

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 18 '99 and draw shortly
afterwards

1. How many matches have been
scheduled for the World Cup '99?

2. Pakistan beat New Zealand in the
semifinal by

3. How many wickets did NZ bowler
Geoff Allott capture in the World
Cup

4. Saqlain Mushtaq scored his
hattrick against which country?

5. How many runs did Mithal
Abidin 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



Jacques Kallis
(South African all-rounder)
I regard myself as a batter
who bowls a bit.

Badda's Prince, Riad punished

Sports Reporter

The disciplinary committee of the Dhaka Mohanagari Football League Association (DMFLA) slapped a Taka fifty thousand fine on Badda Jagorani Sangsad and declared its manager Prince persona non grata for manhandling referee R Alan during a Premier Football League match on Saturday.

Besides, the committee also punished Badda's defender Riad with a six-match ban. Riad, who got the marching order for punching the referee in protest against a penalty in favour of Arambagh, was also fined take five thousand.

Div II hockey

Dhaka Wanderers Club earned an easy 5-0 win over Uddity Hockey Club in the Green Delta Second Division hockey league at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 3-0.

Lily struck twice while Towfiq, Muhid and Zartaj netted one goal each for Wanderers. All were field goals.

The day's other match between Uttara Hockey Club and Teigaon Agragami ended in a goalless draw at the same venue in the afternoon.

Asian Snooker

Mofazzel bright

Majumder dim

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh enjoyed mixed fortunes on the opening day of the Asian Snooker Championship in the Thai capital of Bangkok yesterday.

Mofazzel Hossain stamped his class in no uncertain manner when the national number one played brilliantly to trounce Rukmal Yattigammana of Sri Lanka by 4-0 frames.

Young Sajjad Majumder, the national number two, however, lost both his encounters against the host's top seed and the Singapore number two.

Meanwhile, Saleh Mohammed of Pakistan recorded the highest break of the meet with a score of 118.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division soccer league match between Brothers Union and Mirpur Chalanika at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mizan's encore for Brothers

Sports Reporter

Striker Mizanur Rahman struck twice as Brothers Union came from behind to record a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mirpur Chalanika in the lone Keya Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mizan scored his fourth goal of the League with a powerful low right-footer to give Brothers a 2-1 lead in the first half. The lanky forward then decisively sealed a defeat on Chalanika when he clipped the ball into the upper right side of the net over an out-of-position custodian Humayun with yet another trademark shot midway through the second half.

The second win for Brothers from four outings took their points tally to seven, three points behind joint league leaders Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Mohammedan Sporting. But it was Chalanika, one of the two promoted in the league, who stunned the traditional third force of domestic football by taking the lead as early as in the ninth minute. Latching on a long ball, Alauddin fired a sudden thunderous shot from outside the box that crashed into the net, giving no chance to Brothers' goalkeeper Milton on the way.

The joy of the babes in the elite echelon, however, lasted only five minutes as Brothers pulled off the equaliser through a delightful display of combination by the Swapan-duo. The junior Swapan lobbed a perfect cross from the right, which his



senior namesake made no mistake in shooting home with a neat groundner.

Swapan (Jr) then set the stage for his side's second goal



MIZAN ... two goals
in the 22nd minute with a fine flag-kick from the left, which an unmarked Mizan volleyed home.

Brothers took a seemingly unassailable 3-1 lead in the

64th minute of the proceedings when Mizan came up with a classified shot after being fed by medio Asad inside the Chalanika box. The double strike took the lanky striker with a lethal right foot atop the individual scorers' list with five goals.

Although Chalanika tried their best to earn at least their first point in the league, they could only manage to reduce the margin when substitute Rabi fired a first-time right-footer past a bemused Milton at the stroke of the final whistle.

It was Chalanika's fourth defeat on the trot. Meanwhile, the other match of the day between defending champions Muktiyoddha and Fakirpool Youngmen's could not be held due to unplayable ground conditions. The match will now be played at the same venue at 5.30 pm today.

TEAM
BROTHERS UNION: Milton, Barun, Shuvo, Swapan (Jr), Amin, Khan, Swapan (Sr) (Asad), Zahid (Miraj), Abdu Latif (Polash), Sufian, Riaz and Mizan.

CHALANIKA: Humayun, Kabir, Rafique, Shariful, Uzal, Sohel, Rana (Munna), Alauddin, Pappu, Liton (Rabi) and Sohagh (Ripon).

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Muktiyoddha vs Youngmen's
Fakirpool (5.30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Brazil pass Argentina test



CIUDAD DEL ESTE, Paraguay, July 12 (Reuters /AP): Argentina's amazing run of Copa America penalty misses continued yesterday as they were beaten 2-1 by arch-rivals and defending champions Brazil in the quarter-finals.

Ronaldo scored the winner for Brazil with his fourth goal of the tournament to become leading scorer. Earlier, Iván Zamorano, his teammate at Italy's Inter Milan, grabbed the decisive goal to give Chile a shock 3-2 win over Colombia in the day's other quarter-final. A third Inter player, Argentina's Javier Zanetti, had an outstanding match but his efforts were in vain.

Brazil dispatched Argentina in South America's most traditional rivalry, with national pride as well as a semifinal berth at stake. But the 'art soccer' that many expected never materialized.

Instead, the game had the air of a trench war, with both teams battling for every yard of field, trying to shut down the other's weapons. Art was sacrificed for efficiency.

Amoroso, the Italian leagues leading scorer last season, virtually disappeared under the tight marking. Ronaldo couldn't turn around without literally running into Diego Simeone, while Zanetti stymied the attacks of Roberto Carlos.

"Zanetti was a problem," admitted Ronaldo. "Argentina doesn't give you any space. To beat them you have to be at your best."

Argentina wasn't much better off. Ariel Ortega, heir to Diego Maradona's No. 10 jersey, was little more than an extra defender. And striker Martin Palermo didn't get a shot off until the game was half over.

Argentina's penalty phobia began the previous Sunday when Palermo amazingly missed three in a 3-0 first round defeat by Colombia.

This time, captain Roberto Ayala stepped forward after Beto fouled Gustavo Lopes with Brazil 2-1 ahead and only 12 minutes left. But Ayala fared no

better than Palermo, as his weak shot was saved by Brazil goalkeeper Dida and Argentina were on their way home after their third successive Copa America quarter-final defeat.

"I had faith I was going to score," said Ayala afterwards. The match capped a drama-packed weekend in which the four quarter-finals produced 16 goals and the team which scored first in each ended up being eliminated.

Brazil will face Mexico, who beat Peru on penalties after a dramatic 3-3 draw on Saturday, in Wednesday's semi-final in Ciudad del Este. On Tuesday, Chile took on Uruguay, who knocked out hosts Paraguay on penalties after a 1-1 draw Saturday, in Asuncion.

Brazilians always see meetings with Argentina, who of the few sides in the world are not intimidated by the sight of the famous gold shirts, as grudge matches, claiming their neighbours habitually resort to provocation and trouble-making.

Yesterday, both sides produced their quota of crunching tackles and both were equally guilty of theatrics. The referee had an impossible task telling real fouls from dives with so much playacting going on.

Argentina struck in the 10th minute on an unpretentious shot by Juan Pablo Sorin, that bounced off the knee of defender Joao Carlos and into the net, as goalie Dida was caught leaning the wrong way.

The Argentines continued to be the more coherent side but three minutes of individual brilliance won the game for Brazil.

The first was the free kick from which the otherwise ineffective Rivaldo equalised in the 33rd minute.

Rivaldo skimmed the wall and found the upper left corner. The Argentine custodian Burgos was left dumbfounded.

Three minutes into the second half, Brazil produced a small gem. Emerson raced up the middle and laid off to his Bayer Leverkusen teammate Ze Roberto, who spun and left the ball for a charging Ronaldo to fire into the lower left corner for a 2-1 lead.

Still, it was Dida who saved the day. With 13 minutes left, Beto flattened Lopez in the penalty area, and Ayala sent his shot hard and low towards the left corner. But Dida somehow reached it for the save, his second of the tournament.

Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo was diplomatic in victory but Ronaldo could not contain his joy at beating such bitter rivals.

First Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva got the best, followed by the three coaches and now the cricket manager Mendis.

New skipper Sanath Jayasuriya has warned against high expectations for the forthcoming tournament, saying he could not achieve miracles when team morale had hit rock bottom.

Mendis is the latest victim of a radical overhaul of the national squad who failed in England in May to defend their 1996 World Cup victory and were thrown out of the preliminary round.

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Cricket cubs come home

Sports Reporter

The victorious national youth cricket team returned home last night.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader received the victors from Singapore at the Zia International Airport at 9.30 pm.

The president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury was also present to welcome the heroes, who lifted the Asian Youth Championship title for the second time running by defeating Nepal in the final by six wickets on Sunday.

The victory for Bangladesh was, however, the icing on the cake as they already confirmed their berth in the forthcoming World Youth Championship along with Nepal by virtue of reaching the final of the Singapore showpiece.

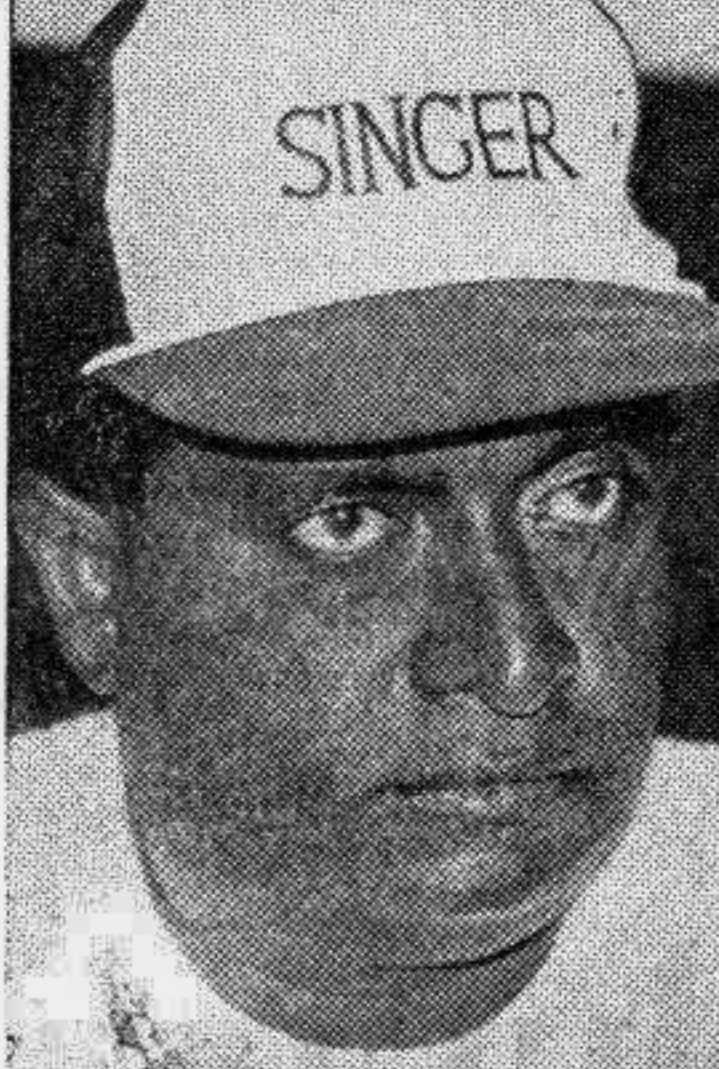
The World Youth Championship, involving 16 teams, including the nine Test-playing nations, will be held in Sri Lanka in January 2000.

Mendis gets the sack

COLOMBO, July 12 (AFP): Sri Lanka's veteran cricket manager Duleep Mendis has been sacked hot on the heels of the dismissal of skipper Arjuna Ranatunga following the islanders' dismal defence of the World Cup, officials said today.

Mendis was replaced by a low-profile business executive, Chandra Schaffer, for next month's triangular tournament with Australian and India as well as the Test series with the Australians here.

An official statement on the appointment is expected later.



DULEEP MENDIS

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World Cup '99 and Bangladesh

Yousuf R Rahman from the States

The entire British media including the cricketing pundits of recent times were well aware of the "Cup within the Cup" tie that was, perhaps the most talked about World Cup fixture in the Northern part of the UK.

Scotland is not the part of the UK where cricket is given much preference. In fact, the game is struggling there. The few Scottish players who aspire to make the grade, structure their cricketing plans with the sole ambition of getting a county contract in the south.

Such is the story with Gavin Hamilton whose single-handed charges enabled Scotland to some form of respectability in the World Cup. Hamilton is a professional with Yorkshire and has been one of their leading players. He was, in fact, being considered for selection for the England team for the World Cup and was quite unlucky to be left out of the final 15-member squad, much to the resentment of former England fast bowler Freddie Truman.

Even their all rounder, James Brinkley dreams of securing a county contract in the south. As such, the fixture against Bangladesh was their roadblock to their dreams.

In order for Scotland to move ahead, they would have to beat Bangladesh and for them, just like Bangladesh, May 24 was D-Day and the beachhead had to be secured at Raeburn Place in Edinburgh.

When the Bangladesh team Manager Tanveer Muzhar stated to the Press before leaving for the UK, that winning a single match was an unlikely event, I am not sure if he was being just plain pessimistic or being sensibly cautious.

Not knowing the actual ability of the team and how they would cope with English conditions in May, he was not going to make any commitment about the performance of the team.

Knowing Tanna, I think the latter was the case. He was playing it safe.

The fact was that this Scottish team was a completely different outfit than that we saw play in Malaysia in 1997. Moreover, they had beaten Bangladesh convincingly last year in Scotland and had every reason to be confident.

We all know what happened on May 24. Bangladesh not only secured the beach head but also notched, for the record books, its first win in World Cup Cricket.

Although, in the end we won by a margin of 22 runs, it was not as easy as the result showed. Barring the two matches between Australia and South Africa (one tie semi-final match) and the India-Zimbabwe match in the opening rounds, this was perhaps the most emotionally played match of the tournament and was a game where fortunes continued to fluctuate through the day. In fact, had Gavin Hamilton not been accidentally run out, the result could have been different and our cricketers, heroes to day, would have been dumped into the cold. But then, that's what the game is all about - a one ball affair.

ICC AND THE WORLD CUP
For some reasons, somewhat unfair to many member countries, rules governing the ability of players to represent a nation, particularly that of Scotland did not make sense and was certainly not 'cricket'. Take for example the case of Gavin Hamilton, a member of Yorkshire c.c. of Scottish origin, plays in the county circuit and is good enough to be considered for the England squad. Just weeks before the World Cup tournament, he is hoping to play for England but then, gets canned. Does his chances of playing in the World Cup disappear? No.

He gets on a train, goes north, joins Scotland by virtue

of his roots and qualifies to play for Scotland in the World Cup.

If England has the wide sphere of picking their squad from the entire UK, then the membership status of England should be UK and not England or they should include Scotland just like Wales and Ireland. Alternatively, players of Scottish origin cannot be considered for dual selection. I am, perhaps, giving too much work for the administrators of the ICC, but they should really sort this out.

I also felt that the match against Scotland should not have been played in Scotland. This is the World Cup and not a bilateral series. To be fair, it should have been played in a County ground somewhere in England.

England, perhaps, should not host the World Cup. The England Cricket Board considers their Cornhill Test Series more important than the World Cup and is not willing to compromise their dates. To stage the most prestigious cricket tournament in the month of May, which, weather wise, is the most miserable part of their season does not make cricketing sense. Ten out of the twelve participants have had to come from temperatures ranging in the nineties. The players are suddenly thrown into the cold wet and windy conditions of May. No wonder everyone struggled in the early stages of the tournament. The top order failed miserably in 90 percent of the matches.

Teams like Australia barely qualified since their batting failed miserably.

The Pakistan top order failed in the first five matches they played.

Fortunately, their late middle order and tail scored runs and their bowlers were quite lethal.

Some of the venues left much to be desired. The grounds were

Uruguay full of aplomb



ASUNCION, July 12: Uruguay's young guns go into semifinal battle with Chile Tuesday with renewed confidence as they continue their quest for a record 15th Copa America title, reports AFP.

Victory would put Uruguay into the final Sunday with the winners of the other semi between Brazil and Mexico and would be a vindication of new coach Daniel Passarella's policy of bleeding the country's talented crop of youngsters in the Copa.

Passarella, appointed in May, has been appointed on a reported 70,000 dollars a month salary to turn around the fortunes of the fallen giants of world football.

But the Argentinian hero — he skipped his native country to World Cup victory in 1978 and coached them in the World

Cup in France last year — has taken a low profile in the Copa, leaving team selection and tactics in the hands of Uruguay's youth coach Victor Pua.

Passarella remained in Punta del Este to work as he establishes himself in his new job during the early stages of the Copa but told the youngsters in Paraguay that the Copa was a "testing ground" and places in the World Cup qualifying campaign would be the reward — if they impressed.

Now he is in Paraguay with the team although he is happy to let Pua call the shots for the remainder of the tournament.

Pua has an excellent track record with the youngsters. He led them to the World Youth Cup Final in Malaysia in 1997 where they lost — ironically to Argentina.

Passarella and Pua have decided to give youth its fling, including seven members of that Malaysia team in the Copa squad. At first their decision looked as though it might have backfired.

Drawn in the Group C — the group of death — they lost to Colombia and Argentina. Victory against Ecuador, however, was good enough to get them

into the last eight.

But the quarterfinal match against Paraguay, saw the youngsters really come of age.

The host nations had the momentum — they topped their group without conceding a goal — and the advantage of home support.

And an early goal from Paraguay's Miguel Angel Benitez left Uruguay staring at the Copa exit door.

Suddenly, though, the youngsters seemed to find their feet and striker Marcelo Zalayeta, one of the bright young things, grabbed an equaliser to force a penalty shoot-out.

All five penalties were converted while another youngster goalkeeper Fabian Carini made the vital save from Benitez to see Uruguay go through.

Pua now believes his men can see off Chile. After the Paraguay match Pua said: "We have beaten a good team and with a side of youngsters who held up well in the conditions and when the time comes will be very competitive." "We are now competing on equal terms", he warned.

Zalayeta won a move to Italian giants Juventus on the back of his impressive performances in Malaysia but spent last season on loan with Empoli, who were relegated from Serie A.

He has vowed to win back his starting-place at Juve and three goals in the Copa has done his cause no harm.

His two goals against Ecuador killed the game and his equaliser against Paraguay was a lightning fast piece of reaction. He dispatched his shoot-out penalty with consummate coolness.

Other impressive performers have been Carini and Federico Magallanes, who scored the winning penalty against Paraguay.

With Argentina and Colombia eliminated suddenly the route to what would be a record 15th title looks open for Uruguay although defending champions and favourites Brazil are looking ominous.

Chile, however, also finally began to deliver in their quarterfinal victory over Colombia.

Chile had been frankly disappointing in their group matches.

They lost to Mexico and Brazil but qualified, like Uruguay, in third place thanks to a victory over Copa America whipping boys Venezuela.

But the 3-2 win over Colombia showed real character. Defender Pedro Reyes was the unlikely hero of that match, twice equalising for Chile.

It was inspirational captain Ivan Zamorano, however, who sealed victory with his second goal of the tournament.

That win was all the more impressive as Chile had to do without their other star striker Marcelo Salas, who was sent off against Venezuela.

But Salas will be back to face the Uruguayans in the semifinals.

SEMIFINALS
July 13
Paraguay vs Chile
Asuncion
July 14
Mexico vs Brazil
Ciudad del Este

SIMPLY MAGIC: Brazil's master playmaker Rivaldo celebrates his brilliant free-kick goal against Argentina on July 11.

—AFP photo