

## Column One

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT for many years the International Automobile Federation's (FIA) rules over Formula One (F1) racing were unchallenged, but beginning in the early 1970s, its sole authority was challenged by other bodies. The Formula One Constructors Association (FOCA), located in London, England, led the challenge. FOCA was formed by a group of constructors building cars for F1. According to an agreement drafted in 1982 between FIA and FOCA, the latter controls the distribution of funds generated by F1 racing, so that each competing team has enough money to race in the next competition.

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COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-107

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Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 4 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

- Which country lifted the Willis International Cup?  
S Africa W Indies India
- Who scored highest number of runs in the Willis 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 N'ganj Kushiha
- Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?  
Mamun Sadek Kamal

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

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## SPORTS TALK



### Martina Hingis

(Swiss tennis superstar) "Sometimes when you're over-confident, you lose your focus. It does bug me being No 2."

### Premier Div v'ball

Titus Club registered their fourth successive win in the National Bank Premier Division volleyball league beating Sonali Bank Club by straight sets (15-3, 15-6, 15-12) at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

In another match, Water Development Board defeated Wari Club 15-4, 15-4, 15-10. This was the third consecutive victory for WDB.

In a closely contested match of the First Division league at the same venue, Nabagarani Sangha beat East End Club 4-15, 15-11, 7-15, 15-9.

Friday's Premier Division match: Power Development Board vs Bangladesh Bank (2:30 pm). Friday's First Division matches: East End Club vs Shantibagh WA (2:30 pm), Dilkusha SC vs Nabajatac Majlish (4 pm).

### Nat'l martial art from Dec 14

The five-day long 2nd national martial art competition, organised by Bangladesh Martial Art Federation, will begin on December 14 at the NSC gymnasium, reports UNB.

Interested clubs are requested to send entry fee of Tk 30 to the federation office by December 10.



Faruque Ahmed (2nd from right) leads his Biman team on to the field before their exhibition match against Surjo Tarun at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## Premier Division Cricket League Preview-IV Biman boosted by batting boon

Hasan Masood

Nobody wants to bet on Biman. Or, putting it differently, Biman always makes a good team, expending a lot of money, but they last won the league, and that jointly, in the 1993-94 season. The reason perhaps is that they don't have a large band of supporters or because the team management never applies pressure on the cricketers. Reportedly, there is a saying among the national players, "If you want to play without any pressure or commitment, join Biman".

The situation is, however, different this time for the national airlines. Bangladesh captain, Aminul Islam, considered the most established batsman of the present time, joined Biman on the last day of the three-day long inter-club transfer last month. Now the national flag carrier looks pretty confident of winning their sixth league title.

"We never thought of Aminul. We organised our team without counting on him. So he is a bonus for us and that definitely has boosted the team morale. I think we have a good chance to win the league this season," said former Biman player and present coach Sadrul Anam Khan while talking to The Daily Star at the nets on Wednesday.

"You see, he (Aminul) is an asset for any side and Biman is proud of having a cricketer like him in the squad. This will also have a repercussion on our opponents and that is the plus-point for us this season," said Sadrul.

"We are very much ready to play 90-overs-a-side matches. We have a good batting depth. Javed Omar is a good opener for the long duration game. He will be a good replacement for Athar Ali. Javed and Ziaur Rashid will open the innings followed by Faruque and Aminul. Then we have Habibul

Bashar and Hasanuzzaman.

"Athar will come next at number seven and then we have two Pakistanis, Shahid Iqbal and Nasir Shahkhat. Jahangir Talukder can be very effective at number ten. So there are plenty of batting for the 80 overs if they play sensibly," said the Biman coach.

"Our main weakness was our bowling in the last couple of seasons. Mizanur Rahman and Mofizur Rahman did not click and the others also lacked the killer instinct. And that is the area where we eyed this season. We have two Pakistani seamers — Shahid Iqbal and Nasir Shahkhat. They will open the attack. Jahangir Talukder will come as the third seamer and then we have two new-comers, Tanvir Ahmed and Talha, who are good pacers."

"Left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan Gen will lead the spin attack along with Shariful Huq and Ziaur Rashid. Then there is Aminul again. Even if that is not enough, we may bring leg-spinner Manzoor Akhter from Pakistan. So, I think we are quite balanced in bowling and batting, and if everything goes well, Biman has no reason not to win the league," Sadrul said.

When asked why Biman was not a successful team in the recent past even with the most balanced squad, Sadrul, who played long for the national airlines, said that lack of motivation was the reason behind their poor performance.

"We are looking into the matter very carefully. We have already started motivating the boys. They have to play collectively and support each other. I believe this problem will not be there any more," said a confident Sadrul.

Replying to which team he considers most powerful other than Biman, Sadrul tipped Brothers Union as the most or-

ganised team. He also said that reigning champions Abahani and Surjo Tarun also have good chances to win the league.

"But then they have to beat us and that would not be easy for them this year," added Sadrul.

He also revealed that former national skipper, Faruque Ahmed, will put on the captain's arm band for this season. "We are aware that Aminul is the current national skipper but it will be too much if we put the same pressure on him in the league. We want him to concentrate only on batting and that's about all that Biman needs from him," said the soft-spoken Biman coach.

Aminul, the most talked-about cricketer this season, was prompt to reciprocate the views of his coach. "Faruque Bhai is a good captain. I played under him in the 1994 ICC trophy in Kenya. He is a good thinker and I would love to play under him again," said Aminul.

On paper, Biman is the most powerful team this season. Although all-rounder Mofizur Rahman, pacers Sajal Chowdhury and Mizanur Rahman, opener Athar Ali and off-spinner Saifullah Khan Gen, two young pacers, Tanvir Ahmed and Talha, opener Javed Omar and left-arm seamer Jahangir Talukder.

As if that were not enough, Faruque Ahmed, last year's skipper Ziaur Rashid, Habibul Bashar, Atiar, Hasanuzzaman, Shahnewaz Shahid Shanu, Ahmed Fayyaz Shaheen and leg-spinner Sohail have stayed put with the national airlines.

Biman will meet Wari Club in their league opener on December 9 at the BKSP ground.

## League warm-up Biman rev up their engines

Sports Reporter

Hot favourites, Bangladesh Biman, warmed up well ahead of the Premier Division Cricket League with a comprehensive five-wicket win over Surjo Tarun in an exhibition match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Biman, who will start their league campaign against Wari at the BKSP on December 9, raced to 180 for five in reply to a fighting Surjo Tarun total of 179 for eight in a reduced 43-overs-a-side match.

Skipper Faruque Ahmed hammered a swashbuckling 67 while national captain Aminul Islam, who joined the national airline outfit this season ending a six-year stint with Mohammedans, scored a fluent 46.

The full strength Biman side, bolstered by their Pakistani pace-duo of Nasir Shahkhat and Shahid Iqbal, exposed the vulnerability of the new-look Surjo Tarun team against quality seam bowling right from the start.

Surjo Tarun were in deep trouble in the face of some fired up bowling from Nasir and Shahid, who gave the Tarun top-order a real scare with some nasty bouncers. The mediocre-turned aspirants were only to be salvaged by their lower order with slow left-arm Enamul Haq notching a defiant 34 and Halim Shah struggling to score 35.

For Biman, off-spinner Ziaur Rashid Rupom captured three wickets for 22 runs.

## Asiad flame lit

BANGKOK, Dec 3 (AP/AF): Kenji Fukuda scored his third Asian Games goal Thursday to secure a second round berth for Japan's young soccer squad in an otherwise unremarkable 1-0 victory over a spirited India.

Uzbekistan, making their debut in the preliminaries, upset favoured Kuwait in a 3-2 thriller. Qatar maintained the honour of the Gulf states with a 2-1 victory over Tajikistan, while Kazakhstan walked over weak Laos, 5-0.

But Qatar's victory in their opening Group D match was marred by the last-minute sending-off of Nayef Al Khater. The 20-year-old brought down a Tajikistan player in the area to stop an almost certain goal and was promptly shown the red card.

He now risks missing his side's next two games. Qatar, after a shaky opening 15 minutes, began to control the pace of the game and it was no surprise when Aboul Nasser put them in front in the 31st minute.

The 26-year-old slipped behind the defence and chested the ball down before blasting it past a helpless Aslidin Khabibullov in the Tajikistan goal.

Qatar should have opened the scoring four minutes earlier but Salem Alkawari squandered a perfect cross from Al Khater when he headed high over the bar.

Although Qatar were in control, Tajikistan still showed flashes of danger. Vyacheslav Knyazev crashed in a 35-yard shot in the 50th minute that nearly caught out Qatar keeper Mohammed Anyass.

But a minute later Qatar captain Mostafa Mubarak all but booked his side's march into the next round with the most bizarre goal of the tournament. Chasing a long ball into the area, Mubarak had no chance of getting to the ball before Khabibullov but the Tajikistan's clearing kick hit the on-rushing Mubarak and rebounded over his head and crawled over the line.

The former Soviet state pulled one back from a penalty, given away by Al Khater. Shukhrat Djabarov slotted home from the spot but it was too little, too late.

Provided Qatar beat the Maldives in their last group match, however, Tajikistan will go through to the next round.



THE PREACHED FLAME: The Asian Games torch being carried by a group of royal guards from the residence of King Bhumibol in Bangkok yesterday. The quadrennial meet begins in the Thai capital this Sunday. — Internet photo

## India bow to Jap youths

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## First batch off to Bangkok

The first batch of 46 members of the 67-man Bangladesh contingent left yesterday for Bangkok to take part in the 13th Asian Games, reports APB.

The 20-member second batch will join the main contingent on December 10.

Bangladesh will participate in eight disciplines — athletics, swimming, hockey, kabaddi, boxing, weightlifting, golf, billiard and snooker.

## Gooch knows the cause!

MELBOURNE, Dec 3: England manager Graham Gooch says he understands why leg-spin maestro Shane Warne will not play for Victoria against his team in the four-day cricket match starting here Saturday, reports AFP.

The tourists arrived here today for their only match before the crucial third Test in Adelaide, starting on December 11, with most concern surrounding their batsman Graham Thorpe.

Thorpe is desperate to play after missing England's seven-wicket second Test mauling in Perth with a back injury, but if his injury does allow him to play he will be one of the few big names on show.

Thorpe is spending quite a lot of his time in Australia carrying drinks.

The Surrey left-hander, who needed a back operation three months ago, missed the seven-wicket second Test defeat in Perth after his back played up again following the long flight from Brisbane to Perth.

Another flight from Perth to Melbourne for the four-day match against Victoria starting Saturday saw him standing up most of the time in the air.

"When it gets like this I'm better off serving the drinks," he joked.

At least he could see the funny side of what has been a frustrating six weeks in Australia.

After a promising 77 in the first innings in the first Test in Brisbane, which was washed out on the last day, he missed the second Test in Perth.

He hoped four days of rest and acupuncture would see him fit again to resume against Victoria.

"It's a frustrating time and it's something which I have to try and keep a positive outlook on," he said.

"The reason you get frustrated by it is because you don't really know what's wrong. The operation I had two and a half months ago came after 10

despite the fact he will play in a testimonial game for former Test player Tom Moody in Perth on Friday.

"I would have liked to have seen him playing here because he's a good mate and a great bowler but I can understand why he not playing" Gooch said of Warne.

"He doesn't want to show his hand and he doesn't want to play against our batsmen in case he plays against them in the Test series later on."

Warne has played just two first class games since his return from shoulder surgery. He struggled in Victoria's last game, going for five runs an over at the hands of South Australian batting duo Darren Lehmann and Greg Blewett.

But he remains in contention to return to the Australian side for the fourth Test starting here on Boxing Day. If he impresses in the next two Sheffield Shield games against Queensland and New South Wales.

Gooch was not critical of the decision by the Victorians to rest so many players, hinting England may also consider giving some of their key men a break.

The Perth defeat showed the English batsmen are in need of time in the middle, but the fast bowlers have had heavy work as on tour with Darren Gough, Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally all due for a rest.

However, one man the tourists are keen to have available is Thorpe, who has the best record of England's top order batsmen against Australia and was so badly missed in Perth.

Warne's absence in particular robs the game of much appeal but Gooch Thursday refused to criticise the spinner.

Earlier this week, Ronaldo caused alarm within club circles when telling a Milan TV station that the "chronic" nature of his knee problems meant that he might be forced to limit the number of Games he plays.

Inter immediately denied that Ronaldo was suffering from any long term problem, claiming that his remarks had been due to a linguistic misunderstanding.

Today, the club repeated its view that the right knee tendon problem which has plagued Ronaldo since the World Cup "Now seems to be finally resolving itself."

Inter again took the opportunity to criticise the Brazilian.

Simonini had suggested that he might not have lost his job if Ronaldo had been regularly fit and available this autumn.

"I respect Simonini as a person and a friend to us all but I have also the right to be injured," Ronaldo said.

"Inter have some great players and could have played better even without me."

## Full fitness Ronaldo's first priority

ROME, Dec 3: Brazilian striker Ronaldo is out of Inter Milan's Italian Cup quarter-final away to Lazio today, bringing to 14 the number of league and cup matches missed so far this season, reports Reuters.

Ronaldo, still trying to shake off knee tendon problems aggravated during the World Cup in France, hopes to return to the side for Sunday's league match away to Vicenza and for next week's decisive Champions' League tie away to Austrian side Sturm Graz.

"I'll play again when I'm 100 per cent right," said Ronaldo in the Thursday edition of Inter's official web site.

"When my physiotherapist (Nilton) Petroni arrived here from Brazil, we said that it would take three weeks to get



Scene from a NBL Senior Division volleyball league match at the court adjacent to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## WI lose on inferior run-rate

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 3 (Reuters/Interne t): Defeat by an Eastern Province XI on Wednesday left West Indies without a win after five matches of their South African tour.

The Eastern Province XI won on a faster run rate after rain had restricted the West Indies innings to 46 overs and then forced a premature finish after the home side had batted for 38.1 overs.

A third-wicket partnership of 118 between opener Graham Grace and Justin Kemp which ended in the 30th over swung the match the Eastern Province XI's way. They reached 209 for six.

Grace's 70 was struck off 109 balls with five fours and a six. Kemp hammered his 64 off 63 balls with two fours and five sixes.

Paceman Nixon McLean was the most impressive of the touring team's bowlers with three for 27 off 8.1 overs.

Earlier, Philo Wallace and Floyd Reifer had come to West Indies' rescue after they had lost two early wickets.

The pair put on 78 for the third wicket after Clayton Lambert and Darren Ganga had fallen to medium pace bowler Muneke Ngam with only 26 scored.

West Indies recovered to reach 239 for eight. Wallace's 56 came off 64 balls and included eight fours. Reifer hammered 11 fours and a six in his 93 off 100 deliveries. He added 66 for the fifth wicket with Stuart Williams, third highest scorer with 20.

and an Eastern Province XI in Zwide township on Wednesday:

WEST INDIES			
P Wallace c Masikizana b Kemp	56		
C Lambert c Koen b Ngam	4		
D Ganga c Masikizana b Ngam	1		
F Reifer c Kemp b Creed	93		
S Williams c Masikizana b Abrahams	20		
R Jacobs run out	17		
S Chanderepur run out	2		
R Lewis b Creed	9		
N McLean not out	3		
F Rose not out	3		
Extras: (b-6, lb-7, w-17)	30		
Total: (For eight wickets in 46 overs)	239		

Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-26; 3-104; 4-145; 5-211; 6-213; 7-233; 8-234

Did not bat: M Dillon			
Bowlers			
Hayward	8	0	40
Ngam	6	1	26
Kemp	10	0	43
Kruger	10	1	34
Abrahams	5	1	27
Brouwers	3	0	28
Creed	4	0	28

EASTERN PROVINCE XI			
L Koen c Jacobs b McLean	0		
G Grace c Jacobs b McLean	70		
J Bryant c Jacobs b Dillon	36		
J Kemp st Jacobs b Lewis	64		
N Brouwers b McLean	16		
M Creed b Rose	1		
S Abrahams not out	0		
L Masikizana not out	4		
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-9, nb-4)	18		
Total: (for six wickets in 38.1 overs)	209		

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-51; 3-169; 4-202; 5-203; 6-205

Did not bat: G Kruger, M Hayward, M Ngam			
Bowlers			
McLean	8.1	2	27
Rose	8	0	47
Dillon	7	0	44
Lewis	6	0	39
Reifer	8	0	36
Chanderpaul	1	0	9

Result: Eastern Province XI won on faster run-rate.