

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-118

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Post to The Daily Star
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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

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Muralitharan
(Sri Lankan master off-spinner)

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my short spell here since the World Cup and I'm delighted to be coming back next year."

After extending his Lancashire deal by two years on Wednesday.

Viquarunnissa in final

Viquarunnissa Noon School and College, reached the final of the Delta Life inter-college hall women's basketball tournament beating Mirpur Girls Ideal Laboratory Institute 5-1 in the second semifinals yesterday, reports UNB.

They will meet Shamsun Nahar Hall of Dhaka University in the final on Saturday. In the day's second semifinal, Viquarunnissa girls dominated the first half 2-1 at the Dhanmondi Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex.

Sandhya scored three goals while Shyama and Ovi netted one each for the winners. Farju scored the consolation goal for the losers.

The two losing semifinalists — Ishpani Girls College and Mirpur Girls Ideal Laboratory Institute — will face each other in a place-deciding match today at 3:30 pm at the same venue.

Kamal to step down

Chairman of the cricket committee of Abahani AHM Mostafa Kamal, MP, will relinquish his club responsibility before next season begins with a view to devoting himself to the development of the game at grassroots level.

"I will remain a director of Abahani Limited, but not act as chairman of the cricket committee," he told BSS yesterday. Kamal decided to start a cricket academy with former captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain and national cricket coach Osman Khan as directors at his constituency (Comilla-9) with limited students from his area, free of cost.

Charity soccer match in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, July 29: Bangaon Eleven of West Bengal will play an exhibition football match against local Bagerhat Eleven tomorrow at the local stadium, reports UNB.

The match will start at 4 pm. Local MP Meer Sakhawat Ali Daru will be the chief guest in the charity match, arranged to raise fund for the family of late Meer Ali Marun, who was a famous footballer of the district.



Farashganj defender Palash trying to stop Rahmatganj forward Tipu during their yesterday's Premier Division football league clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. — Star photo

Arambagh in elite four

Sports Reporter



Arambagh Krira Sangha made it to the super four of the Keya Premier Division football league with a comfortable 2-0 win over Brothers Union Club in their last match of the first leg played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday evening.

Forward Mujibur Rahman Ritu and defender Titu struck one goal apiece to help Arambagh register their fourth win in the league on completion of their nine-match first leg campaign and book their berth in the elite foursome with title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club, holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra and Abahani Krira Chakra.

It was Brothers' fifth defeat, which kept them glued to their previous collection of 10 points on completion of the first leg. Arambagh raised their tally to 15 points—one more than Badda Jagarani Sangsad who finished fifth.

Badda, who recorded a stunning 1-0 win over Abahani in their last match of the first leg, will now play in the relegation

league along with Brothers, Farashganj, Rahmatganj MFS, Fakirpool YMC and Mirpur Chalanika.

Arambagh started the match knowing they had to win, got an opportunity to score in the fifth minute when Ritu in front of goal, saw his right footer hit the post.

However, the Motiheel club eventually took the lead after 15 minutes. Brothers Union custodian Saidur Rahman attempting to clear the ball from danger, only pushed it as far as the waiting Arambagh striker Johnny, who passed to the advancing Ritu and he did the rest.

With yesterday's goal, Ritu joined his teammate Asif, Zakir of Abahani, Mizan of Brothers Union Club and Efi-ani of Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the top of the scorers' list with five goals.

Arambagh maintained the tempo for much of the second session and added a second goal in the 69th minute when Titu completed his solo run through the right flank by slotting the ball past an advancing Saidur.

Yellow card: Shereki (Brothers Union)

TEAMS

Arambagh KS: Abeer, Titu, Chhoton, Mizan, Mithu, Shamim, Taj, Manik, Shahid, Ritu (Total) and Johnny.

Brothers Union: Saidur, Palash, Shuvro (Salaudhin), Swapan Jr, Barun, Reaz, Swapan, Sr, Shereki, Asad (Chanchal), Mizan and Jamal.

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin.

OLD-TOWNERS

SPLIT POINTS

Earlier, in the opening match, Farashganj Sporting Club and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society shared points after a 1-1 draw.

Farhad put Farashganj ahead in the 52nd minute while Biplab equalised for Rahmatganj in the 86th minute.

With the draw, Farashganj completed their first leg campaign jointly sixth with Brothers having raised their tally to ten points while Rahmatganj finished eighth with eight points.

No matches will be played today. Leaders Mohammedan will face Muktiyoddha in their last match of the first round tomorrow afternoon at 5:50 pm.

Interrogation starts



KARACHI, July 29: Star batsman Ijaz Ahmed was questioned for four hours on Thursday by the government's anti-corruption bureau inquiring into charges of match-fixing by Pakistani players, reports AFP.

Ijaz, 31, presented his case to clear his name in front of an official of the Accountability Bureau, a source close to Ijaz said.

"Ijaz is confident because he has never indulged himself in such practices which could defame him," he said.

No comments were available from the player.

Earlier on Wednesday, the bureau interrogated suspended skipper Wasim Akram.

Akram was questioned at the Accountability Bureau in Islamabad, they said. No comment was available from the bureau officials.

The chairman of the Bureau, Senator Saif-ur Rehman earlier said Akram agreed to cooperate with the investigative process during a meeting in Islamabad late Tuesday.

"He (Wasim Akram) said he would cooperate and promised his full support to the investigating process," Rehman said.

"Not only Wasim but all other charged players are being questioned by the investigators. The evidence is being corroborated," he said.

The findings will be submitted to Pakistani President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, who

is a patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), and then on passed to a judicial commission which has been conducting a probe since last year, Rehman said.

Wasim Akram, 33, had returned from England Tuesday and held talks with the chairman of the PCB's ad hoc committee, Mujibur Rehman, who is a brother of bureau's chairman.

Wasim and star batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik have been suspended from the national team by the ad hoc Committee over match fixing charges.

Cricketer officials said the three would not be considered for selection until they proved their innocence.

The suspension came after government's Accountability Bureau framed charges against Wasim and two others on the basis of last year's PCB interim report implicating these players in match-fixing.

Wasim stayed back in England after his team's one-sided defeat at the hands of Australia in the World Cup final on June 20 which had triggered protests from the angry fans in Pakistan.

He ruled out any plans to retire and reiterated his commitment to the national team.

The one-man judicial commission of Lahore High Court Malik Mohammad Quayum is expected to finalise its inquiry in August.

The Accountability Bureau has also initiated a probe into the on and off-field activities of Pakistani players during the World Cup.

The cricket stars have repeatedly denied any wrongdoings.

Pakistani cricket is embroiled in match-fixing and bribery allegations since three Australian players, including Shane Warne, accused Salim Malik of offering bribes to perform poorly during Test in 1994-95.

Cricketer legend Imran Khan has lashed out at the suspension of the trio and said the government had victimised the players.

Former captain Rameez Raja said, "The ball is rolling now and the present ad hoc committee is trying to streamline a system that will give players a chance to clarify themselves."

Former Test cricketer and selector, Salahuddin Saifi, said Wasim's absence would be felt badly, adding, "they (players) are diamonds and should be admired."

The ban, handed out by the French League's disciplinary committee, starts on Monday.

PARIS, July 29: Olympique Marseille defender Patrick Blondeau has been suspended for one month for a dangerous tackle on Yves Deroff of Nantes in the two sides' final match of the 1998-1999 season, reports Reuters.

The ban, handed out by the French League's disciplinary committee, starts on Monday.

Members of the Bangladesh Special Olympic team called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the International Conference Centre yesterday.

— PID photo

Pintoo Football Academy opens today

Country's first private football training institute 'Pintoo Football Academy,' exclusively for the street urchins will be launched today, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will formally inaugurate the academy named after Zakaria Pintoo, the captain of Swadhin Bangla football team, at a function at the Bangabandhu National Stadium at 5 pm.

Renowned German FIFA coach and the founder of Pintoo Academy Holger Obermann and World Cup star of 1970 Bernd Patzke arrived in the city yesterday to attend the opening ceremony of the region's first academy of its kind.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid MP and managing director of academy's main sponsor Keya Cosmetics Limited Abdul Khaleque Pathan will be present as the special guests.

The opening ceremony will be marked by two exhibition football matches.

Obermann XI will play Patzke XI in the first match while two selections of street children will compete in another match. No entry fee will be required to witness the matches.

Prior to the formal opening, the two distinguished German guests will visit the temporary residential camp of the Academy at the Gazipur Stadium.

The first batch of the two-month long training camp with 40 selected children of 14-16 age group will begin on August 1 at the Gazipur Stadium and gradually 240 destitute children will be given basic training in six batches within one year.

Probable line-up of the two teams:

OBERMANN XI: Badal Roy (captain), Shamir Sakir, Kanan, Kaiser, Jony, Joshi, Mosharrar, Aloke, Kaikobad, Pratap, Tipu, Mala, Munna, Helal, FI Kamal, Nannu, Bablu, Liton and Sultan.

PATZKE XI: Ashrafuddin Chunnun (captain), Pakir Ali, Anwar (rtd), Hafiz, Motaleb, Younis, Anwar, Aslam, Amlesh, Tutul, Khasru, Abul, Babul, Salam, Mohsin, Manik, Swapan, Wahid, Ajmat, Selim and Wasim.

Div I soccer

Newcomers Prantik KC registered their third victory in the Keya First Division football league beating BRTC SC 2-1 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

Motaleb put Prantik ahead in the 13th minute while Tutul widened the gap in the 61st. Saiful Islam pulled one back for BRTC in the 73rd minute.

With the outcome, Prantik now have 13 points while BRTC remained stuck at their previous 13 points from all the nine matches of the first phase.

Div II hockey

Both the matches of Green Delta Metropolis Second Division hockey league ended in draw yesterday at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium, reports UNB.

Dhaka Wanderers Club and Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha played out a 2-2 draw in the day's first match while PWD Sporting Club split points with Dilkusha SA in a one-all affair in the other match.

Muhid and Jarab scored for Wanderers while Sharafat and Jahangir netted for Mukta Bihanga in the first match.

In the other match, Belayet scored for PWD SC while Deen Islam netted for Dilkusha SC.

Today's match: East End Green vs Rayer Bazar SC (4 pm).

Spl Olympics in USA PM distributes gold medals among participants

It was a different day for mentally retarded Zakia and her friends when they met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and received from her PM's Gold Medals for their success in last month's Special Olympics in USA, reports UNB.

She patted them on the head with motherly affection and gave them their gold medals with bunches of flowers at a simple but lively ceremony at the impressive conference hall of Gano Bhaban yesterday.

Adorned with 21 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze medals from the Olympics, they came to the Prime Minister to tell their success stories and get inspired for further achievements.

The Bangladesh squad was among 7,500 athletes from 150 countries, who took part in the Special Olympic Games for mentally retarded children in North Carolina.

"You have brought glory for the country. It's an outstanding event," Sheikh Hasina said congratulating them on their achievements.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain and Head of Olympics delegation Ashrafud Dowla were also present.



An artist's impression of the new Wembley Stadium from the inside. —Internet photo

New Wembley revealed



LONDON, July 29(Mail/Internet): Stunning designs for the new 475 million pounds national stadium were revealed today, consigning the famous Twin Towers to history.

Although the celebrated landmarks are protected as grade two listed buildings, they have no part in the plans for the new 90,000 capacity state-of-the-art stadium set to open in 2003.

Instead they will be replaced by four 450 feet masts which stadium designers Lord Foster and American specialists HOK Lobb hope will come to be seen as the new icon for the home of English football.

English Heritage will not try

to stop the old towers being pulled down. They issued a statement today, saying: "Given the substantial benefits that would be delivered by the scheme in the form of a spectacular new stadium, and the impossibility of moving the twin towers, English Heritage would no longer seek their retention nor insist on their replication."

Brent Council could still turn down the proposals to demolish the towers. Therefore, much rides on the smooth redevelopment of the stadium, including England's government-backed bid to host the World Cup Finals in 2006.

Today's launch revealed that costs for the new stadium, 120 million pounds of which were provided by a National Lottery

grant with the rest coming from the Football Association, are already 100 million pounds over their expected budget.

Other significant details of the plan include the supporters being closer to the pitch, better visibility and more leg room, a retractable and adjustable roof over the seating, provision for a running track on a platform which would lie six metres above pitch level and lavish banqueting facilities in special suites and boxes.

Simon Sperry, chief executive of the London Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the plans. He said: "This is a significant boost for one of London's poorest boroughs and will help tackle unemployment. We are fully behind this project as it will give London and the UK a splendid new stadium for the 21st century."



Future Wembley from outside. —Internet photo

Ronaldo to visit Kosovo in Aug

ROME, July 29: Brazilian striker Ronaldo has pledged himself to a United Nations campaign for peace in Kosovo and will visit the Serbian province in August, Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper reported today, says Reuters.

It said Ronaldo made the announcement in Rio de Janeiro, where he is relaxing before returning to Inter Milan for the start of the Italian championship.

It will be gone but never forgotten



UNDATED, July 29(Mail/Internet): She has witnessed some of sport's most thrilling moments. England's 1966 World Cup triumph, the Olympics of 1948, Muhammad Ali's 1963 World Heavyweight battle with Henry Cooper, Manchester United's European Cup victory in 1968...

Ever since it opened in 1923 the grand old lady of Wembley has watched the history of British sport unfold. But her days are numbered. Designs for the new 320 million pounds national stadium was officially unveiled on Wednesday.

The new state-of-the-art venue, designed by Sir Norman Foster and American stadium specialists HOK Lobb, is expected to be one of the most modern and spectacular arenas ever built.

The blueprint will provide the first step in giving British sport a venue worthy of its greatest stars and one capable of hosting global showpieces like the World Cup and the Olympics.

For too long Wembley's ageing stands, uncomfortable seats, poor catering and restricted views have short-changed fans. The Twin Towers, certain to be ditched in the new plans, are a fitting reminder of how the nation has changed since the age of empire.

But before we pension off the old lady we should remember why the stadium has provided such an evocative background for sport down the years. After all, it is no accident that the north London site was chosen as the home for the new national stadium, which should be ready by May 2003.

As long ago as the 1880s Wembley Park Leisure Grounds were the home of football and cricket pitches and a running track.

In 1918 it was chosen as the showpiece for a celebration of

the British Empire. The Empire Stadium was opened in 1923 and was the main attraction of the Empire Exhibition a year later.

But it wasn't until the 1950s that the stadium began to develop into the arena we now know so well. Floodlights were erected in 1955 while the electronic scoreboard and encircling roof were added in 1963.

Three years later it was the scene for England's only World Cup victory. Images of Bobby Moore lifting the Jules Rimet trophy following England's 4-2 win over Germany in 1966 are ingrained in the national psyche, casting a shadow over the later generations of England players who have failed to emulate the achievement.

Just three years ago the roles were reversed, however, when the Twin Towers watched Germany take their revenge in Euro '96.

Having dumped Terry Venables' team out of the competition on penalties in a heart-breaking semi-final, the Germans went on to beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in the final.

England's most humiliating day at Wembley came in November 1953 when a Hungarian team, inspired by Ferenc Puskas, won 6-3 in a match which shocked the country.

Yet it has not only been the site of England's highs and lows. For 77 years, playing at Wembley has been one of the key aims of any club.

The first FA Cup Final staged there between Bolton and West Ham in 1923 attracted huge crowds and later became known as the White Horse Final after policeman George Scorey and horse Billie were photographed pushing back the 126,947 attendance so the game could start. Bolton went on to win 2-0.

Since then Wembley and the world's oldest Cup competition have been inseparable. From the Blackpool 4-3 comeback, set

up by Stanley Matthews, in 1953 to the Tottenham final against Nottingham Forest in 1991 when Paul Gascoigne was carried off injured - a moment from which he and, arguably, English football never truly recovered.

It has also witnessed some historic European club nights, including Manchester United's 1968 European Cup win over Benfica and Johann Cruyff leading Ajax to their European Cup win against Panathinaikos in 1971.

But it has not been 'total' football. The 1948 Olympics were one of post-war Britain's greatest national celebrations, made memorable by Dutch housewife Fanny Blankers-Koen, who won four sprint gold medals.

On a return visit to the stadium to mark the 50th anniversary of the games last year she commented: "It was so soon after the war but England organised an Olympics for us and it made us all so happy."

"To get to the stadium we had to walk to the station and get on an underground train. That was unusual for us, but once we arrived at Wembley the atmosphere was so sporting."

Although boxing has been traditionally associated with the nearby Wembley Arena, the stadium did play host to the first fight between Muhammad Ali and Henry Cooper in 1963. It also staged Frank Bruno's win over Oliver McCall in 1995.

But while Wembley was made famous by names like Ali, Moore and Cruyff, its bread and butter has come mostly from the unfashionable pursuits of greyhound racing and speedway. In an age dominated by football that is a bizarre notion.

For all her faults, Wembley's demolition next year will mark a watershed for British history. We are unlikely to see her like again.