

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 9, '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 wkts 10 wkts 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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Youngmen's Fakirerpool custodian Khairul thwarting a Mohammedan attempt during their Premier Division engagement yesterday. — Star photo

Alfaz fazes Fakirerpool

Sports Reporter

Striker Alfaz Ahmed scored one goal in each half to give Mohammedan Sporting Club a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club in the lone Kaya Premier football league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The national forward, who is now in a devastating form, led the way for Mohammedan's third win in the league when he shot the black and whites into the lead in the 36th minute with a powerful right-footer.

The dapper striker and the linchpin of Mohammedan's two wins in their three previous games then fed his partner in the up-front Rakib Hasan for the second goal at the stroke of the short whistle.

An ever improving Alfaz, who started his career as a defensive midfielder but eventually turned into a fine scorer by his own right, completed the Fakirerpool rout scoring his second goal during the injury time.

His second goal was a class act from a class player. After being fed by Motiur Munna deep inside the Fakirerpool box, Alfaz dodged past as many as three Fakirerpool defenders and then swivelling wonderful on his left foot he chipped the ball into the upper right-hand side of the far post with an immaculate right-footer.

It was the second win for East End in their third league outing and the first defeat for Dhaka Wanderers in the same number of engagements.

East End have secured six points after beating Wari Club 3-1 and lost 0-1 to the Muslim Institute while Wanderers remained at four points beating Shantinagar 3-2 and drew goalless with Wari.

Siraj struck thrice in a row in the 7th, 10th and 18th minutes to complete the first hat-trick in the First Division league while Monir added one more goal in the 78th minute for winners.

Echo netted the consolation goal for the old horse Dhaka Wanderers in the 70th minute.

In the day's other match, Shantinagar Club defeated Agrani Bank Club by a solitary goal at the same venue in the afternoon.

Masud (junior) netted the all-important goal for Shantinagar Club in the 45th minute.

No matches of the Metropolitan Premier and First Division leagues will be held today.

Correja withdraws
GSTAAD, Switzerland, July 7: Defending champion and second seed Alex Correja of Spain was forced out of the first round of the Swiss Open on Tuesday due to injury, reports Reuters.

Correja withdrew at 3-4 down to Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti in the opening set after re-injuring abdominal muscles he strained last week during the semifinals of the Spanish championships.

The world number eight said later he expected to be back on court next week in Stuttgart.

It was Alfaz's fourth goal in the league, which made him the joint top-scorer in the league along with Muktioddha's Nigerian forward Effene.

With this victory Mohammedan joined Muktioddha at the top of point table. Both have collected 10 points from four outings.

But the outcome of yesterday's match hardly reflected Mohammedans' supreme dominance over the mediocre Fakirerpool outfit.

It would have been a more resounding victory for the popular Motiur Munnah outfit had not their experienced winger missed as many as three sitters in the second half.

Rakib was only to be blamed to miff up an opportunity of scoring the hat-trick when the national forward headed a minus from Anwar straight to the hapless Fakirerpool custodian Khairul in the 71st minute.

Rakib got another chance eight minutes later when Alfaz set him up with a neat square pass inside the Fakirerpool box. But Rakib's thunderous right-

footer flopped off the cross-piece.

Rakib paid the price of hitting the ball as hard as possible, instead of placing, for the second time when he spoiled another chance in the 83rd minute, shooting straight to Khairul who tipped the ball over the bar for a corner.

Although Fakirerpool were mostly confined to their own zone against an aggressive Mohammedan, they however got a few openings in the second half.

Fakirerpool got their best opportunity in the match when striker Jala (sr) came up with a spectacular volley shortly after the lemon break. But his effort was denied by the metal-work.

It was Fakirerpool's third defeat in four games. They got their only point against Abahani in the previous match, which ended in a goalless draw.

Yellow card: Jala (sr) of Fakirerpool

Team
Mohammedan SC: Ponir, Faisal, Kamruzzaman Selim, Jahangir Patwari, Monwar Munnah, Ruhul Amin, Motiur Munnah, Anwar Hossain, Rashedul Hasan (Askar Babu), Rakib and Alfaz.

Fakirerpool YMC: Khairul, Ibrahim, Nazrul Islam, Mintu, Anupam, Tofazzal, Nasiruddin, Ashraf (Tawhid), Delwar, Aminul (Jalal jr) and Jalal sr.

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

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Change in fixture Bangladesh face UAE today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh did not play their last league match of the Asian Youth Cricket Championship yesterday as there was a change in the fixture before the tournament got started. But the irony was that the news of the change never reached Dhaka by the tour manager until yesterday.

As per earlier reports from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Bangladesh were scheduled to take on United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday, but Kutubuddin Aksir, manager of the Bangladesh team, said that it would be held today. He however did not provide any details about the change in the fixture earlier.

It was learnt that the revision had been done before the start of the championship. Bangladesh will take on Papua New Guinea in the semifinals at Kalang ground in Singapore on July 9. The defending champions moved into the semifinals with two straight wins from Group A and without playing their last league match against UAE.

According to Aksir, a vice-president of the BCB, Bangladesh emerged winner from Group A with four points while UAE, who have earned a point from an abandoned match against a defeat, have a chance to finish at par with Malaysia provided that they beat Bangladesh today.

Meanwhile, Papua New Guinea finished second from Group B behind surprise-setter Nepal, who topped the group on better net-run rate after both finished their campaign with four points.

Agragami i lift McDowells Cup

From Our Correspondent

CALCUTTA, July 7: The McDowells Gold Cup, the first football tournament of the season ended on Tuesday with Tollygunge Agragami winning the title. They defeated East Bengal 6-3 in the tie-breaker.

Both teams were locked 2-2 at the end of the scheduled 90 minutes. Extra time failed to break the deadlock. This tournament was won by Muktioddha Club of Bangladesh last year.

Agragami earlier defeated Mohun Bagan in the semifinals.

At the Yuba Bharti Krirangan it looked smooth sailing for them as they took a 2-0 lead before the breather. Srikantha Dutta scoring twice capitalising on defensive errors by East Bengal central defenders Akshay Das and Anand Chatterjee. However, aided on by some innovative wing play by substitute Supriya Dasgupta, East Bengal bounced back after the breather.

Schools h'ball

Ansars and VDP High registered a massive 18-1 victory over Kamalapur Shere-e-Bangla Railway High in the 10th Bata schools boys handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball ground yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners dominated the first half 9-1.

Motin scored seven and Mansoor five for the winners while Sajib netted the consolation goal for the losers.

In other fixtures of the day, Shaheed Nabi High and BAF Shaheen School won their respective matches at the same venue.

Shaheed Nabi defeated Blue Birds Academy 14-3 after leading the first half 8-2.

Zubaid and Sohul scored four each for the winners while Monwar, Sumon and Almas netted one each for the losers.

Maracana, Murumbi World Club meet

LOS ANGELES, July 7: FIFA confirmed Tuesday that Rio de Janeiro's legendary Maracana Stadium and Sao Paulo's Murumbi Arena will stage the inaugural FIFA World Club Championship next January, reports AFP.

Blatter said the new eight-team tournament, to be staged from January 9-14, would be a huge success and said it was proving popular with television channels.

Meanwhile, Blatter said Tuesday that he understood the disappointment of fans of European champions Manchester United after the English club withdrew from the English FA Cup to compete in the Brazilian tournament.

Blatter said, "I understand the disappointment of the Manchester United fans. It is certain they will not see their team compete in the English Cup but it is the confederation, in this case UEFA — which enters the team of its choice."

Champions of the six FIFA confederations (UEFA, Oceania, South America, North/Central America/Caribbean, Asia and Africa) will compete in the event.

Real Madrid, as reigning world champions, are also invited as are the Brazilian champions (as representatives of the host nation).



File photo of former Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga(L) and his successor Sanath Jayasuriya. — AFP photo

Exit Arjuna, enter Sanath



COLOMBO, July 7 (Reuters/Inter-Net): Sri Lanka on Wednesday appointed Sanath Jayasuriya as captain in place of Arjuna Ranatunga who has been severely criticised following the country's dismal performance at the World Cup.

Sports Ministry officials also said that Mahela Jayawardene would be vice-captain in place of Aravinda de Silva.

But Siddath Wettimuny, head of the selection committee, told that Ranatunga and De Silva were retained in the pool of players from which the squad would be selected for the forthcoming triangular series in Sri Lanka against Australia and India and the following three-test series against Australia.

Sri Lanka's new panel of selectors agreed on the names after talks with Ranatunga, who returned home on Monday after an extended holiday abroad.

Officials said Ranatunga's talks with the selectors had been "friendly and cordial" but details of the discussions were not immediately known. Earlier, officials had suggested that Ranatunga should step down on his own.

Ranatunga, 35, played in Sri Lanka's inaugural Test in 1982 against England in Colombo.

He has been captain since 1990 and the high point in his career came when he led Sri Lanka to a shock victory in the 1996 World Cup.

Nicknamed variously as Napoleon, The General, or Captain Cool, Ranatunga was regarded as an intelligent strategist and a clever middle-order batsman but admitted after the recent Cup debacle that none of his tactics worked.

Wednesday's sacking was the latest chapter in a miserable year for Ranatunga.

He vowed never to return to Australia after the most recent Muttiah Muralitharan "throwing" scandal, which led to Ranatunga getting a suspended ban after walking his team off the field.

Ranatunga has been under increasing pressure to step down following his team's failure to reach the second round in the recent World Cup in England.

Sri Lanka have lost 18 of their 25 one-day matches played since October.

The burly Ranatunga in an open letter to Sri Lankan cricket fans, expressed regret over his team's defeats and said his future as captain lay in the hands of the selectors.

"What I do wish to say is that it is my firm belief that I do have a few more years of cricket left in me and if my services are wanted I am willing to represent my country in whatever capacity," he said.

Jayasuriya, 30, took the 1996 World Cup by storm as an opener whose explosive batting brought a fresh dimension to one-day cricket.

A left-hand batsman and useful spin bowler, Jayasuriya holds the world records in one-day cricket for the fastest half-century (17 balls), the highest number of runs in an over (30) and shares the mark for the most sixes in an innings (11) with Pakistan's Shahid Afridi.

Jayasuriya, 22, a right-hand batsman and medium pace bowler has played some fine innings since his inclusion in the Sri Lankan team.

He was the find of Sri Lanka's tour to Australia.

SQUAD

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Mahela Jayawardene (vice captain), Arjuna Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Marvan Atapattu, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Nuwan Zoysa and Eric Upasanthana, plus 16 players from the Sri Lanka A team currently touring England.

However, Ranatunga also made it clear that he wished to stay on in the team. "What I do wish to say is that it is my firm belief that I do have a few years of cricket left in me and if my services are wanted I am willing to represent my country in whatever capacity."

Ranatunga had appeared in the last 25 one-day matches the country played and scored an aggregate 584 to make him the highest scorer.

However, there are many who share Warne's opinion of Ranatunga and want him completely out of the team although Ranatunga will play as a top order player at next month's triangular tournament against Australia and India.

Even the state run Daily News — which had been an ardent supporter of Ranatunga — turned against him after the Cup debacle. "Ranatunga should not only forsake the captaincy, but quit (the team) altogether," the paper said recently in a commentary by its senior writer Saadi Thawfeeq.

"To have him in the team would only make life unbearable for the ensuing captain."

The Daily News suggested that among other players who should be shown the door were Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, Romesh Kaluwitharana and Pramodya Wickremesinghe. But selectors retained all of them.

The paper said former coach Dav Whatmore, who groomed the side to win the 1996 World Cup, was ousted because he tried to build a young team after that victory. Ranatunga was reported to have had differences with Whatmore.

For many, Whatmore's re-entry was a sure sign that Ranatunga is on his way out.

COLOMBO, July 7 (AFP): When Shane Warne lashed out at his sworn enemy Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan skipper who is also known as Napoleon and Captain Cool remained gung-ho and hit back hard.

But two months after the bitter exchange of insults at the opening of the World Cup, the coveted tournament is turning out to be Sri Lankan Napoleon's Waterloo.

Since Sri Lanka's early exit from the first round and the failure to defend the country's World Cup won against Australia at the finals in 1996, Ranatunga has been under fire at home.

From the most successful captain, he went overnight to being the most disgraced skipper despite an impressive nine years as the head of the Sri Lankan team.

Official figures show that Ranatunga led Sri Lanka in 193 one-day matches. He has won 89, lost 95 with eight ending in no result and one tie.

What Shane Warne wished for Sri Lanka at the opening of the World Cup came true today.

"Ranatunga might be a shrewd, experienced leader, but his batting is not what it was and he is terrible in the field," Warne said. "Frankly, Sri Lanka — and the game overall — would be better off without him."

Yes, there is plenty of animosity between Ranatunga and myself. I don't like him and I'm not in a club of one."

There had been growing calls for the sacking of Ranatunga since Sri Lanka's dismal and unimpressive showing at the World Cup and Ranatunga's refusal to accept responsibility for the debacle.

Ranatunga, speaking after his reigning champions had lost the opening match of the World Cup to England, said: "I'm not really worried what they say. It shows more about Shane Warne and Australian culture rather than about me and our culture."

"We have a culture that is 2,500 years old — I think we all know where they (Australians) come from."

Ranatunga was more subdued as Sri Lanka was knocked out completely.

In a statement addressed to "all cricket-loving public of Sri Lanka", Ranatunga expressed his "profound regret to you all for the debacle of the Sri Lankan team" and said he accepted responsibility.

But, when he returned home Monday after an extended stay overseas following the World Cup, he asked airport authorities to provide him with extra security fearing attacks from angry fans. However, there were none.

He said his team's best was simply not good enough, a point repeated by team manager Duleep Mendis.

Two Iraqis — Shamir Jasim Abbas (L) and Mazin Abdus Sattar — who signed for Mohammedan, enjoying the Mohammedan vs Fakirerpool match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

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