

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-118

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Competition closes at 8 pm
Aug 13, '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)



SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

(Suspended Pakistan cricket captain)
"I think what has happened in Pakistan sport has a lot to do with politics and this is more political than anything else."

On betting and bribery charges.

Bangladesh clinch Naadee Carron C' ship

Bangladesh won the title of Naadee Carron Night Championship outplaying the host Maldives in Male on August 2-4, reports UNB.

Five SAARC countries, including India, Sri Lanka and Maldives, took part in the tournaments, organised by Maldives Carron Federation.

The 3rd SAARC Countries Currom Championship was also held in Male where the Bangladesh team participated.

England 98 for one at tea

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 8: Former captains Alec Stewart and Mike Atherton showed their experience as England began their bid to save the third Test against New Zealand at Old Trafford on Sunday, reports AFP.

By tea Stewart (43 not out) and Atherton (35 not out) had taken the score to 98 for one, still 199 behind New Zealand as England made a positive start in their attempt to score 297 to make New Zealand bat again.

The stand was worth 79 and brought back memories of their 226 partnership which helped save England in last summer's Old Trafford Test against South Africa, when Stewart made 164.

When the Kiwis declared at their lunchtime 496 for nine, England were committed to batting five sessions to save the match and go to The Oval for the final Test with the series still level.

But England lost stand-in captain Mark Butcher in the seventh over for nine and his contribution of 86 in six innings threatens to put his place in doubt.



Scene from the Abahani-Arambagh Super Four match of the Premier League yesterday. Abahani won 2-0. — Star photo

Abahani narrow the gap

Abahani Krira Chakra kept alive their outside chance of regaining the title when they recorded a 2-0 win over Arambagh Krira Sangha in a "super four" match of the Keya Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The popular Dhanmondi outfit confirmed their sixth win in the League even before the day's first match at the big bowl reached the halfway mark. Abahani's victory provided a refreshing change as two of their foreign recruits were in the thick of things against a side that is considered a bogey for the giants.

Sabir Pasha, the Indian forward of the sky blues, broke the evening's duck in the 38th minute, heading home a nice lob from midfield dynamo Arman.

Six minutes later, Opuju, one of the two Nigerian recruits of Abahani, gave his side a seemingly unassailable 2-0 lead with

Azzu focused on fightback

HYDERABAD, Aug 8: Deposed India cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin today announced he would be fully fit and ready by this month end to regain his place in the Indian team and said his operated right shoulder has improved a lot and he was feeling better, reports PTI.

Addressing his first press conference after the World Cup, Azharuddin said, "The shoulder injury was there for quite a long time and as a precautionary measure I went for the operation. I am doing a lot of exercises for recuperation."

The 36-year-old wristy batsman, who was replaced by Sachin Tendulkar as skipper on July 28, opted out of selection for the coming triangular one-day tournaments in Sri Lanka (Aug 22-31) and Singapore (Sept 24 to Oct 1) as he expected to recover full fitness following his shoulder operation only by August end.

Asked whether he spoke to the doctor who had operated on him in England — on June immediately after India's campaign had ended — before opting out of selection, Azharuddin said it was on the doctor's advice that he opted out.

"Yes, I spoke to my doctor and he has directed me to take enough rest and give the injured shoulder time to repair the damage. On his advice only I opted out of the side touring Sri Lanka and Singapore," he added.

Azhar admitted that his poor batting also contributed to India not qualifying to the semi-final at the World Cup.

"I admit that in the World Cup, except for a few matches, I was not consistent enough with my batting, which shattered our hopes to clinch the cup," he said in reply to a question.

Azhar, who had informed the cricket board president that he expected to regain full fitness only by this month end, declared he would be available to

Nat'l TT ends Mahbub lifts treble

Mahbub Al-Billah of Bangladesh Biman earned triple titles in the Coca-Cola 23rd table tennis championships that concluded at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports BSS.

Mahbub clinched the men's singles title securing 12 points in the final round. Runner-up Mostafa of Bangladesh Ansars also got 12 points. But Mahbub was declared champion as he beat Mostafa.

Mahbub bagged the doubles title with Mostafa when they defeated Hamlet and Edison pair of Bangladesh Biman 21-17, 21-10, 21-17 in the final.

He, pairing with Rinu (Biman) got the mixed doubles title eliminating Manosh and Shamima 21-15, 21-12 and 21-19 in the final.

Mahbub was adjudged best player-of-the-championship and was given the Sachin Chakr award.

Deputy Minister for LGRD Saber Hossain Chowdhury witnessed the finals as the chief guest and gave away trophies among the winners.

President of Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation Syed Yousuf Hossain, Managing Director of Mukti Jodha Kalyan Trust, SMJ Aktramuzzaman and other officials were present.

The 13th national women's handball championship, organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), began at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader inaugurated the championship as the chief guest.

Vice-President of Bangladesh Olympic Association Lt Col (ret'd) Faruq Khan, MP, BHF President Lt Col (ret'd) MA Hamid and other officials of the federation were present.

All 17 teams, split into six groups, are taking part in the tournament on round robin league basis.

The six group champions will play in the final round on knock-out basis.

The participating teams are: Group A — Bangladesh Ansars, Jessore and Dinajpur. Group B — BJMC, Dinajpur and Netrokona. Group C — Dhaka and Jhalakathi. Group D — Madaripur, Rangamati and Nilphamari. Group E — Rangpur, Kushtia and Rajshahi. Group F — Chittagong metropolis, Naogaon and Barisal.

On the opening day, 11 matches were held.

Shearer pleads not guilty

NEWCASTLE, England, Aug 8: England captain Alan Shearer on Sunday insisted he was innocent of any wrongdoing after being sent off for the first time in his career in Newcastle United's home English Premiership defeat by Aston Villa on Saturday, reports AFP.

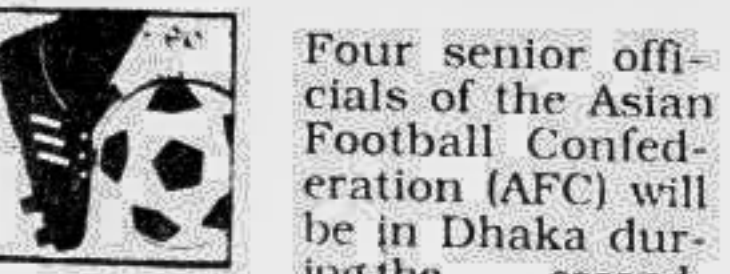
Shearer, who was playing in his 100th game for Newcastle, was dismissed by referee Uriah Rennie for a 71st-minute challenge on defender Colin Calderwood after being booked for an earlier foul on the same player.

"I challenge anyone to watch on television the incident which got me sent off from any angle and at any speed and if, after total scrutiny, there is the slightest foul then I will accept the decision without further comment," said Shearer.

"If, however, it is proven beyond all doubt that no foul was committed then I would hope that something could be done."

Bangabandhu Cup starts Aug 27

Football's top brass coming to town



Four senior officials of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will be in Dhaka during the second Bangabandhu Gold Cup football tournament, General Secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Harunur Rashid, MP, said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The country's lone international football tournament begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on August 27.

The officials are: AFC vice president and Executive Committee member of the international football federation (FIFA) Mohammad Bin Hamam Al-Abdullah of Qatar, AFC General Secretary Peter Velappan, AFC vice president Manlal Fernando (Sri Lanka), FIFA member Worawi Makudi (Thailand).

Besides, general secretary of Malaysian Football Association Paul Moni and general secretary of South Asian Football Association (SAFA) Ananda Raja will arrive here to witness the matches.

Rashid, who is also member-secretary of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Organising Committee, said that the AFC and FIFA officials have confirmed their arrival during the tournament.

"We have also invited some other Asian and world football dignitaries. But they did not confirm their arrival," he said.

Twelve foreign teams sent their entries to the organising committee and one of them would be dropped to accommodate the Bangladesh team, Rashid said, adding that a decision about that team would be decided later.

The 101-member organising committee headed by Minister for Home, Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Nasir will have its first meeting on August 10.

The first Bangabandhu Gold Cup football tournament was held in 1996.

Basic Cricket Academy starts in September

Sports Reporter
Basic Cricket Academy, a new coaching school for aspiring cricketers will begin operating from the first week of September at the Orient Club ground in Lalbagh.

Former coach of BKSP and present Abahani coach Sarwar Imran, will be director of the academy.

Youngsters interested in joining the academy are requested to contact: Cricket Corner at F/7/2, GM Plaza, New Elephant Road (phone 863913) or the office of Orient Club.



New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle raises his bat on reaching the three-figure mark at Old Trafford on August 7. — AFP photo

Astle alights Old Trafford

England face defeat

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 8: New Zealand, inspired by Nathan Astle, put themselves in a winning position here on Saturday as they left England facing a desperate rear-guard action to save the third Test, reports AFP.

Astle scored 101 and put on 153 with Matthew Bell (83) as New Zealand ended the day on 399 for six, giving them a 200-run lead with two days to play.

England, under acting captain Mark Butcher after Nasser Hussain broke a finger in the second Test, spend the entire day trying to limit the damage as the bat dominated the ball.

The hosts, bowled out for 199 in the first innings, will have to improve radically when they bat again on Sunday if they are not to go 2-1 down with just one Test in the series to play.

New Zealand, starting the day on 128 for two, were indebted to Astle and Bell for setting the tone.

While Bell defended cautiously, Astle, 27, provided the fireworks on a gloomy, overcast day.

He unleashed a string of mid-wicket sixes off spinner's Peter Such and Phil Tufnell and drove impressively on the off side, making the England attack look increasingly toothless.

Astle said: "I struggled during the World Cup — it's just a confidence thing with me. Today I just struck the ball, it's the only way I know to play."

Skipper Stephen Fleming added: "We achieved what we aimed for. We scored at a good clip and it advanced the game for us."

between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford on Saturday.

ENGLAND: First innings 199 (M Ramprakash 69 n.o., D Nash 3-46)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (over night 128-2)
M Horne b Caddick 39
S Fleming lbw b Such 38
N Astle c Such b Caddick 101
R Twose lbw b Such 20
C McMillan not out 58
A Parore c Butcher b Such 10
C Cairn is not out 29
Extras: (b-1, lb-17, nb-3) 21
Total: 6 wickets (131 overs) 399
Fall: 1-46; 2-110; 3-263; 4-280; 5-321; 6-331

To bat: D Vettori, D Nash, C Harris.
Bowling: O M R W
Ca d d i c k 31 9 97 2
H e a d l e y 31 4 115 1
T u f n e l l 32 8 67 0
S u c h 34 11 81 3
H i c k 1 0 8 0
B u t c h e r 2 0 13 0

Umpires: D Shepherd (Eng) and R Tiffin (Zim)



Sisters Prianka and Labonno with former national cricketer Minhajul Abedin Nannu, who visited the girls' Gandaria residence on August 7 as part of the Pepsi-Daily Star 'Nannu at your doorstep' contest. — Star photo



Winners of the Coca-Cola national table tennis championships.