

Column One
SPORTS TALK



Rivaldo
(Barcelona's Brazilian superstar)
"Manchester is a great team, but I'm happy at Barca. I would only leave Barcelona if I had personal problems here."
Replying to the 46 million dollars offer from the Manchester United.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-119
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Aug 27, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who are the current FA Cup champions?
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?
Whitmore Yardley Fernandez
- Who won the Confederations' Cup title?
Brazil Mexico USA
- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?
Miahazul Akram Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?
Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



WHIZZ KID-117
winner



Samara Hamid
(Bangladesh Int'l Tutorial, Gulshan Avenue)

WHIZZ KIB-118
Boost winner

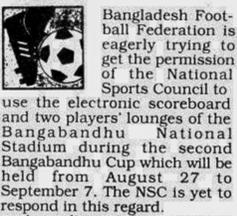
Nazi-ur Rahman
Dhanmondi International School

(Please bring your ID card and a passport size attested photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star at 7pm on August 18)

WHIZZ KID-118
correct answers

- Who is the new England cricket coach?
Ans: Fletcher
- Brazilian footballer Rivaldo plays for
Ans: Barcelona
- Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?
Ans: Ayala
- How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?
Ans: 22
- Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?
Ans: Agassi

Harun discusses finer details BFF waiting for NSC response



Bangladesh Football Federation is eagerly trying to get the permission of the National Sports Council to use the electronic scoreboard and two players' lounges of the Bangladesh National Stadium during the second Bangladesh Cup which will be held from August 27 to September 7. The NSC is yet to respond in this regard.

According to BFF general secretary Harun ur Rashid MP, the electronic scoreboard will be added extra colour to the tournament while the players' lounges, specially made for cricket, will be used for the participating teams.

Talking to a group of reporters at his office yesterday, Harun said that they had been trying for last couple of days to get permission from the NSC but to no avail.

Harun also revealed that the foreign teams will start arriving in the capital from August 24.

"The Rio de Janeiro Federation team is like to arrive on 24th while the other teams will come within the next two days," said Harun. The Eleven foreign teams are --Brazil, Hun-

Sports Reporter

BCB confirms WI tour itinerary

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday officially confirmed that the West Indies cricket team will arrive in the city on October 1 on a ten-day tour.

During the tour, West Indies will play a three day match and two limited overs matches against Bangladesh at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The three-day match will be held on October 4, 5 and 6 while the day-night ODIs will be played on October 8 and 9.

The Carribeans will leave Dhaka for Sharjah on October 10.

Harun also informed that the BFF was planning to arrange colourful opening and closing ceremonies with the help of performers from Bharateshwari Homes, BDR and Ansars provided the weathers remains friendly.

Harun also disclosed that Bangladesh Television is likely to telecast all the matches live.

It has been instructed by the State Minister for Information Professor Abu Saeed during the organising committee meeting last week," said Harun.

About the tickets, Harun told that the tickets will be sold by the City Bank.

gary, Ghana, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Kuwait, Indonesia and Uzbekistan. Hosts Bangladesh will be the other team in the 12-team tourney.

The first round will be held in four groups with three teams in each group. Four group winners will qualify for the semi-finals. The winners of the cup will receive Taka three lakhs while the runners up will be richer by Taka two lakh.

Harun also said that five AFC selected referees along with Bangladeshi FIFA referees will conduct the matches.

Answering to a query about a news that few matches may be held in Chittagong, Harun said that the organising committee never discussed on the issue and more over it would not be possible because of the paucity of time.

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Premier League Both matches drawn

Sports Reporter

Draw was the order of the day as both the Premier Division Football League relegation clashes ended in dull ties at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the first match, Badda Jagarani Sangsad shared points with Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society with a 2-2 draw.

Ace striker Khokon and substitute Uzzal scored one goal each for Badda while Shahajuddin Tipu and Nigerian Onyeka struck for Rahmatganj.

For Khokon, the leading marksman in the league, it was his ninth goal so far.

With the draw, Badda raised their tally to 18 points from 12 matches while Rahmatganj increased their account to 13 points on completion of their 12th outing.

The next match, Brothers Union and Farashganj Sporting Club played out a 1-1.

Kanchan put Farshganj ahead heading home an Azim cross from the right in the 18th minute while former national striker Mizan headed the equaliser from a Zahid cross in the 53rd minute.

Brothers now have 12 points while Farshganj raised their tally to 15 points, both teams having played 12 matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Arambagh KS (3:30 pm)
Abahani KC vs Mohammedan SC (5:30 pm)

First GM norm for Zia

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman earned his first Grand Master's norm on Thursday, according to a telephone message received from England yesterday.

Zia, one of the four Bangladeshis now participating in the Smith and Williamson British Chess Championship in Scarborough, defeated a Grand Master in the 10th round on Thursday to raise his tally to seven and a half points thus earning the dream GM norm.

Details of Zia's game however could not be collected.



ZIAUR RAHMAN

Erratum: In our August 11 issue of The Daily Star Sport, it was mentioned that Zia had already earned a GM norm which was not correct.

'Super-Four' last round in Mirpur?

Sports Reporter

The last round of the three-round 'super-four' of the ongoing Keya Premier Division Football League might be shifted to the Sher-E-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for preparations of the Bangladesh National Stadium for the second Bangladesh Cup, to be held from August 27.

According to Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harun ur Rashid MP yesterday, the federation has already sent a letter to Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) to arrange the third round matches in Mirpur so that the federation gets enough time to prepare the ground for the 12-team international tournament.

Talking to The Daily Star, Harun said that the organising committee of Bangladesh Cup has also called the captains of four 'super-four' teams to discuss the issue.

According to an agreement made prior to the start of the season between the Premier Division clubs and the DMFLC, all the matches were supposed to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. But the BFF general secretary said yesterday that for the greater interest of the nation, the four clubs should agree to play their last three matches in Mirpur.

The league is scheduled to conclude on August 23, four days before the Bangladesh Cup kicks off.



An AFP archive photo of German tennis icon Steffi Graf holding the Suzanne Lenglen Trophy after defeating Martina Hingis at Roland Garros this year.

'Queen of tennis' quits

BONN, Aug 13: Tired of fighting a series of injuries and with all her dreams fulfilled, Steffi Graf retired today secure in the knowledge she had been the greatest woman's tennis player of her generation, reports Reuters.

Still only 30, the pony-tailed blonde was only 13 when she became the youngest woman to receive a WTA ranking in 1982.

Her big breakthrough came in 1987, when she took her first Grand Slam event by winning the French Open. The following year she claimed all four major tournaments plus the initial Olympic title.

Ever since, the reserved German has remained in the limelight, taking at total 22 Grand Slam titles and staying in top spot for a record 377 weeks.

A chronic back injury caused by bone spurs in her back and recurrent knee problems started taking their toll in 1997. She was out for 3-1/2 months in that year.

She struggled for the best part of the following year too and on June 8, 1998 having played only two tournaments in 12 months, she dropped out of the ranking for the first time since 1983.

There were fears then already that she might never play again as minor injuries kept delaying or interrupting her comeback attempts.

But she still had plenty to offer, as she demonstrated by teaching young Martina Hingis a lesson to win her sixth French Open crown last June.

Then came Wimbledon, where she reached the final before losing to Lindsay Davenport.

She told her fans in Paris and London that she would not be back and the end was near.

Last month in Mahwah, New Jersey, Graf told reporters she would retire from the circuit at the end of the year.

"You always want to go out of a sport when you are on top," she said. "It's a remarkable situation."

Earlier this month she had to pull out of a tennis tournament in California because of strained left hamstring.

The latest of a series of injuries was just one too many. That was it, she decided. On Friday she told a news conference in her home town of Heidelberg that she was retiring immediately.

Life has often been tough on Graf, who was dismayed when a deranged fan stabbed her main rival Monica Seles in 1993, aiming to sideline her so that the German could recapture the number one spot.

Uneasy with the celebrity status conferred on her by the German media, she made unwanted headlines again in 1995

when her father, Peter, was sent to jail over tax evasion charges.

A born athlete, Graf outclassed the opposition with her powerful single-handed forehand and one of the best serves in women's tennis, not to mention her speed and great vision.

The perfect grass-court player, her finest moments came at Wimbledon, where she reached nine finals and won seven titles over 15 years but she could cause damage on any surface.

Her retirement confirms an era is ending for German tennis after the country's other hero, Boris Becker, played for the last time at Wimbledon this year.

Graf said she now planned to coach three young players, Julia Biffar, Mia Buric and Carollien Raba.

"Tennis will always be a big part of my life," she promised.

GRAND TOTAL
Born: June 14, 1969.
Birthplace: Bruehl, Germany.
Lives: Heidelberg, Germany; Boca Raton, Florida.

Right-handed
Total titles: 107
Grand Slam titles: 22
Australian Open: 1988, 1989, 1990, 1994.
French Open: 1987, 1988, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999.
Wimbledon: 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996.
US Open: 1988, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1996.

Randell goes to jail

HOBART, Australia, Aug 13: Australian Test cricket umpire Steve Randell was jailed for four years by the Supreme Court here Friday for 15 sexual assault charges against young girls, reports AFP.

The 43-year-old school teacher, was convicted by a jury on Tuesday of molesting and fondling nine primary school girls aged 10 to 12 while he taught at a school in the Tasmanian town of Burnie between 1981 and 1982.

Five of the girls, now in their late 20s, applauded and another raised her finger in a mock umpire's dismissal as Randell was led away to the police cells at the end of Tuesday's hearing.

The 12-member jury found Randell had ingratiated himself with parents to gain their confidence and trust before he indecently assaulted the girls in class and at their homes.

Some told the trial that he had forced them to masturbate in their bedrooms.

Randell, a father of two who is married to a former Miss Tasmania, had pleaded not guilty to 17 charges.

Passing sent ence, judge Peter Underwood told the court that Randell's brazen actions indicated he had felt free to treat the girls as his sexual playthings.

He said Randell was guilty of serious paedophilia and not isolated, impulsive acts and the court had a clear duty to send a message to the community that it would protect children.

Randell had seriously breached the confidence and trust of the girls and their parents and the offences warranted condemnation and punishment, the judge said.

Randell, who was Australia's top inter national umpire with a record of 36 Tests behind him, stood down from umpiring and was suspended on full pay from teaching after he was first

charged in May last year.

His counsel Peter Barker told the court that his client had already been severely punished.

Randell would never get back his 70,000 dollars (45,500 US) Australian Cricket Board contract nor be able to teach again.

Barker said he would never be rehabilitated in the eyes of the public and for the rest of his life would be vilified, shunned and ostracised.

He said the charges had also had a tragic impact on his wife Angela, with whom he taught at a Hobart primary school, his six-year-old daughter Lauren and four-year-old son Paul, who has autism.

Randell showed no emotion as the sentence was handed down.

Randell will serve his sentence in Risdon Prison in his home state of Tasmania.

Indecent assault carries a maximum penalty in Tasmania of 21 years in jail.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league match between Rahmatganj and Mirpur Chalanika at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

Zimbabwe to tour WI next year

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Aug 13: The West Indies will play a cricket series against Zimbabwe in the Caribbean next year, the first meeting between the teams since Zimbabwe gained full Test status in 1992, reports AP.

Zimbabwe will take the place of New Zealand for the first leg of the West Indies international season for 2000.

West Indies Cricket Board chief executive Stephen Camacho confirmed Thursday from his office in St John's, Antigua.

Zimbabwe are scheduled for two Tests before participating in a three-way series of one-day international with the West Indies and Pakistan, who will stay on for three Tests.

"New Zealand had originally been slated to come, but it turned out that there was a clash of dates with Australia's tour there," Camacho said. "We have been unable to finalise the details of the itineraries for

Zimbabwe and Pakistan, as we are still negotiating with Pakistan."

Mohammedan's Ujbek booters in city

Sports Reporter

Two Uzbek footballers arrived in the city yesterday to play for title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club in the remaining matches of the Keya Premier Division Football League.

The Uzbek duo-- Malchevsky Andre (30) and Eai Robert (34)--are likely to make their Dhaka debut this evening when Mohammedan take on arch rivals Abahani in their second "super-four" clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Andre, a midfielder, and Robert, who is a striker, joined Mohammedan's practice yesterday afternoon.

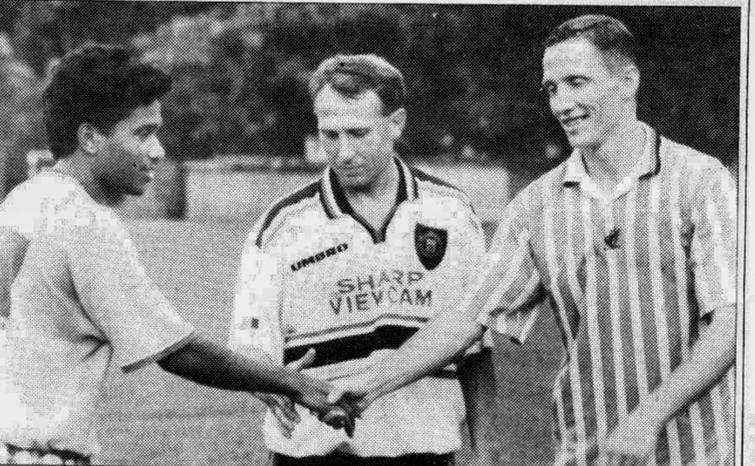
The tours are expected to be from early March to late May. Camacho said developments in Pakistan, where the cricket board has been suspended and replaced by an ad hoc committee, had complicated matters.

"We expect Pakistan to come as scheduled, but it is just a matter of reaching agreement on the itinerary," he said.

Zimbabwe have played against all the other Test team except Australia and the West Indies since the elevation to full Test status by the International Cricket Council seven years ago.

Australia tour there in October for a one-off Test and three internationals.

Zimbabwe have won only three of their 34 Tests against 15 defeats, but they beat India in a one-off Test in Harare last October and followed with a 1-0 series triumph over Pakistan in November.



Mohammedan captain Alfaz Ahmed (L) welcomes his Uzbek teammates Malchevsky Andre (R) and Eai Robert during practice at the Dhaka University ground yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman



An AFP file photo showing disgraced Australian Test umpire Steve Randell (L) arriving at Hobart Magistrates Court with his solicitor John Lewinski.