

## 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  
Aug 6, '99 and draw  
shortly afterwards

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

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....



### SPORTS TALK



**Mark Taylor**  
(Former Australia captain)  
"I'm very hopeful that in Australian cricket we will get the two sides closer together.  
On favouring one team for both Tests and one-dayers."

**SAF football preps**  
**Jewel takes it easy, Prodeep in Bombay, Rakib wants out**

**Sports Reporter**  
Twenty-six of the 28 boosters called to the selection trials for the SAF football team reported at the Bangladesh Football Federation office yesterday.  
The notable absentee on the first day of training was none other than the national captain Jewel Rana. It was learnt that the tall defender wanted to take a couple of days off before joining the camp.  
Prodeep Kumar Poddar, who is now in Bombay nursing his injured right leg, was the other player who failed to report.  
Besides, Rakib Hossain turned up yesterday to express his non-availability. The hard-working winger announced his retirement from the national team immediately after the SAF Football in Goa. Rakib was carrying a letter, which he submitted to the BFF. Although BFF general secretary Harun-ur Rashid MP was not around to receive the letter, it was learnt that Rakib had pleaded to be spared from national duties.  
Meanwhile, Samir Shakir, the Iraqi coach of the national team, had a brief training session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. But he will have to wait for another fifteen days till after the completion of the League to get the boys for uninterrupted training.

**Div II hockey**  
Uttara Hockey Club crushed Rayerbazar SC 16-0 in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.  
The winners dominated the first half 10-0.  
Sumon and Saju made hat-tricks with seven and four goals respectively. Sayeem and Mizan scored two goals each while Sakhawaz netted one.  
Faisal of Rayerbazar received red card.  
In the day's other match, Karnak Samey beat Dhaka Wanderers Club 3-1 after leading the first half 2-1 at the same venue.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league encounter between Youngmen's Fakirerpool and Mirpur Chalanika. — Star photo

## First Fakirerpool win signs Chalantika's death-nail

**Sports Reporter**  
bandhu National Stadium yesterday.  
Manik, Sohagh and Avijit scored to give Fakirerpool an unassailable 3-0 lead nine minutes into the second half.  
Chalantika pulled off two goals later in the half through Munna, but that was not enough to avoid their eighth defeat in the League.  
The last match of the first phase between the two relegation-bound teams, however, turned out to be a refreshing change for Fakirerpool, who improved their points tally to six on completion of their nine matches.

Youngmen's registered their first win in the Keya Premier Football League when they prevailed over Mirpur Chalanika by 3-2 goals at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

### Judo solidarity course ends

The Olympic solidarity coaches course on judo conducted here last night, reports BSS.  
A total of 35 judo coaches from Dhaka and different districts took part in the course, organised by Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) in cooperation with Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation.  
Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports ASM Shahjahan attended the function as the chief guest.  
He distributed certificates among the participants.

Team	M	W	D	L	GF/GA	Pts
Mohammedan SC	9	8	1	0	14/2	25
Muktijoddha Sangsad	9	6	1	2	18/8	19
Abahani KC	9	5	2	2	13/6	17
Arambagh KS	9	4	3	2	14/11	15
Badda Jagorani	9	4	2	3	12/10	14
Brothers Union	9	3	1	5	11/11	10
Farashganj SC	9	3	1	5	8/11	10
Rahmatganj MFS	9	1	5	3	8/11	6
Fakirerpool YMC	9	1	3	5	5/15	8
Mirpur Chalanika	9	0	1	8	9/27	1

For Chalantika, one of the two promotees in the Premier League this year, the defeat served yet another nail in the coffin ahead of the relegation league, which will start from August 4. The Mirpur outfit has so far bagged one point from nine matches to finish at the bottom of the table.  
The top four finishers will play in the 'super four' while the six at the bottom will play in the relegation league.  
Standings on completion of first phase:

Team	M	W	D	L	GF/GA	Pts
Mohammedan SC	9	8	1	0	14/2	25
Muktijoddha Sangsad	9	6	1	2	18/8	19
Abahani KC	9	5	2	2	13/6	17
Arambagh KS	9	4	3	2	14/11	15
Badda Jagorani	9	4	2	3	12/10	14
Brothers Union	9	3	1	5	11/11	10
Farashganj SC	9	3	1	5	8/11	10
Rahmatganj MFS	9	1	5	3	8/11	6
Fakirerpool YMC	9	1	3	5	5/15	8
Mirpur Chalanika	9	0	1	8	9/27	1

## Keya First Division football league

# Victoria way above the rest

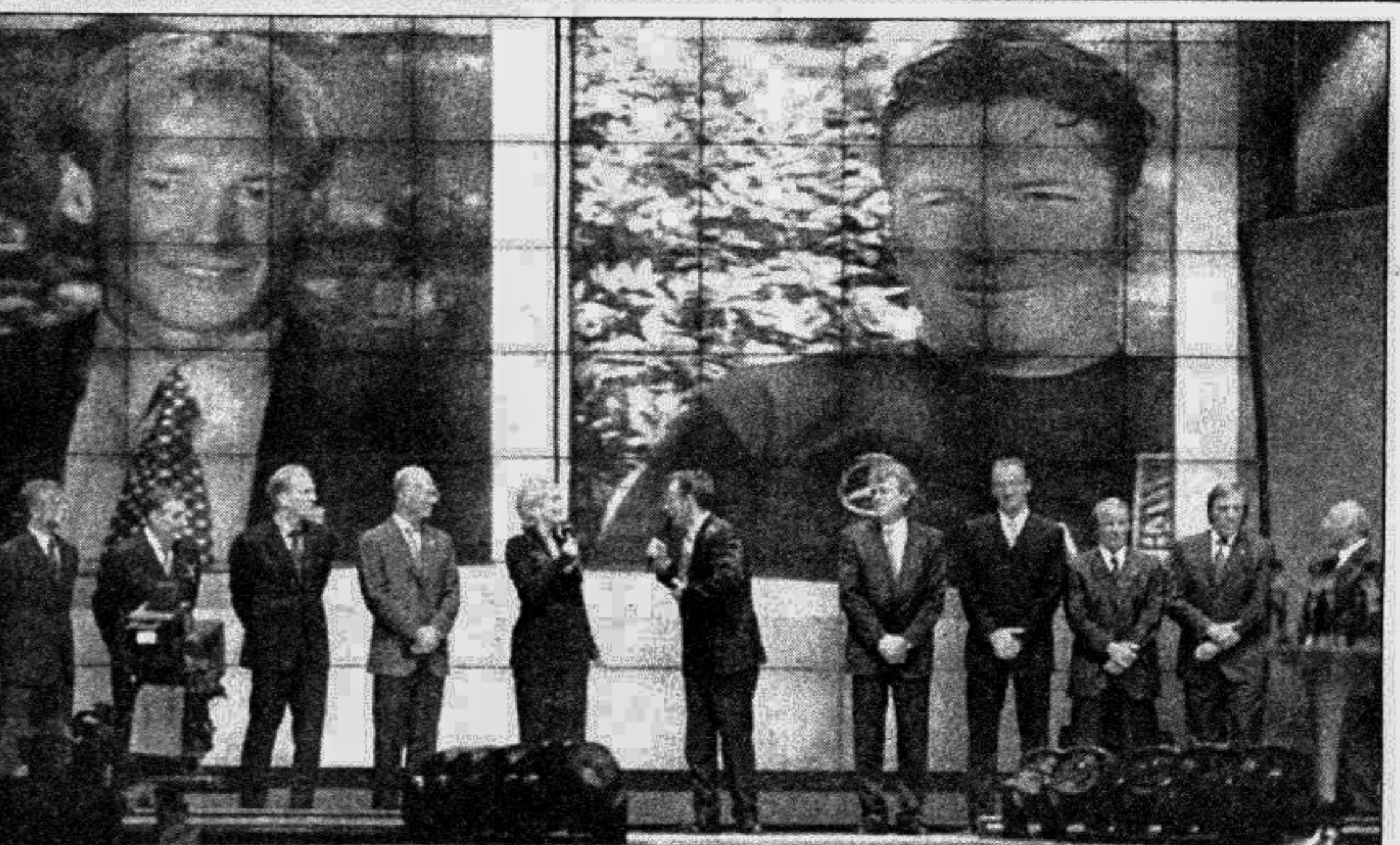
**Sports Reporter**  
when the Motijheel outfit, needing a win to join Victoria in the 'super four', failed to break the deadlock in the first match of the day. The outcome was equally disheartening for Muslim, who walked into the match needing a victory by a big margin to leapfrog BRTC and Prantik KC.  
Both BRTC and Prantik finished their first phase campaign with 13 points apiece, one point adrift of Dhanmondi and six points behind leaders Victoria.

Victoria, the only unbeaten outfit in the 10-team fray consolidated their position at the top of the table when they rolled up relegation-threatened Agrani Bank in the second match of the day.  
Al-Amin gave Victoria a 42nd minute lead before two quick goals from Faiz Babu and Manik in the second half completed the Bank rout.

### Jhalakati soccer

**From Staff Correspondent**  
BARISAL, Aug 1: Abahani Club beat Romance Club in tie-breaker in the final and became the league champions in the Lion Kabir Hossain Jamadder First Division football league at the Jhalakati Stadium yesterday.  
The league was organised by the Jhalakati District Sports Association.

Team	M	W	D	L	GF/GA	Pts
Victoria SC	9	5	4	0	17/8	19
Dhanmondi Club	9	3	5	1	15/11	14
BRTC SC	9	3	4	2	11/9	13
Prantik KC	9	3	4	2	11/10	13
East End Club	9	3	3	3	12/11	12
Wari Club	9	2	6	1	5/5	12
Muslim Institute	9	3	2	4	9/14	11
Shantinagar SC	9	2	4	3	14/14	10
Dhaka Wanderers	9	2	2	5	9/15	8
Agrani Bank	9	1	2	6	6/12	5



DREAM OF THE CENTURY: Live imager of German football superstars Juergen Klinsmann (L) and Lothar Matthaus (R) complete the 'team of the century' during a gala event in Cologne on July 31. The legends present at the show are (L-R) Gerd Muller, Fritz Walter, Matthias Sammer, Franz Beckenbauer, Sepp Maier, Juergen Kohler, Berti Vogts, Gunter Netzer and Uwe Seeler. Hosts of the programme Ulla Kock and Reinhold Beckmann are in the centre. — AFP photo

## PM to inaugurate Sheikh Kamal Krira Complex

**Sports Reporter**  
Abahani Limited, together with Abahani Supporters Association, will hold the inauguration ceremony of Sheikh Kamal Krira Complex at the Abahani club premises on Thursday, August 5.  
Prime Minister and Founder Member of Abahani Sheikh Hasina will be the Chief Guest while Founder Member Sheikh Rehana will be Special Guest at the ceremony that will also mark the 50th birth anniversary of their brother and Abahani's founder, the late Sheikh Kamal.

A cultural programme will follow the inauguration that is scheduled for a 5.30 P.M. start.

## Time a burden for football

**Sports Reporter**  
Mohammedan Sporting will go into their first match of the 'super four' against Arambagh Krira Sangha under protest when the Keya Premier Football League resumes tomorrow.  
The black and whites, who are leading the table with 25 points, have made it clear that it would not be possible for them to play every alternate day. They have pleaded for a minimum of 48-hour rest after every match.  
However, an adamant Dhaka Mohanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) is likely to carry on with their original plan of completing the League by August 18, as prescribed by the Bangladesh Football Federation.

Niaz, the stand-in secretary of the DMFLC, said that they needed more time to finish the League.  
"We understand the difficulty of playing every alternate day. But it would not be possible to change the fixture at the moment since the BFF is keen to start the Bangabandhu Cup on schedule," said Niaz.  
We are already a day behind schedule due to the hartal called by the opposition parties. We have now decided to stage one match on August 3 instead of two.

Mohammedan will play the lone match against Arambagh tomorrow when the league resumes with the 'super four' phase. The match will kick-off at 5.30 pm.  
Abahani will meet Mukti-joddha on the following day.  
"But most of the matches will be played on every alternate day in the remaining fixture", admitted Niaz.

## National TT begins today

The 23rd national Coca-Cola table tennis championships, organised by Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), begins at the wooden-floor gymnasium today, reports BSS.  
BTTF president and Defense Secretary Syed Yousuf Hossain told a press conference yesterday that though the tournament would begin today, the formal opening ceremony would be held on August 3.  
Prime Minister's adviser on Establishment and Freedom Fighters Khondker Asaduzzaman will be the chief guest on the occasion.

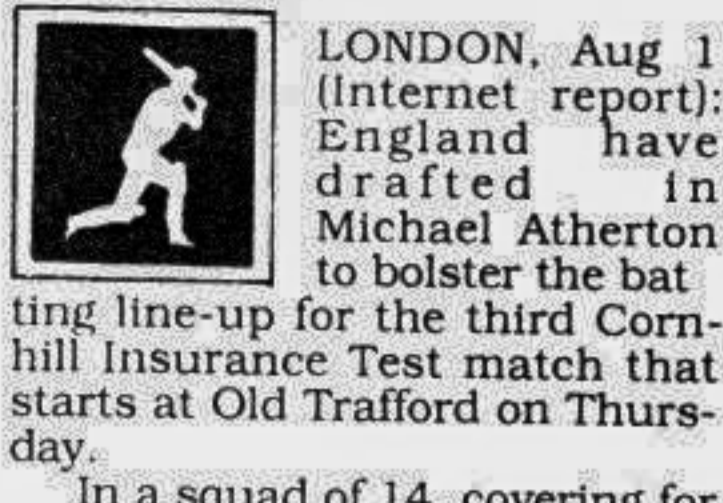
A total of 189 players including 84 men, 70 women and 35 girls from 29 districts and organisations will take part in different events of the week-long championships, sponsored by Tabani Beverage Company Limited.  
The events are: Men's team event, singles and doubles; women's team event, singles and doubles; boys' team event, singles and doubles; girls' singles and doubles, and mixed doubles.  
Teams from Kurigram, Naoaganj, Dinajpur, Natore, Patkhali, Thakurgaon, Narail, Faridpur, Barguna, Hobiganj, Rajshahi, Gaibandha, Dhaka, Satkhira, Jessore, Magura, Khulna, Nawabganj, Rangpur, Pirojpur, Comilla, Chittagong, Joypurhat, Chuadanga, Sunamganj, Bogra, Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Biman will participate.  
The news conference was also addressed by BTTF General Secretary Ishtiaq Ahmed.

## Beckenbauer best of the century

**BERLIN, Aug 1:** Former national team captain Franz Beckenbauer was Sunday named German "Player of the Century" in a poll of fans, reports AFP.  
The current president of Bayern Munich, who led Germany to victory in the World Cup in 1974, was given the award by viewers of television network ARD and readers of football magazine Kicker.  
Beckenbauer, now 53, was also named in German "Team of the Century".  
The team selected by the public is: Sepp Maier; Franz Beckenbauer; Berti Vogts, Jurgen Kohler; Lothar Matthaus, Gunter Netzer, Fritz Walter, Matthias Sammer, Uwe Seeler; Gerd Muller, Jurgen Klinsmann.  
Leeds rule out compromise with Hasselbaink

## Atherton, Hick called up

# England count on experience



**LONDON, Aug 1** (Internet report): England have drafted in Michael Atherton to bolster the batting line-up for the third Cornhill Insurance Test match that starts at Old Trafford on Thursday.

In a squad of 14, covering for the injured England captain Nasser Hussain, Graeme Hick has also been called up and Aftab Habib dropped as selectors opt for a greater spread of experience after the disappointing defeat by New Zealand at Lord's, two weeks ago. It is Hick's eighth return to the fold in an international career stretching back to 1991.

The in-form Atherton last played for England in the Melbourne Test match in December making a duck in each innings but was ruled out of the fifth Test match in Sydney with a bad back and has been absent from the international scene now for eight months after treatment and rehabilitation.  
But the former England skipper will not be required to captain the side if Hussain's broken finger continues to prevent him playing. Instead, Mark Butcher, who was acting captain at Surrey earlier this season, will take over the role.

Said chairman of selectors David Graveney:  
"If it is any indication, Nasser Hussain is shaking hands with his right hand rather than his left hand and he has been trying to put his glove on at home and fiddling with his bat."  
"We will be giving him the maximum time to get fit and will have some idea of how he is on Tuesday. We will make a decision on Wednesday."  
"Nasser's decision was to give the captaincy to Graham Thorpe on the field because he thought quite rightly that Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart were about to bat. I had no inclination to change that view. We hope that Hussain is fit but if he is not, Mark Butcher will captain the side. He has been acting Surrey captain this season and we have had good reports from players, umpires and management."

"As for Mike Atherton the period of time since he came back to cricket has been less than the length of time indicated and than we would have liked to see but we could be in a position where we are stripped of our captain having already lost our main strike bowler and a promising young player."  
"We need experience. Atherton has the ability to play at this level and the temperament to play long innings which is what is required at Test match level but is something that has been sadly lacking."  
"He showed he is in good form since he came back but we took observations from those who knew him. He deserves this recall."  
Peter Such, the Essex spinner who took five wickets in his last Test match in Sydney last year has also been recruited by the England selectors, who consulted widely before choosing Such and Hick.

"It is clear from our own observations and those of other people around the counties that these are the best players in the country," Graveney said.  
"The series is 1-1 and we have rightly taken a lot of criticism over Lord's but we feel it is appropriate to go for experience. It is worth stressing that observers, coaches, umpires and players have all given a strong vote for these players but now is the time to deliver."  
"The players will realise there have been plenty of obituaries about English cricket since Lord's but now is the time to turn things around."  
The only other change to the squad is the return of Yorkshire fast bowler Chris Silverwood, who was initially selected for the opening Test at Edgbaston but failed to make the starting line-up and was left out of the second Test.

**SQUAD**  
Nasser Hussain, Mark Butcher, Michael Atherton, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Graeme Hick, Chris Read, Andrew Cadick, Alan Mullally, Peter Such, Chris Silverwood, Dean Headley, Phil Tufnell.



MIKE ATHERTON



Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation president Syed Yousuf Hossain speaking to reporters during a conference organised yesterday in connection with the 23rd Coca-Cola national tournament.

# Luxury for Brazil, pressure for hosts



**GUADALAJARA, Mexico, Aug 1:** Brazil are heavily favoured to defeat Saudi Arabia in a Confederations Cup semifinal match Sunday, but the Brazilians said they aren't letting themselves get too confident, reports AP.  
"There's only one easy game in soccer — the game in which the other team doesn't show up and forfeits," coach Wanderley Luxemburgo said Saturday. "Anything can happen in 90 minutes."  
But his team, arguably the best in the world, is in a much better position. Many of his usual starters sat out Brazil's 2-0 victory over New Zealand on Friday night and will be rested for Sunday's game.  
"That was the thinking of Professor Luxemburgo," forward Ronaldinho said, referring to the coach by the title most of the players use. "For the game against Saudi Arabia, we're in great shape, and we hope to get another victory."  
"We're very confident that we can reach the finals."  
Brazil is the only team in the Confederations Cup to have won all three first-round games, although the second game, against the United States, was a close 1-0. Brazil haven't given up a single goal the entire tournament.  
Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, travelled to Guadalajara from their Mexico City base for the semifinal game. The team said they would hold a closed practice and wouldn't talk to the news media.  
In the other semifinal match, also Sunday, the United States face Mexico in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium. The winners meet in the final on Wednesday.  
"The Americans have everything going against them against Mexico: Less rest, less high-altitude training, a record of 0-15-1 at Azteca stadium and an expected crowd of 110,000 dead set against them."  
But adversity hasn't stopped this American team yet in the Confederations Cup as they have fought to earn the respect of the international soccer community with a near loss to Brazil and a surprisingly easy 2-0 win over Germany.  
"The home team has all the advantages — playing at home, rest, altitude and, let's face it, the pressure's on Mexico to win this game," US coach Bruce Arena said.  
That pressure could just be Mexico's weak spot, however. The Americans are the obvious underdogs, and that makes it Mexico's game to lose.  
"It's nice to play without the pressure," defender Jeff Agoos said. "It frees up some aspects of the game."  
Mexico had hoped that Germany would qualify for the semifinals instead of the United States because they want to avenge a World Cup loss — and because losing to the Americans at home would be a blow to national pride.  
"The United States are a difficult rival," Mexican striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco said. "It's soccer is growing. It has very good individual players, and if they get a goal in, they move back and it's very hard to score on them."  
Still, Azteca Stadium is a daunting location for the showdown. An expected 110,000 fans will pack the arena, and few will be rooting for the Americans.  
The United States have lost every game they have ever played at Azteca except one — the last one, in November 1997, was a 0-0 tie. Overall, Mexico has outscored the Americans at home 65-12.

"It's going to be a battle," US forward Brian McBride said. "It's an amazing feeling, just the sound of it. It sounds like a hoard of bees with all the horns."  
The United States rested some of their best players Friday night and still managed to shut out Germany, even though they only needed a tie. Now they can go into Sunday's game with players like Cobi Jones, John Harkes, Kasey Keller and McBride rested up.  
Arena tried to lower expectations for the game against Mexico, saying: "Let's face it, they're one of the great teams in the world."  
But McBride said that wouldn't stop the Americans.

**Arsenal raise English curtain**  
**LONDON, Aug 1:** Nwankwo Kanu inspired Arsenal to a 2-1 win over last season's Treble winners Manchester United in the Charity Shield at a sweltering Wembley here on Sunday, reports AFP.  
The Nigerian international equalised with a cool 67th-minute penalty and then set up Ray Parlour to rifle in the winning goal 10 minutes later as United went down to their first defeat of 1999.  
England midfielder David Beckham had given United a 36th-minute lead with a bending free-kick which hit the bar and bounced down over the line, although the referee only appeared to give the goal after Dwight Yorke headed in the rebound.  
It was the second year in a row that Arsenal have beaten United, who went into the match on a 33-game unbeaten run, in the traditional curtain-raiser for the new season. Arsenal won 3-0 last year.