

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT billionaire Silvio Berlusconi is owner of AC Milan and that he is also an ex-prime minister of Italy. Some people have all the luck. Imagine not having to deal with the Mafia any more. But having to spend the rest of your life biting nails at every Milan match. Perhaps, being prime minister was a shade better. A mafioso only operates in the shade. Billionaire owner of Juventus Giovanni Agnelli could care a hoot about ex-prime ministers of Italy for the streets of Roma are but infested with them. There have been so many, and so often. Hooter Agnelli also owns Fiat. No, not a Fiat, but all of it. Wonder if Silvio (being a bit personal) was ever late for a Milan game on account of a political rally or whether Gio (too personal) was held up in a traffic jam. Judging from the size of his Fiat and his political rally. No chance.

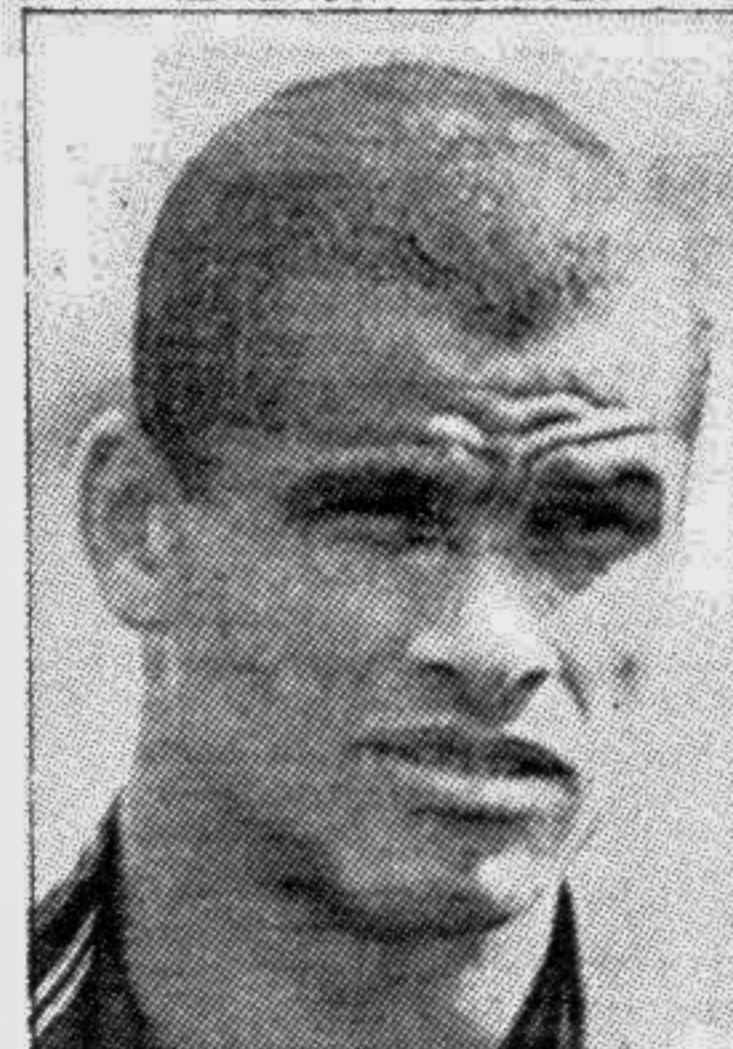
Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-103

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?	12	15	20
2. Who is skipping Barbados in C'wealth Games cricket?	Wallace	Gibson	Campbell
3. Where were the previous C'wealth Games held?	England	Canada	Australia
4. How many countries are taking part in the 16th Commonwealth Games?	50	60	70
5. In how many disciplines, is Bangladesh participating in the 16th Commonwealth Games?	Two	Seven	Nine

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Class Roll No.
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POWERED WITH **EN-VITS**
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS
SPORTS TALK



Rivaldo
(Brazilian football star)
"I like to play brilliant football like everyone but it's the results and trophies that are important to me. I can live with my team winning after an average performance but I can't handle it when we lose. I can't sleep after a defeat."

Metrostars hire Milutinovic
NEW YORK, Sept 22: Bora Milutinovic, the former United States national team coach who has guided four different countries to the World Cup finals, was Monday named coach of Major League Soccer's Metrostars, reports AFP.
The hiring of Milutinovic, in charge of Nigeria in France '98 this summer, comes less than two weeks before the club, based in suburban New Jersey, begins the playoffs in a bid to topple two-time defending champions DC United.
Milutinovic replaces Alfonso Mondelo, who was unable to snap the team out of a six-game losing streak.
Mentioned as a possible candidate for the vacant US national coaching post, Milutinovic will guide the Metrostars only in their last regular season game Saturday before the playoffs begin.
Milutinovic has guided the USA, Mexico, Costa Rica and Nigeria into the World Cup finals.

BCB finds a scapegoat

Akram loses captaincy, dropped as player

Sports Reporter



Akram Khan has been booted out of the Bangladesh squad for the forthcoming Asian Cricket Council (ACC) tournament, scheduled to begin in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu from October 3. The national selectors announced the 14-member team yesterday evening.
The portly middle-order batsman, who held the reigns of the most demanding job since he took over from Faruque



AMINUL ISLAM

Ahmed way back in 1994, came a cropper following the disastrous performance of the national team in the just-concluded Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games, where Bangladesh conceded three defeats, including a humiliating 114-run thrashing against Northern Ireland.
The selectors announced Akram's long-time deputy Aminul Islam as the new captain with middle-order batsmen Khaled Mahmud as vice-captain.
Although there was looming speculation that Akram may lose his captaincy after the chronic failure of the national team for the last 18 months, the decision to drop the most successful batsman from the team surprised all and sundry.
Enayet Hossain Siraj, who leads the three-man selection committee, came up with a sen-

sational revelation that Akram was not only dropped from the team for failing to inspire his demoralised side, but for his poor performance with the bat.
"We had included him in the Commonwealth Games not for his performance, but to continue him as captain," said Siraj while talking at a crowded press at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office last evening.
"But after the pathetic showing in Kuala Lumpur where the team management failed miserably, we have decided to bring in a new face for a change," explained Siraj, adding that Akram can get his place in the team if he performs well in domestic cricket.
Siraj's statement belies the fact that Akram was made captain of the C'wealth team a week after he was announced as a member of the squad. The omission of Akram, who scored 16 runs in three matches, from a team that was bowled out for a mere 63 runs against Northern Ireland hardly justified the statement of Siraj.

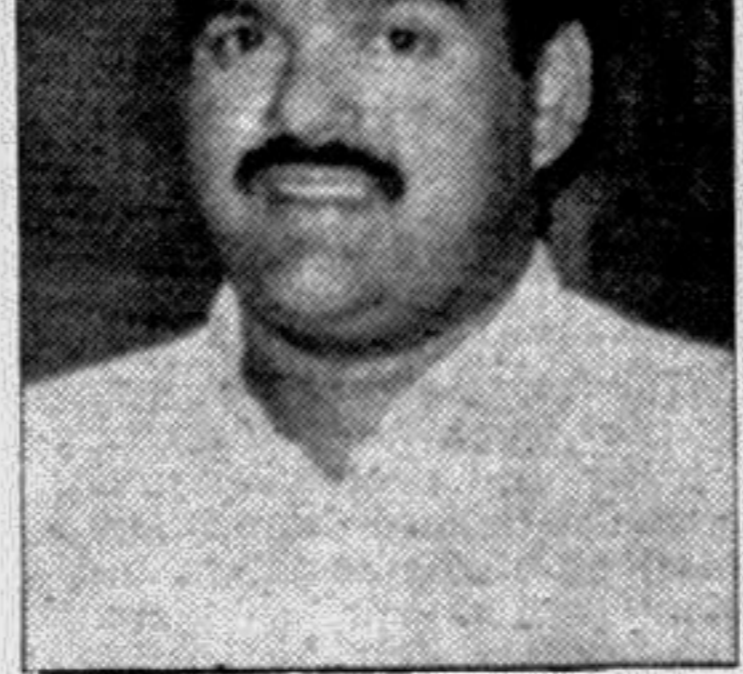
This is for the first time the burly Chittagonian has been dropped from the national team since he started his luminous career way back in the 1986 Colombo Asia Cup. Although the most capped captain did have his share of successes and failures, Akram carved a niche in the hearts of millions of sports fans by winning the ICC Trophy in Malaysia last year. Incidentally, Akram was the man with the 'golden' willow when Bangladesh pulled off their historic victory against Holland in Kuala Lumpur.

Also dropped with Akram from the team that took part in C'wealth Games are his Abahani team-mates, opener Azam Iqbal and Naimur Rahman. Off-spinner Sabbir Khan was the other crest-fallen player among the quartet dropped from the ACC squad.
Four players have been recalled to the side. They are -- opener Javed Omar, right-hand batsman Sajjad Ahmed, Monsur, Hasanuzzaman and all-rounder Al-Shahriar Rokon.
Officials: Enayet Hossain Siraj (Tour manager), Gordon Greenidge (coach), Sarwar Imran (Assistant coach) and Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman (Physio).

The national selectors have also announced a new assistant to Gordon Greenidge in the likes of Sarwar Imran, the successful coach of Abahani Krira Chakra last year.

Surprising was the naming of Enayet Hossain Siraj, chairman of the selection committee, as Tour manager, a phenomenon not common in the annals of cricket at this level.

Gordon, the West Indian coach of the national team, who did not accompany the team



AKRAM KHAN

that took part in the C'wealth Games, has been summoned to take over the national team, which will be left in a 'do or die' situation in Kathmandu. The champions in Nepal will qualify for the Asia Cup, to be held in Dhaka next March. It will be a sorry sight if we are not represented.

The Bangladesh squad: Aminul Islam (captain), Khaled Mahmud (vice-captain), Shahriar Hossain, Javed Omar, Belim, Faruque Ahmed, Sajjad Ahmed, Monsur, Mohammed Rafique, Al-Shahriar Rokon, Hasanuzzaman, Khaled Masud, (wicketkeeper), Hasibul Hossain, Morshed Ali Khan, Safiuddin Ahmed, Mushfiqur Rahman.
Officials: Enayet Hossain Siraj (Tour manager), Gordon Greenidge (coach), Sarwar Imran (Assistant coach) and Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman (Physio).

BCB must work on team spirit

A S M Faruque

I am no writer but as an ex-cricketer I have the right to react to comments made by managers a fer a tour. My reaction is a sequel to observations made by Bangladesh team officials after the recent Commonwealth cricket debacle.

"There is no technique," says the manager. I say there is no perfection, no adaptability. Our boys know how to play cover, drive, sweep, on drive, square cut, and so on. Proper execution of their ability is lacking. Managers must know how to make a player do it.
The primary objectives of officials and coaches should be to motivate players to play the right shot at the right time, to bring in team spirit among the players, to make them feel that they are playing for their country, for the nation. Of course, officials have to be technically qualified to perform his responsibilities.

It is about time the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) gives importance to the present situation of Bangladesh cricket and helps raise the standard of cricket in the country. The Board should take necessary measures to overcome the frustration following a disastrous series. After every tour or home series the manager's report should be read out and discussed. The Board should conduct inquiries after each series, learn lessons from each series and take necessary action after each series. I learned from a mutual acquaintance that a manager of our national team said that his team had 'no spirit'. Who was to blame for that? Officials must work to develop morale of the players, of the team.

One must recognise that everybody is not capable of managing things everywhere. The best student may not become the best teacher. The best cricketer may not be the best coach or manager. If it was so, Gavaskar and Kapil Dev would have been appointed manager a long time ago.
India has produced many cricketers of international repute to organise and look after cricket in their country. Then why did India have to bring Bobby Simpson as advisor? I am certain Gavaskar or Kapil Dev, both of them, deserved Simpson's position more than anybody else in the world did, because both of them are world

record holders. Neither reacted to the appointment of Bobby Simpson; probably both of them felt that they were not the best for the position at this time. Kapil Dev is happily involved in managing the ground and Gavaskar is content as an expert commentator.
BCB officials must find out how to keep up the spirit of the team, how to take one hundred per cent from the players. BCB must strive to build in the players, the attitude to feel for the nation. BCB must provide the proper guidance to the players at the proper time.
Administration of the BCB is one thing and management of the national team is another. The former is organisation; the latter requires cricket knowledge. The BCB has confused the two and therefore is appointing a new tour manager for each tour. Often the post of tour

manager has been regarded as a gift. A tour manager returns from a tour and is forgotten. The tour manager also forgets about cricket. One good example is Quayum Reza Chowdhury tour manager to the last ICC trophy, which we won. But, one has not heard of Mr Chowdhury for the past eighteen months.
BCB has to have a scheme -- a continuous programme to create new players by organising cricket at different age groups, under-17, under-19, under-21. To build confidence to play at international level, age group teams should play international matches. We have to organise tournaments in Bangladesh on a regular basis and invite junior teams from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This will be of tremendous service to our cricket. This will help to mature our raw talent. Thereby our youngsters will be prepared to perform their best for the national team.
Threat from great players of the subcontinent or, for that matter, the world, who will presumably have played for the junior teams of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be greatly reduced. Our boys will have the necessary confidence.
As for the present national team, it would not be possible to cause a miracle overnight. BCB should concentrate on team spirit and motivate the players to perform their best. BCB must realise that irrelevant comment by team officials after or during a tour is harmful. Pre-match comment and/or prediction should be based on analysis. Officials should be more diplomatic. The manager's comment before the recent matches against Kenya and Northern Ireland was improper and uncalled for.
Managers should be involved in team training and selection. The captain of the national side, if capable of contributing, should also be involved in the selection process.
We are frustrated. We cannot live with frustration forever. As a former national cricketer I personally feel that if BCB is serious and takes necessary steps sincerely, the Board can overcome the existing frustrating situation.

Taylor off to Pakistan

SYDNEY, Sept 22 (AFP/Internet): Australian Test cricket captain Mark Taylor left Sydney Tuesday with teammates Ian Healy, Glenn McGrath, Stuart MacGill and Michael Slater for a tour of Pakistan and Bangladesh.
The rest of the team will fly direct to Pakistan from the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia.
Australia has not won a series in Pakistan for almost 40 years but has been boosted by the return of McGrath, who missed most of last season with a stomach injury.
The Pakistan team has recently been rocked by allegations of match-fixing against batsmen and former captains Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik and Wasim Akram.
Taylor said on Tuesday he hoped the bribery allegations would be pushed into the background when his side began their tour of Pakistan this week.
"I hope that it (the bribery issue) gets handled very, very quickly," Taylor said. "I'd like to see the game taking the spotlight instead."
Taylor said the presence of the players in question was not an issue for the tourists.
"Whoever their team comprises of it's going to be a good side," Taylor said.

Green Delta hockey

Foreigners reign supreme

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Sporting brightened their championship hopes in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league when they handed Bangladesh Railway a 1-4 defeat in their penultimate match at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh Sporting, with their fifth win in six matches against a draw, moved atop the eight-team league table having raised their tally to 16 points. On the other hand, for Railway it was their first defeat in six matches against two wins and three draws, which kept them glued to their previous collection of nine points.

In an one-sided affair, Iqbal Singh, one of the four Indians playing for the old-town outfit, who has already scored three hattricks, put his side ahead in the eighth minute. His compatriot Thomas then struck twice in the space of eight minutes to make it 3-0. Proshanto scored the fourth goal for the winners in the 57th minute.
Moinuddin scored the consolation goal for the railwaymen in the 59th minute.
The winners will take on Wari Club in their last match on September 26.

BACHELORS WIN
Earlier, in the day's first match, Bachelors Club posted a 2-0 victory over Victoria Sporting.

Two Pakistani stick-wielders, Aqil and Sajed scored one goal apiece for the winners.
It was the second win for Bachelors, which raised their tally to eight points from six matches. Victoria have only one point in the bag on completion of their sixth outing.

TODAY'S MATCHES
(Moulana Bhasani Stadium) Dhaka Ansars v Cantonian SC (2.30 pm)
Wari Club vs Sonali Bank (4.15 pm)

Suker back on recovery trail

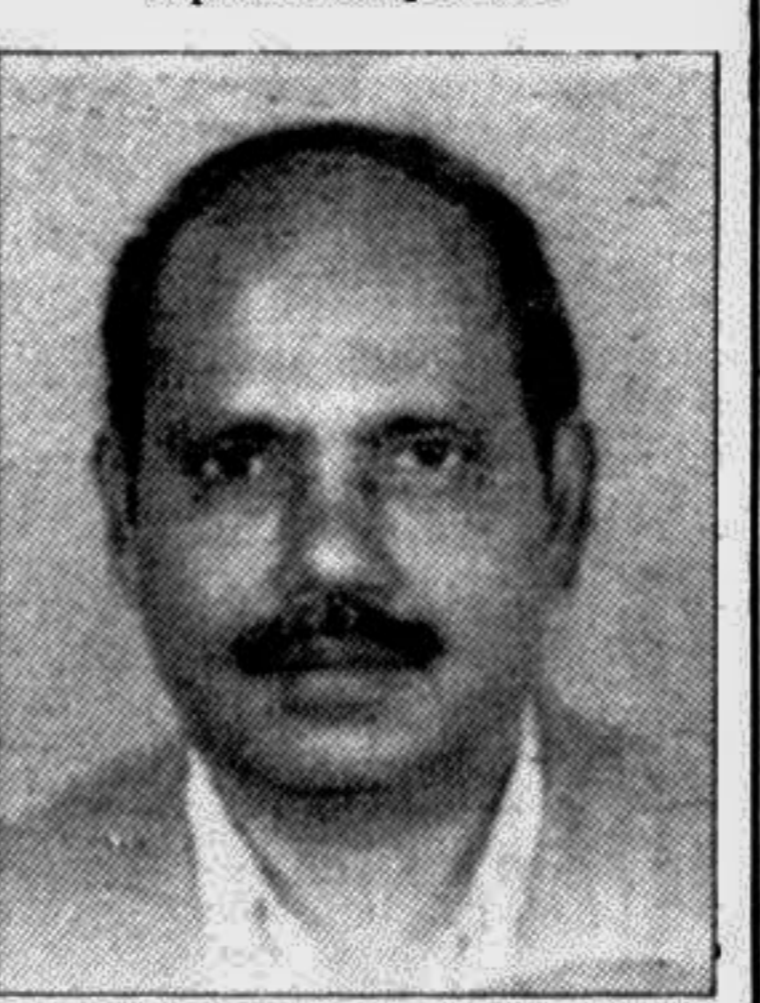
MADRID, Sept 22 (Reuters/Internet): Croatian World Cup striker Davor Suker returned to training at Real Madrid on Tuesday after a month out with a knee injury.

Suker, who picked up the knock in a pre-season game for Real Madrid, said he was "delighted" to be kicking a football again after a frustrating time on the sidelines.
"All the work in the gym has been boring," Suker said on Tuesday. "The recovery period is always hard but now I'm feeling very happy and I hope to get back into the coach's plans as soon as possible."
Suker's first target will be Real Madrid's league game against Real Betis on October 4. He was the top scorer at the World Cup in France.

He (Wasim Akram) says he is fit and in form. He wants to be considered for selection for the first Test against Australia starting at Rawalpindi from October 1. Ahmad said.
Meanwhile, former Test player and chief selector Wasim

Siraj - the Jack of all trades

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Cricket Board has discovered another Reza-E-Karim in Enayet Hossain Siraj as a man for all purposes.

Siraj, a member in the present executive committee, was first named the chairman of the BCB ground committee last April. He was then made the chairman of the BCB selection committee last month and now he has been appointed manager of the Bangladesh cricket team which will take part in the Pepsi ACC trophy in Nepal.
It seems either the board is not finding anybody else other than Siraj for these jobs or Siraj is so powerful a chap that the board is compelled to place him in every department.
The decision was made by the board and no one can defy the board's decision," said the former national team cricketer with a smug on his face.
As a counter to Siraj's all-knowing belief, it may be mentioned that the board last month announced its member Ali Hossain Babu as the CCDD secretary for the senior division league but Babu declined to accept the job citing his professional commitment. Babu defied the board. Did he not, Mr. Siraj?



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division encounter between Bangladesh Sporting and Bangladesh Railway at the Moulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium. — Star photo

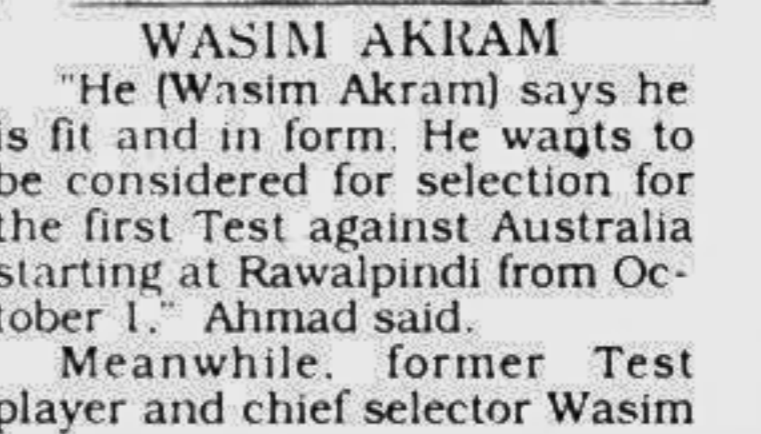
Akram changes his mind

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 22 (Reuters/ AFP/ Internet): Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has reversed a week-old decision to retire over charges of foul play and is available to play against the visiting Australians, cricket board officials said on Tuesday.
The secretary of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Waqar Ahmad, said Wasim Akram declared himself available on Monday afternoon in a telephone call from Manchester, England.

Bari said Akram, who is facing match-fixing allegations, and his new-ball partner Waqar Younis, who has been injured, will be considered for the forthcoming series.
"Both players will be considered for Pakistan's home series against Australia and Zimbabwe," he said.
Akram, the only bowler to have captured 300 wickets in Tests and one-day internationals, last week announced that he was retiring from international cricket to get his name cleared in a betting and match-fixing scandal. But after the completion of the English county championship the left-arm paceman had told the Pakistan board he is available for selection, official said.

Akram and Waqar were not part of the Pakistan team which clinched the one-day series against arch-rivals India by 4-1 to lift the Sahara Cup in Toronto, Canada.
An interim report released by the PCB two weeks ago recommended that Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmad, should not be selected until the investigations were completed.
It said all three were prime suspects in an investigation, which is being carried out by a Lahore judge.

Bari however said Akram did not play against India because of his commitment with Lancashire and was in great form.
The Australians arrive here on September 23 for three Tests and three one-day internationals. They open their tour on



WAQAR YOUNIS

consideration before the Test squad is finalised.
Waqar, regaining fitness after damaging his elbow, has not played since he turned out for his English county Glamorgan in a NatWest Trophy match in June.

Friday against Karachi in a four-dayer. Zimbabwe will play the same number of matches in November and December.
The chairman of selectors said he has been informed by the authorities (PCB) to consider Wasim Akram at a selection committee meeting likely to be held later this week.
"Any world eleven would have Wasim Akram in it. So what's the problem in selecting him if he is available?" Bari said.
The suggestion of skipper Aamir Sohail and coach Javed Miandad will be taken into

consideration before the Test squad is finalised.
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Disclosure of the day

ATLANTA, Sept 22 (AP/ Internet): Just one week after his second wife gave birth to their first child, WBA and IBF heavyweight champ Evander Holyfield admitted that he has fathered two children out of wedlock in the past year with previous girlfriends.
Holyfield now has nine children -- the newborn Elijah Jedidiah to his wife, Janice; three with his first wife, Paulette, from whom he has been divorced since 1991; and five others born out of wedlock to four women.
Holyfield made the admission in an interview published in Tuesday's editions of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.
Holyfield, who beat Vaughn Bean in a 12-round decision to retain his titles Saturday night at the Georgia Dome, described his wife as "my best friend," but admitted he regretted getting married almost immediately after they met in October 1996.
The couple has been in and out of counselling since then, he said, but he declined to address the future of his marriage.
Holyfield, 35, knows he will be criticised, but said: "I know everything comes out of the dark and into the light sooner or later. It might as well be now. If you don't want nothing (known about your actions), then do nothing. I'm not getting. But I have overcome other things in my life, and I will overcome this."
Two boys, Eleazar and Elijah Elias, were born 11 months and 10 months ago. When the women became pregnant, Holyfield said he was sad and angry about the state of his marriage and admitted, "I started going back to my old habits."
He said he told his wife of his infidelity and the impending births and suggested they get divorced, but she declined and the two continued to attend counselling.
Holyfield, who is one of nine children born out of wedlock to Annie Holyfield, had his first

child with his first wife a year before the two wed in 1985. Evander Jr. is now 14.
"I thought I should do the right thing and marry (Paulette)," he said. "But that turned upside-down. If you don't

Wills cup tickets

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board announced yesterday the rates of tickets for the Wills International Cup, to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka from October 24.

Tickets will be on sale through a bank a week before the opening match.
This is for the first time that all the seats at the estimated 35,000 capacity stadium will be numbered and no complimentary tickets will be issued.
The rate of the hospitality boxes and non-A/C, have been fixed at Taka 2.5 lakh and two lakh.

There were 24 hospitality boxes during the Independence Cup last January. The board has constructed 16 air-conditioned boxes atop the roof of the VIP gallery. Besides, the board for the first time has introduced an international enclosure underneath the Olympic torch at the northern end of the stadium with a capacity of 1800 seats for the home supporters of the nine participating nations. Each seat will cost Tk 750.
The daily rates of tickets for the VIP gallery has been fixed at Tk 1,500 per match while for Club House tickets will be Tk 1,200 (western end) and Tk 1,000 (eastern end).

For special enclosure, only to be available for the players and club officials, the rate of tickets will be Tk 150 daily.
The daily rates of gallery tickets will be Tk 150 (western) and Tk 120 (eastern).
The board has also approved to donate 10% of the gate money to the Prime Minister's Relief fund.

take the time to know somebody before you marry them, look what happens. If you look at the situation with Janice, it was the same thing. The same things you do produces the same result.
Holyfield has primary custody of his three children with his first wife. The mothers of the other five children are primary caretakers, but the children spend time with Holyfield. He provides for all of them financially.
Holyfield said the recent births of his out-of-wedlock children made him realise he needed to match the discipline in his personal life that he uses in boxing.
"It took me a long time to figure this out," he said. "How come I keep making bad decisions? How come I can make good decisions in a boxing ring but not in my life? When I'm in training, I do exactly what I'm told to do. But in my personal life, I think that if I don't do what I want, it'll be all right."
Ironically, Holyfield was chosen recently as a spokesman by the National Governors Association for monitoring programs for fatherless children.
He said he was picked because of his background as a youngster and as an adult.
"Somebody asked me, Why would you represent kids who were born out of wedlock?" I said because, I don't have a father and I know what it's like. I know these kids will continue to hurt and need to be taught about their situation so they don't make the same mistakes," said Holyfield.
His wife did not want Holyfield speaking publicly about their situation.
"Tell them Evander's wife has forgiven him, and that's all that should matter," she said through Holyfield's attorney, Jim Thomas.
"She doesn't feel too good about this," said Holyfield. "She said, 'Don't tell them anything.' But the way I feel is, let me hang myself with my own words; I don't want someone else to hang me with theirs."