

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

- 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)



SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis
(World No 1 tennis player)
"It was one of my best matches ever."
After defeating Venus Williams in the final of TIC Classic.

Saber thanks Bacher

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board and Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday profusely praised the recommendations made by chairman of the Development Committee of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Dr Ali Bacher regarding the direct entries of Bangladesh and Kenya to the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Talking to BSS, Saber said that Dr Bacher and the Development Committee have a clear vision regarding the development of the game worldwide. They have made important contributions to the growth of cricket reflecting Jagmohan Dalmiya's globalisation concept.

The BCB president said, during the last World Cup, all three-associate members gave a good account of their abilities and potential and they certainly did not discredit themselves.

Bacher, who is leading a 15-member ICC team to Nairobi to assess the cricketing facilities and infrastructure in Kenya, Monday said as the two countries had full One Day International (ODI) status it made no sense to take them through the qualifying rounds in Canada in 2001.

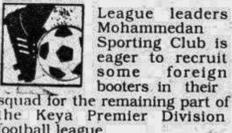
He said, "By according them ODI status in 1997 the ICC recognised this potential. My committee strongly recommends they get automatic entry to the 2003 World Cup. The final decision will be taken at ICC meeting in June next year."

Saber Chowdhury said Bangladesh clearly demonstrated their aspirations to be playing at the highest level of cricket were well founded and Kenya, although they did not win a match during the last World Cup, won many friends.

Chowdhury went on to say: "Both Bangladesh and Kenya deserve direct entry to the 2003 World Cup not just because have they one day status, but more importantly, the level and standard of cricket they currently play and the strength, depth and potential they possess, merits automatic entry.

'Mohammedan do not have dedicated organisers'

Sports Reporter



League leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club is eager to recruit some foreign booters in their squad for the remaining part of the Keya Premier Division football league.

This was revealed by the Club's general secretary Lokman Hossain yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, Lokman said that Mohammedan official and Bangladesh Football Federation member Fazlur Rahman Babul has left the capital for Calcutta on Monday to bring some Indian footballers immediately.

"We are hoping to hire some Indian players before our next match against Abahani on August 14. If our Indian mission fails, we will look towards Uzbekistan" said Lokman.

About the humiliating defeat against Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their last match, Lokman said that any team can have a bad day and the team management can not be held responsible for such a debacle.

"We try to form the best team and if they lose one day, the supporters should not lose their heart," said Lokman.

"Initially we brought two Iraqi booters on the recommendation of our national coach Shamir Shakir. But none could impress our coach Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu. That's why they were sent back. So if some one says that we were not keen to bring foreign players, it's not true," Lokman added.

He said that recruiting foreign players is no easy task.

"Abahani manager Munna had to spend more than four weeks to bring two Ghanaian

booters and you have seen what a bad investment they have been. We had been looking for players in almost all the neighboring countries but they are all now busy with their own leagues. Moreover you need dedicated organisers to go abroad and stay there for a month or so in order to bring quality players. Mohammedan don't have that type of dedicated organisers these days. That's why we were late in sending a scout" Lokman said.

Regarding fund, Lokman said that the club has enough money for their Premier League campaign.

"We don't have any problems with the fund otherwise we could not have had such a strong team. We have the best forward and midfielder in our team. They don't play without money," said Lokman.

Luck smiles for Farashganj

Sports Reporter

An own goal in the first half enabled Farashganj Sporting Club post a solitary goal win over promotes Mirpur Chalandika in their Keya Premier Division return clash played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the lone match of the day, Farashganj got the much expected match winner quite unexpectedly when forward Saiful Islam Moon's cross from the right deflected off the back of Chalandika defender Kaman into the post in the 17th minute of the first half.

The win raised Farashganj tally to 14 points from 11 matches and moved them to second position in the six-team relegation fight. Badda Jagarani are leading the table with 17 points from eleven matches. On the other hand, it was the tenth defeat for relegation threatened Chalandika and keeps them glued at the bottom of the table with only one point.

Today's matches
Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS (3:30 pm)
Muktiyoddha Sangsad vs Abahani (5:30 pm)



Action from the Premier Division league match between Farashganj and Chalandika yesterday. —Star photo

Third Test ends in draw



LONDON, Aug 10 (Internet report): England and New Zealand will go into the final Cornhill Test at The Oval level at 1-1 after the third match of the series ended in a watery draw at Old Trafford.

Alec Stewart was leading England's survival mission with an unbeaten 83 before rain returned to Manchester just after 3:20pm.

And with no further resumption possible, England were left on 181 for two - and New Zealand had seen their chance of back-to-back victories washed away as the match was abandoned.

The crucial final day's play began three hours late, and only 24.4 overs were bowled before drizzle once more stalled the Kiwis' fading hopes of success.

Vitality England did not lose a wicket in the time possible, with Stewart and Graham Thorpe moving England from 118 to two to 181, still 116 in arrears.

Stewart, whose 164 was instrumental in saving England in last year's Old Trafford Test against South Africa, had faced 198 balls and Thorpe 76 for 25mo at the enforced break.

The umpires initially ordered a minimum of 55 overs,

plus 15 in the final hour, but had to bring tea forward to 3:40 because of the spotting rain.

Stewart turned an inswinger from Chris Harris to fine leg for his eighth four to reach his 50 after resuming on 47.

It was his 32nd Test, 50 to add to 12 hundreds and came from 123 balls and in 129 minutes. His 11th hundred was instrumental in saving England against South Africa on the same ground last summer.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming entrusted the bowling duties to slow left-arm Daniel Vettori with Harris, in preference to pace pair Chris Cairns and Dion Nash.

But Stewart struck his second four when Vettori dropped short, and a firm cut sped to the pavilion ropes.

Meanwhile, Graham Thorpe dug himself in and did not get off the mark until his 27th ball. After half-an-hour the Surrey pair were still intact and England 137 for two, with Stewart 60 not out.

The pair began to open up a bit after that, and with 50 minutes played on the day they had taken England to 155 for two, still 142 behind with Stewart not out 74 and Thorpe not out eight.

Inevitably there was a further rain interruption just after 3:20pm, with the score having

moved to 181 for two and no breakthrough in sight for New Zealand.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the third Test between England and New Zealand at Old Trafford on Monday.

ENGLAND: First innings 199 (M Ramprakash 69 not out)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 496-9 declared (C McMillan 107 not out, N Astle 101, M Bell 83; P Such 4-114)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 118-2)

	B	M	R	W
M Butcher lbw b Nash	11	1	54	0
M Atherton c Astle b Vettori	48	83		
A Stewart not out	25			
G Thorpe not out	16			
Extras: (b-9, lb-7)	16			
Total: (for two wickets)	181			
Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-118.				

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Cairns	11	1	54	0
Nash	10	3	26	1
Astle	3	1	7	0
Vettori	26	12	48	1
Harris	18	6	30	0

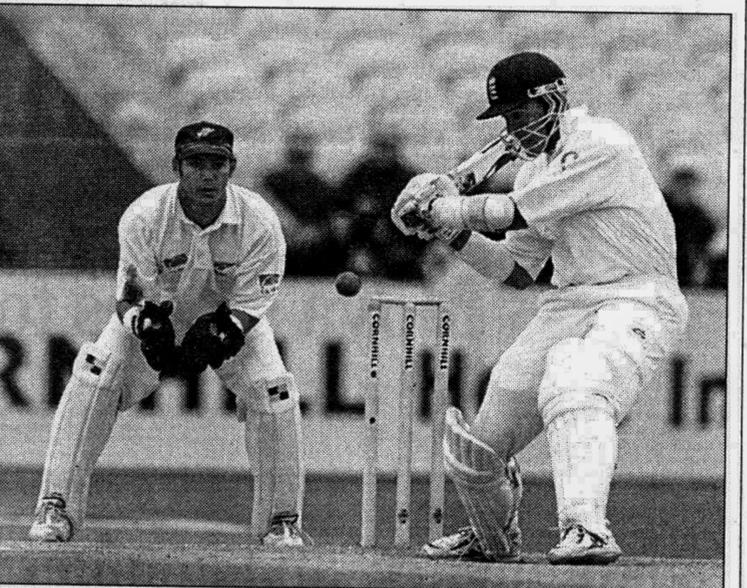
Result: Match drawn

First Test — Birmingham (Edgbaston) — England won by 7 wks

Second Test — London (Lord's) — New Zealand won by 9 wks

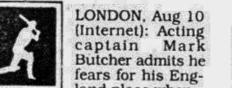
Final Test — August 19-23, London (The Oval).

Four-match series level 1-1.



England's Alec Stewart about to execute a square cut on the last day of the third Test against New Zealand at Old Trafford on August 9. —AFP photo

Butcher anticipates the axe



LONDON, Aug 10 (Internet): Acting captain Mark Butcher admits he fears for his England place when the selectors meet to choose the squad for the deciding Test in the series against New Zealand at the Oval.

The Surrey left-hander could be one of several possible casualties for the final Test in a fortnight as England begin planning their new era under captain Nasser Hussain and incoming coach Duncan Fletcher.

Butcher's cause is not helped by the growing mood for change, which has been highlighted by Fletcher being invited onto the selection panel this week ahead of his October 1 starting date so he can give his input before England's hierarchy sit down to select the winter tour squad to South Africa.

Fletcher's unexpected involvement follows his meeting with a number of high-ranking England officials and captain Nasser Hussain at the team's Manchester hotel on Sunday evening.

Butcher, though, will have little sympathy for himself or any of the other established England players if they are dropped next weekend after disappointing displays in the first three Cornhill Tests this summer.

"The team for next the Test is up to selectors and is beyond my control or anybody else's control," said Butcher, who has scored 229 runs in his last 15 Test innings and failed to reach 50 during the same period.

"There's been a lot of talk about people being under pressure for their places. Well that's the way it is in a professional sport, and always will be - nobody has a divine right to play in any set up, it all depends on success."

"Quite rightly, if players aren't performing, myself included, then you are going to be looking over your shoulder, it's a fact of life."

"It could be me, very reasonably, but I can't spend the next six or seven days worrying about it and letting it get me down and affect me."

concentrate on helping Surrey's attempt to win the championship and NatWest Trophy and try and rediscover his form after a wretched run at international level since scoring a century in the opening Test of the Ashes series in Brisbane last November.

"I've got a couple of big games coming at Surrey, and obviously it would be nice from my point of view to get a few runs," he said. "Things seem to have dried up for me."

"It's been tough. I didn't feel I was at my best for much of the Australian tour and had to really battle hard, but this season I've been in the form of my life."

"I'm just going through one of those trots for England where things just don't seem to be going for me. It's disappointing not to be putting the runs on the board."

While Butcher waits anxiously to hear of his England fate, his brother-in-law and Surrey team-mate Alec Stewart put in one of his most fluent displays since scoring the last of his 12 Test centuries against Australia in Melbourne.

British Chess Championship Zia beat another British GM

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman stunned the English audience at Scar Brough yesterday when he pulled off a sensational victory over England Grand Master J. Gallagher in the Smith and Williamson British Chess Championship.

The win enabled Zia to secure the second position along with three other players at the end of the seventh round of the most attractive meet in England. According to a faxed message received here last night, Zia, whose current rating is 2471, outwitted his more illustrious opponent to improve his points tally to five and a half. GM Gallagher's rating is about 2600.

But it could not be confirmed however who is currently leading the championship.

Zia, having one GM norm already under his belt, is one of the four Bangladesh players taking part in the meet. A talented player Zia is shy of his second norm to become the second GM of the country after Niaz Murshed. It was Zia's second win against a GM in the championship.

When Zia continued his impressive run, his rival in the domestic chess IM Refat-bin Sattar, drew with another British GM Mark Hebden in the seventh round. The draw left Reefat with a collection of four and half points.

Abdullah al Rakib, the youngest IM of the country, also drew with his Indian counterpart Shashikaran in this round to stay at par with Reefat.

Tayabur Rahman, the other Bangladeshi player in the meet, featuring as many as 15 Grand Masters, scored 24 International Masters from across the world, has so far garnered 2.5 points.

SL's kit problems hold up cricket

LONDON, Aug 10 (Internet report): The start of the four-day match between Worcestershire and Sri Lanka A at New Road had to be delayed - because the tourists' luggage had been mislaid.

The Sri Lanka team returned from Denmark yesterday via British Airways, but unfortunately their luggage did not return with them and was due to get to them around lunchtime today.

The start of the match at Worcester therefore had to be put back.

However, the teams and umpires were to make every effort to make up the lost playing time by extending the hours as most appropriate for the remaining days of the game.

The flight from Copenhagen had to return back to Denmark in mid-flight because of an engine problem - with the tourists suffering quite a traumatic 24 hours.

Nat'l women's H'ball Ansars- BJMC final today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) moved into the final of the 13th national women handball championship winning their respective semifinals at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex ground in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Ansars ensured their berth with a comprehensive 27-8 win over Rangpur. The winners led the first half 15-2.

Jahan Ara struck the highest 12 goals while Hashi added five to the winners' account.

BJMC won the other semifinal against Dhaka 21-7. BJMC's Kakali topscored with eight goals followed by Erina with seven.

Raja to coach Pakistan?



KARACHI, Aug 10 (Internet report): The ad hoc committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) appears to have shelved idea of appointing foreign coach finally, news reports here say.

Former Test cricketer Wasim Hasan Raja is set to take over as coach of the Pakistan team, after a decision by the ad hoc committee to defer the appointment of a foreign coach, reports The News.

Mujeeb Rehman, chairman of the ad hoc committee, on Monday confirmed that for the moment the idea of appointing a foreign coach had been shelved. He also made it clear that the Board had also decided to defer the decision of offering a fresh contract to South African Richard Pybus, who served the team as assistant coach during the World Cup.

The reason for this he explained candidly was that the committee had been unable to find a foreign coach according to their budget. About Pybus, he elaborated, the idea was to first

appoint some one as coach and then after consultations with him, manager Yawar Saeed and captain, then decided about whether Pybus should be offered a fresh contract as trainer.

Mujeeb stated the ad hoc committee did not want to impose its decisions on the senior team management. Defending this sudden change in tactics, the chairman pointed out that Pakistani coaches were equally competent and he himself wanted to first see what was the difference between the skills of an outsider and a local coach.

Mujeeb argued that the committee would maintain a close watch on the performance of the local coach and it had time until the Australian tour from November to consider other options if necessary.

Though he did not mention Wasim Raja's name, yet The News reported with certainty that the ad hoc committee would be naming him as senior coach in next few days.

Wasim Raja, a free flowing and exciting all-rounder of 70s and 80s, is based in England,

working there in a high profile teaching position and also maintaining his links with the game by attending various coaching courses organised by MCC and other bodies. His younger brother Rameez Raja has already been appointed on the national selection committee.

This correspondent has learnt that the ad hoc committee also considered bringing back Javed Miandad as coach, but during meetings with the players, Mujeeb did not get a positive feedback about him or Mushtaq Muhammad, who coached the side in the World Cup.

When asked about the captaincy on this would also be taken once the national camp starts in Lahore. But with Wasim Raja now set to take over as coach, the chances of Moin Khan taking over as captain if Wasim Akram is not available will dim considerably, whereas, the prospects of Aamer Sohail staging a comeback as captain increase.

Randell found guilty



HOBART, Australia, Aug 10 (AFP): International cricket umpire Steve Randell was Tuesday found guilty

on 15 of 17 charges of indecent assault against young girls.

He was found guilty on one charge while the jury of nine men and three women, who deliberated for six hours, failed to reach a verdict on one other charge.

As the findings were read five women in court clapped while one raised her finger in dismissal before Randell, who remained expressionless, was taken to the cells.

The women were among those who gave evidence in the

week-long trial against Australia's most experienced Test umpire in the Tasmanian Supreme Court.

Randell, 43, had pleaded not guilty to 17 charges of indecent assault against girls aged between 10 and 12 while he was teaching in a Catholic school in Burnie, northwest Tasmania, in 1981 and 1982.

Justice Peter Underwood remanded him in custody until a sentencing hearing on Friday.

Randell's wife Angela, a former Miss Tasmania, also retained her composure in court, but later was close to breaking down.

The five women, who had earlier told the court how he had fondled them at school or

in their bedrooms, were emotional after the verdict.

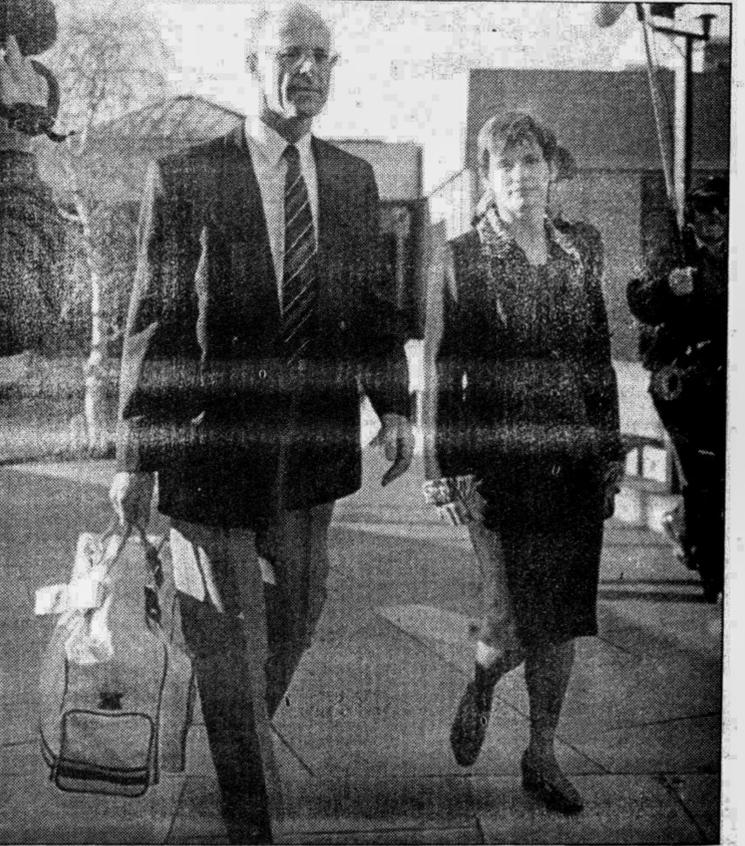
"It was very tough on us, our friends and family," one of them said.

Another said she hoped the result would give women everywhere the courage to stand up against such behaviour.

They then waited around the lower vehicular entrance to the court so they could cheer Randell on his way to prison.

Of the 15 guilty verdicts, 10 were unanimous and five were majority decisions of at least 10 jurors.

Randell, who has two children, stood down from umpiring and was suspended on full pay from teaching after he was first charged in May last year.



Australian cricket umpire Steve Randell (L) arriving at a Hobart court with wife Angela yesterday. Randell was found guilty on 15 charges of indecent assault against minor girls. —AFP photo