

Column One

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 Rivaldo 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

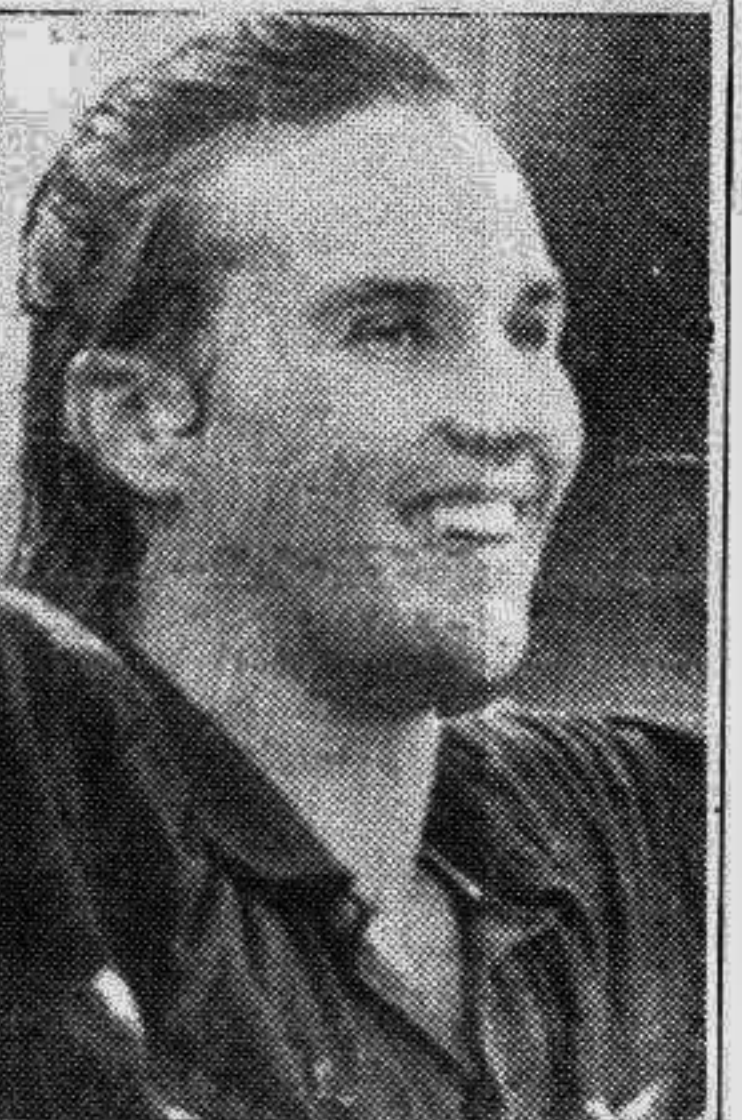
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POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Patrick Rafter
(Australian tennis superstar)
"When you haven't got it, you really want it; when you have it, you really don't want it."
On the paradox of fame.

Women's handball semis today, tomorrow

Shamsun Nahar Hall of Dhaka University meet Ispahani Girls School & College in the first semi of the 5th Delta Life Inter-College/Hall Women's Handball tournament today at 4 pm at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex, says UNB.

Vigarrunissa Noon School and College will play the second semi-final with Mirpur Girls' Ideal Laboratory Institute tomorrow at the same time and venue.

The final match will begin at 4 pm on Saturday while the third place-deciding match between the two losing semifinalists will be held on Friday.

Discipline in sports stressed

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports yesterday stressed the need for maintaining disciplined environment in sports federations, including Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation (BAAF), says BSS.

The committee, at a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban with committee chairman Zainal Abedin Hazari in the chair, felt that it was essential to achieve the desired result in the coming South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in Kathmandu as well as to improve the standard of games and sports.

The meeting discussed different aspects of Bangladesh's preparations and participation in the Games.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football encounter between Fakirerpool and Rahmatganj. —Star photo

Arambagh kick up dust

Sports Reporter

Arambagh Krira Sangha gave a sensational twist to an extended battle for the only vacant slot in the 'super four' when they recorded a 2-0 win over Farashganj Sporting in the Keya Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ahead of their penultimate clash against Farashganj, the Motiheel outfit, popularly known as traditional giant-slayers in domestic football, was hardly considered a challenger for the fourth place behind leaders Mohammedan, holders Mukhtijoddha and Abahani.

Both Farashganj and Arambagh went into the match with nine points apiece from seven outings.

The prospects of Farashganj advancing into the elite four was bright since the old-town outfit plays relegation-threatened and relatively weaker Rahmatganj in the last match of the first phase.

On the other hand, Arambagh were left with a tough last-match against Brothers Union. The old-town outfit needed a victory to almost make sure of their passage into the super four at the expense of the two other nearest rivals Brothers Union and Badda Jagorani, who have 10 and 11 points from eight matches.

But Arambagh, who had other ideas in mind, changed the complexion of the league when they scored one goal apiece in both halves to effectively evaporate Farashganj's chances of a place in the final four.

Ritu gave Arambagh a 41st minute lead, side-footing a spectacular low flag-kick from Mithu. It was his fourth goal in the League.

Asif then stepped up to convert a 12-yarder in the 62nd minute to seal the fate of the

match. Referee R Alam pointed to the dreaded spot after two Farashganj defenders pulled down a menacingly poised Ritu in the forbidden zone.

It was Asif's fifth goal in the League, which also made him the leading scorer with Zakir of Abahani, Mizan of Brothers Union and Mukhtijoddha's Nigerian forward Effiani.

Although Farashganj started the match on a positive note, creating a couple of chances early in the first half, they were in complete disarray once Ritu broke the evening's duck, very much against the run of the play.

Besides, the absence of Farashganj's nimble forward Kanchan also cost them the match as their makeshift attackers miserably failed to capitalise on those early openings.

Farhad muffed the first chance in the 14th minute when the shaven-headed forward shot straight to a hapless Arambagh custodian after doing all the spadework. Four minutes later Moni's successive attempts came off the Arambagh wall. Farashganj got their last scoring opportunity in the 20th minute when Moni came up with a neat placing shot, but was only to be denied by an ever-alert Arambagh defender Mizan.

Arambagh's Mithu and Abdul Akin were cautioned with yellow cards in the match.

TEAMS

ARAMBAGH KS: Abir, Titu, Choton, Mizan, Mithu, Shamim, Tajuddin, Manik (Abdul Akin), Asif (Yousuf), Ritu and Jhony.

FARASHGANJ SC: Anwar, Shafiq, Ashraf, Nazrul, Akoma, Chanchal, Bidyut, Polash, Azim (Apu), Moni and Farhad (Uttam).

Referee: R Alam.

NO JOY AT THE BOTTOM

In the first match of the day, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club shared honours in a goalless draw.

The clash of the two relegation-threatened teams failed to break the deadlock when Rahmatganj's national forward Tipu alone missed as many as three sitters.

The otherwise dull and in-sipid encounter headed for an inevitable draw when Rahmatganj's custodian Himu made a spectacular save of an Avijit pile-driver midway through the second half.

With this draw Rahmatganj improved their tally to seven points from eight matches. For Fakirerpool, who are yet to win a match, it was their third draw from eight games.

STANDINGS

Team	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Mohammedan	8	7	1	0	12	1	22
Mukhtijoddha	8	6	1	1	17	6	19
Abahani KC	8	5	2	1	13	5	17
Arambagh KS	8	3	3	2	12	11	12
Badda Jagorani	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Brothers Union	8	3	1	4	11	9	10
Farashganj SC	8	3	0	5	7	10	9
Rahmatganj MFS	8	1	4	3	7	10	7
Fakirerpool YMC	8	0	3	5	2	13	3
Mirpur Chalandika	8	0	1	7	7	24	1

Pintoo Football Academy has a vision

German boost for 'tokais'

Sports Reporter

The Pintoo Football Academy (PFA), a private initiative jointly taken by former Swadheen Bangla football team captain Zakaria Pintoo and German coach Holger Oberman exclusively for the 'Tokais', street boys, will begin functioning in Gazipur from August 1.

Its aim is to provide talented 'underprivileged' booters the opportunity to play for the national team.

Details of the academy were revealed yesterday by its president Pintoo at a press conference at the National Sports Council. Former Minister and PFA vice-president Nitai Roy Chowdhury, PFA general secretary Naser Ahmed Chowdhury, head of Consular and Cultural Section of German Embassy in Dhaka Sven Krauspe, and

Zimbabwe squad for Singapore

HARARE, July 27 (Internet report): The Zimbabwe Cricket Union has announced its squad for September's triangular tournament against India and the West Indies in Singapore today.

Heath Streak is still to recover from a knee operation following the World Cup.

David Houghton will coach the side, with Malcolm Jarvis as manager and Amato Machikoko the team physio.

Bangladesh Football Federation member Fazlur Rahman Babul were present at the press conference.

Pintoo said that the academy will begin its first residential camp at the Gazipur Stadium with 40 Tokais of 14 to 16 year age group. The duration of the camp will be of two months and German FIFA Coach Oberman, a familiar face in Bangladesh, who is now working with the Malaysian Football Federation, will spend at least 10 days to train the underprivileged boys.

There will be six camps in a year and the academy is expecting to train 240 Tokais during the first year. According to Pintoo, 30 boys from these six camps will be selected for year-long training next year of which the best three will be sent to Germany for higher coaching.

Noted industrialist and Managing Director of Keya

Cosmetics Abdul Khaleque Pathan will bear the expense of the camp while other logistic facilities will be provided by Holger Oberman and sports product company Adidas.

Pintoo, in this regard, added that he has already received 80 Adidas balls and 100 set of jerseys from Oberman as well as 1000 US Dollars as donation from Germany's World Cup winning captain Franz Beckenbauer for the academy.

The opening ceremony of the academy will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on July 30 afternoon with a friendly match between Oberman Eleven and Patzke Eleven, and an exhibition match between two selection of street boys.

Former German international Patzke, who played in the 1970 World Cup semifinal against Peru, and Oberman will arrive in the city on July 29 to attend the opening of the PFA.



Sven Krauspe (2nd from L), head of the Consular and Cultural Section of German Embassy, speaking at the press conference organised in connection with the opening ceremony of the Pintoo Football Academy yesterday.

PM congratulates "our boys"

The Bangladesh football team, which took part in the recent SAF football tournament in Goa, India, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday at her official residence at Ganobhaban, says BSS.

The Bangladesh squad became runners-up in the tournament following its 0-2 defeat to India in the final.

Sheikh Hasina congratulated the team for their success and expressed the hope that "our boys" would win the trophy in the future.

Referring to the success of the Bangladesh team in the Special Olympics for the handicapped in the USA, she said "If they can bring laurels for the country, why can't you?". She said the team had won 22 gold medals.

Sheikh Hasina said the government has been putting emphasis on the promotion of games and sports in the country. We want that games and sports should spread throughout the country and hidden talents are detected.

The Prime Minister asked the Bangladesh squad to continue training, which was the only way to attain excellence. She said there was no alternative to training and practice.

She referred to the construction of various stadiums in the country and said that this would make games and sports popular in rural Bangladesh.

Minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs, Obaidul Quader, President of Bangladesh Football Federation and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, General Secretary Harunur Rashid, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs, Zainal Hazari, MP, sports secretary ABM Shahjahan, Secretary General of Bangladesh Olympic Association Zafar Imam, joint secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Badal Roy, and BFF officials were present.

The Prime Minister later handed over medals of the SAF football tournament to the members of the squad.

SA move to prolong Donald's career

JOHANNESBURG, July 27 (Reuters/ Internet): South Africa reckon there are four years of cricket left in fast bowler Allan Donald but much depends on his treatment by English county Warwickshire.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board (UCB), said on Tuesday a conference call between himself, Donald and new South African coach Graham Ford would take place in mid-August to discuss Donald's future.

The paceman, who turns 33 in October, is in England where he has been contracted to Warwickshire since 1987. But an ankle injury has limited his appearances this season.

"By virtue of the fact that he is such a brilliant athlete Donald could play international cricket for another four years," Bacher said.

"With careful management by Warwickshire, he should be able to do it, but his heart has to be in it and that's one of things we want to talk about next month."

Bacher would not be drawn on the possibility of Donald being rested for certain tours, such as South Africa's visit to India in February. Donald is on record as saying he would prefer not to have to play in the sub-continent again.

A key man in the "careful management" of Donald will be Bob Woolmer. He returns as Warwickshire coach next season and has been appointed as a consultant coach by the UCB following his five years in charge of the South African team.

Woolmer said from England he would meet with Donald on Wednesday to see how his injury, which has seen him pull up in three of his last four matches, was responding to treatment.

Imran blasts Pak bosses

KARACHI, July 27 (AFP): Cricket legend Imran Khan lashed out at the suspensions of three top Pakistan cricketers here Tuesday and said the government had framed the star trio.

Imran blasted the suspensions of Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram and colleagues Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed as "premature", and said the long-running judicial match-fixing inquiry was to blame for the uproar.

"I am all at sea at what a mess they have created," Imran said.

"The Accountability Bureau has framed charges on the players after unilateral allegations," Imran told the news agency.

The government's Accountability Bureau levelled the match-fixing charges against the three last week.

The bureau's allegations followed the sacking of the Pakistan Cricket Board and its replacement by a two-strong ad-hoc committee on July 16.

The committee has said the three players would remain suspended until they are able to prove their innocence.

The decision to suspend the trio was taken on the basis of an interim report of PCB which implicated all three last year. The government then appointed a one-man judicial commission to probe into the allegations.

But Imran was sharply critical of the committee's actions.

"The present ad-hoc committee seems to have acted prematurely. They have made players guilty without giving them a chance to clear their position," said Imran, who now heads his own Movement for Justice party.

"The judicial inquiry is to be most blamed for the recent scenario. It should have been finished four months ago," Imran said.

The inquiry headed by Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum which was initiated last September, is expected to submit its findings in August.

"What if players go to the court on suspension. It will take another year or so (to resolve)" Imran said.

To me Pakistan cricket has been an ultimate loser due to this saga."

Imran backed Akram, whose early career he helped nurture, and said he was unaware of any evidence against the star all-rounder.

"What has happened to Wasim is worse than a sentence. I do not know about any evidence of Wasim's involvement in match-fixing and hope he gets justice," he said.

"I will be disappointed if any player who played under me is proven guilty," Imran said. But he added: "If all somebody is found guilty, he deserves a life ban."

Imran said the previous ad-hoc body in 1994 had tried to sweep the matter under the carpet when it first surfaced. "That was the biggest tragedy in Pakistan cricket."

Australian players Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh in 1994 alleged that former Pakistani captain Salim Malik offered them bribe to play poorly in a Test in Karachi in 1993.

"I went to the ad-hoc body and advised them to deal with the matter strictly but they did not."

The ad-hoc body whose chairman was Imran's cousin Javed Burki, initiated an inquiry against Malik and cleared him in 1995.

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Wasim flies back for battle

KARACHI, July 26 (AFP/ Internet report): Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram says he will return home on Wednesday to face allegations of match-fixing and bribery.

Akram, who along with two other players has been suspended over the charges, also ruled out that he was planning to retire.

"I am coming home and ready to face allegations because I have not done anything wrong," the 32-year-old Akram told AFP by telephone from England.

Akram said he would reach here on Wednesday and hold talks with Mujibur Rehman, chief of the ad-hoc committee of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"I am not going to run away," he said.

"I am sad and disappointed, whatever has happened, but I am confident to fight it out."

Akram said he stayed back in England after the World Cup because of his commitment with a television channel as commentator during the England and New Zealand series.

He is the only bowler in the world to get 300 wickets in both Test and one-day international.

Reiterating his commitment to the national team, he said "Pakistan has given me identity."

"I have always served my country and am looking forward to play for the country which I am always proud of," he said rejecting speculation he would give up cricket.

Akram and middle order batsmen Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed have been suspended from the national team until they prove their innocence.

The trio will not be considered for selection "until the investigations are completed," ad-hoc committee chief Rehman said.

The decision was taken after the government's Accountability Bureau charged the players with match fixing on the basis of an interim report of a PCB probe committee in September last year. The committee, implicating the players as prime suspects, had recommended

their suspension.

Pakistani cricketers have repeatedly denied the charges.

Following the PCB committee report the government appointed a judicial commission to further investigate the allegations.

The commission is to submit its final findings to President Mohammad Rafiq Tarar in August.

Meanwhile, Akram's wife, Huma, told The Dawn newspaper from Manchester that Wasim was trying to get the first available flight to Pakistan.

Huma further added that Akram was in constant contact with Rehman "and he was going to Pakistan on his request."

Rehman meanwhile told The News from Islamabad that skipper Wasim Akram was due to reach Islamabad today and meet him later in the afternoon. "He has spoken to me and I listened to his side of the story. I am definitely meeting him because there is nothing wrong in discussing issues. But as far as I am concerned, they will not be considered for selection, until the charges against them are proved or otherwise."

He said Salim Malik had also met him and given his point of view. "He also wants to meet me after two days, fair enough, but the players must understand now the matter of whether they are innocent or not lies with the Ehtesab Bureau and Judicial Commission and not with the Board."

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Boycott's the last laugh

LONDON, July 27 (Internet report): Cricket legend Geoff Boycott was celebrating last night after the woman who accused him of beating her up was branded "dishonourable" by three top judges.

Jubilant Boycott, fighting to clear his name of an assault charge against her, said: "It's a case of, I told you so."

"I've been saying the same things about her and I hope people will now believe me."

The three Appeal Court Justices also condemned blonde Margaret Moore, 47, as "fraudulent".

They made the remarks after hearing how she owed paying more than £200,000 to her ex-husband and his family.

The judges heard she had ousted husband John McGladery from the company he had founded before stripping its assets. She later embarked on a devious strategy to "frustrate" a court order to compensate him for the loss of his livelihood.

Boycott was convicted twice last year in France of assaulting former girlfriend Moore in a Riviera hotel.

He has always denied the charge, claiming she had made up the allegations to get £1 million.

Monday Boycott, 59, said of Moore: "She plans the demise of her victims carefully. She did it to her ex-husband - and to me."