

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-118

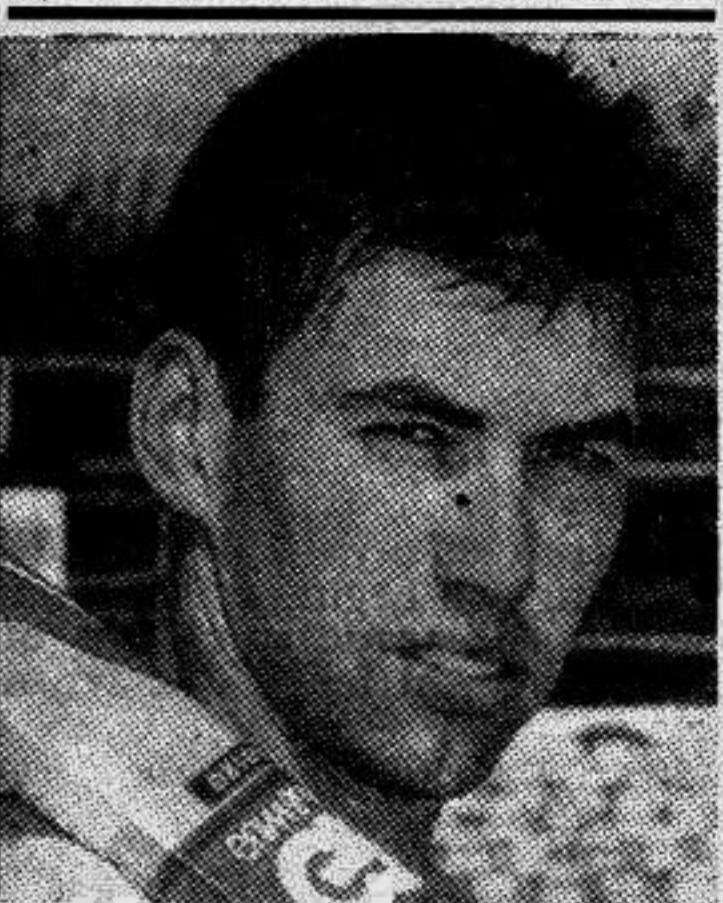
✓ Tick the correct answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Aug 13, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

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

SPORTS TALK



Stephen Fleming

(New Zealand cricket captain)

"History is important to us and we used it for motivation."

After winning the Lord's Test against England.

Junior athletics trial August 14

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation (BAAF) will organise an open trial on August 14 to select athletes for the 8th Asian Junior (U20) Championships to be held in Singapore from September 30.

Bangladesh will take part in the following events:

Boys: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, Long Jump, High Jump, 20km Walk and Pole Vault.

Girls: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and Long Jump.

Interested athletes have been asked to report to Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur at 7:30 on the morning of August 14.

SEA Games football

Thailand thrash Myanmar

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 9: Thailand formalized their entry into the Southeast Asian Games semi-finals in impudent fashion here Sunday sending 10-man Myanmar crashing out of the tournament seven-nil, reports AFP.

Myanmar goalkeeper Myo Hlaing Win had a premonition of a busy night when he let a deep Sipan Tawan cross slip out of his hands and into the roof of the net in the 16th minute of the Group A clash.

Midfielder Boribarn Tananchai scored Thailand's second goal three minutes later when his piledriver from the top of the box went in off a defender's leg.

Win Htaik's petulant exit for a second booking in the last minute of the first half opened the floodgates.

After the break substitute Jatupong Thongskuk netted two and Pituratana Sakesan scored two more before their captain, forward Senamuan Klatuk, rounded out the one-sided match with a fine 89th minute strike.

Thailand, the defending champions, thus qualify on top of their group on goal difference from Vietnam, who also obtained a semi-final berth with a routine 2-0 defeat of winless Philippines.

Thailand will meet the runners-up in Group B while Vietnam will play the winners of that group, from which Singapore and Indonesia have already qualified.



Action from the Premier Division clash between Brothers Union and Rahmatganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Brothers Union humbled in late blitz

Rahmatganj show no mercy

Sports Reporter

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society pushed Brothers Union to the relegation zone when they handed them a crushing 5-1 defeat in the Kaya Premier League return clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In an one-sided affair, which saw the winners coming from behind to lead 2-1 at the breather, Monir, Nayan, Saiful, Milan and Tipu struck one goal each for the old timers, while former national forward Mian netted the lone goal for Brothers Union.

On a wet and slippery field, it was, however, the orange outfit that went 1-0 up in the 25th minute when Mian shot the ball home from a goalmouth muddle.

But BU could sustain the lead for only a minute as Rahmatganj levelled the match through

midfielder Monir who tapped in a Saiful pass from the right side (1-1).

Midfielder Nayan put Rahmatganj in command five minutes before the interval with a brilliant free-kick from the left flank which foiled the Brothers custodian before nestling in the far corner of the net (2-1).

Buoyed by the first half lead, Rahmatganj added three more to their credit in only four minutes in the dying part of the match.

Saiful made a magnificent solo run through the midfield before unleashing a power-packed right-footer to the far corner of the net (3-1) in the 81st minute. Milan, with his sixth goal of the league, made it 4-1 in the next minute. Na-

tional striker Shahazuddin Tipu put another nail in the Gopibagh coffin with a placing shot five minutes before the last whistle.

Yellow Cards: Abdullah and Shuvro

TEAMS

Rahmatganj MPS: Hilmu, Biplob, Biplob Marma (Jamal).

Brothers Union: Milan, Amin Khan, Palash (Sulfian/Zahid), Barun, Ripon, Abdullah, Reaz (Anwar), Mian, Jamal, Asad and Shuvro.

Referee: Tayeb Hasan.

TODAY'S MATCH

Farashganj SC vs Mirpur Chalantika (4 pm)

Balanced yardstick in cricket

UNDATED (Internet report): Is Tendulkar a better batsman than Bradman? Was Garfield Sobers a superior all-rounder in comparison to Ian Botham? Or was Freddie Spofforth a bigger demon than Waqar Younis? The above are questions which confuse young enthusiasts of the game all over the world. Unfortunately, for them (and also for the game of cricket) the yardstick that these youngsters choose as their reference of comparisons is the statistical analysis of these players. By the above, a few do not wish to run down or devalue the importance of statistics in the game of cricket. Indeed the study of facts and figures forms an integral part of the cricketing canvas. Probably, no other sport in the world lays as much stress and importance on statistics as the game of cricket.

The amount of time, research and printed space allotted to statistics by the world of cricket is immense to the extent of being phenomenal. Cricketing records and their implications on performances and merits assume pivotal importance in proper context. The problem begins when an overdose of statistics overwhelms other factors.

For one to write on such a topic is more difficult than most would imagine. After having remained a chronic addict of facts and figures for so long, some may feel that there is a limit to where these numbers can guide us in our cricketing assessments. Can we really call Rashid Khan the best-ever Test batsman produced by Pakistan just because he has an average of 188.00? Can we forget the cavalier style of Maqsood Ahmed who won the title of 'Merry Max' on the merit of his aggressive batting in England but never managed a Test century? Is it just for us to call Zameer Abbas a greater batsman than Hanif Mohammad just because 'Zed' has more Test runs to his credit? Is Kapil Dev a better bowler than Richard Hadlee just because he has overtaken Hadlee in the tally of Test scalps?

All these are questions whose answers can never be found in the record books. Cricket records may well be the numerical analyst's main tool but even then the game is primarily the domain of the artists and idealists. The rhythm which flowed from the bat of Majid Khan in the 1976-77 series against New Zealand; or the sting of Imran's swing against India in 1982-83 and the patience of Hanif's marathon innings against the West Indies in 1957-58; can never be measured quantitatively.

Drawing parallels in any field of life is tricky business but in cricket it becomes all the more hazardous since here we tend to overestimate the value of cricketing records. Let us give due respect to those who create new records but also let us not forget those who created the original records at a time when doing so was a much more difficult and much less profitable exercise.

Grace, the speed of 'fiery' Fred Truman, the bite of West Hall the commanding presence of Bradman, and the mystery of Gary Sobers were for posterity to remember. Their impact can neither be evaluated numerically nor can their performance be reckoned without regard for time calculated.

Drawing parallels in any field of life is tricky business but in cricket it becomes all the more hazardous since here we tend to overestimate the value of cricketing records. Let us give due respect to those who create new records but also let us not forget those who created the original records at a time when doing so was a much more difficult and much less profitable exercise.

"We have been keeping close tabs on him and he is going along nicely but we don't want to rush him back."

"We will be seeing a specialist tomorrow and if he thinks there's any doubt we won't rush him back into the team."

Tudor hit 99 with the bat to help England win the first Test in July.

And even though Scotland

is the 101-member Organising Committee it is likely to chalk out the outline of the tournament, which is scheduled to start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from August 27.

Twelve foreign teams, including one from Brazil and Ghana, have confirmed their participation in the tournament, which will also feature hosts Bangladesh.

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