

Column One

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COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-114

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to *The Daily Star*
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
April 23, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1	What is the result of the Australia-West Indies Test series?	2-2	3-1	2-1
2	Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-West Indies Test series?	McGrath	Lara	S Waugh
3	Who won the Pepsi Cup in India?	Sri Lanka	India	Pakistan
4	Who was the man-of-the-final in the Pepsi Cup?	Mahmood	Ganguly	Inzamam
5	Who lifted the Meril Int'l Cup?	Bangladesh	Zimbabwe	Kenya

Name

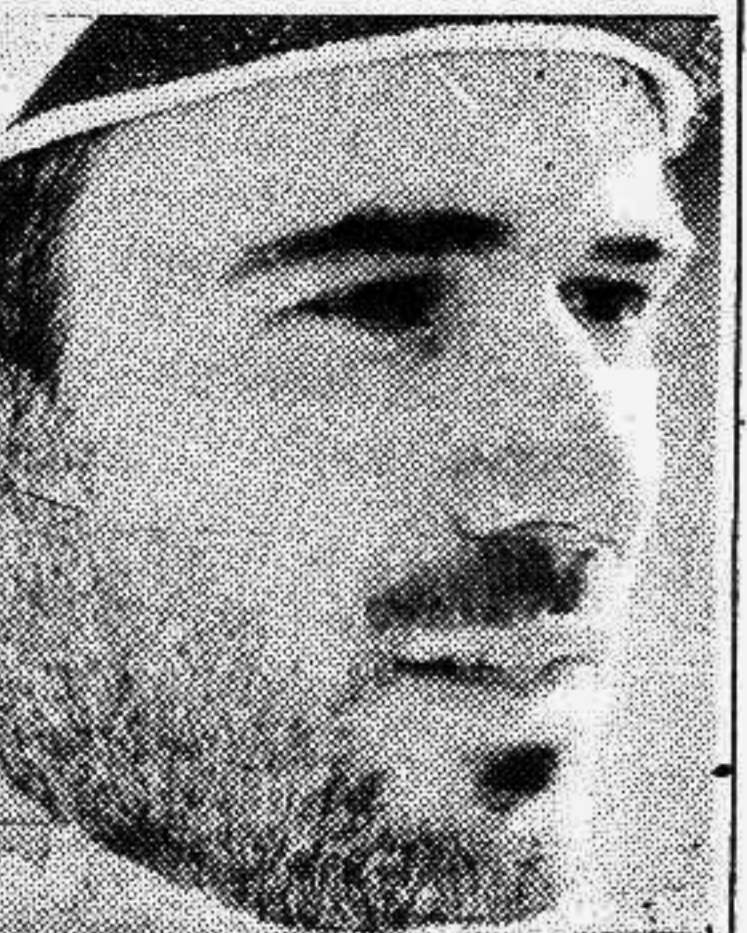
Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



Andre Agassi

American tennis player 'I'm pleased. We both played well today. The thing about Boris is that you can't let your guard down at any time.'

Speaking after defeating Boris Becker in the final of the Salem Open in Hong Kong.

Udayan beat Sunrise

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

Udayan Bidyalaya, Titas Gas High School and Gulshan Model High School won their respective matches in the ANZ Grindlays Bank 17th national schools cricket championship at different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

Udayan Bidyalaya smashed Sunrise Pre-Cadet School by 91 runs at the Orient Club ground.

Sunrise Pre-Cadet were all out for 184 in 20.4 overs to reply Udayan's 275 for all in 34.5 overs.

At the Kalabagan Club ground, Titas Gas High beat Mirhajiribagh High by 14 runs.

Batting first, Titas School scored 181 for eight in 35 overs.

In reply, Mirhajiribagh were all out for 167 in 3 overs.

At the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground, Gulshan Model High defeated Mohakhali Model High by 35 runs.

Gulshan Model made 184 for all in 29.4 overs.

In reply, Mohakhali Model were all out for 149 in 30.3 overs.

Rajshahi cricket
From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH. Apr 16: Diganta Proseya Sangha and Bright Star Club won their respective super league matches of Rajshahi First Division cricket league today.

In the first match at the Rajshahi Stadium, Diganta Proseya Sangha defeated Friends Sporting Club by 34 runs.

Batting first, Diganta Proseya scored 189 for nine in 40.2 overs. Rashed made the highest 38 followed by 33 of Raja and 27 of Shueb.

In reply, Friends Sporting Club went all out scoring only 155 in 39.3 overs.

In the other match at the Divisional Stadium, Bright Star defeated Baikkali Sangha by three wickets.

Baikkali batted first and collected 101 for all in 30.2 overs. Rashid captured four wickets followed by two wickets each of Novel and Entesham.

Bright Star lost seven wickets to reach their winning target of 102 in 32.1 overs. Novel and Sohail made 22 and 11 runs respectively.



Bangladesh football team coach Samir Sakir (C) answering to a query during a media conference yesterday. — Star photo

Bangladesh in South Asian Football Federation Championship

Optimism on eve of departure

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national coach Shamir Sakir was optimistic about his team's prospects in the forthcoming second South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, scheduled to start in the south Indian city of Goa from April 22.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday prior to the team's departure, the former Iraqi World Cupper said that Bangladesh will tackle the six-nation tournament in a more positive frame of mind.

Skipper Jewel Rana, manager Khairul Anwar Piaru and BFF joint-secretaries Sirajul Islam Bachchu and Badal Roy were present during the briefing.

'We are well prepared for the tournament and the boys are eager to prove something this time,' said Shamir who barely had two and a half months to get his players into shape.

'We have four good strikers in Nakib, Raju, Tipu and Alfaz, eight gifted midfielders together with a solid defence. The only thing they lack is proper match-fitness, having not played competitively for the last one year and a half,' said the national coach.

Talking tactically about the opener against India, Shamir revealed that they will be hoping for a draw. However the plan would change in case the opposition started counter-attacking.

Skipper Jewel Rana said that reaching the semifinals was the main objective and so a good result in the first match was paramount.

'We want to collect at least one point from the opening game even if three is not possible. That will make our second and last group match against Pakistan much easier,' said Rana.

'We don't want to play Pakistan under any pressure,' he added.

When asked which team he considers as favourites, Shamir said that the standard of football in all the six SAARC countries were almost equal.

'We have to play positively and that is the way I had been training them. They are all fit and I hope Bangladesh will do well this time,' Shamir concluded.

The 18-member Bangladesh team, led by experienced defender Jewel Rana, will fly to Bombay this evening. After a night's halt in Bombay they will leave for Goa tomorrow afternoon.

Bangladesh have been pencilled in group A along with holders India and Pakistan. The other group comprises of Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal. Doordarshan Sports Channel

will telecast all the matches Live from Goa.

BFF executive committee member Moazzam Hossain is accompanying the team as the BFF representative.

SQUAD

Jewel Rana (captain) Alfaz Ahmed (vice-captain), Biplab Bhattacharyya, Hasan Al-Mamun, Prodeep Kumar Poddar, Rajani Kanta Barman, Masood Rana, Mustafa Anwar Parvez, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Matiur Rahman Munna, Iqbal Hossain, Rakib Hossain, Monwar Hossain, Zakir Hossain, Mizan Sourav Majumdar Raju, Miza Sourav Rahman, Intiaz Ahmed Nakib and Shahzuddin Tipu.

Officials: Khairul Anwar Piaru (manager), Golam Mohammad Alamgir (asst manager), Shamir Sakir (coach), Jashimuddin Bhuiyan (asst coach) and Dr. Golam Showkat Hossain (team doctor).

FIXTURE

Date	Match	Time
April 22	Bangladesh v India	5:30 pm
April 23	Sri Lanka v Maldives	5:30 pm
April 24	Bangladesh v Pakistan	5:30 pm
April 25	Sri Lanka v Nepal	5:30 pm
April 26	India v Pakistan	5:30 pm
April 27	Maldives v Nepal	5:30 pm
April 29	1st semifinal	4 pm
	2nd semifinal	6 pm
May 1	3rd place play-off	3:30 pm
	Final	5:30 pm

(Bangladesh time)

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Independence Cup B ball

Rifle cagers down Eagles

Sports Reporter

National champions Bangladesh Rifles got off to a flying start in the Independence Cup Basketball Tournament with an easy 104-54 victory over Eagles Club at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 57-20.

Ayub caged in highest 32 points while Raihan added 17 points for Rifles. Evans top-scored for Eagles with 14.

Div I cricket

Gopibagh Friends Association and City Club earned promotion to the Premier Division winning their respective matches in the Metropolitan First division cricket league at different venues yesterday, reports UNB.

Gopibagh FA outplayed Dhaka Wanderers Club by seven wickets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Opting to bat first, Wanderers were all out for 149 in 43.5 overs with number six batsman Sushanta scoring team highest 37 and opener Mahfuzur making 26.

Shamsul Huda and Shahin Ahmed picked up three wickets each for 13 and 23 runs respectively while Ripon took two for 29.

In reply, Gopibagh reached their winning target of 150 runs for three in 35 overs with opener Jewel scoring highest 39 and Shamsul remaining not out on 35.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, City Club beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by six wickets.

Batting first, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha made 111 for all in 23.5 overs with Shahjada contributing highest 23 runs.

Sohag destroyed the opposition batting line-up claiming six wickets for 25 while Sohail took three for 16.

In reply, City Club played only six overs to reach their target making 115 for 4 with opener Maqsi hammering 51 off 19 deliveries.

Shahidul took two wickets for 25 runs.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Apr 16: County City and Shapla KC won their respective matches in the First Division cricket tournament held at different venues here today, reports UNB.

In reply, County City easily made 89 runs in 17.4 overs losing only two wickets.

In the other match at local stadium, Shapla KC defeated Asit Memorial Club by 89 runs.

Winning the toss, Shapla KC decided to bat first and made 198 for 8 in the stipulated 40 overs.

Nadim scored the highest 48 while Robin 27. Shahnoor took three wickets for 35 while Ashraf captured two for 31.

In reply, Asit Memorial gave walkover after making 109 runs for 6 in 38 overs.

Afroz captured three wickets for 7 while Billu two for 21.

3rd ODI today

Sports Reporter

The third one-day international between Australia and West Indies — a double header — will be played today and tomorrow at Trinidad.

Star Sport will telecast the match from 7.30 pm.

The seven-match series is tied at a game apiece.

Dale hopes to be fit for WC

BRISBANE, Apr 16: Australian medium-pace Adam Dale said today he was confident he would be fit to play in next month's cricket World Cup in England, reports AFP.

Dale arrived home from the Caribbean today after pneumonia forced him out of the one-day series against the West Indies.

But he said he was confident he would make a complete recovery to rejoin the Australian one-day squad for the World Cup.

The Queensland seamer's presence in the English conditions is considered vital to Australia's hopes of regaining the World Cup, with Dale's nagging injury providing the foil for pace spearhead Glenn McGrath.

'It's getting better and over the last week there's been a lot of improvement so I'm definitely on the mend,' Dale said after arriving here with teammate Andrew Bichel.

'It's certainly disappointing to leave the tour after having such a great time but the medical advice was with such a hectic schedule it would be better for me to come home and meet up with the guys in England,' said Dale.

'I would have loved to play in the one-dayers at the moment but now I'm looking forward to getting back for the World Cup.'

Minnows prepare differently

LONDON, Apr 16: Scotland and Bangladesh, the two cricket minnows competing in the World Cup starting May 14 in England, are capping off their preparations in opposite extremes, reports AP.

The Bangladesh national team, coached by former West Indian opening batsman Gordon Greenidge, was the first team to arrive in England to acclimatise for the World Cup.

Meanwhile, Scotland jetted off for Sharjah on Friday on a three-match tour.

Scotland coach Jim Love is leading a 14-man squad, minus Yorkshire's international Gavin Hamilton, to matches against three local teams in the United Arab Emirates.

Scotland and Bangladesh meet in a World Cup clash in Edinburgh on May 24 and both teams have targeted the match as a crucial encounter.

The two teams line up in a group also containing Australia, Pakistan, the West Indies and New Zealand. Only three teams advance from the Group stage into a Super Six

round — the final qualifying round before the finals.

The other group includes favourites South Africa, defending titlist Sri Lanka, host England, India, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Greenidge, who arrived with the Bangladesh team at Gatwick Airport Thursday, said the timing of the tournament favoured England because other teams didn't have time to adjust to the conditions.

'July would have been a better time... for some of the other teams, because the pitches would not be so different from the ones they play on for the rest of the year,' he said.

Greenidge said his team would be lucky to win a World Cup match and had been beset with internal problems since qualifying by winning the ICC Trophy two years ago.

He said any of the top nine teams were capable of winning the competition.

Bangladesh have applied to the International Cricket Council for Test status and Greenidge, national coach of two years, said the World Cup would help develop cricket in a country where neighbouring India and Pakistan are among the international leaders in the sport.

The World Cup starts at Lord's on May 14 with a match between England and Sri Lanka.

Scotland open their campaign against Australia at Worcester on May 16, while Bangladesh start against New Zealand at Chelmsford on May 17.

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Bangladesh cricket team captain Aminul Islam (L), manager Tanvir Mazharul Islam (C) and coach Gordon Greenidge talk to the press on their arrival at Gatwick Airport in London on April 15. — AII Sport photo

Akram inspires Pakistan

Completely demoralised, India continued to bat irresponsibly and the run outs of Robin Singh, Nayan Mongia and Aril Kumble further undermined their faltering innings.

Although opener Saurav Ganguly offered some protracted resistance, he was unable to shepherd his team to safety.

He struck a subdued 50 off 95 balls with two fours before skying the ball to long on.

Wasim, who completed an opening spell of 7-3-8-2, returned to wrap up the Indian innings, bowling Ajit Agarkar for 20.

Scoreboard of the Indian innings in the Champions' Cup one-day final against Pakistan on Friday:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akram	8	3	11	3
Akhtar	8	1	31	1
Mahmood	10	0	31	2
Saqlain	7	0	20	0
Arshad	10	1	24	1
Afridi	2	0	8	0

Fall of wkts: 1-0; 2-0; 3-14; 4-46; 5-50; 6-81; 7-84; 8-104; 9-122.

On the inaugural day, holders Comilla defeated Rajshahi by 30-32, 25-23, 25-6 and 25-20 points and Rangpur pulled off an upset 25-21, 25-20 and 25-19 points victory over last year's runners-up Gazipur.

Eight teams from different districts, are taking part in the meet on completion of zonal qualifying round. The participating teams are — Comilla, Rajshahi, Gazipur, Rangpur, Jhenaidah, Khulna, Narail and Sylhet.

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Nat'l youth v'ball

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Unable to take the heat!

LAGOS, Apr 16 (Reuters/Internet): Ireland have blamed the sweltering heat of Nigeria for their World Youth Cup exit.

Coach Brian Kerr said after his team lost 2-0 to Ghana on Wednesday, 'Today, it was too hot for us to play our normal game.'

Zambia and Spain blamed soaring temperatures after their sides played a dire goalless draw in the southeastern city of Calabar.

Like many other afternoon matches, the game was almost farcical and played mostly at walking pace.

Argentina coach Jose Pekerman, whose team lost to Mexico in an evening game on Thursday, said enough was enough and that governing body FIFA should end the practice of forcing players to run around under a merciless sun -- at any age level.

'They should stop playing matches in these conditions. No matter how well you prepare your players, you cannot compete normally,' he said.

Around 25 Celsius is the maximum temperature at which you can play at a normal speed.

Only Ghana and Nigeria, who have so far played all their games in the afternoon, seem to have been enjoying the conditions.

'Ghana have played all their matches at four o'clock and we don't know why,' added Pekerman. 'Nobody knows who decides these things. We have come here to Nigeria in a positive frame of mind and then these things happen.'

Given that several African countries already fulfil the conditions required for the organisation of the World Cup it would be fair to have the 2006 edition held in Africa.

Five African countries are in the race to host the 2006 finals, along with England, Germany and Brazil.