

Column One

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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

- 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)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



Gabriel Batistuta
(Fiorentina soccer star)
"With him in the side I would score at least 10 more goals a season because he is the best crosser of the ball in the world. He is the midfield player I rate above all others."
On England and Manchester United Midfielder David Beckham.

Rupu's farewell game today

Sports Reporter
Former national football team captain Satyajit Das Rupu has decided to hang his boots. The skillful midfielder, who had been playing for Muktiyoddha Sangsad for the last couple of seasons, will formally bid adieu to his beloved game today after playing for his club against Abahani Krira Chakra in their super four clash of the Keya Premier Division football league.

Born in Chittagong in 1965, Rupu began his illustrious football career in the Dhaka league with Farashganj Sporting Club in 1984-85. He joined Abahani next season and played for the popular Dhamondit outfit until 1991. Rupu then spent four years in Brothers Union and a year in Mohammedan Sporting before joining Muktiyoddha Sangsad in 1996.

Indian refs in town

Sports Reporter
Two Indian football referees from Calcutta arrived in the capital yesterday to conduct the 'super four' matches of the on-going Keya Premier Division football league.



Action from yesterday's Premier league Super Four fixture between Mohammedan and Arambagh. —Star photo

Anwar saves MSC's blushes

Sports Reporter

A ten-man Mohammedan Sporting Club rode on a 76th minute strike from Anwar to stymie their long-standing nemesis Arambagh Krira Sangha by 1-0 in the opening 'super four' match of the Keya Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The league leaders appeared to revisit their frustrating first phase encounter against their Motijee neighbours when their defender Jahangir Patwari got the marching order in the 66th minute. In their meeting, the spirited Arambagh men held their illustrious opponents to a goalless draw.

But Anwar, a host in himself especially when the chips are down, rescued the black and whites from a possible upset to a wonderful victory when the nimble forward let a long-range shot fly past an out-of-position Arambagh custodian Abir ten minutes after the red card incident.

Jahangir became the third player in the League so far to receive a red card when he committed his second bookable offence for abusing linesmen R Alam.

Indian referee Udayan Halder, who had a dazed day in the middle on his Dhaka football debut, first showed the second yellow card to Jahangir before flashing the dreaded red amidst fierce protest from the aggrieved Mohammedan players.

The match, for obvious reason came to a grinding halt for about 25 minutes as the furious Mohammedan players refused to resume play protesting the ruling against them. Wisdom, however, finally dawned on Mohammedan tent following the intervention of its general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan and the joint-secretary of BFF Badal Roy.

But, apart from the unpleasant incident, which was enough to encourage the loyal Mohammedan supporters to engage in brick-batting, it was an enterprising match that featured forays and counter forays.

Although Arambagh had nothing at stake as far as the title race was concerned, the traditional giant-slayers were in no mood to give up without a fight. The lowly-rated outfit,

hammedan got a number of chances in each half. They got the best opportunity to go ahead when striker Alfaz came up with the spectacular free-kick from the edge of the left-hand side box, but only to be denied by the metal work.

Arambagh also had their share of chances. Abdul Akin, the Nigerian recruit of Arambagh, tested the Mohammedan custodian Ponir with a scorching left-footer, which the letter fisted away for corner. From that resultant corner Jhony headed the ball into an empty post, but only to be saved by Ruhul Amin from goal line.

Jhony muffed up another chance in the 73rd minute when he headed an imaginative left-side Ritu cross wide off the mark with Ponir beaten fair and square.

Rakib got a golden opportunity to give Mohammedan a 2-0 lead three minutes from the final whistle. But the national winger shot the ball straight to Abir in a one-to-one situation.

It was Mohammedans' ninth win from ten outings. They are now leading the table with 28 points. On the other hand Arambagh remained glued to their previous collection of 15 points.

Tajuddin and Abdul Akin of Arambagh were cautioned with yellow cards in the match.

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Ponir, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Monwar Munna, Jahangir, Selim, Motiur Munna, Rakib, Anwar (Rezaul), Mizanur Rahman (Askar Babu) and Alfaz.

ARAMBAGH KS: Abir, Titu, Choton, Montu, Mithu, Shamim, Taj, Manik, Asif (Abdul Akin) and Jhony.

Referee: Udayan Halder.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Badda Jagorani vs Mirpur Chalanika (3.30 pm)
Muktijoddha vs Abahani (5.30)

Apart from Anwar's one-stroke brilliance, Mohammedan's victory was a

never thought the Test career would be over as long as I was playing. I'm as good as any player there is around.

I've had lots of things thrown at me in the past and I've been through lots, but I just want to go out there and play my cricket.

If Hick's selection was something of a surprise, Atherton's recall was expected although brought forward sooner than England had originally anticipated after his long lay-off with back trouble.

Atherton had hoped to secure selection for this winter's tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe, but the dismal form of England's batting has prompted the selectors to promote him immediately despite concerns over his long-standing back condition.

"It's a bit earlier than I thought, and probably a bit early for the selectors," admitted Atherton. "They were struggling to find out for a long time exactly what the problem was with my back, but I've had jabs and there have been no reactions on the day after."

"Of course you always have a few self doubts about coming back, but I always thought I would get fit again - I wasn't going to give up."

"I'd set a target of getting on tour. I've been pleased with the way I've played since I came back and I've been pretty dedicated, worked hard. It's pretty boring sort of work, but I've done a lot."

"I don't think the time out has done me any harm. I'm looking to start with the same enthusiasm again because when you're at the stage I'm at you're constantly trying to re-invent yourself and set yourself targets and new challenges - you don't want to get stale."

But if he is given the chance to shine at Old Trafford, Hick remains confident he can finally establish himself with England and bury his image as one of world cricket's biggest enigmas.

There have been one or two careers gone before that have certainly been cut short for no real reason so I would have been a little disappointed if that had happened to me," claimed Hick.

"I've a few years left yet. I

to the inconsistent form of both Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash, who is expected to compete with Hick for the final batting spot should captain Nasser Hussain make an unexpected recovery from the broken finger he sustained at Lords.

Leicestershire's Aftab Habib has already paid the price for the Lord's debacle while Peter Such and Chris Silverwood have also been added to the last Test squad for a match crucial not only to the outcome of the Cornhill series but also in attempting to restore the confidence of the public.

"Everybody we speak to has a strong vote for these players as the best seven batsmen in the country, but now is the time they have to deliver," stressed Graveney.

"The players realise there have been plenty of obituaries written about English cricket after Lord's - it's time to turn things around."

That threat applies mainly

Ctg handball
CHITTAGONG, Aug 3: Police Lines High School became champions in the boys' group while Nurul Islam City Corporation High School won in the girls' group title of the Kwality School Handball competition that concluded at the Dampara Police Lines ground here today, reports BSS.

Div Two chess from Aug 20
The Second Division chess league will be held in the capital from August 20 under the auspices of Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Ashraful refutes Bengali paper's report

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq said that the board was never trying to rope in former Indian team doctor Ali Irani as its next physio for the national team.

Ashraful, who returned home on Monday after a 15-day holiday in England, was talking to a small group of journalists yesterday evening about a report published in a Bengali daily which claimed that the BCB was close to appointing Dr. Ali Irani.

"He is a doctor and not a physio. He doesn't come into consideration as a physio. I don't know anything about this and I have not discussed anything about Irani with anybody. I don't know how one Bengali daily has published the news," said an astonished Ashraful.

"As far as I'm concerned, Irani has no qualification to become our physio," added Ashraful.

When asked who would be the next physio of the team, Ashraful said that nothing has been discussed yet.

About the proposed tour of the West Indies cricket team, Ashraful expressed his full optimism and said that more negotiations will take place before finalizing the tour.

He also revealed that that a meeting of the Asian Cricket Council, scheduled to be held in Colombo on August 30, will finalize everything regarding the 8th Asia Cup which is due to be held in Dhaka early next year.

Both BCB president Sabur Hossain Chowdhury and Ashraful will attend the meeting.

BFF waiting for Nasim

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has prepared all papers relating the preparation of the Bangladesh Cup and now are waiting for the approval of organizing committee chairman Home Minister Mohammad Nasim who is scheduled to return home today from France.

This was revealed by BFF general secretary Harun-ur Rashid MP while talking to The Daily Star at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

"We have drafted all the sub-committees and the budget for the tournament and what we are waiting for is the return of our organizing committee chairman from Paris tomorrow."

"I'm eagerly trying to hold a mini meeting between the BFF president, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and Mohammad Nasim by tomorrow so that we can formally begin our operation from the day after," said Harun.

Harun also hinted that Hungary, the only country from Europe who have shown their interest along with eleven other countries, might be excluded from the list to make it a 12-team event which will also feature hosts Bangladesh. The other eleven countries are: Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Nepal, Kuwait, South Korea, Japan, Uzbekistan and Thailand.

"We need almost one crore Taka to bring teams from Ghana and Brazil. If we include Hungary, we need another 50 lakhs which will be too expensive for us. Anyway that is also depending on our organization committee chairman," Harun said.

Harun also revealed that the Government has already approved the idea of holding the second Bangabandhu Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from August 25 to September 7. A letter in this connection from the Ministry of Youth and Sports reached the BFF last week.

IFA Shield

AIFF invites Badda

Sports Reporter

Badda Jagorani Sangsad will take part in the 105th IFA Shield football tournament scheduled to be held in Calcutta from September 1 to 12, say a press release.

All Indian Football Federation (AIFF), the organizer of the oldest football tournament in India, has invited Badda, one of the ten teams playing in the Keya Premier league, for their superb performance in the Independence Day Cup held in West Dinaipur in West Bengal early this year where Abahani also took part. Badda defeated Abahani in the semifinal and eventually won the tournament.

The winners of the shield will receive six lakh Indian Rupees as cash award.

Div Two chess from Aug 20

Sports Reporter

The Second Division chess league will be held in the capital from August 20 under the auspices of Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Accountability Bureau winds up inquiry

Rameez turns selector

KARACHI, Aug 3 (AFP): An ad-hoc committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday named a new selection committee but deferred the appointment of a team captain, official sources said.

Former captain and commentator Rameez Raja was among the three selectors headed by former wicketkeeper Naushad Ali, the sources said. The third member was former first-class spinner Abdur Raqib.

Wicketkeeper batsman Moin Khan was likely to take charge as skipper in the wake of Wasim Akram's suspension, the sources said, adding that a decision was expected within a few days.

Wasim, batsman Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed were suspended by the ad-hoc committee over match-fixing allegations against them.

The committee announced the trio would not be considered for selection until they proved their innocence.

The Accountability Bureau has completed an inquiry into the allegations against the trio and some other players.

The findings have been sent to the ad-hoc committee which will pass the report on to a judicial commission which has been conducting an investigation since September last year.

The bureau's report has also been sent to Pakistani President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, who is patron of the cricket board, officials said.

The bureau interrogated Wasim, Ijaz and Malik and several other players.

The officials said a decision on whether to make the findings public had not yet been taken.

The News daily, quoting unnamed sources, said the bureau had submitted a balanced report aimed at not only protecting Pakistan's image but also ensuring the match-fixing issue was closed for good.

The Photo Journalists' Association of Sri Lanka in a statement said De Silva, the recently sacked vice captain, used foul language and raised a bottle Monday to hit an international news agency photographer.

"De Silva has made some rude gestures with his mobile phone," the association said. "Fortunately, the presence of a large number of senior players and other photo journalists has prevented any physical violence."

Team Manager Chandra Schaffer said he had received a formal complaint from journalists and he will hold an inquiry at the earliest.

"I will have a chat with Ar-

Surrey stun SLA

LONDON, Aug 3 (Internet report): Surrey staged an impressive fightback to grab an unlikely 22-run victory over Sri Lanka A at The Oval.

The tourists, chasing 273 to win on the final day, had seem set for a comfortable win when they needed just 71 with six wickets remaining.

However, when Tuwan Dilshan, who hit an enterprising 127 fell with the score on 202, Sri Lanka A collapsed and lost their last six wickets for 49.

Dilshan's dismissal sparked a run of three wickets in 10 balls as the Surrey bowlers started to dominate the visitors.

Schaffer said tighter disci-

The newspaper however said the report suggested heavy fines for the suspended Wasim, but at the same time it urged Wasim be cleared to represent Pakistan in the coming season.

The ad hoc committee had ruled earlier that it would under no circumstance keep cricketers with controversy in the team.

The decision came on the basis of a one-year-old interim report by the cricket board implicating the three in match-fixing and bribery.

Cricket legend Imran Khan said Sunday the country should not play international cricket until the issue of match fixing and bribery has been resolved.

"Pakistan should not play international cricket until the issue is resolved because it is damaging the national image as well as the image of players," Khan said.

on India in the limited over matches series in Canada next month and then feature in a tri-nation tournament at Sharjah in October.

Pakistan will also tour Australia for a three-match test series and play a triangular tournament there in January next year.

Ijaz meanwhile told 'The News' that he had called the PCB offices several times to ask them about the suspension order, but had received no official letter as yet. He stated that although the ad hoc committee had told the press about the suspension of the three players, so far they had not sent anything in writing to them.

Asked as to why he was so concerned about the official letter, the batsman said it was because an official notification was necessary for him, if he decided to go to court.

He claimed that reports about him and Wasim being mistreated by the Ehtesaab Bureau officials were incorrect. "During several hours of questioning, they (the officials) extended us all respect as national players."

It was after seeing the attitude of the EB officials, that he had cooperated with them, said Ijaz, adding that the questioning centred around his cricketing career. "I'm confident that we'll be cleared by the EB. In a way it's good that all this has happened. At least this match-fixing issue should be closed for once for all now."

He admitted that though the sessions with the Ehtesaab officials last over several hours, but it helped clear up a lot of things.

pline 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.

Journalists said De Silva's rude gestures with the mobile phone may have been prompted by newspaper reports that cellular phones played a part in Sri Lanka's downfall.

New skipper Sanath Jayasuriya has banned mobile phones during training following allegations that cellular telephones played a part in Sri Lanka's downfall at the World Cup.

Coca Cola nat'l TT

Sports Reporter

Dhaka, Ansars, Biman and Bogra won their respective men's team event matches in the Coca Cola 23rd national table tennis championships held at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Dhaka trounced Gaibandha by three sets to nil while Ansars, Biman and Bogra outplayed Rangpur, Khulna and Nawabganj respectively by the same margin.

In the boys' team event, Narail beat Rangpur 3-0, Magura beat Thakurgaon 3-0 while Satkhira won two matches against Magura and Khulna 3-0.

Both the men's and boys' finals will be held today.

In the women's team event, Biman, Rajshahi and Ansars beat Comilla, Patuakhali and Khulna respectively by same margin of 3-0.

Schaffer said tighter disci-

Impressive Brazilian custodian Dida making a save during practice at Mexico City on August 2 ahead of his team's Confederations' Cup final against hosts Mexico on Thursday. —AFP photo

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