

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)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



Ajay Jadeja

(Indian cricket vice-captain)
We spend hours every day training and preparing, but the real thing is quite different, a match is completely unpredictable.

Nat'l TT
Ansars begin in style

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars made a flying start in the 23rd national table tennis championships that began at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

On the inaugural day of the six-day meet, Ansars' men routed Natore 3-0. In the other men's team event matches, Dinaur beat Comilla 3-1, Rajshahi thrashed Faridpur 3-0, Gaibandha blanked Dinajpur 3-0, Patuakhali outplayed Thakurgaon 3-0 while Habiganj beat Pirojpur 3-1.

The boy's team event, Habiganj edged Bogra 3-2, Rangpur beat Sunamganj 3-1, while Rajshahi won two matches against Faridpur and Patuakhali by identical 3-0 margins.

Pakistan woo Woolmer

KARACHI, Aug 2 (Reuters): Pakistan's new cricket chief Mujeeb Rehman has asked former South Africa coach Bob Woolmer to take charge of the national team for the coming season, the Dawn newspaper reported on Monday.

"I sincerely hope that he agrees because I am convinced that he is the person who can extract the best out of the Pakistan players," Rehman was quoted as saying.

Rehman, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said he expected a reply from Woolmer this week.

Former England opener Woolmer ended a highly successful five-year term with South Africa after the World Cup in June.

Woolmer has already turned down coaching offers from England and Sri Lanka. He is to take over as coach of English county Warwickshire from next season.

"He is methodical and calculated and that's the art which has made him the best coach," Rehman said.

"What jacks in them is consistency," he said. "This is the element which Bob can infuse into the players to bring them at par with any side in the world."



A MOMENT FROM THE SWEETEST MEMORY: Bangladesh players celebrating the fall of a Pakistani wicket during their outstanding World Cup victory. — Star file photo

Stop unfair aspersions on our valiant cricketers

This razakar-ism must stop

Nizamuddin Ahmed

Intrigued though we were by ECB's strategem to make the two weaker Group B teams - New Zealand and Bangladesh --- play against a UK side on its home ground, the significance of beating the Scots had been summed up since before departing Dhaka. Cricket often resembles the enigma of contract bridge; manager Tanveer Muzhar had opted to pass his call even before setting foot on the game's motherland. No one was ready to believe him, perhaps not even he, when he went on record that Bangladesh would not win a single match in the World Cup.

The defeat against the Kiwis at Chelmsford was on the cards, but our bowlers helped to raise expectancy. At Dublin's Clontarf, our fate was pre-doomed against the Caribbean, but our score was something to write home about. So by the time we reached the Scottish capital, our morale was as high as the mountainous North. It was windy, wet and cold at Edinburgh's Grange ground. Stewards found it difficult to keep on ground the makeshift marquee that served as the press box. Five down for 26 in 11 overs, however, made conditions rather warm and stuffy. It was all in the mind. We needed some fresh air. Minhazul Abedin, a testimony of self-belief, pulled out the team from the brink of a calamity, for we had gone to the World Cup to win only one match - that against Scotland. At lunch there were not many apples in the barrel, but the Bangladeshis reckoned there were enough to outlast the tenth wicket of the hosts, no less boisterous than the visiting tigers.

The anticipation and the stakes were high as Bangladesh came out to defend their modest total in search of their World Cup goal. We were forced to leave the relative comfort of the press box to stand out in the cold, gusty open air to suffer the

often than not, the talented Pakistanis have been shamefully unpredictable.

At Northampton, followers of the World Cup babies outnumbered and out-voiced the seasonised Pakistani supporters, who had also come in full force complete with banners and streamers. They knew they would win this one, "easily" some Pakistani journalists had teased.

The green and red colours were everywhere; the Bangladeshis flew them with encyclopaedic pride, fully aware that another drubbing was imminent. Who cares? We beat Scotland, didn't we? Little did they know of the joy in store?

The openers - Mehrab and Shahriar -- stuck it out beyond fifty, and finally Akram Khan came to the fore. At bat's end, we had a score that any Test side would have been content to have against the fiery trio of Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akther, the consistency of Azhar Mahmood, and the guile of Murali's contender Saqlain Mushtaq. Shahid Afridi is also a mean customer.

It is not dignified to rejoice while playing against the minnows but the Pakistani body language expressed relief at the fall of every Bangladeshi wicket.

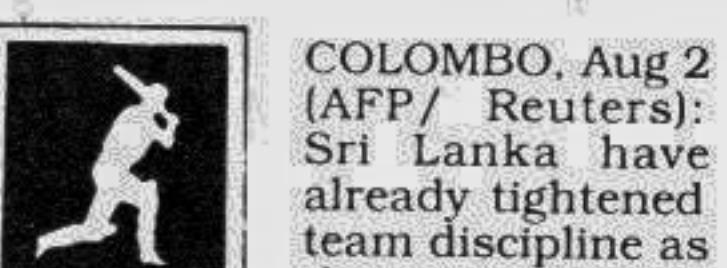
The video is for all to see and the expert commentary of the match for all to hear.

As the Bangladeshi batsmen loosened their shoulders against a reverend Pak attack, Sunil Gavaskar and company uttered, "beautiful", "super" and "impressive" to shots that were "well timed". The commentators also commended the Pakistanis for their "brilliant bowling", and "any player in the world would have been out to that ball", they said, when Waqar Younis rattled Naimur Rahman's wicket with a sinister cutter.

I was not in the Bangladesh

See page 14

Whatmore says what to do



COLOMBO, Aug 2 (AFP/Reuters):

Sri Lanka have already tightened team discipline as they seek to cling their way back from their Coach Dav Whatmore.

Whatmore on Monday urged Sri Lankan cricket managers to pay attention to details to ensure the national team realises its full potential.

New team manager Chandra Shaffter said tighter discipline was already being imposed inside the dressing room and players were punctual for practices.

Earlier, some players had friends walking into the dressing room while other players objected to it.

Whatmore who arrived back for his second stint in charge on Saturday, told reporters it was important for the authorities to pay great attention "to the small processes" that all contribute to the final objective.

"The skill level of Sri Lankan players is high ... the main thing I wish to say is that the small things that contribute to the process are clearly understood by all," Whatmore said.

Whatmore said bowling, batting and fielding will be closely followed ahead of the forthcoming triangular with Australia and India and the three-test series with Australia that follows.

Many believe Whatmore's return was instrumental in bringing about the downfall of skipper Ranatunga. The two were known to have serious differences of opinion over bringing in younger players.

Whatmore ended a two-year contract with Sri Lanka in October 1996 to go to English county Lancashire. He told reporters he was "extremely happy to be back" and had no intention of repeating his performance of ending the

year contract half way through. "The circumstance that made me go that time do not exist now," he said without elaborating.

Whatmore who will be co-opted to the selection panel said it was a good decision to name Mahela Jayawardena as vice captain in order to groom a young player to succeed skipper Sanath Jayasuriya.

Whatmore is in charge of the Sri Lankan squad for the second time.

Sri Lanka's Board of Control for Cricket said Whatmore, who was last month freed by the English county Lancashire, will immediately train the 30-member squad named for the upcoming tournament.

Whatmore will start preparing the national squad for the next World Cup after their humiliating exit from the World Cup in England.

He said Sri Lanka's top order failed mainly because of the playing conditions in England and the opponents were putting in more effort.

"When you are the world champions everyone is trying to damn you," Whatmore said. "The opponents were also better."

Whatmore, 45, who was born in Colombo but played seven Tests for Australia in 1978 and 1979, guided Sri Lanka to their World Cup success in 1996 before joining Lancashire the following year.

Many believe Whatmore's return was instrumental in bringing about the downfall of skipper Ranatunga. The two were known to have serious differences of opinion over bringing in younger players.

Whatmore ended a two-year contract with Sri Lanka in October 1996 to go to English county Lancashire. He told reporters he was "extremely happy to be back" and had no intention of repeating his performance of ending the

year contract half way through.

Whatmore said he believed former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga could play. What-

Super Four kicks off today

Sports Reporter

Leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Arambagh Krira Sangha in the opening match of the Super Four phase of the Keaya Premier Division football league that begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon. The match kicks off at 5:30 pm.

Top four finishers in the first leg of the ten-team league will play each other thrice. Defending champions Mukti Jodha Sangsads and title aspirants Abahani are the other super teams, and they meet tomorrow.

Mohammedan Sporting completed their first round campaign with 25 points from nine matches while Mukti Jodha Sangsads finished the first leg with 19 points. Abahani are in third place with 17 points followed by Arambagh on 15 points.

The other six clubs - Badda Jagarani, Brothers Union, Farashganj Sporting Club, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, Youngmen's Club Fakirpool and Mirpur Chalantika will go through return leg which begins from tomorrow. On completion the bottom three will be relegated.

First week's fixtures of the Super Four and Return Leg:

FIXTURES Super Four

August 3 Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS (5:30 pm)

August 4 Mukti Jodha Sangsads vs Abahani KC (5:30 pm)

August 6 Mukti Jodha Sangsads vs Arambagh KS (5:30 pm)

August 8 Abahani KC vs Arambagh KS (3:30 pm) Mohammedan SC vs Mukti Jodha Sangsads (5:30 pm)

August 9 Brothers Union vs Farashganj SC (3:30 pm) Badda Jagarani vs YMC Fakirpool (4 pm)

August 10 Brothers Union vs Rahmatganj MFS (3:30 pm) Badda Jagarani vs YMC Fakirpool (5:30 pm)

August 11 Brothers Union vs Farashganj SC vs Mirpur Chalantika (5:30 pm)

Return Leg

August 4 Badda Jagarani vs Mirpur Chalantika (3:30 pm)

August 5 Brothers Union vs YMC Fakirpool (4 pm)

August 7 Farashganj SC vs Rahmatganj MFS (3:30 pm)

August 9 Brothers Union vs Rahmatganj MFS (3:30 pm) Farashganj SC vs Mirpur Chalantika (5:30 pm)

MSC's appeal to Hanif

Sports Reporter

League leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday appealed to Bangladesh Football Federation president Mohammad Hanif to rethink the Super Four fixtures of the Keaya Premier Division football league.

In a petition to the popular Motijheel club urged the soccer supremo not to force clubs into playing every alternate day, which would not only increase the number of injuries, but also deprive them of a sizable amount of gate money.

The letter, signed by club general secretary Lokman Hosain Bhuiyan, also sought a meeting between the BFF and club officials to discuss the issue.

BCCI may show Azhar some mercy

CALCUTTA, Aug 2: Deposed Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin may not have to undertake a board-conducted fitness test if medical fitness certificate was given by a reputed doctor, reports PTI.

The board may consider his case if the medical certificate was given by a reputed doctor like Anant Joshi. We will have to see," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Raj Singh Dungarpur told reporters.

Dungarpur said that Azhar would submit his medical fitness certificate on August 5.

'Hang me if I'm guilty'

KARACHI, Aug 2: Pakistan's star spinner Saqlain Mushtaq has said that he is ready to face hanging if proved guilty of match-fixing and bribery.

"I am found guilty, punish me. I am even ready for public execution. But if it proves wrong then the accusers should be punished," Saqlain told AFP before his departure for England.

"I can swear on the Quran that I am innocent. My hands are clear because I have never been involved in match-fixing," Saqlain said.

Saqlain came to Pakistan to meet officials of a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) committee investigating match-fixing and bribery allegations.

Saqlain was named as "beneficiary" along with Mushtaq Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, Moin Khan in last year's interim report by the PCB.

Team skipper Wasim Akram, Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik were suspended by the committee on the basis of that interim report.

Cricket bosses said the three would not be considered for selection until they prove their innocence.

The fate of the suspended

players depends on the findings of a one-man judicial commission headed by the Lahore High Court (LHC) Judge Malik Mo

much it hurts because I always play for my country and pray for its success," he said.

The off-spinner plays for English county Surrey and has bagged 27 wickets in three matches.

The 22-year-old Saqlain said he planned to undergo treatment to an injured right knee in England.

"I played in the World Cup literally limping with severe pain just because I wanted to do good for my team and my country. But even then people accuse us for losing the final against Australia," he said.