

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
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Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 2, '99 and draw shortly
afterwards

1	How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?	40	41	42
2	Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by	9 wickets	10 wickets	53 runs
3	How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?	18	21	20
4	Saqlain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?	Kenya	Zimbabwe	Bangladesh
5	How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?	120	140	140

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

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SPORTS TALK



Imran Khan
(Pakistan cricket legend)
"If you are scared of losing, you can never win."

BOA budget for SAF Games

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) has earmarked Taka 2.50 crore for the preparation and participation in the next South Asian Federation Games, to be held in Kathmandu in September this year. BOA secretary general Zafar Imam said yesterday, reports BSS.

The Games will take place in the Nepalese capital from September 25 to October 4 featuring 12 disciplines — athletics, boxing, football, judo and karate, kabaddi, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting and wrestling.

Bangladesh will take part in all the 12 disciplines, he said. Two foreign coaches — one for football and the other one for volleyball — are already working in Dhaka. BOA will get five more coaches from China soon, the BOA secretary general said.

"Chinese coaches for swimming and athletics are arriving on June 30 while two coaches for shooting (pistol and rifle) and one for weightlifting are expected to reach here in the first week of July," Zafar Imam said.

Div I soccer

The Muslim Institute and Victoria Sporting Club won their inaugural matches in the Metropolitan First Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Muslim Institute beat Agrani Bank 3-2. The match was locked 1-1 in the first half. Pintu put Agrani Bank ahead in the 19th minute but Sharafat equalised in the 40th minute.

Biplob scored the second goal in the 63rd minute while Nazmul widened the margin in the 77th minute. Alamgir grabbed a late goal for the losers in the 79th minute.

Victoria Sporting defeated Prantik Krira Chakra 2-1 after the first half ended in a 1-1 draw. Babu put Victoria ahead early in the 7th minute while Sohail equalised in the 43rd minute. Parvez netted the winner in the 69th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES
BRTC Sporting Club vs Dhanmondi Club (3 pm)
Dhaka Wanderers vs Shantinagar Club (5 pm).



Scene from the Premier Division football league match between Abahani and Arambagh at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday evening. The game ended 1-1. —Star photo

Little joy for Abahani

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra got off to a disappointing start in the Keya Premier football League when they were held to a one-all draw by Arambagh Krira Sangha at the flood-lit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

On resumption after an unscheduled day's rest on Wednesday, the mediocre teams stole a march over favourites in both the fixtures. Old towners Rahmatganj caused the first upset on a heavy outfield when they shared honours with Brothers Union in a 1-1 draw in the first match.

But the day's sensational stuff was provided by none other than Abahani's long-standing nemesis Arambagh, who stunned a couple of thousand sky blue supporters with a second minute lead.

Abahani, fresh from their Federation Cup triumph, got the shock of their lives when Arambagh striker Mozibur Rahman, latching on to a defenseless slicing through from Tajuddin, moved down the middle before rounding off national custodian Aminul.

The goal encouraged an early onslaught by the Motilheel outfit and had not their goal-shy strikers missed a couple of easy sitters, it would have been a three nil lead for the giant-slayers even before Abahani could settle down.

It could have been 2-0 for Arambagh in the ninth minute but Masud Khan failed to beat Aminul in a one to one situation.

With an ever energetic Nurul Haq Manik, the balding former national midfielder, operating in the middle with great authority, Arambagh got another chance three minutes later which Mozibur wildly swung over the bar.

After surviving those early close calls, Abahani had a sigh of relief when Ranjan struck the equalizer in the 30th minute from a goalmouth scramble. But the popular Dhanmondi outfit needed a certain degree of luck coupled with a fatal fumble by the Arambagh custodian Masud Rahman for that goal.

A shaky Masudur failed col-

lect a rather innocuous header from Iqbal cleanly thus allowing Ranjan lurking nearby to push the ball inside the goal-line before the hapless custodian could recollect the it.

Abahani looked more attacking in the second half, but without their two Indian recruits who played in the Federation Cup, almost all their efforts faded against the Arambagh defense. In a see-saw second session Arambagh also had their share of openings.

In the 47th minute, a wicked header from Asif set Tajuddin up with a free hit inside the danger zone, but the latter drove the ball miles over the cross-piece much to the horror of Arambagh.

Abahani got their best opportunity of taking the lead in the 63rd minute when Zakir headed the ball into an empty net, but only to be cleared by an ever-alert Mizanur Rahman from the goal-line.

The match took the audience on the edge of their seat when Arambagh got Abahani defense napping on a fast counter-attack. But Mozibur's left footer

Kick-off times changed

The Metropolitan Football League Committee yesterday brought forward the timing by half an hour all matches of the Keya Premier Division football league at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from Saturday, reports UNB.

The first match will now start at 3:30 pm instead of the earlier 4:00 pm and the second match at 5:30 pm in place of 6 pm.

The lemon-breaks between the two half have also been reduced to 10 minutes from 15 minutes.

A shaky Masudur failed col-

slightly missed the near post. Abahani's central defender Kingshuk was the lone culprit in a fairly contested match to endorse a yellow card.

TEAMS
Abahani KC: Aminul, Partho (Munir), Prodeep (Sohel Reza), Kingshuk, Dulal, Sentu, Iqbal, Arman, Mintu, Zakir and Ranjan (Barat).

Arambagh KS: Masudur Rahman, Firoz Mahmud, Golam Rabbani, Mizanur Rahman, Saiduzzaman (Prodeep Kumar), Aminul Islam, Tajuddin, Ahmed, Nurul Haq, Asif, Mozibur Rahman and Masud Khan (Shafiqul Islam).

Referee: Abdur Rakib.

BU-RAHMATGANJ

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day, Brothers Union escaped with a 1-1 draw against Rahmatganj.

After a barren first half, striker Jamal headed Brothers into the lead in the 48th minute. But the joy of the aspirant forward was short-lived as Rahmatganj netted the score in the 63rd minute thanks to a scorching left-foot grounder from Nayan.

Although the outcome could be termed an upset by the 'has been' football fans who do not turn up to see the traditional third force in action now-a-days, the harsh reality was that Brothers were lucky enough to avoid a defeat against Rahmatganj, undoubtedly the better performer of the day.

Rahmatganj have only themselves to blame for failing to capture full three points as their star recruit Sahajuddin Tipu spoiled at least three sitters in the first half.

Yellow cards: Shuvro, Zahid (Brothers) and Tipu (Rahmatganj).

TEAMS

Brothers Union: Milon, Chanchal, Shuvro, Swapan (Jr), Fayaz, Zahid, Barun, Asad, Swapan (Salahuddin), Mizan (Anwar) and Jamal.

Rahmatganj MFS: Bijan, Biplob, Deen Mohammed, Kamal, Shafiq, Shaurav Raju, Munir, Nayan, Nurul Islam, Tipu and Milon.

Referee: R Alam.

Nat'l hockey results

Narayanganj, Rajshahi, Bangladesh Air Force and BKSP won their respective matches in the BRTC 21st national hockey championship at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Narayanganj thrashed Kushthia 7-0 after dominating the first half 6-0. Rubel scored a hat-trick while Sohail, Jamil, Imran and Shahabuddin netted one goal each for the winners.

Rajshahi routed Patuakhali 5-1 after leading the first half 3-1. Mamun Hossain and Shamim Reza scored two goals each while Bulbul Hossain netted one goal. Jasimuddin netted a consolation goal for the losers.

Bangladesh Air Force trounced Rangpur 8-0 after leading the first half 1-0. Azam earned a hat-trick while Ibrahim, Omar, Selim Reza, Ali and Masud scored one goal apiece for the winners.

BKSP crushed Gazipur 11-0 after leading the first half 3-0. Moksed Alam scored three goals. Yamin and Kutubuddin two goals each, and Ashraf, Mazharul Islam, Imtiaz and Aziz one each.

Schools h'ball from tomorrow

The 10th Bata girls' school handball tournament, organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation, begins tomorrow at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex, reports UNB.

Vigaranissa Noon will take on BCIC School at 4pm in one of the three opening day fixtures. The day's other matches are — Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla Railway School vs Ispahani School, and Sher-e-Bangla Girls' School vs Bangladesh Rifles School.

President of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman will inaugurate the meet in the afternoon. Managing Director of Bata and chief patron of the tournament F Garcia will be present as special guest.

The boys' competition will begin on July 5 at the handball court near Bangabandhu Stadium, said general secretary of the Bangladesh Handball Federation Asaduzzaman Kohinor at a press briefing yesterday.

Federation president Lt Col (rtd) MA Hamid, representative of tournament sponsors Bata Shoe Co. KMS Alam and tournament chairman and secretaries of both groups (boys' & girls') were also present at the briefing.

According to the agreement Bata will provide Tk 80,000 out of a budget of Tk 129,700 for the girls' tournament and a similar amount for the boys with the same budget.

The final of the girls' event will be held on July 3 while the semifinals are on July 2.

A total of 17 metropolis school teams, split into four groups, will be participating in the girls' meet.

TEAMS

Group A: Vigaranissa Noon School, Kadamanta Girls' High School, BCIC School and Lake Circus Girls' High School.

Group B: Scholastica School, Mirpur Girls' Ideal Institute, Dhanmondi Govt Girls' High School and Agrani Girls' High School.

Group C: Narayanganj Govt Girls' High School, Ahmed Bavany High School, Mohamadpur Preparatory School and Mirpur Bangla School.

Group D: BAF Shaheen School, Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla Railway High School, Sher-e-Bangla Mahabidyalaya, Rifles' School and Ispahani School.

Fallen heroes back home



KARACHI, June 24 (AFP/Reuters): Pakistan's cricket World Cup squad returned home today to face hundreds of angry fans who pelted them with rotten eggs at the heavily guarded Karachi Airport, witnesses said.

"Shame, shame. We do not want gamblers and traitors but want real players," fans shouted as nine of the team arrived at the airport from London after their humiliating defeat by Australia in the World Cup final.

Team captain Wasim Akram and five others stayed back in England due to personal and professional engagements.

Vice-captain Moin Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, Yousuf Youhana, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ejaz Ahmed, Azhar Mahmood, Abdul Razzak, Shahid Afridi and manager Zafar Altamash were left to face the music.

All-rounder Shahid Afridi escaped injury when he jumped into a speeding car to avoid the furious fans.

The others left the airport under police guard.

Team manager Zafar Altamash reacted sharply to allegations of match-fixing leveled against his team after their poor showing in the final.

"I am not going to answer this question," he said as he stormed out of a press conference.

Pakistan lost to Australia in the final by eight wickets and angry Pakistanis revived match-fixing charges against players.

South Africa lost in the

semifinal but were welcomed (home) like heroes. Here we are left to justify the defeat in the final," Altamash said.

Altamash criticised the fans' reaction to the defeat.

"We are asked to take the responsibility. What do they want? To hang us? The players are more dejected than anyone," he said.

"We were drubbed in the final like the way we drubbed Zimbabwe and New Zealand before the final. The Australians played really well in the final," Altamash said.

Pakistan were dismissed for a paltry 132 by the Australians in the final with leg-spinner Shane Warne taking four wickets.

"We failed to handle Warne well and Steve Waugh's catch of Abdur Razzak was the turning point."

Altamash criticised the lack of practice facilities for the team in England and said Pakistan had lodged an official protest after its shocking defeat to Bangladesh in the first round as the pitch was worn.

Moin Khan said defeat in the final was disappointing.

"It was disappointing after we played so well in the tournament. Now the fans must realise we are the number two team in the world," Moin said.

Veteran batsman Ejaz Ahmed showed disappointment over match-fixing allegations.

"We won in India and in Sharjah and now for one defeat we are again subjected to match-fixing allegations. Its demoralising," Ejaz said.

Ejaz along with captain Wasim Akram and Salim Ma-

lik was implicated in an interim report into match-fixing last September.

The one-man judicial commission, Malik Mohammad Quayum, is expected to submit a final report next month.

Altamash also slammed the national media over match-fixing allegations.

"You should be ashamed of yourselves (media men)," Altamash told a news conference before storming out of the arrival lounge at Karachi airport.

"A team comprising mostly youngsters reached the final and instead of praising their performance you are levelling baseless accusations," he said.

Some 200 armed commandos were deployed outside the airport but they could not prevent a crowd of more than 5,000 chanting slogans against captain Wasim Akram, who has stayed in England to play league cricket.

Match-fixers are back," the crowd shouted. "The team deserves a kick in the pants... Moin (Khan) the only tiger as rest are lambs."

"I don't want to say anything more (on the allegations) because you people (media) seem to know even the unknown," Altamash said angrily.

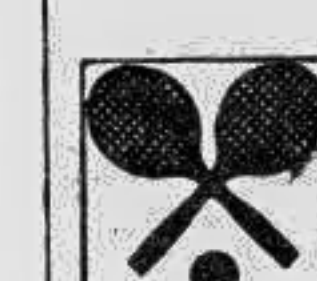
Quayum told reporters on Tuesday the committee had no powers to initiate action against the players for their poor performance in the final.

Quayum was quoted as saying by the official AFP news agency that if the court was asked to record a statement about the involvement of players in betting and match-fixing, then action could be taken.



Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi being whisked away by a securityman after the team's arrival at Karachi Airport yesterday. —AFP photo

Arantxa fails, Andre sails



LONDON, June 24: Andre Agassi stayed on course for a French Open and Wimbledon double in reaching the third round of the men's singles here on Thursday, cruising past Argentina's Guillermo Canas in straight sets, reports AFP.

Fourth-seeded Agassi triumphed 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 to book a match with Spain's Alberto Martin, a four-set winner over Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui.

Agassi was joined by British sixth seed Tim Henman, who completed his match held over from Wednesday evening to march past American Chris Woodruff 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 in 2hr 23min.

There was a shock in the women's event, as seventh-seeded twice former finalist Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain slid out to American Lisa Raymond.

Raymond, who has never been past the fourth round in six previous visits to the All

England Club, shocked Sanchez-Vicario 7-6, 6-1.

Brazilian clay court specialist Gustavo Kuerten, seeded 11, also won, blasting his way past Germany's David Prinosil for the loss of just eight games.

Henman, who led 6-4, 2-3 when the match was halted for fading light, opened up on Centre Court with a six-game winning streak which took the wind out of Woodruff's sails.

Henman, the bookies' second favourite for the men's title, said he was very happy with the way he polished off Woodruff.

The Briton now faces Sebastian Grosjean of France before a possible match-up with fifth-seeded 1996 champion Richard Krajicek, who blitzed Australia's Todd Woodbridge 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Other men going through were Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, who sped past Rainer Schuttler of Germany 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 and Germany's Jens Knippschild, who marched into the third round with a comprehensive 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Switzerland's Marc Rosset.

Three-time former finalist Goran Ivanisevic also progressed, beating Sandoz Stolle 7-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, killing off the Australian with a leaping forehand volley.

Tenth-seeded Ivanisevic now plays Dutchman Paul Haarhuis, who hammered Spaniard Fernando Vicente in straight sets.

In the women's singles, Australian teen qualifier Jelena Dokic proved her first round humiliation of world number one Martina Hingis was no fluke — but she had to work 10 times harder to oust Katarina Studenikova of Slovakia 6-0, 4-6, 8-6 to advance in 1hr 47min.

Third-seeded American Lindsay Davenport easily ousted Slovakia's Karina Habudova 6-2, 6-2 in 43 minutes, and next meets Laura Golarsa of Italy.

Hadlee has no doubts



LONDON, June 24: Sir Richard Hadlee is backing New Zealand to build on their World Cup achievements and beat England in the forthcoming four-Test series, reports Reuters.

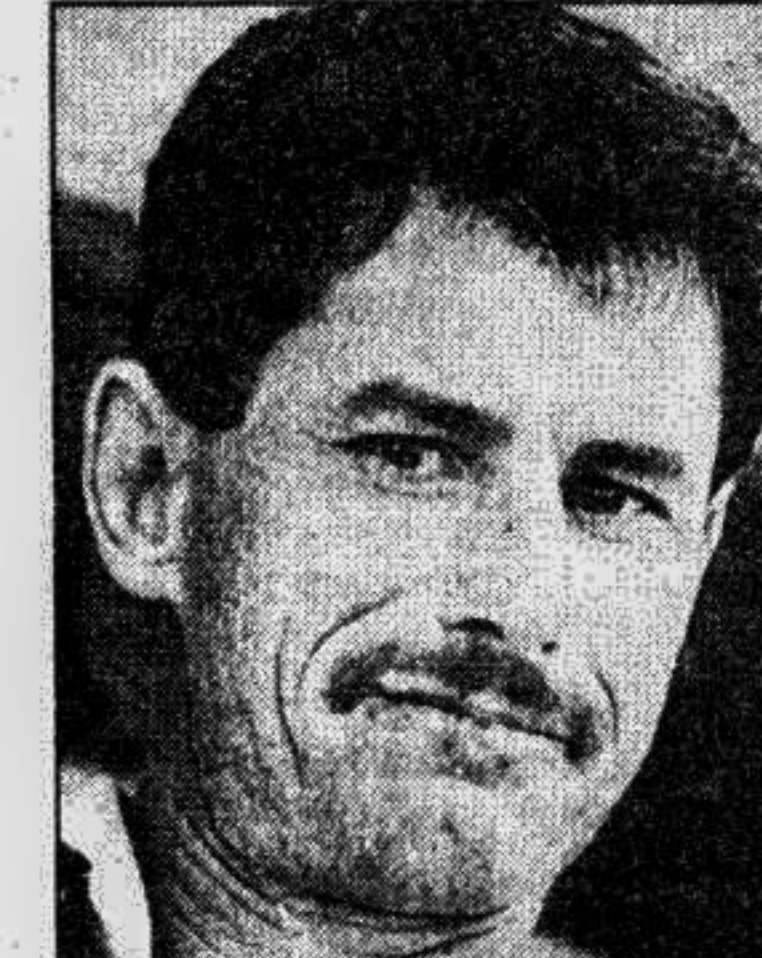
"New Zealand have only won two Tests in England in our cricket history. But I think the timing is absolutely perfect for us to make it three, four, five and six, in all seriousness," Hadlee said.

Hadlee, who played in the Test-winning sides at Headingley in 1983 and at Trent Bridge in 1988, where New Zealand clinched their only series victory in England, explained his thinking at a reception at the New Zealand High Commission.

"England have got problems. They are going to have a new coach after David Lloyd (stepped down). It appears they are going to have a new captain. One or two new players will probably be tried or experimented with," Hadlee said.

"If we New Zealand can just hold it together, get our act together, then there's no reason why we can't be very, very competitive in this series and perhaps go on and win another Test series in this country."

Hadlee, the second highest wicket-taker in Test history, said New Zealand reaching the World Cup semifinals had given the team a huge boost.



RICHARD HADLEE

"I always felt we would struggle to make it to the Super Six (second) stage. But beating the Australians in Cardiff was a tremendous result. To get into the semifinals was a fine effort in a tough competition," Hadlee said.

The former all-rounder insisted he was not worried about the negative press New Zealand

had received for being a "boring" side, since they arrived in England.

"We have basically some good hard-working players. We haven't got any stars. We go about doing our job in a fairly mechanical role if you like," he said.

Hadlee said left-arm swing bowler Geoff Allott, who took a record-breaking 20 wickets in the World Cup, was crucial to New Zealand's chances.

"Allott had an outstanding World Cup. He's arrived on the international scene. It's important he continues that form in the Tests."

"We need (paceman) Simon Doull back in the side. With Doull/Allott going well, (all-rounder) Chris Cairns and (left-arm spinner) Daniel Vettori, the bowling looks good."

"But you would have to be concerned about our batting. The top-order has been pretty disappointing. We have got to get some starts, get some partnerships going. Otherwise it puts too much pressure on the middle order."

According to Hadlee, England need to follow the example of World Cup winners Australia if they are to get back to the top in the world game.



Action from yesterday's national hockey championship encounter between Patuakhali and Rajshahi at the Moulana Bhasani National Stadium. —Star photo