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Column One SPORTS TALK



Michael Atherton
(Former England cricket captain)

"There is much talk about momentum in World Cups and Australia have the momentum to win it."

Before the 1999 World Cup final.

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 wkt	10 wkt	53 runs
3	How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?	18	21	20
4	Saqib Mushtaq scored his hattrick 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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Shahara Cup uncertain

MUMBAI, June 30: The annual Shahara Cup series between India and Pakistan at Toronto appeared to be in jeopardy today with the Indian board set to discuss former skipper Kapil Dev's demand for snapping all cricketing ties with Pakistan against the background of the Kargil conflict, reports PTI.

Cricket board president Raj Singh Dungarpur termed Kapil Dev's demand as "deserving of serious consideration".

"Cricket can't remain in isolation. We have to see the sentiments of the people. The matter will definitely come up for discussions at the board's working committee meeting in the middle of next month," Dungarpur told the news agency.

Displeased Inzamam

MULTAN, Pakistan, June 30: Pakistan's star batsman Inzamamul Haq, whose house here was attacked after the country's defeat in the World Cup final, on Wednesday voiced his anguish over the "preposterous" uproar, reports AFP.

"It has become a fashion to call us heroes when we win and to brand us traitors when we lose," Inzamam told reporters in his first public remarks since his return home after Pakistan's eight-wicket defeat in the final.

Inzamam challenged the detractors to provide proof of alleged match-fixing before a judicial commission which has been probing similar earlier allegations since September and is expected to give its report soon.

He said the members of the World Cup squad had decided to take legal action against over the match-fixing charges, but not elaborate.

"The allegations are preposterous," he said.

Inzamam said one major mistake was to bat first after winning the toss. "We made an error in understanding the wicket. Our decision to bat first let us down and it was Australia's day."

Following Pakistan's defeat, the cricketer's house in Multan was mobbed by protesting young men who threw stones. No one was hurt in the incident.

Farashganj share top spot with Muktis Mizan's hattrick boost for Brothers

Sports Reporter

Mizanur Rahman slammed the second hattrick in the Keaya Premier football league as Brothers Union thumped down a 4-0 defeat on Fakirpool Youngmen's Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The lanky forward scored three goals within the space of 20 minutes in the second half to give Brothers their first win after a disappointing opening match against Farashganj, who held the traditional third force in the domestic football to a one-all draw.

The superlative effort from Mizan, who had a lacklustre last season due to chronic injury problems, not only brought him back to the limelight but also provided the much-needed boost to the confidence of the Gopibagh outfit after a few hopeless campaigns in last couple of seasons.

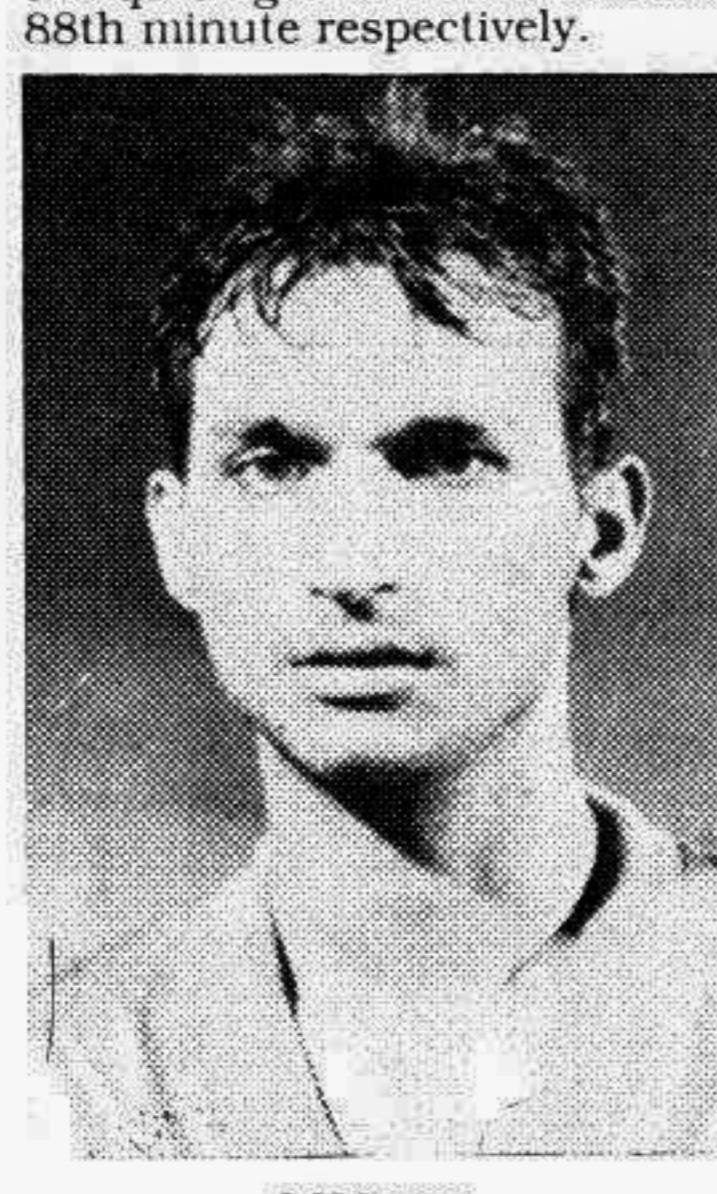
With this impressive victory Brothers moved up to join runners-up Mohammedan and Abahani at the second place, all having collected four points of two matches each.

Defending champions Muktiyoddha and Farashganj, who scored their second straight win at the expense of promoted Mirpur Chalantika at the same venue yesterday, are currently leading the table with full six points each.

In the first match of the day Farashganj, aided by two late strikes from Bidyut and Farhad, defeated Chalantika by 3-1.

Chanchal gave Farashganj a 26th minute lead before Sohag pulled off the equaliser for Cha-

lantika seven minutes later. The match, however, decisively swung in favour of Farashganj when Bidyut and Farhad scored two quick goals in the 85th and 88th minute respectively.



MIZAN



But it was Mizan, who stole the spotlight of the evening, scoring the second hattrick of the league following in the footsteps of Abahani's Zakir in Tuesday's match against Arambagh.

In a lop-sided affair, it was however Riaz, who opened the floodgate of goals for Brothers, shooting home a re-bounder in the 20th minute.

Mizan doubled the margin three minutes into the second session with a neat placing shot after being fed by media Asad.

The discarded national striker struck his second goal in the 56th minute. Taking the full advantage of a terrible mistake from Fakirpool custodian Khaireul, who shot the ball straight to an unmarked Mizan, the opportunist attacker with a lethal right-foot made no mistake to send the ball home.

Mizan however had to wait for another 12 minutes to score his hattrick with a pile driver.

TEAMS

Brothers: Milon, Chanchal, Barun, Shuvro, Zahid (Manik), Asad, Riaz, Sohan, Faiyaz, Jahan and Mizan (Mirza).

Fakirpool YMC: Khaireul (Kamal), Ibrahim (Shahriar), Nazrul Islam, Jahangir Alam, Barua, Tofazzal, Monwar, Tawhid (Ashraf), Jalal (Jr), Sohag and Jalal (sr).

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Football League:

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Muktiyoddha vs Arambagh (5.30pm)

First Division Football League:

Dhaka Wanderers vs Wari (3.30 pm)

East End vs Muslim Institute (4pm)

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium.

Asia Youth Cup Bangladesh leave on Saturday

BCB vice-president Kutubuddin Akbar was named team manager and Abdul Hadi Ratan coach of the Bangladesh national youth team which will leave for Singapore on Saturday (July 3) to participate in the Asia Youth Cup Under-19 cricket tournament, reports UNB.

The 16-member Bangladesh youth team comprises of 14 cricketers and two officials.

Fahim Muntasir will lead the team while Imran Ahmed will act as his deputy.

The eight-team competition, a qualifying meet for the World Youth Championship, will be held from July 5-11.

The top two finishers will qualify for the World Youth Championship, slated for next January in Colombo.

Bangladesh have been placed in Group A along with Hong Kong, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) while Group B comprises Thailand, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and hosts Singapore.

Bangladesh will play their first match with Hong Kong on July 5, meet Malaysia the following day (July 6) and will play their last group match with UAE on July 7.

SQUAD

Fahim Muntasir (captain), Imran Ahmed (vice-captain), Hannan Sarker, Sadiq Hasan, Nahidul Haq, Mazharul Haq, Mdridul, Golam Mortaza, Imran Rahim, Bikash Ranjan Das, Rezaul Haq Nayeem, Tarique Hasan, Mohammad Selim, Mosaddek Hossain and Rajan Salam.

Stand By: Mohammad Kalim, Tahmid Bashir, Ashique Majumder and Mahfuz Kabir.

BRTC, Shantinagar

split points

BRTC SC shared points with Shantinagar Club in the lone match of the Keaya First Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Jahangir put BRTC ahead in the 47th minute while Sohel Rana of Shantinagar neutralised the margin in the 55th minute.

After the day's match, BRTC secured two points from as many matches while Shantinagar bagged one point from two outings.

East End Club will play the Muslim Institute in today's (Thursday) lone First Division league match at 4 pm at the Mirpur Stadium.

Another Pak body to probe bribery charge

ISLAMABAD, June 30 (AP): A one-man judicial commission was established Wednesday to investigate match fixing and betting allegations against Pakistan's World Cup cricket team, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

The inquiry follows relentless criticism from cricket-crazy fans and government officials that Pakistan's humiliating eight-wicket World Cup loss to Australia was engineered.

The cricket team has denied the allegations and team captain Wasim Akram said the allegations were demoralising for his team.

Earlier this week several World Cup cricketers returned to Pakistan amid tight security.

Hundreds of police in riot gear protected the Karachi International Airport to guard arriving cricketers from outraged fans, who had burned portraits of the players and attacked some of their homes.

Lahore High Court Judge Justice Abdul Qayyum has been recruited to conduct the inquiry.

Qayyum also is conducting another inquiry started several years ago into allegations of match fixing and betting by top cricketers, including Akram and batsman Saleem Malik.

The disgraced cricket team has also been called to appear before the National Assembly or powerful lawmaking Lower House of Parliament's Standing Committee on Sports to explain their dismal performance.

As well the team is being investigated by the Accountability Bureau, which is looking into allegations that prior to big matches, like the final, some Pakistani players were drinking at night clubs until quite late.

The players behaved in an "irresponsible" manner and were concentrating on other activities instead of cricket which caused their "embarrassing defeat" in the final, Saifur Rehman, Accountability Bureau chief was reported as saying by several newspapers.

Akram already has denied the charges.

Qayyum has asked the Accountability Bureau to submit a report by July 8 on the allegations of player misconduct.

The report will be used by Qayyum in his inquiry.

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