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Column One DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor likes)

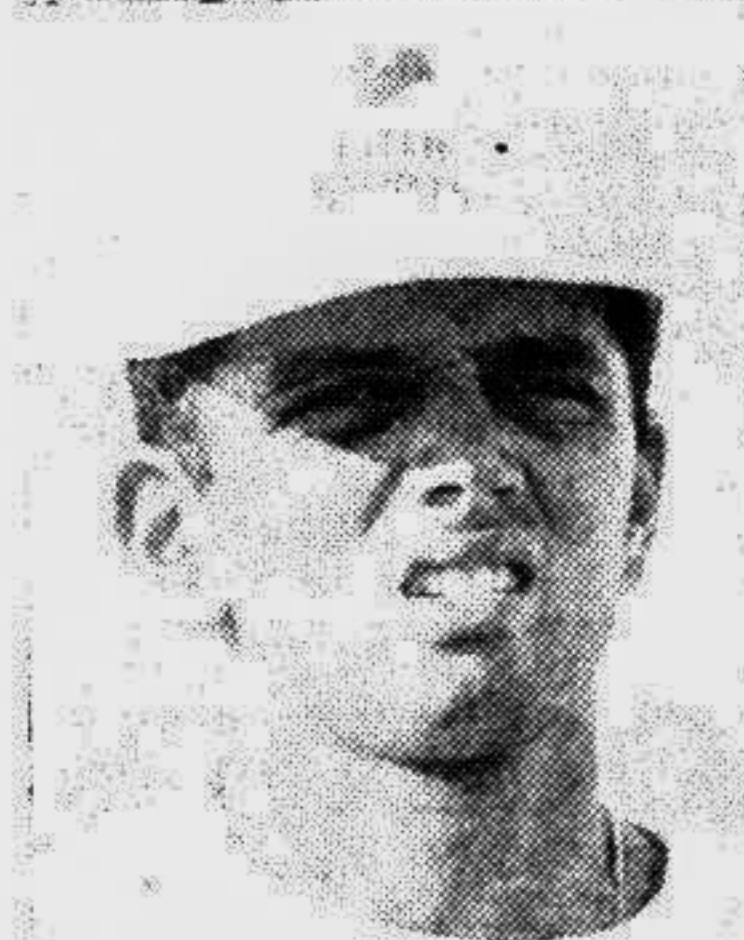
THAT Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr was the first black player to win a major men's tennis tournament.

Ashe's important tennis titles include the US national intercollegiate (1965), the US clay-court (1967), and the first US Open (1968). In 1969 he became a professional tennis player. He won the Wimbledon and the World Court championships in 1975 and the Australian Open doubles championship 1977. He also served as a United States Army Reserve.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1943, Ashe was, however, plagued by health problems. Ashe survived heart surgery in 1979 and announced his retirement from competition in 1980. He served as non-playing captain of the US Davis Cup team from 1981 to 1984. During his second bypass operation in 1983, it is likely that he was given blood tainted with HIV, which causes AIDS. After acknowledging his disease, he became an active fundraiser and speaker on behalf of AIDS research.

Ashe left us in 1993, but not before he wrote *Days of Grace: A Memoir* the same year.

SPORTS TALK



Rahul Dravid
(Indian middle-order batsman)

"I like reading and listening to music and going out with friends. I'm quite a voracious reader and lay my hand on all kinds of books and magazines. Normally at any particular point of time I always have a book or a magazine in hand and I just find that relaxes me more than watching television. As far as listening to music is concerned, I've nothing in particular. I listen to slow English rock like Sting or Phil Collins and Chris de Burgh."

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-107

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 27 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

- Which country lifted the Wills International Cup?
S Africa W Indies India
- Who scored highest number of runs in the Wills Cup?
Kallis Cronje Wallace
- Who topped batting average in the Bangladesh-West Indies A One day series?
Reifer Akram Javed
- Which team emerged champion in the national age-group swimming?
Khulna Nagan Kushtia
- Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?
Mamun Sadek Kamal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS

Vajpayee reassures Pakistan

JAIPUR, Nov 21: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today said the government would ensure that the Pakistani cricket team was not obstructed while playing in India during its coming tour, reports PTI.

The government would see to it that no organisation or individual was able to obstruct the Pakistani cricketers, he said taking a different line from the one advocated by Shiv Sena Chief Bal Thackeray.

The Prime Minister's assertion at a press conference here came a day after Thackeray reiterated his threat not to allow the Pakistani team to play anywhere in the country.

Premier Division clubs face monetary problem Speculations rife about cricketers' transfer

With the inter-club cricketers' transfer only four days away, speculations are rife in the stadium arena over which players are switching to which club. Surprisingly though, most of the leading clubs were yet to make any significant move ahead of the much-awaited bourse.

The reason behind this, as several club officials claimed, was the financial problem they are facing because of unbridled demand from the players. It was learnt that even a mediocre player was asking for not less than taka 3 lakh, let alone the undisclosed claim of heavyweights like Akram and Aminul Islam.

Nevertheless, most of the leading clubs have started talking with the players to strike reasonable deals.

Apparently, Surjo Tarun Club, an average Premier league outfit made the first move to produce a title-aspiring side this year. The Dhammond-based club made attempts to rope in players from giants in the league, holders Abahani Krira Chakra, runners-up Brothers Union, Kalabagan, Biman and Mohammedan Sporting Club.

The new levathans have so far succeeded in convincing Biman opener Athar Ali Khan and Kalabagan's left-armed Enamul Haq. Abahani, meanwhile, have reportedly captured

a big fish from their arch rivals Mohammedan by eluding right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain, also known Shanto. Most other clubs, however, are trying to keep their previous teams intact.

Mohammedan, who have just formed their new cricket committee, are keen to retain the services of captain Aminul Islam, Minhazul Abedin, Mohammed Rafique and Morshed Ali Khan -- the four players bracketed in the national pool.

According to BCB by-law, each club can sign up to five players listed in the national pool.

"We are trying hard to retain the same side. But we might give second thoughts if the demands of the players are too high," said the cricket secretary of Mohammedan SC, Lutfar Rahman Badal, last night. Elaborating, Badal said that they might produce a team with young players if the situation so demanded.

"For the last two years we have been making the best possible team. But we have failed miserably," said Badal. Mohammedan, a popular outfit in the domestic circuit, finished sixth and fifth in the last two seasons.

Badal however said that this time they were looking for a new captain. It was learnt that Mohammedan might appoint Minhazul Abedin as captain in place of Aminul Islam.

The Kalabagan secretary Alam Chowdhury and Brothers Union's official Abid also hoped to retain their respective teams that played last season. Both, however, expressed their concern about the present financial condition of the clubs.

Brothers expect Khaled Mahmud to don the captain's arm-band to lead a side that will be a blend of youth and experience.

Kalabagan were yet to make up their mind about a new captain in place of Saiful Islam, who is most likely to be replaced as skipper.

It appears that Akram will stick to his Abahani, even if not as captain, which position is rumoured to be offered to Khaled Masud Pilot or Naimur Rahman Durjoy. Mohammedan in revenge of losing Hasibul Hossain, will try to pull a big one from Abahani. Minhazul Abedin, although tipped as MSC skipper, is making the Surjo Tarun team. Enamul Haque Moni has deserted Kalabagan in favour of Surjo Tarun. Athar Ali is also likely to join Surjo Tarun from Biman. There is still a shadow of doubt whether Aminul Islam will continue in Mohammedan without the tag of captaincy.

The rumours, the acquisitions and the losses will continue to fill the air. All will, however, be revealed come the transfer time -- November 25-27.

Healy, Waugh lord over the Gabba Hosts tighten their grip

BRISBANE, Nov 21: Australia rallied around centuries by Steve Waugh (112) and Ian Healy (134) and a sprightly unbeaten half-century by Damien Fleming to take control of the first Ashes cricket Test Saturday against England, reports AP.

After some strong lower-order batting had propped Australia to 485 all out at the Gabba, fast bowler Glenn McGrath removed opener Mike Atherton for nought, his fourth against Australia, to have England on 53 for one at stumps on the second day.

England's first task at hand will be to score 286 runs to avoid the follow-on.

Mark Butcher, who had managed nine runs in his previous five first-class innings on tour, and the in-form Nasser Hussain were unbeaten on 23 runs apiece.

McGrath lived up to his pre-match promise and removed the former captain in his third over. Playing half forward to a full length delivery, Atherton edged a catch to Mark Waugh at second slip.

It was the 10th time McGrath has dismissed him in eight Tests.

Steve and Healy made full use of wayward bowling, fielding lapses and good fortune to restrict a sagging innings that had dipped to 106 for four and 178 for five on the first day.

With the discipline and the line and length that highlighted the tourists effort on the first day lacking, the overnight pair of Steve and Healy condemned the visitors in what would be a match-winning 187-run stand in almost six hours.

After Steve's dismissal soon after lunch, the tail wagged frustratingly as the last three wickets contributed 125 runs to pile the misery on the England attack.

Australia, resuming the day on 246 for five, went from strength to strength as the two senior batsmen, both playing their 107th Tests, hammered centuries.

Both batsmen, aided by dropped catches on the first evening, deftly caned the four-pronged pace attack to take Australia to 348 for five at lunch.

Local hero Healy dominated the stand with his fourth century and the second against England. Healy took charge after Waugh was smartly caught behind off a hard-working Alan Mullally.

Mullally, playing his first test in 22 months for England since playing against New Zealand in Auckland in January 1997, returned a career-best 5-105 in his 10th Test.

The left-arm seamer gave England a long-awaited breakthrough when he slanted a delivery across Steve, who duly edged it to wicketkeeper Alec Stewart in the sixth over after lunch.

Steve's 16th century lasted 30 minutes over five hours and included 13 boundaries off 232 balls.

Healy rode his luck for his second century against England. Dropped on 36, Healy played on to Darren Gough on 62, but the ball failed to dislodge a bail, compounding England's agony on the second morning.

Fleming, 71 not out, his



highest first-class score, took liking to some half-hearted England bowling.

He smashed 11 boundaries in showing scant respect to the opposition, added 55 runs for the eighth wicket with Healy, and in the company of Stuart McGill (25) and McGrath (five), another 25 and 45 runs for the last two wickets.

Fleming lasted for 133 minutes and faced 108 balls.

SCOREBOARD
Australia at stumps on the second day of the first cricket Test between Australia and England at the Gabba on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA: 1st innings, (overnight 426 for five)
Taylor c Hussain b Cork 46
Slater c Butcher b Mullally 16
Langer lbw b Gough 8
M Waugh c Stewart b Mullally 31
S Waugh c Stewart b Mullally 112
Ponting c Butcher b Cork 21
Healy c Mullally b Fraser 134
Kasprowicz c Stewart b Mullally 0
Fleming not out 71
McGill c Stewart b Mullally 20
McGrath c Atherton b Croft 5
Extras: (lb-14, w-1, nb-6) 21
Total: (all out in 158 overs) 485
Fall of wkts: 1-30; 2-59; 3-106; 4-106; 5-178; 6-365; 7-365; 8-420; 9-445.

Bowler O M R W
Gough 34 4 135 1
Cork 31 6 98 2
Mullally 40 10 105 5
Croft 23 6 55 1
Fraser 28 7 76 1
Ramprakash 2 1 2 0

ENGLAND: 1st innings
Butcher not out 23
Atherton c M Waugh b McGrath 0
Hussain not out 23
Extras: (lb-6, nb-1) 7
Total: (for one wicket in 19 overs) 53
Fall of wkts: 1-11.

To bat: Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Angus Fraser, Alan Mullally.

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 7 2 13 1
Fleming 7 2 20 0
Kasprowicz 4 1 14 0
McGill 1 1 0 0

There she goes: Australian Steve Waugh watches his lofted shot sail across the ropes during his match saving 112 yesterday at the Gabba. England captain Alec Stewart watches in awe.



The Bangabandhu Stadium -- for cricket and for football!

Star photo

BFF to get \$250,000 from FIFA

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will receive a grant of 250,000 US dollars from the world soccer body FIFA in five installments before the next football World Cup in 2002.

The BFF will get the first installment of 50,000 dollars within the next two months, federation general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid, MP, told UNB yesterday.

The BFF general secretary, who returned home Friday after attending the FIFA media committee meeting on Wednesday in Zurich, Switzerland, said FIFA president Joseph Blatter assured him about the timely despatch of the grant.

Blatter announced during the FIFA Congress in France earlier this year that a part of FIFA's earning from the World Cup football will be given to support the least developed soccer playing countries.

The FIFA media committee meeting, chaired by Blazer Chuck of USA, was participated by 11 members.

The meeting discussed the media facilities and media accreditation problems in the France World Cup '98.

Harun-ur-Rashid also appealed to FIFA to arrange sending of teams from leading soccer countries to the Asian and South Asian countries where football is lagging behind amid rising popularity of some other games.

The Bangabandhu Stadium debate The CriFoo Confrontation and playing in the jail

If at the end of this peace I appear to the reader as a person confused, he shall be forgiven for truly I am. I too beg to be forgiven.

Dhaka sport, and to that extent (alphabetically mentioned) cricket and football in Bangladesh, is now embroiled in the disputation over the use of the Bangabandhu Stadium, hitherto used by even gargantuan wrestlers for so they called themselves from the banks of the Indus; or was it Ravi?

I grew up also seeing athletics, boxing (including the Mohammad Ali spectacle), cricket, football, tattoo show and volleyball, all being held at the stadium. My forefathers in the sport arena, and there are more than the number of my grey hair, will vouch that there were indeed many other events, even excluding the non-sporting ones.

As a child, who's every sporting dream was caught in this one big circle, it is difficult for me to simply catapult one into the obscurity of political indecision. Football, if anything, was never centrifugal; it was the Dhaka stadium. Ironically, the Football Federation organised the Bangabandhu Cup there long before some body thought of naming the stadium Bangabandhu.

If hockey is noticeably missing from the list mentioned, it is because of its special place in my seat of passion. For that is the game I had played for the majestic Mohammedan Sporting on that very soil. Well, we scored only one goal in one whole season and that too from my stick. In a way I was the 'only scorer' for MSC that year. It obviously did not win us the Dhaka league, but canvassing on that note won me the BUET Hall elections.

There are two sides in this Bangabandhu debate, and I do not mean politically.

One viewpoint is that if cricket and football could coexist for forty years on this ground why cannot that happen now. As a matter of fact, at one time there were two football pitches sandwiching a single cricket pitch in the middle. Those advocating for football have now pledged not to damage the central four of the eight cricket pitches prepared very expensively on the occasion of

the Wills International Cup. Incidentally, the BCB has till now kept mum over press claims that ground preparation cost them Taka-one crore and a half.

So, if half the pitches, the best four, are saved what is the problem? Barristers of the pro-cricket lobby say that football boots will damage the entire outfield with their boots, and heavy tackles. So vulgar would be the damage on Ravi Shastri's 'lush green carpet' that several inches of the ground may have to be dug and redone to make it good and ready for the next cricket invasion. Reference: nine Test teams.

That is not all, goes on the cricket fans. Bangladesh have qualified for the first time in any world event by proving worthy to play against the might of the game at England's World Cup '99. And, our cricketers need to play out that ground uninterrupted to make themselves ready for the big event in May next. This in itself is the *Deo favente* argument in favour of BCB.

Relentless football fan: But, why cannot our national cricketers practise and prepare at the very lovely BUET ground, internationalised for the Wills? If it was good for the Cronjies and the Laras it should be good for anybody.

Adamant cricket fan: But what about the cricket league? That is where our boys will build their temperament. And then there is the international tournament in March, as part of our World Cup preparation...

I think this time the footballers are out caught in the cold.

Actually, nothing succeeds like success. Cricket has the ACC and the ICC and again the ACC and the West Indies A... Football has very little or naught.

Take for instance the SAF football Gold. We have tried very hard on five or six occasions and despite being favourites every time the regional championship has remained elusive. To add to the agony of local fans, once at Dhaka we were last among the seven teams. A win there would have served as football's spinach. This difference between the two games, football and cricket, is to a great extent

of "performance" and "non-performance".

In case many of you did not notice, the crowds at the last Bangabandhu Cup in December 1997 was much thinner than expected. The Mexican waves never took place. The footballers, locals and foreign, failed to appeal to the common fan. And of course, most of us remember that the last Mohammedan-Abahani football match at Mirpur Stadium drew only five thousand.

To add to woe of local football, nowadays we see too much world-class football on satellite television. Our standard or even of the teams, which visit us, is nowhere near that. Football is not unpopular, as France '98 will testify, only we have failed to catch up with its meteoric ascent.

At one time the icons of a Bangalee child were Pele, Best, Beckenbauer, Gullit, Rossi, Maradona... Today, their dreams are filled by Tendulkar, Jayasurya, Afridi...

The satellite television has done more harm to football. It has made cricket popular to the housewife even and the casual sport fan. For it goes on all day and even nights, you can watch it between running chores; there are statistics to remember and records to break, etc. Football lasts for a vigorous 90 minutes.

And so the general public is quite happy to see cricket at Bangabandhu and not that greatly upset by football's absence. But, indeed football was once the heart and soul of this very stadium. That is what pains a common sports fan as me.

Indeed, football has a lot of homework to do before it can get back to the heights of its glorious past.

To do justice in view of the circumstances leading up to this CriFoo confrontation, it is right that cricketers should be allowed to prepare for the World Cup at the Bangabandhu uninterrupted till April-May. We do not want any excuses afterwards, that we could not do this and that because we did not have the stadium to ourselves.

As soon as the cricketers leave for London, the stadium will be given to football for its local and international events, albeit for four months. In the meantime, football should begin their grafting programme by starting some programme at the deserted Mirpur stadium. For heaven's sake, use Samir Shakir, the Iranian coach employed by BFF. Give him some boys at Mirpur.

BFF should also immediately launch a marketing programme. Football needs to reach the common man. But how?

The National Sports Council should at this moment evolve an annual calendar, which would allow thereafter the Bangabandhu stadium to be used by both football and cricket. The NSC should specify the time-sharing follow it strictly.

In the meantime the much-publicised scheme for new stadiums should be urgently pursued. There is no alternative to more grounds and stadiums.

How about a new playground at the present Jail premises when the prison is shifted, so we heard, to Joydebpur? Football and cricket can then be played in their respective stadium and we can have Bangabandhu Stadium for the usual tattoo show.

McLean's memorable match

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 21 (Reuters/Internet): Nixon McLean took a career-best 7-28 on Saturday as the West Indies dismissed Free State for just 67 on the second day of their four-day tour match.

West Indies, all out for 316 earlier in the day in their first innings, chose not to follow on.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Morne van Wyk was the only Free State to reach double figures ending not out on 32. Extras provided the next biggest contribution with eight.

McLean, who shared the new ball with Curtly Ambrose, took his first wicket with his first delivery when Kossie Venter fended the ball to Stuart Williams at third slip.

After that it was all downhill to 32-8 and then all out for 67 with only Van Wyk able to resist.

To Goa or not to BFF protests SAF grouping

Bangladesh has made an official protest regarding the grouping of the forthcoming South Asian Federation (SAF) football championship, billed for an April 17 start in the Indian city of Goa.

This was disclosed by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harun-ur Rashid MP at his office at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

"We have been put in a group along with India and Pakistan for the first round. This isn't fair and we have asked the SAF to change the grouping," said Harun, adding that a letter has already been sent to this effect on November 6.

"Look at the other group, they have put three lowly sides - Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives -- there," said a visibly upset Harun.

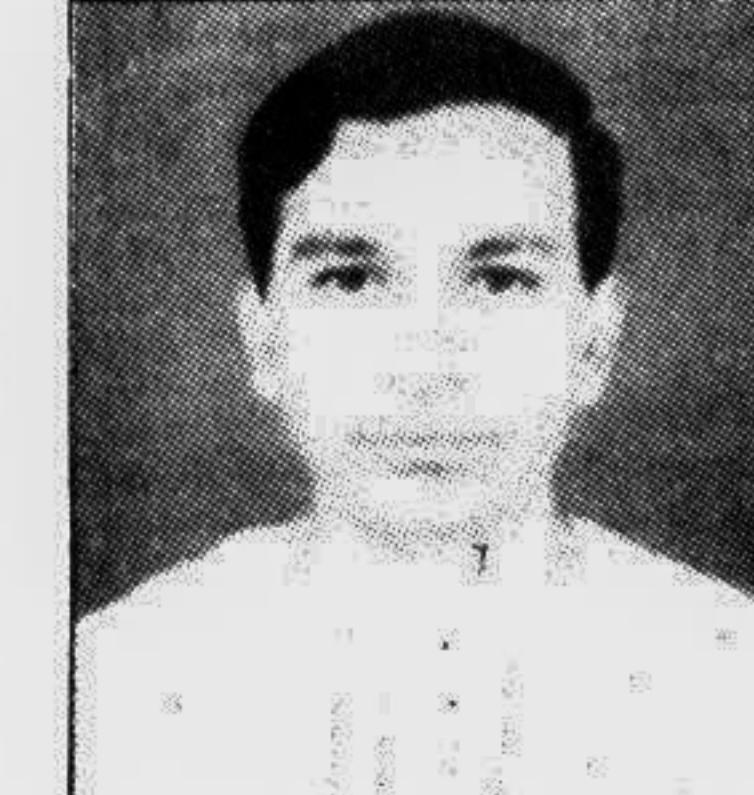
Harun also revealed that the venue of the biennial meet might be shifted from Goa to either Calcutta or Trivandrum in Kerala.

"I had a discussion with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Priyaranjan Dasmunshi in Zurich last week and he informed me that the AIFF was actively considering

changing the venue to draw larger crowds.

"Any way everything depends on the sponsors who are keen to hold the tourney in Goa," added Harun.

Asian Marketing Company, a Bangkok-based business house, are sponsoring the meet.



HARUN-UR-RASHID

Meanwhile, BFF will sit in an emergency meeting tomorrow Monday to finalise its calendar after being assured by the Sports Minister that the Bangabandhu Stadium will be used for football from April 25.

Rumi, Mokammel in TT final

Masud Ahmed Rumi and Faisal Mokammel moved into the table tennis final of the Jatiya Press Club's 44th founding anniversary sports competition yesterday, reports BSS.

In the semifinals, Rumi beat Lutfar Rahman Binu 21-14, 21-10 while Faisal defeated Quazi Rawnak Hossain 21-11, 16-21 and 21-19.