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Column One

SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis
(World No 1 tennis player)
"I like being the star. Who
wouldn't? I have nothing to be
shy about. I'm not that bad
looking."

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

1 Who are the current FA Cup
champions?

Man United | Arsenal | Liverpool

2 Who is Sri Lanka's cricket
coach?

Whatmore | Yardley | Fernandez

3 Who won the Confederations' Cup title?

Brazil | Mexico | USA

4 Who is the Bangladesh
cricket captain?

Mirzaul | Akram | Aminul

5 Which stadium will host the
final of 2002 World Cup?

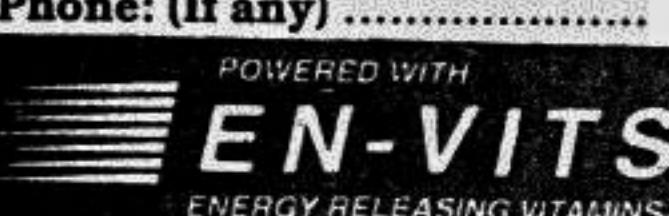
Yokohama | Suzuki | Nagoya

Name
.....

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Asia Cup hockey

Nine confirm participation

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Nine teams have confirmed they will participate in the 5th Men's Asia Cup field hockey tournament to be hosted by Pakistan from November 18 to 28, officials said Tuesday.

The tournament has been allotted to Pakistan by the Asian Hockey Federation, secretary of the Pakistani Hockey Federation, Mudassar Asghar, told the APP news agency.

The confirmations have come from Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Sri Lanka, in addition to the host nation.

Pakistan ready to play with India

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18 (Internet report): Pakistan has declared that it was ready to play the annual one-day cricket series with India in Toronto after its government gave a go-ahead to its cricket board (PCB).

Announcing this, the PCB ad hoc committee chairman, Majeedur Rehman, said the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) had been informed of the decision and urged the Indian authorities to decide about their participation "immediately" as there was little time left for the event normally held in the fall.

"We have already made it clear to the BCCI that we are ready to play and it is up to them to decide," Rehman told the English daily The News.

The annual series scheduled from September 12 was cancelled by sponsors Sahara India after several top Indian cricketers led by Kapil Dev demanded that India snap all cricketing ties with Pakistan for its intrusion in Kargil.

The BCCI working committee, which met in Calcutta on August 3 left the final decision to the government, which is yet to make its decision known.

Rehman said the Pakistan Foreign Ministry had already given the go-ahead. "We are sticking to our stance of playing against India or any other country in any part of the world."

Teams arrive from August 25

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation have fixed the rates of different tickets for the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup, billed for an August 27 start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Hospitality boxes, air-conditioned with 12 seats and non-AC with 10 seats, will be sold at Taka 50,000 and 30,000 for all the 15 matches. Besides, there are five types of season tickets including one for the players.

Season Tickets

VIP (Gate No 3) - Taka 1,000
VIP (Gate No 2) - Taka 700
International gallery (Gate 10 and 11) - Taka 600
Players gallery (Gate No 20) - Taka 300
Ladies gallery (Gate No 21) - Taka 300

Group matches

Daily (Western gallery) - Taka 25
Daily (Eastern gallery) - Taka 15

Semifinals/Final

Daily (Western gallery) - Taka 30
Daily (Eastern gallery) - Taka 20

Bangladesh Television will

telecast all the matches live while Bangabandhu Betar will provide ball-to-ball commentary of all the matches.

The BFF will open from August 20 a media centre on the

second floor of Bangabandhu National Stadium, which will include all the modern media facilities.

Meanwhile, the list of the Ghanaian Olympic team reached the BFF office yesterday. The 25-member team which includes seven officials.

Officials: Oheneba Charles, Oti Akenteng, Baba Adams, Charles Boatway, Julius Onyameama, Alex Asante and Worlanyo Agra.

will arrive in the city on August 25. Ghana apart, the Japanese combined J-League team, Indonesian national team, Nepalese national team, Thai Olympic team and Korean under-18 team will also arrive in the city on August 25.

The remaining five foreign teams - Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation team from Brazil, Kuwait national team, Kerolet Football Club from Hungary, Malaysian Olympic team and a combined team from Uzbekistan will reach the capital on the following day.

Ghana Olympic team:

Players: Osei Boateng, Yaw

Berko, Felix Yeoaili, Alex Djani, Eric Nii Armah, Hamza Mohammed, Eku Johnson, Razak Abdul, Joe Sam, Boateng Dennis, Baba Adams, Lawrence Aldoo, Ali Maous, Kwasi Kyere, Samuel Abiek, Adu Minta, Asfi Kwame and Atta Kofo.

AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME: Central defender Kingshuk (C) shows his attacking prowess by heading Abahani in front during their Premier League Super Four clash against Arambagh yesterday.

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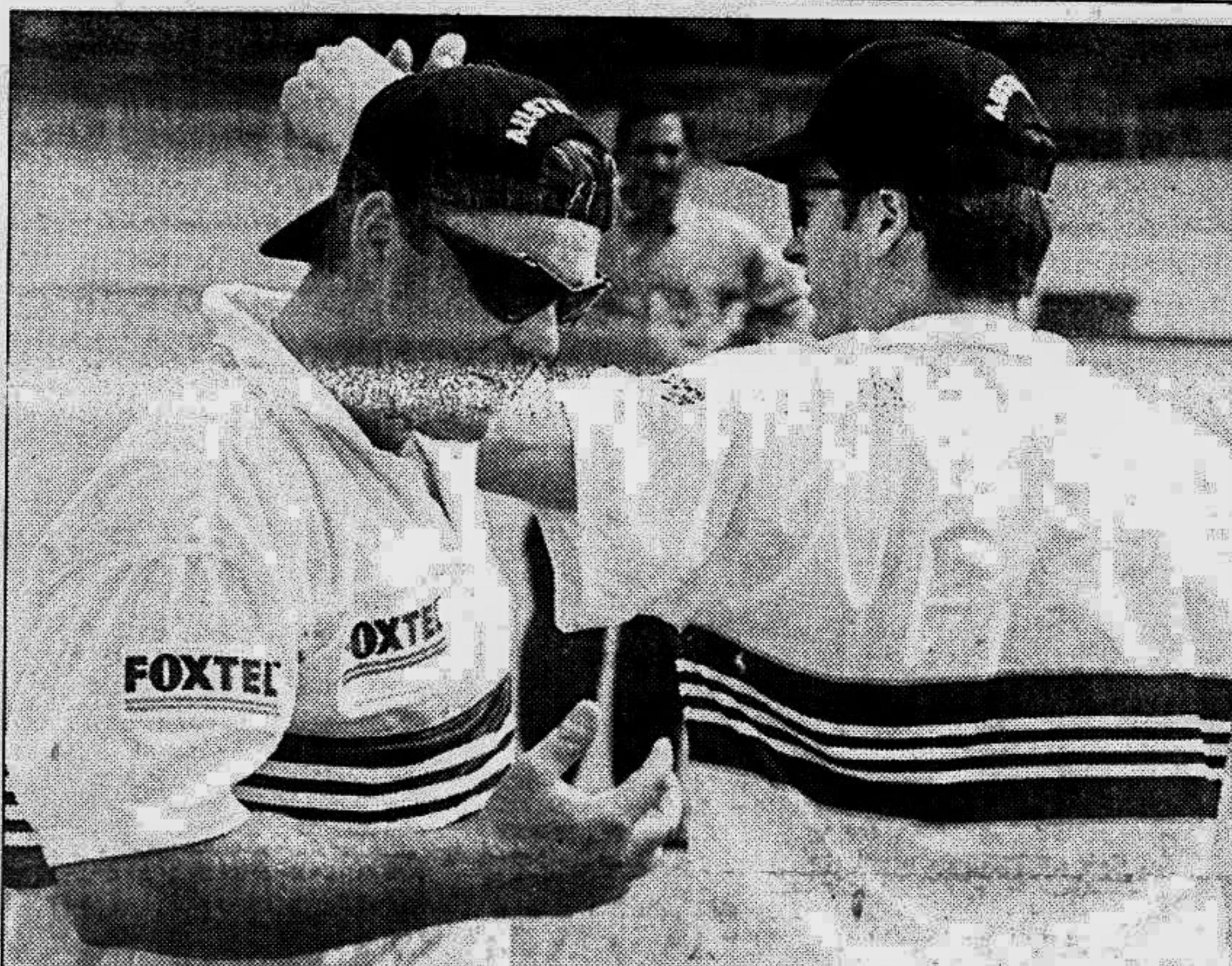
RANGS GROUP

DHAKA THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com



AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME: Central defender Kingshuk (C) shows his attacking prowess by heading Abahani in front during their Premier League Super Four clash against Arambagh yesterday.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman



— AFP photo

Waugh & Co in Colombo

SL want glory days back



COLOMBO, Aug 18 (AP): Australian and Indian cricketers will find a new-look Sri Lankan team when they arrive here for a tournament this week: no flashy cars, no cell phones, no late nights, no jokes, and a no-nonsense approach to the game.

The first one-day tournament since this year's World Cup begins Sunday, and Sri Lankan cricket officials are determined to strip away the team's glamour and return to the strict, skill play.

It is cricket which makes our nation proud and got us international fame, and my task is to see that the team gets the past glory back," said Rienzie Wijetilleke, the chairman of the newly constituted cricket board.

"What we feel is that our players have all the cricket techniques, they just have to be more disciplined and get their confidence back," said Chandra Schaffter, the newly appointed manager of the cricket team.

"I am telling them that nothing can substitute discipline. If they want to be champions again they will have to achieve it the hard way," said Schaffter.

So strict is the discipline that when former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga went to Canada to take part in a charity match without the written approval of the Board, he was suspended.

When his former deputy Aravinda de Silva had a confrontation with a cameraman trying to film him while he was using his cell phone, the Board reprimanded him.

Meanwhile, antiterrorist commandos threw a security ring around the Australian cricket team which arrived Tuesday, says another report.

Cricket officials greeted the Australians at the interna-

tional airport. Policemen guarded the 30-kilometre (20 mile) route from the airport to Taj Samudra hotel where the team will be staying.

Tamil Tiger separatists have often attacked the Sri Lankan capital, but they have never targeted the visiting cricketers.

The Australians are likely to practice Wednesday in preparation for their first match against host Sri Lanka on Sunday at Galle, a port city 110 kilometres (65 miles) south of Colombo.

The state-run media praised the Australians, particularly skipper Steve Waugh, for their professionalism. "He (Waugh) is ruthless and nothing is ever given away by him on the cricket field. He loves to wear the opposition down and pile on the agony," The Daily News said Tuesday.

After the one-day series that will also feature India, the Australians will play three Tests against Sri Lanka.

Security officials say the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have suffered several reverses on the battlefield recently and may do something to dramatise their 16-year-old insurgency.

The LTTE says Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka are discriminated by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and military. The government denies the charge.

Now, coaches are keen to get the players' minds back on the

sport — not its perks.

Players have been told to keep their flashy cars at home, not to use their cell phones at practice, not to tell jokes during practice, and to go to bed early.

To improve physical fitness, some players have been advised to cut down on rice, a staple food in this nation of 18.5 million people. The players are trying bread instead.

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Summer fiesta for shuttlers

Sports Reporter

The Summer Open Badminton Tournament '99 will be held at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium from August 20 under the auspices of Bangladesh Badminton Federation (BBF).

The six-day tournament will be restricted to four events — singles and doubles for both men and women.

A press conference in this regard was held at the NSC conference room yesterday afternoon with BBF president Kubatuddin Ahmed in the chair. BBF general secretary Zahir Ahmed and joint-secretary Marium Tareque were also present on the occasion.

The tournament will be sponsored by Sadat Smriti Sadan, a Maghbazar-based charity organisation.

Quader sees SAF training

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader visited Bangladesh Shooting Complex, Boxing and Table Tennis Complex yesterday to see the practice of Bangladeshi teams for taking part in the upcoming SAF Games in Kathmandu, reports BSS.

The 8th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, the largest sports festival of South Asia, will begin from September 25 this year in the Nepalese capital.

Bangladesh will take part in all the 12 events — athletics, boxing, football, kabaddi, karate, swimming, shooting, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling, weight lifting and taekwondo.

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Headers head Abahani high

Sports Reporter

Two second-half goals guided title-aspirants Abahani to a 2-0 win over Arambagh Kira Sangha in their second 'super four' Keya Premier Division Football League clash at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Defender Kingshuk and Indian forward Sabir Pasha scored for the popular Dharmodi outfit, who struggled for a breakthrough during the entire first session against a spirited Arambagh ensemble.

Abahani, without the service of midfielder Iqbal who was serving a two-match ban on disciplinary grounds, had to make a change in their formation. Bringing defender Partha to the midfield did not work as the sky-blues failed to create any panic in the Arambagh defence in the first session.

The tournament will be sponsored by Sadat Smriti Sadan, a Maghbazar-based charity organisation.

Brought Partha back into the defence and placed substitute Shahidul Alam Ranjan in the attack. The decision proved worthy as Abahani went all out against Arambagh from the very beginning of the second half.

The much-expected lead for Abahani came in the 52nd minute when defender Kingshuk headed home an Arman cross from the right side with an acrobatic jump.

Sabir Pasha then sealed Arambagh's fate two minutes later with another header after being fed by Ghanaian striker Opuju from the right side.

take action against what they termed "a fixed match between Mohammedan and Arambagh" and lift the two-match suspension on their midfielder Iqbal.

However, being assured by the DMFLC late Tuesday night that they would investigate the matter through an inquiry