

## Column One

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT there are three basic types of race courses in automobile racing.

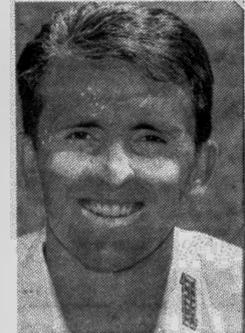
The first type, the oval track, which can be dirt, asphalt, or concrete, can range in length from 0.16 to 2.5 miles (0.27 to 4 km). Some oval tracks, longer than 1 mile (1.6 km) and highly banked, are called superspeedways.

The second category of track, the road course, comes in two different forms: courses that are created by temporarily closing off city streets, and courses specially designed to duplicate the driving conditions of country roads but only used for racing. Road courses of both types are generally 1.5 to 4 miles (2.4 to 6.4 km) long in the United States, although in other countries some are longer.

The third type of track, the straight-line course, is a simple strip of asphalt or concrete used for 'drag racing' (more about that some other day). Straight-line courses are generally 0.25 miles (0.4 km) long, but they can be 0.125 miles (0.2 km) long as well.

In Bangladesh, we have a fourth type, and they are usually located in densely populated residential areas. Mad caps, those drivers are.

## SPORTS TALK



**Dominic Cork**  
 (England fast bowler)  
 "I have always been able to swing the ball away. But there's always a case for having more weaponry in your armoury."

**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

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

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

### Mandela shocked

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 26: South African President Nelson Mandela telephoned West Indian Cricket Board president Pat Rouseau Wednesday to express concern about his car-jacking ordeal, Rouseau said here today, reports AFP.

Rouseau said Mandela was dismayed at the incident Wednesday in which a group, including Rouseau and his wife, were held up in the Soweto township attached to Johannesburg and robbed of their car and various personal items.

(Mandela) said how sorry he was that it had occurred and expressed the hope that it wouldn't affect the tour. Rouseau told a press conference at the Wanderers Stadium before the start of the first Test today.

United Cricket Board (UCB) president Raymond White said at the briefing: "It was an unfortunate incident but it could have happened anywhere."



CHANGING COLOUR... National captain Aminul Islam (2nd from left) depositing his token to Biman's cricket committee chairman Abdus Salam at the national airliner's head office near Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo

## Aminul bids MSC bye

**Sports Reporter**

Aminul Islam captured the spotlight of the Day Two of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer scene on the first day, opted for the national airline team on commission.

The dapper all-rounder became the fourth national pool cricketer to leave the popular Motijheel outfit this year. Earlier on Wednesday, experienced batsman Minhazul Abedin signed for Surjo Tarun Club while opener Mehrah Hossain and pacer Hasibul Hossain joined the camp of arch rivals Abahani.

I had no desire to leave Mohammedan until late last night (Wednesday). But since they have not shown any interests in me, perhaps for my failure as captain for last two seasons, I have decided to sign for Biman," said Aminul over the telephone last night.

"I have got everything in my life from Mohammedan Club. Whatever success I've achieved is because of Mohammedan. It's unfortunate that I do not belong to them any more," added Aminul.

Aminul boldly denied that the money factor did not play any role in his decision to change allegiance. "Had it been the money factor I would have left Mohammedan four-year's back," he said.

With the inclusion of Aminul, Biman has completed its quota of five pool players. The other four are former national skipper Faruque Ahmed, opener Javed Omar Belim, Hasanuzzaman and Habibul Hasan Sumon.

On the other hand, Mohammedan Sporting Club, the worst victim of this year's bourse, are yet to complete their quota of five pool players. The Motijheel club, desperately looking for players to fill the voids, retained the service of left-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan. They have also roped in left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partho (Abahani), medium pacer Ashfaq Ali Rahat (Abahani), Shafayetul Islam Kiran of Lalimata and middle order-bat Adil Ahmed from Azad Sporting Club.

The Mohammedans are out in sheer desperation as they have started to look for the left-out lot of other clubs. They are likely to sign off-spinner Sheikh Salauddin today.

Abahani, who have almost completed their team on the first day, registered off-spinner Saidul Islam Elee from Biman yesterday. Elee last played for the Dhanmondi based team in the 1993-94 season.

Meanwhile, Brothers Union (BU) appear to be the most tranquil side in the dicey transfer market. None of their four pool cricketers - Khaled Mahmud, Sarwar Hossain, Shahriar Hossain and Shafuiddin Ahmed, have collected their tokens yet. They have already confirmed their services for the Gopibagh outfit, said a club official yesterday.

Wicketkeeper Jahangir Alam was the lone BU cricketer who had collected his token yesterday and deposited back to the same club. Besides that, Brothers Union Club has strengthened its side by roping in leg-spinner Shyamol from Gopibagh Friends Association and left-arm twerker Hasan from Ajax Sporting Club.

Right-arm pacer Zakir Hasan of Kalabagan Kriya Chakra joined Victoria Sporting Club yesterday. With his joining, the Victorians have so far managed to lure three national pool cricketers. The other two are Sabir Khan and Jewel Hossain.

But the biggest attraction of the day was popular pop singer Azam Khan, who signed for Gopibagh Friends Association at the age of 49.

Azam Khan, who also played one match last season for the Gopibagh outfit, expressed his wild ambition to play for Bangladesh in the 1999 World Cup in England while talking to The Daily Star.

"If I can't do this then how will I be getting the chance to convince the selectors to play me in the World Cup?" said the pop star.

However, a total of 166 cricketers have so far changed their allegiance in three-day long transfer which ends tonight.

## Govt approves 53-member contingent for Asiad

The government has approved a 53-member contingent for the 13th Asian Games to be held in Bangkok from December 6 to 20, reports BSS.

The contingent, led by vice president of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) Lt Col (ret'd) Mohammad Faruq Khan, MP, will leave for the Thai capital on December 3.

Bangladesh will take part in eight disciplines - athletics, kabadi, weightlifting, boxing, swimming, hockey, snooker and golf. The snooker and golf teams will take part at their own cost.

Secretary of the National Sports Council (NSC) A S M Ali Kabir will accompany the delegation as assistant chief-delegation while director of sports directorate K M Habibullah and Anupam Hossain as official and doctor respectively.

BOA president Lt General (ret'd) Mohammad Mahubur Rahman, secretary general Gollam Qudus Chowdhury and deputy secretary general Anwarul Huq Helal will go to Bangkok as delegates of the National Olympic Committee. They will attend the general meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia during the Games.

**Members of the contingent are:**

Athletics: Shafiqul Islam, Mahubul Alam, M Iliasuddin and Boni Amin, Ibrahim Changish (manager), Tian Jhao Xiang (coach).

Kabadi: M Zahidul Islam, Tariqul Islam, M Quayum Sikder, Hafizur Rahman, Ashraful Alam, Faruq Talukder, Shahidul Islam, Meer Julhas, M Badshah Mian, M Ziaur Rahman, Z Alam (manager) and Abdul Huq (coach).

Weightlifting: Prodigy Chandras Das, Biddut Kumar Roy, Siddiqui Rahman Buiyan (manager) and Jhao Xiang (coach).

Boxing: Biplabul Huq Biplabul Huq (manager) and Jhao Xiang (coach).

## Samir gets his chance

**Sports Reporter**

Samir Shakir, the newly-appointed Iraqi coach of Bangladesh, has final got something to do after more than a month's lay-off when the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) announced a list of 27 players for him to train at the BKSP.

Samir, the Iraqi World Cupper, was appointed coach on October 1 but has passed most of his time inactive since.

The BFF in a press release issued yesterday said, Samir, a familiar name in Dhaka football, will conduct a 50-day training camp involving the selected players in a bid to groom them up for the Bangladesh youth team.

**The players are:** Abu Sayeed (BKSP), Rafiqul Islam (Wanderers), Babul Bhaskar (Badda Jagarani), Firoj Mahmood Titu (Dhanmondi), Sujon (Victoria), Anwar Faisal Eko (Wanderers), Mahmudul Hasan (Badda Jagarani), Masud Alam Jahangir (Victoria), Hanif Pradhan (Mirpur Chalanika), Manwar Hossain (Fakirerpool), Rokunuzzaman Kanchan (Agrani Bank), Shahnur Rahman, Obaidur Rahman (BKSP), Kamal Hossain (Rahmatganj), Gul Mohammad (Victoria), Tarikul Islam Dabloo (Pabna), Masud Khan Johnny (Agrani Bank), Chandra Sen (Muktijoddha), Rashidul Alam Dipu (East End), Tanvir Chowdhury (Victoria), Rezaul Karim Biplob (Arambagh), Abul Kalam Azad (Police), Imrul Hasan (Bagerhat), Prantosh Kumar Das (Khulna), A K M Mamunul Islam (Dhanmondi), Mollah Hosainul Kabir (Victoria), Biplob Kumar Goshi (Arambagh).

The booters have been requested to report to trainer Shakir on November 29 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

## President's Cup snooker from Nov. 27

**Sports Reporter**

The President's Cup snooker championship '98 under the aegis of Dhaka Club will begin at the club's billiards room from November 27.

Thirty two players from nine different clubs across the country - Officers Club, Engineers Club, Gulshan Club, Narayanang Club, Comilla Club, Chittagong Catholic Club, Khulna Club, Dhaka Billiards Centre and hosts Dhaka Club - will participate in the six-day meet.

## Premier Div v'ball

Bangladesh Police and War Club won their respective matches of the National Premier Division volleyball league at the volleyball ground yesterday, reports APB.

Police earned a comfortable victory beating Sonali Bank Club by 3-1 sets while Wari got full points defeating Bangladesh Bank Club also by a 3-1 margin in the competitive matches.

Power Development Board (PDB) will face Azad ACC and Water Development Board play with Sonali Bank Club in today's affairs.

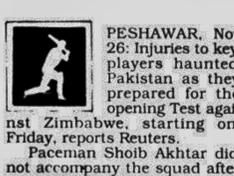
## Warne fined

PERTH, Nov 26: Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne was fined 2,400 Australian dollar (1,500 US dollar) today after he was found guilty of breaching the Australian Cricket Board's code-of-conduct, reports Reuters.

ACB chief executive officer Malcolm Speed said in a statement that Warne had been fined the equivalent of his match payment after he was found guilty of criticising umpire Randolph Woolridge during a recent Sheffield Shield match.

Warne said at that time that Woolridge had erred in adjudging one of his Victorian teammates out leg before wicket in their match against Western Australia.

## First Test begins today



**AAMIR SOHAIL**

PESHAWAR, Nov 26: Injuries to key players haunted Pakistan as they prepared for the opening Test against Zimbabwe, starting on Friday, reports Reuters.

Paceman Shoib Akhtar did not accompany the squad after missing the second half of the series against Australia which the visitors won 1-0. The four were also absent from the three one-day internationals, all won by the Australians.

But Mushtaq and Younis are fit and expected to be in the side which will be named just before the start.

Paceman Younis, who has 267 Test wickets, will be playing his first Test in more than seven months after an elbow injury sidelined him from competitive cricket, including a full season with Glamorgan in the English county championship.

Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell believes his side have a good chance following the 61 runs victory over India in the recent one-off Test.

"Success breeds success," he said.

Pakistan were beaten by Australia but they (Australia) are the best Test-playing team.

"Still, Pakistan is a very good side, they have two quality bowlers (Wasim Akram and Younis) with good support from Saqlain Mushtaq and Mushtaq Ahmed.

"Experience is the only thing we lack and that's precisely why we couldn't convert more matches into victories despite being in good positions."

"We have beaten Pakistan once, I don't see any reason why we can't achieve that feat again," Campbell said.

That innings triumph was in Harare on the 1994-95 tour.

Campbell felt that the pitch was under-prepared. "It is going to be a low scoring game with seamers expected to dominate the proceedings."

Sohail said he was ready to play on any surface. "But this particular track might help the seamers on the first two days and would later ease out."

**TEAMS**

**PAKISTAN** (from): Aamir Sohail (captain) Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousof Youhana, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Azhar Mahmood, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Hasan Raza, Salim Elahi.

**ZIMBABWE:** Alistair Campbell (captain), Grant Flower, Neil Johnson, Murray Goodwin, Andy Flower, Craig Wishart, Henry Olonga, Mpumelelo Mbangwa, Gavin Renne, Adam Huckle, Paul Strang.

## Tourists' trial by fire



**ALEX TUDOR**

PERTH, Australia, Nov 26 (AFP/Internet): An Australian pace blitz threatened the second Test of the Ashes cricket series begins Saturday.

Alec Stewart's tourists, after escaping with a draw on the rain-shortened last day of the first Test in Brisbane Tuesday, can expect a ferocious assault from Mark Taylor's side at the WACA ground.

Whirlwind pace has often been England's downfall on the lively Perth pitch, and the four-pronged attack being lined up again looms as a formidable challenge.

Glenn McGrath, so close to being a match-winner in Brisbane, with seven wickets, will be supported by a choice of three from Jason Gillespie, rated the fastest bowler in this country, Damien Fleming, Michael Kasprovic and Colin Miller.

Taylor has already said seamer Miller, whose extra ability to bowl tidy off-spin gives added variety when the shine is off the ball, would definitely play.

England are not without their own pace aces, notably Yorkshireman Darren Gough and left-arm Alan Mullally, who cut his first-class teeth in Perth a decade ago before returning to England.

But, judging by events in Brisbane where veteran Angus Fraser and Dominic Cork were relatively ineffective, the tourists do not have the same depth of speed as Australia.

Fraser's position appears especially shaky, and it would be no surprise if the 33-year-old makes way for right-arm fast-medium bowler Dean Headley.

Alex Tudor, the 22-year-old from Surrey, will also be under consideration, especially as there is no ground in Australia more suitable for the young tearaway to make his Test debut.

Australia's selectors showed they had no doubts the Perth surface will be speed-friendly when they left off leg-spinner Stuart MacGill, one of their stars in Brisbane.

England have a poor record in Perth, where they have lost four of eight Tests played there and won only one. The other three were drawn.

Brutal pace has been the bogey every time for English batsmen.

Four years ago, Mike Atherton's side was undone by a massive 329 runs, blitzed by McGrath (6-128) and the now retired Craig McDermott, with a withering second innings 6-38.

Graham Gooch's 1990-91 unit was shattered by nine wickets, broken by McDermott (11-156) and Merv Hughes (6-86).

In 1979-80, Geoff Dymock (9-86) and Dennis Lillee (6-147) were the chief executioners in a 138-run defeat for Mike Brearley, while in 1974-75 a smouldering Jeff Thomson (7-138), supported by Lillee (4-107), crushed Mike Denness' squad by nine wickets.

England's only success in Perth came when Brearley's 1978-79 side beat an under-

manned Australia by 166 runs when most of the home country's top players were with the breakaway World Series group.

Again, pace dominated with Bob Willis (6-80), John Lever (5-48) and Mike Hendrick (4-50) leading the way for England, and Rodney Hogg snatching 10-122 for Australia.

Because of the pace threat, England may leave out off-spinner Robert Croft and bring in batsman John Crawley to strengthen a vulnerable lower middle order.

Big question marks hover over captain Alec Stewart and the side's former chief, Mike Atherton.

Stewart not only failed in the Brisbane Test, with 8 and 3, he has totalled only 63 runs in six first-class innings since the start of the tour.

Atherton has not fared much better. His 0 and 28 in Brisbane leave him with 86 from six innings.

## Hosting of 2008 Olympic Games Beijing declares candidacy

BEIJING, Nov 26: China's capital announced Wednesday it will bid to serve as host to the 2008 Summer Olympics, reports AP.

Beijing's announcement won quick support from a government minister, who said China - as the world's most populous nation - should stage the games.

Beijing Mayor Jia Qinglin submitted the application to Wu Shaouzu, president of the Chinese Olympic Committee, during a ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

"We think that as the world's most populous country, with a vigorous and growing economy, China should host the Olympic Games and make more contributions to the Olympic movement," Xinhua quoted Wu as saying.

"Many people in China and foreign friends have expressed their hope that China would bid again," said Wu, who is also minister of the State Sports General Administration. The Chinese Olympic Committee "is very happy to receive the application," he said.

Beijing lost to Sydney by two votes in the 1993 selection for the host of the 2000 Games. China chose not to pursue the 2004 Olympics.

"I had been hopping Beijing would bid again after we beat them so narrowly in 1993," said Kevan Gosper, an Australian Olympic official and member of the International Olympic Committee executive board. "A lot of progress has been made and they are better prepared to deliver a successful Games."

Since the loss to Sydney, Shanghai and Guangzhou have also been rumoured as possible sites for another China bid.

The Chinese Olympic Committee will study Beijing's bid and any applications from other Chinese cities at a meeting in January, said He Huixian, a committee spokeswoman. If the committee approves a bid, it will forward the application to the International Olympic Committee, she said.

She said Beijing lost the 1993 vote for the 2000 Games because of "non-sports factors."

Criticism of China's human rights record was a factor in the

1993 vote. China's reputation has also been marred by a string of doping scandals.

Another Australian IOC member, Phill Coles, said China will have to be persuasive on doping controls and may face another barrage on human rights.

"Everyone discusses human rights," he said. "It's an issue with a lot of countries in the world."

The Chinese Olympic Committee set up a special team to research the feasibility of another bid. It said Beijing gave its bid "careful consideration" before submitting the application.

Officially, competition to stage the 2008 Games hasn't even begun, although Toronto and Osaka, Japan, have already declared they want to be host.

Bids are also expected from Buenos Aires, Argentina; Istanbul, Turkey, and Seville, Spain; Paris, Kuala Lumpur and Cairo - also weighing possible bids.

The IOC will open the bidding next year and the deadline is February 2000. The IOC will select the 2008 host city in Moscow in 2001.

While Toronto has been seen as the early front-runner, China's entry into the race changes the landscape dramatically.

Dick Pound, a Canadian who sits on the executive board of the IOC, said China would be the clear favourite.

"It would be hard for the IOC to justify going to a relatively small country for a third time when the world's largest country has never had the Games," Pound told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Montreal.

Montreal staged the 1976 Summer Games and Calgary held the 1988 Winter Games.



HE HAD NO CLUE: West Indies opener Philo Wallace's off stump is sent plying by South African fast bowler Shaun Pollock on the opening day of the first Test at Johannesburg yesterday. — AP/UNB photo