor was already welcoming their arrival publicly. As the Indian Express editorial concluded, "Never forget, boys, you are a part of a team. Not just a fancy cricket team, but a team called India."

Australia in men's hockey final
'Golden goal' settles
England's fate

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19: A 'golden goal' by Michael Brennan took Australia into the final of the men's field hockey at the Commonwealth Games here today, reports AFP. Australia twice fought back from behind to draw level at 2-2 and then inflict the killer blow in extra time. England had led 2-1 with three minutes of regulation time left. But a wayward pass by Duncan Woods was seized on and a swift series of passes gave 22-year-old Brennan the chance to fire home beneath England goalkeeper David Luckes. England players collapsed to their knees in despair as Brennan rushed to the sideline with his arms outstretched acclaiming his winning goal. "We've experienced that feeling before, we know how England feel. It must be quite devastating," said Australian coach Terry Walsh of his team's reputation of coming up short in big matches. England led twice in the final 14 minutes after a field goal by Jon Wyatt in the 56th minute and Russell Garcia off a penalty corner in the 62nd minute. But both times, Australia, stung into action, equalised to take the game into sudden extra time. Matthew Smith rammed home off Daniel Sproule's pass two minutes after England's opening goal and Jeremy Hiskins scored from close range with three minutes left. Australia squandered many scoring opportunities in a first half with Hiskins and Stephen Davies going close in the opening four minutes. English goalkeeper Luckes used his pads to block a dangerous Jay Stacy drive off a penalty corner in the 13th minute, but England, favourites with the Malaysian crowd, were dangerous on the break. Mark Pearn wriggled free inside the goal circle but his shot was pushed away by Australian goalkeeper Damon Diletti minutes later. Australia came close again off their second penalty corner, his time Davies was just wide with his hit. Stacy had a good chance when an Australian three-on-two counter-attack but it broke down with a wayward pass to Davies. England were always a

LATEST

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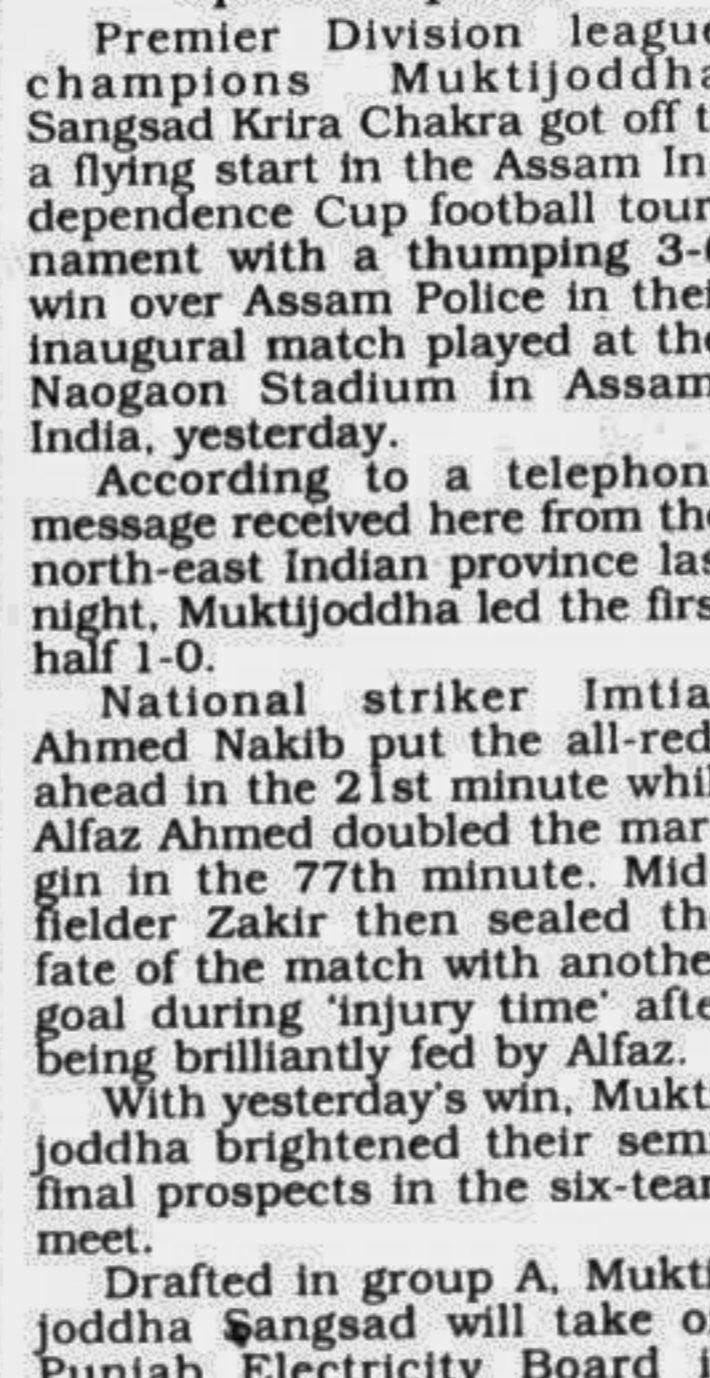
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 '60 Minutes' correspondent
6 Take your thyme
12 Party animal?
13 Diamond pattern
14 Lao-tzu's teachings
15 Tenant
16 Oriana Fallaci book
17 Occupants of 19
19 See 17
20 Cafeteria need
22 Historic time
24 Bitter material
27 Shake-spearean septet
29 Leave a good impression?
32 Laundry-mat fixture
35 Actress Daily
36 Performs

DOWN
2 Ox of leaders' comment
3 Barely discernable
4 Play charades
5 Stormed to pals
6 "—Smile" (song)
7 Unevenly eaten
8 Gettysburg Address
9 Pity
10 Toast
11 Dweeb
12 Harper Valley org.
13 Stomped
18 Unpleasant sight
21 Cheer-eg
23 Thing, in law
24 Play charades
25 Stallone, to pals
26 Hive dweller
28 Mr. Rogers' closeout
30 Average grade
31 "48"—
33 Asian holiday
34 Sancho Panza's Dapple, e.g.
39 Worked with wicker
41 Southern ple
42 Lather
43 Excursion
45 Hotel furniture
47 Take out of context?
48 Profits
49 Commotion
51 Chowd sundial
53 Sundial notation

CRYPTOQUIP
B D F Y B L W X G L L
L M B Y B K X , M G Q A J ' C N G L
F L L Q Y H B C L I G Q K J
C G I H D W H L C N A H ?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DO INSECTS LOVE TO VISIT ANTS AND UNCLAS IN FLORIDA FOR FUN?
Today's Cryptquip clue: D equals F
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.

Hertha Berlin's Michael Preetz trying to sneak through two Eintracht Frankfurt players during their Bundesliga encounter in Berlin on September 18.



Hertha Berlin's Michael Preetz trying to sneak through two Eintracht Frankfurt players during their Bundesliga encounter in Berlin on September 18. — AP/UNB photo

SIX NO TRUMPS
A K Sayeedul Huq
A GOOD HAND PLAY BY THE DECLARER
(Hand # 98)

North	1098432	East	None
South	AKJ65	West	AJ82
West (D)	AJ82	East	None
South	K75	West	AJ82

Bidding:

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 Spade	Pass	1 No Trump
Pass	2 Diamonds	Pass	3 Hearts
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

With 17 HCP West opened a Spade and when partner showed misfit, he tried 2 Hearts after the 2 Diamonds intervention by South. East raised to three, which was a correct bid, as, first, he was void in partner's Spade suit, second, his Queens of Clubs and Diamonds were unlikely to be tricks because of South's overall of 2 Diamonds. However, West booked game in Hearts.

THE PLAY

North led 8 of Diamonds, both dummy and South played low and the declarer won with the Ace. It was an obvious singleton lead from North. Hence, North was likely to be in an advantageous position in ruffing Diamonds over the declarer. He could minimise the risk by playing trumps provided these are normally distributed. The declarer on that assumption, played Ace and a small Heart which was won by South with the King. On winning the trick South faced a lead problem as he could not safely exit from his hand. Finally he led a small Diamond, the declarer slapped a Club and North ruffed with his winner Heart and then led a Club. The declarer went up with the Ace and returned the Queen of Diamond which was covered by South and ruffed by the declarer. He then played the Ace of Spades and South ruffed a small Spade in dummy bringing down the King. From dummy, the Ten of diamonds was led which was covered by South with the Jack and the declarer ruffed in the closed hand with his last trump. The Queen and Jack of Spades were played on which a Club and a Diamond loser were slapped. Next the Jack of Clubs was surrendered to the South which was the last trick for the defence. Thus, 4 Hearts were made with a good play.



Iwan Thomas of Wales who captured the 400 metres title in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. — AP/UNB photo