

## 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	Battstuta	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

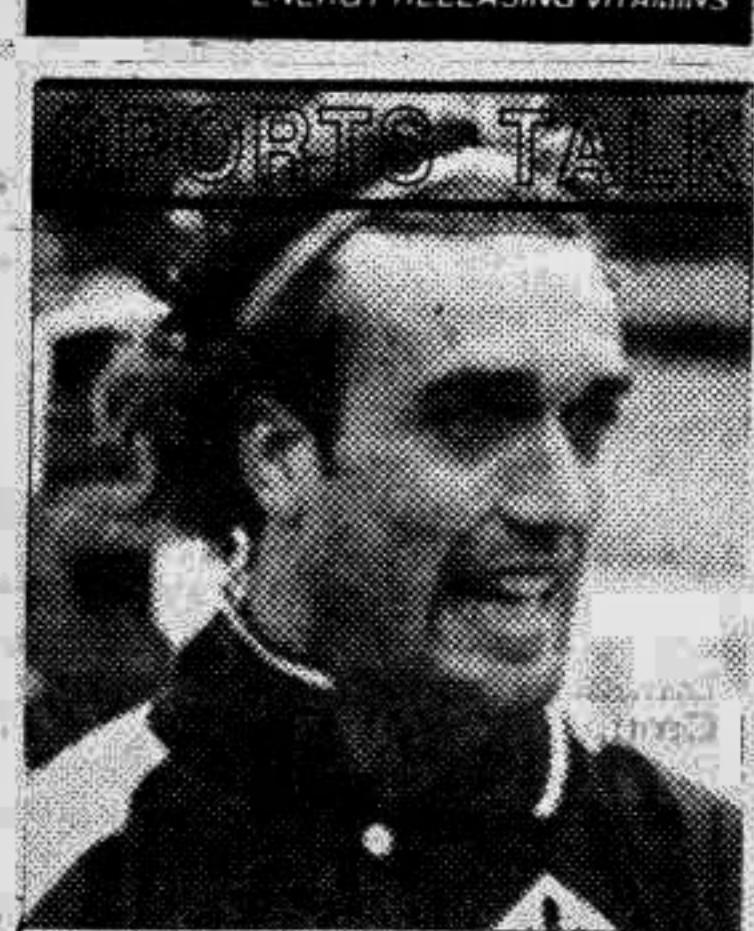
Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



**Gabriel Batistuta**

(Firoentina 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 Muktijuddha 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 Kya 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 Dhanmondi outfit until 1991. Rupu then spent four years in Brothers Union and a year in Mohammedan Sporting before joining Muktijuddha Sangsad in 1996.

Rupu, a former Dhaka University student, played for the national team for 1985 and captained Bangladesh in the first SAARC football tournament in 1995.

In his hay-day, Rupu captained Abahani in 1990-91, Dhaka University in 1993 and Brothers Union in 1994.

#### 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 ongoing Kya Premier Division football league.

Of the two, Gopinath Pain, a FIFA referee, conducted most of the super league matches of the Premier league in the 1996-97 season while the other Udayan Halder, is an assistant FIFA referee.

Udayan began his job conducting the first match of the super four between Mohammedan Sporting and Arambagh Krira Sangha yesterday while Gopinath is likely to start his Dhaka mission with today's important match between holders Muktijuddha Sangsad and Abahani.

According to Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harun-ur Rashid MP, both the referees will receive 50 US dollars each per-match apart from their boarding and meal expenses.



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

#### 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 Irfani 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 Irfani.

"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 Irfani with anybody. I don't know how one Bengali daily has published the news," said an astonished Ashraful.

"As far as I'm concerned, Irfani 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 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 Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Ashraful will attend the meeting.

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 latter 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 goaline.

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 Mohammedan's 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, Jahanbir, Selim, Motiur Munna, Rakib, Anwar (Rezaul), Mizanur Rahman (Askar Babu) and Alfaiz.

**ARAMBAGH KS:** Abir, Titu, Choton, Montu, Mithu, Shamim, Taju, Manik, Asif (Abdul Akin), Ritu and Jhony. Referee: Udayan Halder.

**TODAY'S MATCHES**

Badda Jagorani vs Mirpur Chalanika (3.30 pm)

Muktijuddha vs Abahani (5.30)

**BFF waiting for Nasim**

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) have prepared all papers regarding the preparation of the Bangabandhu 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.

On 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.

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."

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. That threat applies mainly

## 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 Kya Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The league leaders appeared to revisit their frustrating first phase encounter against their Motijheel 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 Alim.

Indian referee Udayan Halder, who had a mixed 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 Bhuyian and the joint-secretary of BFF Badal Roy.

Apart from Anwar's one-stroke brilliance, Mo-

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.

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,

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.

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