

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
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 wks 10 wks 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)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Steve Waugh
(Australia cricket captain)
"Sometimes teams get written off too early, sometimes too much is written about some sides... Other teams should be more concerned about us."

On press criticism.

'India must not play Pakistan'

NEW DELHI, June 29: Former Indian cricket captain Kapil Kaul Tuesday called for cricketing ties with arch-rival Pakistan to be broken, reports AFP.

"India should not play against Pakistan anywhere," Kapil told the Press Trust of India as Indian soldiers fought what New Delhi claims are regular Pakistani soldiers and Islamic guerrillas in Indian Kashmir.

India should not even agree to play Pakistan in neutral territory, said Kapil, the world's highest wicket-taker, adding that a series of cricket matches to be held against Pakistan in September in Toronto should be cancelled.

"I'll be disappointed if the Indian cricket board still goes ahead with the series when our soldiers are fighting a bitter battle to throw the enemy out," said Kapil, who recently visited an army hospital in Kashmir.

"These are the brave soldiers giving their lives to protect us and if we can't look after them, we are good for nothing."

Cricketing relations received a shot in the arm when Pakistan played its first Test match after a gap of 12 years in Indian soil in January.

The Indian military launched operations against Islamic raiders on May 9. The seven-week-old conflict has raised fears of a full-fledged war between the world's two newest nuclear powers.

Islamabad denies its soldiers are fighting in Kashmir or it has crossed the Line of Control, dividing the disputed Kashmir.

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been the cause of two of the three wars between the two nations.

Div I soccer

Victoria Sporting Club earned their second successive win in the Metropolis First Division football league beating Dhanmondi Club by 3-2 at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Earlier, Victoria defeated Prantik KC in their first appearance in the league.



Players and officials of the Kasaituly Samajkalyan Parisad, who became champions in the Third Division super league yesterday.

Zakir's terrific treble

Sports Reporter

Zakir Hasasn scored the first hat-trick in the Keya Premier football league to inspire Abahani Krira Chakra to a 3-1 win over Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The national midfielder, stood in for the regular captain Partho, commendably shouldered the demanding job in addition to his makeshift role as the lone striker for the match. But the fleet-footed forward rose to the occasion like an inspiring leader to guide an injury-plagued Abahani to their first win, scoring twice in the first half and the third eight minutes from the final whistle.

Zakir shot Abahani into the lead as early in the fifth minute. Latching on to a defence-slicing pass from Sentu, Zakir slipped past his marker before placing the ball wide off Rahmatganj custodian Bijan Barua at the far corner of the net (1-0).

But Abahani, who drew 1-1 with Arambagh in their opening match, appeared to be heading for yet another debacle as Rahmatganj pulled off a stunning equaliser six minutes later.

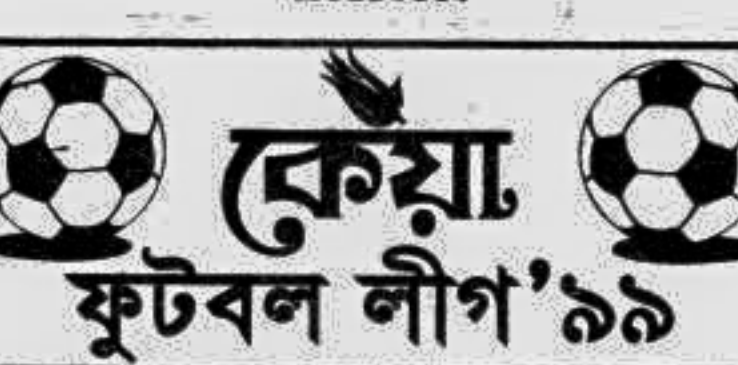
Sohel-al-Masum, the young left-back, who seemed to have recovered well from injury, moved down the left before releasing a low cross with which Milon made no mistake to shoot home from close (1-1).

The Rahmatganj joy however lasted only a couple of minutes before Zakir struck again in the 13 minute much to the delight of a few thousand sky-blue supporters. This time Arman, the discarded national midfielder and the linchpin of every Abahani attack in the evening, set Zakir up with an

imaginative through which the latter clinically dabbed past an advancing Bijon into the right-hand side of the post (2-1).



ZAKIR



With Zakir playing like spring chicken, Abahani almost got their third goal in the 64 minute. But Sentu, after being nicely fed by Zakir deep into the Rahmatganj box, shot the ball wide over the cross-piece with only Bijon at his mercy.

The popular Dhanmondi outfit, who missed the services of their captain and central de-

fender Prodeep due to injury, survived a close shave when Milon failed to negotiate a right-side floater from Saurav Raju in the 69 minute.

Although at times it appeared that Abahani would have to stay satisfied with the margin, an irrepressible Zakir had other ideas on his mind. His relentless effort to attain that unique treble was eventually paid off in the 82 minute when he fired a spectacular right-footer that crashed onto the inside-rooftop, leaving Bijon in disbelief (3-1).

The match was also marked by foul play, leaving referee Tajul Islam to flash the yellow cards on six occasions to quell the situation. But Tajul, who had a tough day on the field, almost invited an unwanted atmosphere when he mistakenly showed Sahajuddin Tipu the red card. But he was prompt enough to change his decision before things turned sour.

Yellow cards: Sohel Reza, Iqbal (Abahani), Monir, Nayan, Tipu and Javed (Farashganj).

TEAMS

Abahani KC: Aminul, Munir, Sohel Reza, Kingshuk, Dulal, Mintu, Arman, Iqbal (Borai), Sentu, Daboo and Zakir.
Rahmatganj MFS: Bijon, Deen Mohammed, Masum, Kamal, Monir (Saiful), Nayan, Milon, Tipu (Roman), Saurav Raju, Javed and Biplob.
Referee: Tajul Islam.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Football League
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Farashganj SC vs Mirpur Chalanika 3.30 pm
Brothers Union vs Fakir-erpool YMC 5.30 pm

Kasaituly champs

Sports Reporter

Kasaituly Samajkalyan Parisad became champions in the Third Division super league defeating Lalbagh Sporting Club 2-1 in the last match at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

Malnu and Mamun scored for the winning side while Munir pulled one back for Lalbagh. Kasaituly grabbed with 17 points from seven matches with five wins and two draws. They will play in the Second Division next season.

Earlier, Akhter scored a hat-trick as Sheikh Russell Krira Chakra trounced Kawanbazar Progati Sangha 5-2 at the same venue in the afternoon. Nizam and Russell added the other goals.

Nat'l hockey 2nd round begins today

The four-team second round match of the BRTC 21st national hockey championship begins today with Bangladesh Air Force taking on Faridpur at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium at 2:30 pm, reports UNB.

In another match, defending champions Dhaka will meet Bangladesh Army at the same venue at 4 pm.

The final will be held on July 4 between the two top finishers of the second round matches.

REMAINING MATCHES

July 1: Bangladesh Air Force vs Bangladesh Army, and Dhaka vs Faridpur.

July 3: Bangladesh Army vs Faridpur, and Dhaka vs Bangladesh Air Force.

Rain ruins the day

LONDON, June 29: Players and spectators alike were left twiddling their thumbs at Wimbledon on Tuesday as persistent rain forced a delay to the start of the day's programme, reports AFP.

Overnight rain continued through the morning, though forecasters said brighter spells were expected later in the day.

British sixth seed Tim Hen-

UPDATE

man was due first on Centre Court, resuming 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 4-3 up in his fourth round clash with American Jim Courier, followed by Germany's Boris Becker against Australian second seed Pat Rafter.

On Court One women's favourite Steffi Graf was on the verge of victory against Belgian qualifier Kim Clijsters, leading 6-2, 4-2 overnight.

That match was to be followed by the clash between teenager Venus Williams, the American sixth seed, and Russian Anna Kournikova, the number 17.

Men's top seed Pete Sampras was first on Court Two against unseeded Canadian Daniel Nestor.

Organisers were hoping to complete all 11 outstanding fourth round matches in the men's and women's singles.

Invitational TT over

Bangladesh Biman earned all four singles titles of the invitational table tennis competition at the Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB. Rumi clinched the girls' singles title defeating teammate Ratna 21-14, 21-10, 21-12.

Pappu took the boys' singles crown outplaying teammate Edison 24-22, 21-13.

In the women's singles final, Tumpa beat Ritu 21-13, 21-14, 17-21, 21-13 while Rachi emerged the men's singles champion overpowering teammate Mahub 17-21, 21-9, 21-13, 21-13.

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Jafar Imam distributed prizes. Seventy paddlers from across the country participated in the three-day meet, organised by Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Association.



A couple of fans wait patiently for the rain to stop yesterday.

—AFP photo

Miandad will skip inquiry



KARACHI, June 29: Former Pakistan team coach Javed Miandad told a judicial inquiry commis-

sion probing match fixing allegations that he is unable to appear before it, a court official said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The commission headed by Lahore High Court judge Malik Mohammad Quayum on Wednesday, court registrar Abdus Salam Khawar told the news agency, summoned Miandad, who resigned from the post shortly before the World Cup.

"I am busy with my wife and children in London and cannot make it. And I have nothing special to tell the court," Khawar quoted Miandad as saying to him by telephone.

The commission, which started the probe in September, is to hold a hearing on Saturday.

Khawar said the inquiry was investigating allegations of match fixing and bribery against star players including skipper Wasim Akram.

Around 50 witnesses, including present and former players, cricket officials and alleged bookies have already testified before the commission.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) implicated Wasim and batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik in an interim report in September.

The court officials said the commission is expected to submit its final report next

month. The team members are faced with fresh allegations of match fixing after Pakistan's humiliating defeat against Australia in the World Cup final.

The defeat triggered protests from fans who attacked the houses of star players, burned their effigies and called them as "traitors and gamblers."

The official APP news agency quoted an unidentified bureau official as saying some of the players "went overboard in merry-making" during the World Cup, raising suspicion of a "deliberate surrender" by the Pakistani team in the final.

The bureau will prepare a report and present it to President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, who is also the Patron-in-Chief of the PCB.

The match fixing and bribery allegations have been haunting the Pakistan cricket since four years ago, when Australians Shane Warne, Mark Waugh and Tim May accused Salim Malik of offering bribes to play poorly during the 1994-95 tour of Pakistan.

Pakistani fans share a love-and-hate relationship with the players. On every win, they idolize the players and on defeat they accuse them of match fixing and intra-team politics.

Wasim has reportedly said young Pakistani cricketers would become too frightened to play for the country if vilification followed every loss.

"It always happens. For several months we were winning all the time and nothing was said. They all vilify us when we lose," Wasim was quoted by newspapers here as saying in England.

The government's Ehtesab

returned home from London last week to a rowdy reception by fans, while captain Wasim and five other players have preferred to stay in Britain.

Team officials and players have denied the allegations.

The government's Ehtesab

Not an automatic choice



SYDNEY, June 29: Shane Warne's return to form at the one-day cricket World Cup has failed to guaran-

tee him a recall to Australia's Test side, reports AFP.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said today only time would tell if Warne would win back his Test spot despite acknowledging the leg-spinner's outstanding one-day form during Australia's World Cup triumph in England.

Warne, who had struggled to reproduce his best form after shoulder surgery last year, has said he will consider his future after pointing out he was not the incumbent Test spinner.

Stuart MacGill was preferred to Warne when selectors opted for just one spinner for the final Test against the West Indies in April.

Australia's next Test is against Sri Lanka in Kandy on September 9 and Warne will have only a four-day tour match the previous week to convince selectors his shoulder can cope with the demands of the longer form of the game.

His four-wicket hauls in the World Cup semifinal and final helped Australia to an emphatic

triumph but Hohns said they did not guarantee Warne's return to the Test team.

"We don't know that yet. One-day cricket is totally different," Hohns said.

Hohns will sit down with national selectors Allan Border and Andrew Hilditch in July to consider the touring squad after speaking with Warne about his plans.

"Of course we would like him

to stay — his bowling during the World Cup was outstanding and no one can deny that," Hohns said.

"But we'll need to know what he's thinking. We spoke a little bit overseas and Allan Border has spoken with him as well."

The World Cup triumph was particularly satisfying for Hohns, who was part of the selection panel which caused a storm in Australian cricket circles in mid-1997 by insisting on separate teams for Tests and one-day matches.

That decision led to the end of the international one-day careers of Test stalwarts Mark Taylor and Ian Healy and left some critics questioning the vision of the selectors, who were looking towards the World Cup.

However, Hohns and captain Steve Waugh believe the teams will become more similar in the coming years.

"Stephen and I have spoken about the one-day situation and the ideal would be to lessen the number of changes between the teams," Hohns said.

"But we're probably never going to have the same side playing both forms of the game."

"Form still counts for everything and the players that are doing the job will get chosen."

same squad as Dominic Cork, Darren Gough, John Crawley and Ronnie Irani.

But he failed to make the progress he hoped for at Middlesex and said: "It was a closed shop at the time and it was a

has revealed that he almost quit cricket five years ago.

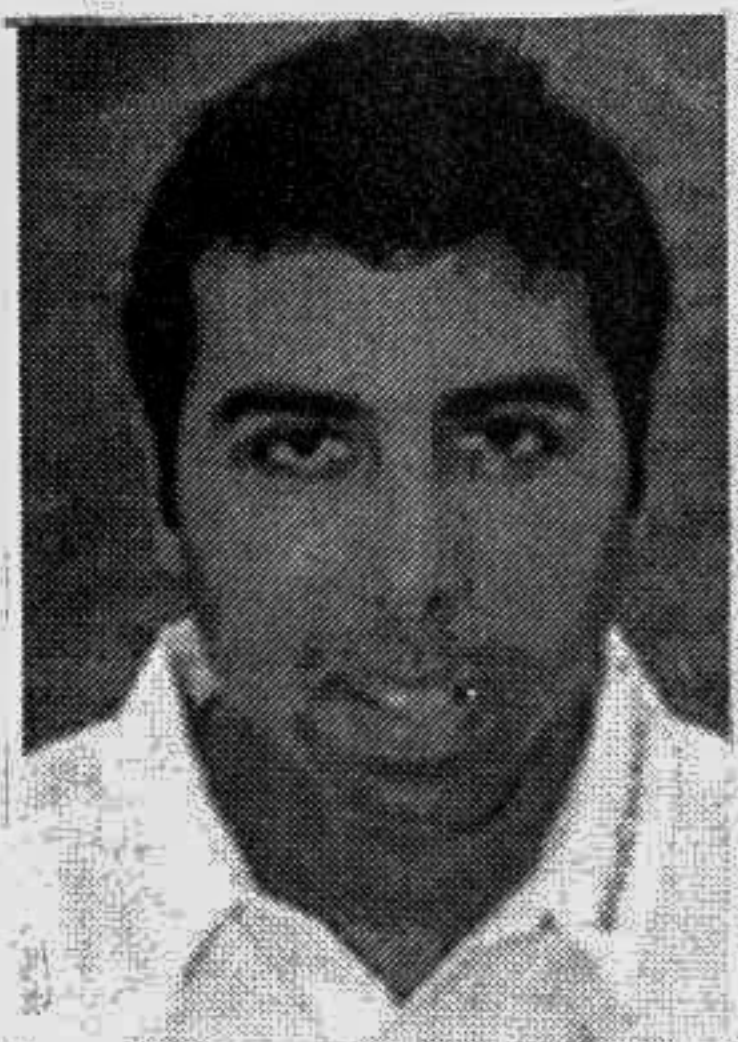
The 27-year-old Leicestershire batsman is expected to go in at number six in the first Test against New Zealand.

But he might well have been lost to the game and explained: "I was playing minor counties cricket for Berkshire, no-one seemed very interested in me and I began to think I would seriously have to start looking for another job."

"It was a tough time but fortunately Leicestershire gave me a trial then took me on the staff in 1995 and everything has gone on from there."

"I owe a hell of a lot to coach Jack Birkenhead and captain James Whitaker, who have put a lot of work in and shown a lot of faith in me."

Habib has played for England at under-15, under-17 and under-19 levels and was in the



AFTAB HABIB

case of move or bust for me. Looking back maybe I should have left sooner than I did."

When Mike Gatting was captain of Middlesex in the early 1990s, Habib was just another name on the county books, desperate for the opportunity to prove himself as a batsman but little more than a supernumerary at Lord's.

Now, as one of England's selectors, Gatting has gone some way to repairing that sin of omission by choosing the English-born son of Indo-Pakistani parents for the first Cornhill Test.

"I don't think there was a big grudge between Mike and me. But it was like a closed shop in those days. I played one Championship game and a couple of Sunday League matches in three years."

They were testing times for Habib, educated at Millfield and Taunton schools, both in terms of his aspirations as a cricketer and as a young man trying to find his way in life.



Action from yesterday's First Division football league match between Dhanmondi and Victoria at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

—Star photo