

Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT Romanian athlete, Iolanda Balas, (b. 1936) was the dominant performer in the women's high jump during the late 1950s and '60s. She won two Olympic gold medals in the event, set 14 world records, and was the first woman to high-jump six feet.

Balas cleared the bar in a variation of the scissors method; her coach was Ion S. ter, an outstanding high jumper whom she later married. If you can jump that high you have to get your man.

SPORTS TALK



Anna Kournikova

(Russian tennis star)
"No the last time I saw him was the only time I saw him, at the French Open last year, when we were introduced to each other. That's the only time I ever talked to him."

Responding to a story whether she was romantically linked to Brazilian footballer Ronaldo.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

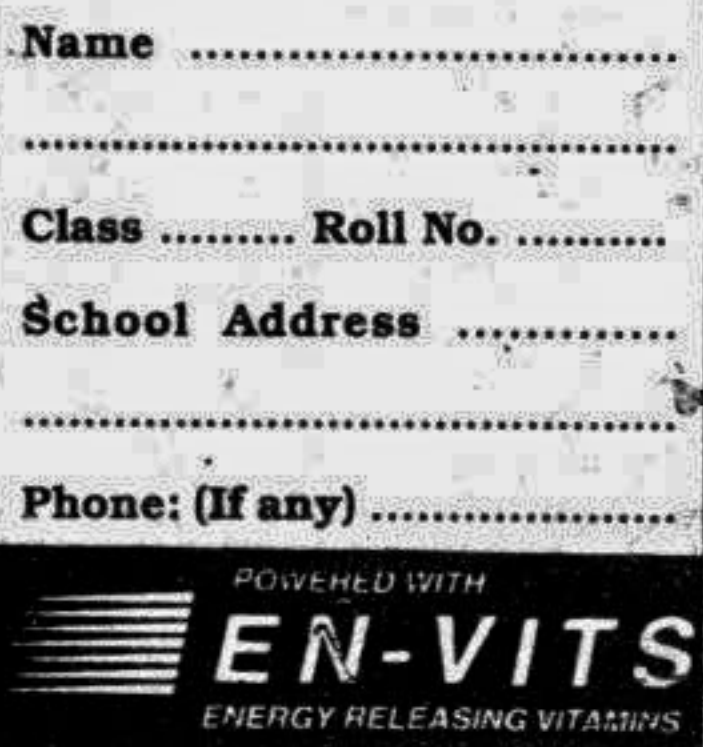
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-118

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 30, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who is the new England cricket coach?
Fletcher Hussain Marsh
- Brazilian footballer Ronaldo plays for
Lazio Barcelona Arsenal
- Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?
Simone Batistuta Ayala
- How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?
22 23 24
- Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?
Sampras Moya Agassi

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



Div I soccer

Dhaka Wanderers Club beat Agrani Bank SC 1-0 in the Metropolitan First Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With this second victory in seven matches, Wanderers secured eight points. Agrani Bank have five points from seven outings.

After a barren first half in the day's match, Chhotan scored the all-important goal for Wanderers in the 78th minute.

The day's other match between Dhanmondi Club and Shantinagar Club ended in a 2-2 draw after the first half was locked 1-1 at the same venue.

Dhanmondi now have seven points and Shantinagar five points from six outings.

Tawhid and Bulbul scored for Dhanmondi while Masud and Momin for Shantinagar.

Tawhid put Dhanmondi ahead in the early 8th minute, but Masud equalised the margin for Shantinagar in the 40th minute.

Bulbul scored in the 52nd minute to put Dhanmondi in front again while Momin restored parity for Shantinagar in the 66th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Victoria SC vs BRTC SC (3 pm), and East End Club vs Pranik KC (5 pm).

MSC owe Rezaul one



An 89th minute penalty by substitute Rezaul guided Mohammedan SC to a dramatic 2-1 victory over archrivals Abahani in a vital match of the Keya Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

At least 10 spectators and two policemen were injured in a melee after the match when some crazy fans hurled bricks towards match referee and police inside the stadium. Police lobbed several rounds of teargas shell to control the situation.

After a barren first half in the day's nerve-tangling match in front of season's highest 35,000 crowd, striker Anwar Hossain and media Rezaul scored for the black and white team. Left back Dulal netted the lone goal for the sky-yellow Dhamondhi outfit.

Mohammedan earned double delight as they not only took joint lead in the league with Muktiyoddha with a clear margin of five points over Abahani but also exacted a sweet revenge

of a 0-1 defeat against the Federation Cup champions.

Holders Muktiyoddha Sangs and runners-up Mohammedan now jointly top the league table with 19 points from seven matches.

The day's defeat was the first in the league for Abahani. As the two powerhouses were heading for a draw, Rezaul grabbed the winner in the 89th minute.

Rezaul found the net after winger Rakib Hossain's penalty was blocked by Abahani goalie Aminul.

Referee Ehsanul Haq awarded the spot kick after Abahani defender Dulal committed a handball in the danger zone.

Both teams played an attacking game from the beginning of the second half and Abahani took the lead in the 48th minute.

Midfielder Arman, receiving a ball from a Iqbal free-kick just outside the box, attempted a shot at the Mohammedans post. But the ball bounced back from the grip of custodian Ponir to play and advancing Dulal put the ball away.

The Mohammedans took just one minute to level the score when unmarked forward Anwar, receiving a ball from Jahangir's free kick inside the box, beat the Abahani custodian

Aminul with a fine placing shot.

In the first half, physically superior Mohammedan had the upper hand and managed more scoring chances than Abahani.

Rakib and Shamim of Mohammedan and Sabir Pasha, and Mintoo of Abahani got some good chances but failed to strike due to brilliant saves by the two custodians.

In the 68th minute of the match, Mohammedan fielded an unwell national striker Al-faz Ahmed.

Yellow cards: Motiar Munna and Ruhul Amin (Mohammedan), Mintoo and Ranjan (Abahani).

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Monwar Munna, Jahangir, Selim, Motiar Munna (Rezaul), Ashkar Babu (Shoeb), Shamim (Alfaz), Rakib and Anwar.
ABAHANI: Aminul, Dulal, Sohail Reza, Kingsuk, Partha, Mintoo, Arman, Iqbal, Sento, Zakir (Ranjan) and Sabir Pasha.

Referee: Ehsanul Haq.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Farashganj SC vs Badda Jagrani Sangs (3:30 pm)
Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool vs Arambagh KS (5:30 pm).



Mohammedan defender Faisal (No 3) trying to stop Abahani forward Zakir during yesterday's Keya Premier Division football league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. — Star photo

2 Ghanaians for Abahani

Two Ghanaian players arrived yesterday to play in the on-going Premier Division football league for Abahani.

They are William Opuju and Charles Ghansa. Opuju is a striker while Ghansa is a stopper.

Both players played for the Mine Stars First Division Football Club.

Earlier, Abahani recruited another foreigner Sabir Pasa of India.

England 183 for nine

England were 183 for nine in their first innings when bad light stopped play after tea in the second Test at Lord's yesterday.

After Nasser Hussain won the toss, the home side made steady progress before losing their first wicket on 35 when Mark Butcher (8) got an inside edge off the bowling of Chris Cairns which carried to wicketkeeper Adam Parore.

Former skipper Alec Stewart scored a determined half-century before Dion Nash found an edge to New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming.

England were 80 for two at lunch. When Stewart was on 31 he reached 6,000 runs to become the 28th batsman to achieve the feat and also ninth in the all-time list of leading English scorers.

Stewart playing in his 89th Test, was under immense pressure after successive failures in the first Test at Edgbaston.

When the players came off the pitch Hussain was batting on 59.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the second Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's on Thursday.

ENGLAND: First innings
M Butcher c Parore b Cairns 8
A Stewart c Fleming b Nash 50
N Hussain not out 35
G Thorpe c Astle b Cairns 7
M Ramprakash lbw b Nash 4
A Habib b Nash 6
C Read b Cairns 0
A Caddick run out 18
D Headley not out 24
Extras (b-5; lb-7; nb-12) 24
Total: (For 7 wks) 156

Fall of wks: 1-35; 2-79; 3-102; 4-112; 5-123; 6-125; 7-150

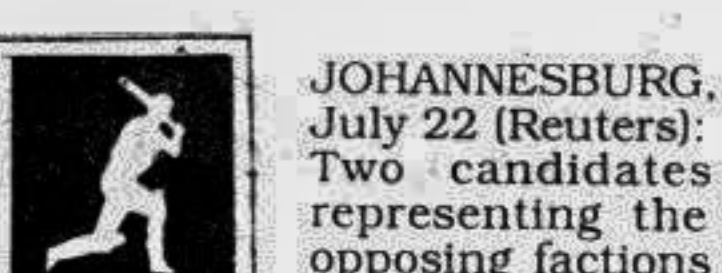
To bat: A Mullally, P Tufnell

Bowler: O M R W
Allott 10 1 37 0
Cairns 17 1 62 3
Nash 18 9 36 3
Astle 7 3 9 0

Umpires: Mervyn Kitchen and Rudi Koertzen.

England won toss.

Clash of contrasting foes



JOHANNESBURG, July 22 (Reuters): Two candidates representing the opposing factions in South African cricket on Saturday engage in the first leadership contest since the sport was racially united eight years ago.

United Cricket Board president Ray White faces a challenge from his vice-president Percy Sonn in a battle between two disparate personalities.

White, a former captain of Cambridge University, who played for the then Transvaal (now Gauteng) in the 1960s and 70s and appeared in 40 first-class matches for Gloucestershire as an established figure.

Sonn, also the president of the Western Province Cricket Association (WPCA), is one of the many black activists who fought apartheid through sport.

An advocate, Sonn is a former vice-president of the South African Cricket Board, black cricket's governing body before unification.

The leadership race was effectively sparked in January, when White added a rider while announcing the UCB's 'Transformation Charter', aimed at bringing more blacks into the game - that sports bodies did not need political interference to ensure teams were racially

representative.

White later apologised for his remarks, made in Cape Town during the Newlands Test match against the West Indies, but not before he came under pressure from the WPCA to resign.

The incident unfolded at the Western Province's headquarters, and besides nominating Sonn for the UCB presidency the WPCA has responded by nominating its own officials, Haroon Lorgat and Rushdie Magiet, for the posts of treasurer and convenor of selectors respectively.

The vice-presidency will be contested by Richard Harrison of Northerns, who has said he will withdraw if Sonn, also standing for vice-president, fails to secure the presidency.

Border's Robbie Muzzell, Harrison and Muzzell are white.

Peter Pollock has retired and Magiet will face competition from former South African captain Clive Rice and former test all-rounder Mike Procter, all incumbent selectors, for the convenor's job.

Another former captain, Kepler Wessels, is not on the selectors' nominations list but he could enter the race if he is backed by one of the 11 provinces on Saturday.

Wessels had been a strong candidate for selection con-

venor and his current absence from the fray could be explained by the opinions he expressed in his weekend newspaper column, views which would seem to be at odds with the affirmative action policies adopted by the UCB this year.

"Will anyone at the UCB annual meeting take time out to discuss cricket?" Wessels wrote. "Because in many ways I wonder whether this meeting is about cricket at all. This meeting sounds to me as though it is going to be about power. The battle lines are drawn."

"What will be the winner's priority? Will it be to produce the best cricket team in the world? Will it be to wield the sword of power?"

"Cricket, politics, power - a heady mix. I just hope that cricket is at the head of the priority queue."

"Somehow my experience tells me that is unlikely."

However, UCB managing director Ali Bacher was at pains to explain that South African cricket was not at a racial crossroads.

"We're a non-racial body, we always have been and that is not going to change at the annual meeting," Bacher said on Tuesday.

"I can't recall when all three top positions were contested, but that is a good sign that our democracy is healthy."

Noon's near-miss



LONDON, July 22 (Reuters): Nottinghamshire wicketkeeper Wayne Noon showed he was a worthy stand-in for England's Chris Read by almost equalling a world record on Wednesday.

Noon held seven catches - one short of the most by a keeper in an innings - on the first day of Nottingham's county

championship match against Kent at Trent Bridge.

Three players, Australian Wally Grout, Essex's David East and Steve Marsh of Kent, share the world mark of eight catches by a wicketkeeper in one innings.

The world record for most dismissals in an innings is nine, jointly held by Tahir Rashid of Pakistan's Habib Bank and W.R.James of Zimbabwe's Matabeleland, but their tally included one and two stumpings respectively.

Noon's safe hands helped to dismiss Kent for 191 but the visitors immediately hit back by reducing Nottinghamshire to 18 for two at the close.

Regular Nottingham's keeper Read is on England duty for the second test against New Zealand starting at Lord's on Thursday.

Unbeaten championship leaders Surrey piled up 389 for six against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, despite being without their four test men - Alec

Stewart, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe and Alex Tudor.

Middle order batsman Alistair Brown hit a dashing 108 off 126 balls and opener Ian Ward scored 82.

Third-placed Hampshire, seeking to sustain their title challenge after losing to Surrey last week, were made to toil in the field by Lancashire at Southampton.

Lancashire, lifted by wins in their last two matches, made 329 for five on the strength of 101 from John Crawley and 83 by fellow former England batsman Neil Fairbrother.

Durham, bottom of the 18-team table for much of the first half of the season, continued their revival at the expense of Gloucestershire.

An unbroken fourth wicket stand of 192 between Australia's former Test batsman David Boon, who scored 87, and Nick Speak, with 110, propelled Durham to 359 for three on a flat pitch at Cheltenham.



England opener Alec Stewart playing on the on-side during his half-century against New Zealand in the second Test at Lord's yesterday. — APP photo

Reiffel calls it a day



MELBOURNE, Australia, July 22 (AFP): Australian seamer Paul Reiffel announced here Thursday he was quitting international cricket.

Reiffel said he had agonised over his decision and said: "I just physically couldn't pick the phone up to say that it was the end of my international dreams."

The memory of a World Cup victory was fresh, but he said he no longer had the hunger to continue at cricket's elite level.

"I know within myself that the time has come to leave international cricket," Reiffel said.

"But then I slept on it overnight and woke up and thought 'don't be stupid - do it because that's what I felt was right.'"

The Victorian medium pace bowler walked into the office of Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Mal Speed on Tuesday and said he would retire from international cricket immediately.

The couple of days since... has definitely reaffirmed my belief that it is the right time."

Reiffel said in publicly announcing his decision Thursday. He plans to continue playing Sheffield Shield cricket for Victoria.



PAUL REIFFEL

The surprise decision meant his withdrawal from Australia's tour of Sri Lanka later this month, and the removal of his name from the list of 25 ACB contracted players.

Reiffel, 33, leaves the inter-

national game after 35 Tests yielding 104 wickets at 26.96 and 92 one-day games fetching 106 wickets.

He was also a useful lower order batsman, making 955 runs at an average of 26.53 with a best score of 79 not out against South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1997.

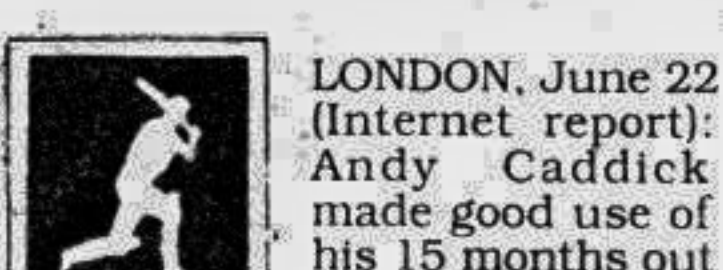
He wanted to leave on a high after winning the World Cup last month and wanted to be around for the birth of his second child in the coming weeks.

"Sri Lanka is only a couple of months away. I'd have to start bowling in a couple of weeks and really I'm not sure if I was committed enough to do that, so it just all pointed to one thing and that was retirement," he said.

"I've been part of so many wonderful things, two winning Ashes tours, that (1995) West Indies tour, two World Cup finals - all the major things that have gone in the past 10 years I've been there and I've been very happy and proud to be part of a world class team, so no regrets at all."

Australian selectors will name Reiffel's replacement for the Sri Lanka tour early next week.

Caddick's changed a lot



LONDON, June 22 (Internet report): Andy Caddick made good use of his 15 months out of Test cricket.

While England went through a domestic season in 1998 and on an Ashes tour, the big Somerset bowler worked on his action - and outlook.

No longer does he look to bowl the 'millionaire ball' all the time - patience is now his watchword and that showed itself in match figures of eight for 89 in the Test series opener against New Zealand at Edgbaston.

And patience will have to be more of a virtue with the pitch for today's Lord's Test, not promising to be so bowler-friendly as it was in England's seven-wicket triumph earlier this month.

Caddick said: "I've been working the last year and a half. I've changed a few things with my action, it's got better. I'm looking for more patience, rather than bowling that million dollar ball. That's the way I'm approaching it now."

"I'm raring to go, but now is the improving time. I did well in the first Test, but I want to get consistent throughout the series, and again the pressure's back on me to perform well."

Caddick is optimistic about England claiming future success on the world stage, despite their failure Down Under and the disappointing early World Cup exit.

"I think England could compete with the rest of the world,

it's just a matter of getting consistency in the side and putting in performance, and we've got top class players," he said.

"Our captain Nasser Hussain is looking for that consistency. That's what I'm trying to do, be



ANDREW CADDICK

more consistent than I have been in the last few years.

"It looks a good batting wicket so it looks as though the bowlers will have to work hard for their wickets over the five days."

"There's a good spirit in the dressing room, and coming back into the Test team, that's been a welcome sign."

"Nasser has brought his own personality into the captaincy, everybody wants to do well, and his attitude has been to look after yourself, give 110 per cent as

player and hopefully the team will come out on top as a result of it."

"Nasser does exude a lot of personal strength. I think he's a great appointment and the guys are right behind him."

Caddick's admiration of Hussain is echoed by the new England captain's view of his attack as they attempt to claim a stranglehold on the series.

"I think we've got an extremely well balanced attack," he said. "I know as a batsman I wouldn't want to face Alan Mullally and Andy Caddick straight off."

"If they see those two off, then there is Alex Tudor coming on and I know from my own experience he gets plenty of bounce and doesn't give you too much to hit."

"There is also Phil Tufnell to come into it and we saw at Edgbaston how well he is bowling, he has got plenty of loop at the moment and is sure to cause problems."

Caddick was born in Christchurch of England parents, but the New Zealand system missed out on his services. He denies it gave him a bigger kick to play against the country in which he grew up.

"I don't look at it as playing against New Zealand, I look at it as playing a Test match for England, regardless of the opposition," he said.

"New Zealand will be fired up, they are coming to Lord's, it's the home of cricket, while we want to stop that thing about losing here, and make sure that we win."

Coventry boss' allegation



LONDON, July 22: Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson has claimed Aston Villa made an underhand approach before buying midfielder George Boateng, reports AFP.

Villa on Tuesday paid Coventry 4.5 million pounds (6.8 million dollars) for the Dutchman who has signed up with John Gregory's outfit for four years.

Richardson is claiming that despite Gregory's denials former Coventry player Dion Dublin was used to help prise Boateng from Highfield Road.

100 percent inaccurate, and I feel it needs a response," said Richardson.

"Boateng's agent confirmed to us that he had a direct approach from Villa. And Boateng himself told us he was approached by Dion Dublin."

"It was well known at the time that Dublin spoke to Boateng for a pre-season tournament but his agent, Struan Marshall, said: 'I am aware of Mr Richardson's comments and I shall be talking to Dion about them as soon as I can.'"

Coventry lost Englan'1 international Dublin to Villa last season yet Richardson denies any ill feeling between the midland rivals.

"There is no need for bad blood between the two clubs, but the way they dealt with the Dublin transfer irritated a lot of people," he said.

"It has been suggested that we offered Boateng to them but there was no way we were going to pick up the phone and sell him."

"Why should we bother to ring Villa? We considered selling only because George was being unsettled by their approaches."