SPORTS TALK

Patrick Rafter

(Australia's No 1 tennis "I never feel comfortable on grass, I never have and I never

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-119

Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

1	who are the current FA Cup champions?		
	Man United	Arsenal	L'pool
2	Who is Srf Lanka's cricket coach?		
	Whatmore	Yardley	Fernandez
3	Who won the Confedera- tions' Cup title?		
	Brazil	Mexico	USA
4	Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?		

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

Name

Sports Reporter

residential camp for the 2nd

Bangabandhu Cup and the 8th

SAF Games will start at the

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pro-

tishthan (BKSP) tomorrow un-

der the supervision of Iraqi

been called from which 18 will

be named for the Bangabandhu

eration official said that Muk

tijoddha defender Masood Rana

may be called to the camp later.

be held from August 27 to

September 7, while the SAF

Games will begin in Kathmandu

Placed in Group A along with

Kerolet Football Club of Hun-

gary and Malaysian Olympic

team, Bangladesh will take on

Malaysia in their opening

Bangabandhu Cup match on

August 31. The game against

SAF Games tournament , how-

ation secretary-general Zafar

Imam said yesterday, the SAF

draw will be held on August 31.

Sponsor scare

for England

glish cricket was dealt another

blow on Thursday when spon-

sors Cornhill Insurance hinted

they may end backing of Eng-

land because of the national

English Test match cricket for

22 years but are concerned

about "long-term poor perfor-

before England met New

Zealand in the final Test at The

Oval where Nasser Hussain's

men bid to restore pride after a

spokesman Geoff Meyhew told

BBC radio: "We are concerned

about the long-term perfor-

mances of England because it

impacts upon audiences and

that's effectively what we're

Cornhill Insurance

disappointing summer.

The news came only hours

The company has sponsored

team's poor performances.

mances."

LONDON, Aug 19 (AFP): En-

The draw for the six-nation

Bangladesh Olympic Associ-

Hungary is on September 3.

ever, is yet to be held.

A Bangladesh Football Fed-

The Bangabandhu Cup will

Thirty-one players have

coach Samir Sakir.

from September 25.

Hasan al Mamun, Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, Saiful Bari Tutu, Rezaul Karim Liton, Aminul Class Roll No. Haq (goalkeeper), Mamun Joarder, Biplob (goalkeeper), Arif Khan Joy, Mahabubur School Address Rahman Roxy, Alieu Rahman, Walid Khan, Bakhtiar, Ja-.............. hangir Alam (manager) and Phone: (If any)

Shafiqul Haq Manik (coach). Our Calcutta correspondent

Column One AFC appoints referees

Sports Reporter

The Asian Football Confederation has appointed six referees to officiate matches of the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup, to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from August 27 to September 7:

According to BFF yesterday, MG Suvarna of India will act as the referee-inspector of the 12 team tournament.

Three FIFA referees--Jerry Andres of Philippines, Hasan Abdullah Salmeen of Oman and Balu Sandaraj of India--will conduct matches, while two assistant FIFA referees--Ali Ahmed Ali of Oman and Kurian Shaji of India--will act as linesmen.

Tournament committee secretary and BFF joint-secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu said yesterday, local referees will also be appointed to conduct matches.

Teams from twelve countries--Brazil, Hungary, Kuwait, Indonesia, Malaysia, Ghana, Japan, South Korea, Nepal, Thailand, Uzbekistan and host

Defending league

tijoddha Sangsad

Krira Chakra will

enrol national

and Abahani cus

todian Aminul to strengthen

their line-up for their Asian

Club Cup Championship match

against Mohun Bagan of India.

leave the capital today for Cal-

cutta, where they will take on

the Indian giants at the Salt

dha team, led by Bangladesh

captain Jewel Rana, also in-

cludes their Nigerian midfielder

joddha team are: Jewel Rana

(captain), Masud Rana, Masud

Rana, Rajani Kanth Barman,

The members of the Mukti-

Alieu Rahman. io vitilitationi

Lake Stadium on Saturday.

The all-reds are scheduled to

The 18-member Muktijod-

champions Muk-

Bangladesh--will take part in the 12-day long tournament. Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will cover all gust 31.

the matches live from the

Bangabandhu National Sta-

Meanwhile, the Thailand Football Association sent the list of their national Olympic team yesterday. Pencilled in group B for the first round along with Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation team and South Korea

Asian Club Cup Championship

Muktijoddha favourites

against Mohun Bagan

Sports Reporter

With only two days left for

their first meeting with Mukti-

joddha of Bangladesh, the home

team Mohun Bagan are prepar-

ing full steam for the game,

which will be played at the Yuba

Coach Sayeed Nayeemud-

Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake).

din's main worry is the incon-

sistency shown by the players

of his team. Mohun Bagan are still dependent on that old war-

horse Cheema Okorie, Even

though the Nigerian is close to

35, he still has to shoulder the

responsibility of scoring goals

and building up attacks. The problem for Mohun Bagan.

however, is their deep defence.

Dipendu Biswas has been hope-

lessly out of touch. Sammy

Omolo, the Kenyan defender is

nowhere near the form that he

displayed a year ago. Nayeem's

obsession with Hussain Mustafi

has also led to a number of

goals being conceded. There can

be no doubt that Mohun Bagan

are a bit worried about Mukti-

Nayeem said today, "My great-

est disadvantage is that I have

Talking at the club premises,

joddha.

sent this report yesterday:

under-18, Thailand will play their first match on August 28 against the Korean Youth team.
The match against Rio de
Janeiro SF will be held on Au-

Thailand team:

Players: Watcharapong Kla-han, Narat Muninnopmas, Pre-ratat Phoruandee, Udom Jok Rop, Niweat Siriwong,
Jakkapong Hansuwan,
Teerasak Po-On, Nirut
Surasiang, Bamrung Boonprom, Pongsak Khongkeaw, Minat Noyvach, Issawa Singtong, Itsaret Pala, Apichet Puttan, Sutee Suksomkit, Thewet Junhom, Kitsana Wongbuddee, Wirat Sanae-Ha, Khwanchai Phundarakah and Khwanchai Phungprakob and Rangsan Vivatchaichok.

Officials: Worawi Makudi leader). Suntron Meesuwan (manager), Ong-Arj Kosinakat (assistant manager), Peter White (head coach). Prapol Pongpanich (coach) Boonlert Aeocharoen (coach) and Monthon Phoungpholchai

not seen them play this year. So

the initial approach to the game

them play Nayeem has heard

that Nakib is in tremendous

form. "He has scored ten goals

so far, according to the infor-

mation that I have. So the de-

fence will have to be careful

lem has been their two main

midfielders, Satyajit Chatterjee

and Basudeb Mondal. Both are

yet to show the form that had

made them a threat to the op-

position. Talking on these two

players, Naveem said. 'Just to

bring the team into a better

shape. I am having practice ses-

sions twice a day. Other than

that what else can I do? The

Muktijoddha team has seven

footballers, who played in the

SAF football tournament at

Goa. The Bangladesh team re-

ceived the award for the best

team in April from the Asia

Football Confederation. Con-

sidering our form and the expe-

rience that they have, I would

say that Muktijoddha start as

the favourites against us."

Mohun Bagan's main prob-

Even though he has not seen

will be one of caution."

about him."

Paddlers for Asian Jr. TT

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation yesterday named a seven-member team for the 7th Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships to be held in Madras, India, from August 31 to September 5.

The team includes six pad-dlers and an official. The team: Abu Taher Salahuddin Edison, Pavel Biswas Pappu, Jananjoy Shil Tirtho, Saleha Parveen Setu, Farhana Parveen, Moumita Alam Rumi and Abu Mumtaz Saaduddin Ahmed (manager).

Prior to the start of the championships Edicare and

championships, Edison and Pappu will undergo a week-long training organised by the Asian Table Tennis Union.

Shukla all smiling

From Our Correspondent CALCUTTA, Aug 19: Fortune finally smiled on Laxmi Ratan Shukla, the young cricket hopeful from the West Bengal.

When the team for the triangular series in Sri Lanka and Singapore had been announced Star TV had mistakenly put the aspiring all-rounder's name in the squad. An error that left the young man depressed.

However, it seems that Shukla has been destined to make the trip. The sudden injury to all-rounder Ajit Agarkar has once more opened up a new vista of hopes for him. Shukla knows that he will have to make the most of the unlikely opportunity.

Talking at the Calcutta Air-

port Wednesday morning before his departure to Chennai, he said, "I could not believe when the news was conveyed by the Cricket Association of Bengal. It is God's blessings. I had played two matches for the country. But (I) had done nothing to show that I deserved a place in the side. Now if I get the opportunity to figure in the playing eleven, I will definitely try to retain my place."

He knows that unless he does something extraordinary, Agarkar will come back into the side at his expense. "It's not that I will have to perform with the ball. I will have to do so with the bat also."

The 19-year old cricketer is not at all nervous to face the challenge. "I have bowled to the likes of Saeed Anwar. Sahid Afridi, Moin Khan and Inzamumul Huq. So, I am aware of what international cricket is all about. All I need is a bit of luck. If I get that I will be able to satisfy the thousands of cricket followers in the country."

Aussies right on target

COLOMBO, Aug 19 (AFP): Australia won their opening warm up match against Sri Lanka Board President's XI by six wickets Thursday ahead of their tri-nation tournament involving the hosts and India.

Australia scored 212 for four in 45.1 overs in reply to Sri Lanka's 208 for five in their allotted 50 overs at the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds here.

Brief scores: Australia 212 for 4 in 45.1 overs. Adam Gilchrist 45. Ricky Ponting retired 60. Darren Lehmann 37. Bowling. Russel Arnold 2/43.

Sri Lanka: 208 for five in 50 overs. Sajith Fernando 67 Chamara Silva 45. Bowling: Glen McGrath 2/17, Jason Gillespie 2/40.

report): Indian cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar may not be fit for the forthcoming triangular limited overs tournaments in Sri

moment whether he'll make it for the tour," coach Anshuman Gaekwad told reporters in the southern city of Madras.

the practice session on this morning. Gaekwad said Tendulkar

training session on Wednesday morning and had been advised to go back to the hotel and rest. The stiffness has persisted even today and we've carried out

a lot of tests, including MRI and know," he said, explaining Tencampaign at the World Cup in summer. Gaekwad said the team

management was still hopeful that Tendulkar, who was repainted as captain only last



"We're hopeful he will be able to make it, Sachin himself is very keen and knowing him,

injuries to senior cricketers

Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league match between Fakirerpool and Mirpur Chalantika at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. -Star photo Keya Premier Football League return-leg

Jalal salvages Fakirerpool



Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club, inspired by a brilliant hat-trick from striker Jalal (Sr.), recorded a

comprehensive 5-3 victory over Mirpur Chalantika in a returnleg match of the Keya Premier Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

With this win Fakirerpool, who are living dangerously at the dreaded relegation zone, earned three invaluable points and, in the process, leapfrogged Brothers Union to secure the third position in the six-team second phase. The bottom three will play later in the relegation

Jalal opened the floodgate in the 36th minute, shooting home a Sohagh cross from the right. The nimble Fakirerpool striker struck again three minutes later when he beat the Chalantika custodian with a fine

header off a Nazrul free kick. Chalantika, one of the two promotees to the Premier League this year, however, scored one goal in-between through their attacking midfielder, also called Sohagh.

But, after the lemon break, Fakirerpool punched in three more goals to take an unassailable 5-1 lead with Moni, Sohagh and Jalal notching one goal apiece in a space of 12 minutes.

scoring one goal apiece. but then the most impressive and

Rank M W D L F A Pts. Badda Jagorani 19 16 19 Farashgani 13 4 4 5 14 16 3 4 5 15 22 13 Fakirerpool Chalantika 10th 12 11 | 12 | 35 0 enterprising outfit among the

Jalal completed his treble in the 87th minute. It was the fifth hat-trick in the league.

Chalantika, who are destined to be demoted after an one-off stint in the elite tenteam Premier League, later pulled two goals back with Babu Das scoring his side's second goal in the 88th minute and Sohagh at the stroke of the fir al

It was Chalantika's 11th defeat from 12 matches and they remain glued to their lone point.

FIXED MATCH?

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day at the same venue, Badda Jagorani and Farashganj Sporting shared honours in a two-all draw in mediocre teams resigned to a casual approach, apparently allowing Farashgani to level the score during the last quarter of the match.

what appeared to be a pre-ar-

eight minutes into the second

half with Haider and Lajuk

Badda took a 2-0 lead within

ranged affair.

Moni made it 1-2 for Farashganj in the 79th minute before Bidyut neutralised the score seven minutes from the final whistle.

Although Badda had nothing at stake since they are far away from the dreaded relegation zone, Farashganj were desperately in need of the crucial onepoint to avoid the forbidden

Today is a rest day. The return leg will resume at the new venue of Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla Stadium from tomor-

EN-VITS Irani draws first blood

LONDON, Aug 19: Football camp for Ronnie Irani brought smiles Bangabandhu Cup, and relief to Eng-Nepal SAF games land by making the long-awaited breakthrough in the deciding Test against New Zealand at The Oval on Thurs-The national football team's

day, reports AFP. Matthew Horne was the man out after he and Matthew Bell had taken New Zealand to 39 without loss in a tense opening session to the fourth match of the series which is currently tied 1-1.

By lunch New Zealand were 45 for one with Bell on 23 and Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming 3 not out.

England captain Nasser Hussain caused a surprise by asking New Zealand to bat first on a good-looking pitch, but he had to wait 26 overs for his first success. It came when Horne 15 from 82 balls, slashed the recalled Irani high in the air and Andy Caddick ran back to take a well-judged catch at point.

That wicket may not have been the reward for a particularly fine piece of bowling, but it was nonetheless welcome for England who overall had bowled well without luck, particularly Caddick.

Hussain had clearly decided to exploit any early moisture in the surface after his opposite number Fleming called incorrectly at the toss.

What could also have come into Hussain's calculations was England's poor first innings performances in the series. Not once have England topped 200 — 126 at Edgbaston, 186 at Lord's and 199 at Old Trafford.

England omitted Yorkshire's Chris Silverwood for the third time in the series and left out Northamptonshire off spinner Graeme Swann from their final eleven, resulting in debuts for Warwickshire fast bowler Ed Giddins, and Leicestershire batsman Darren Maddy.

New Zealand were boosted by the fitness of vital all-rounder Chris Cairns, who has been under treatment for a knee injury since the last county match against Essex.

NZ 103/6

LONDON, Aug 19: England spinner Phil Tufnell produced a vital double strike on his favourite Test ground to leave New Zealand struggling at tea on 103 for six in their first innings in the series decider at The Oval on Thursday, reports

The Kiwis also brought in left-arm seamer Shayne O'Connor, who replaced Chris Harris from the side which drew the rain-hit Old Trafford Test.

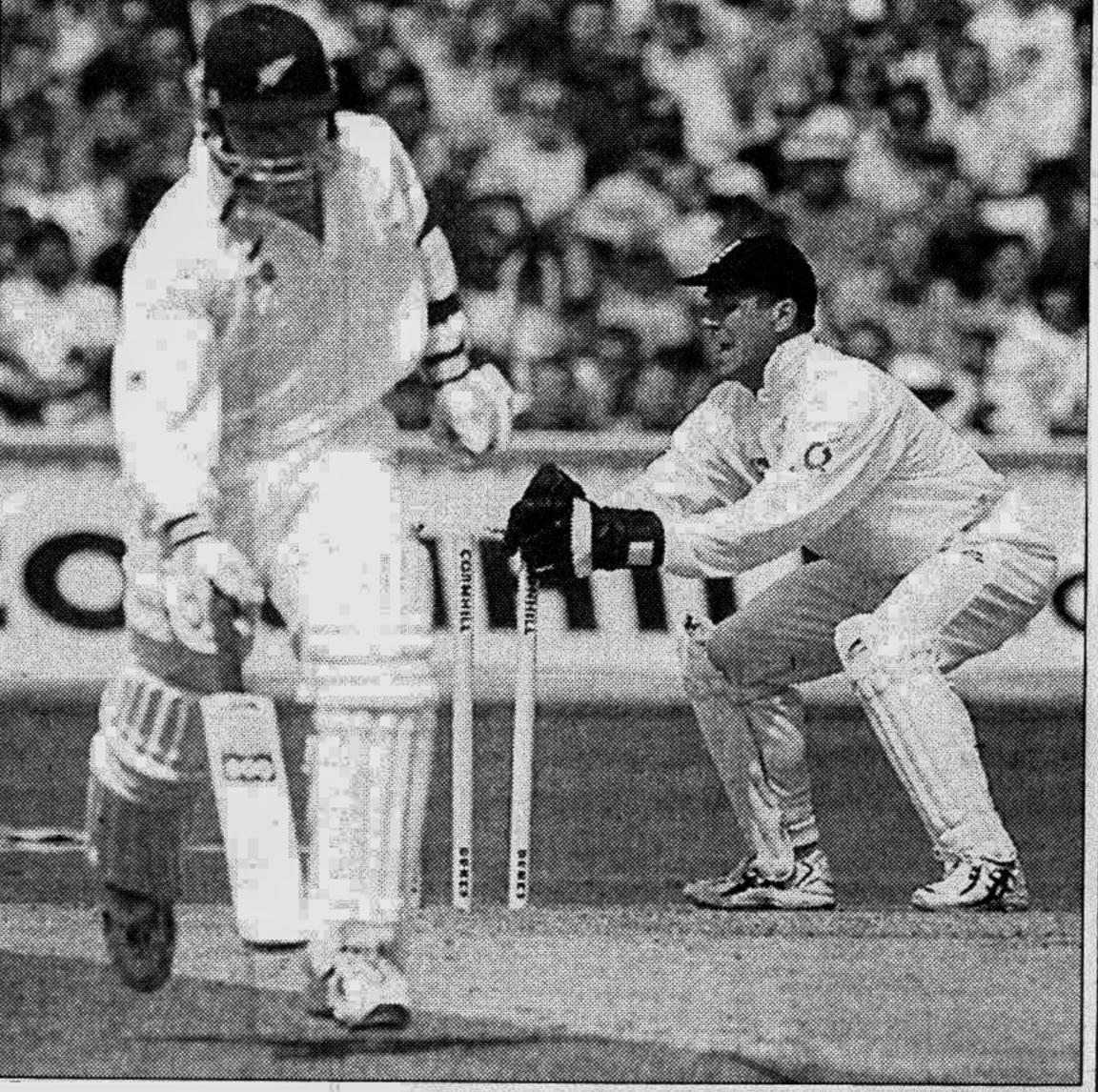
SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at lunch on the first day of the fourth Test between England and New Zealand at The Oval on Thurs-

NEW ZEALAND: First in-Horne c Caddick b Irani Bell not out Fleming not out Extras: (lb-2, w-1, nb-1) Total: (1 wkt) Fall of wkt: 1-39.

To bat: N Astle, C McMillan, R Twose, C Cairns, A Parore, D Vettori, D Nash, S O'Connor. Bowler: OM Caddick Mullally Giddins Tufnell Irani ENGLAND: Mike Atherton,

Darren Maddy, Nasser Hussain (captain), Graham Thorpe, Alec Stewart, Mark Ramprakash, Ronnie Irani, Andrew Caddick Ed Giddins, Alan Mullally, Phil Tufnell. Umpires: G Sharp and S

Venkataraghayan. Toss: England.



Alec Stewart (R), the England wicketkeeper, trying to inflict a run out against New Zealand at The Oval yesterday. -AFP photo

Sachin's stiff back worries India



MADRAS, Aug 19 (Reuters/Internet

Lanka and Singapore, the team's coach said today. "It's anybody's guess at the

The star batsman left the team's training session in Madras on Wednesday morning after complaining of stiffness in his back. He also failed to turn up for

had developed severe stiffness in his back while running at a

CT scans, and once the reports come later in the day, we'll dulkar's absence from nets to-Tendulkar missed two lim-

ited over tournaments in India and Sharjah earlier this year after suffering excruciating back spasms during Pakistan's tour of India in January, but recovered for India's unsuccessful

SACHIN TENDULKAR month replacing injured skipper Mohammad Azharuddin. would be declared fit for the tour.

he'll make it," he said.

India is affected by frequent and Tendulkar is the fourth in line after Azharuddin, wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia and Ajit Agarkar. Gaekwad felt that the team

was not a full team with three senior players having bee ruled Azharuddin had a long career with few injury problems and it is a tribute to his fitness

and devotion that he developed into a class fielder and survived for such a long period of time. Mongia, often denied his due by the carping critics, carried on despite the pain until a stage was reached where he could not even put the gloves on. Agarkar's stress fracture had denied him the trip to New

Zealand but another injury,

hamstring on this occasion, once again highlighted the weak structure of the talented Mumbai lad to bear the burden. Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad have at some stage or other suffered from minor and major injuries. Srinath had in fact made a commendable recovery from a rotator cuff injury which threatened to cut short his ca-

The Indian team flies to Colombo on Friday to participate in a tri-series involving hosts Sri Lanka and Australia. starting August 22.

The team later travels to Singapore for a triangular tournament with West Indies and Zimbabwe, beginning on September 2.

Hussain wilful, wistful



LONDON, Aug 19 (Internet report): Captain Nasser Hussain launched England's new

long-term policy of selection by assuring the squad newcomers they would not be added to the long list of Oval one-cap wonders. Hussain is keen to avoid the

chopping and changing which

may have contributed to England's inability to perform consistently on the Test stage. That indecision has particularly affected selection for the final Test of the English summer at The Oval with 17 of England's 83 one-cap players mak-

ing their only appearance at

Surrey's South London base. Defeat against New Zealand in the deciding Test of the Cornhill series would relegate England to bottom place in the unofficial Test rankings below

their opponents and even a draw, the most likely outcome given the bad weather forecast, would demote them below Zimbabwe into second bottom place. Those consequences will rot

deflect Hussain from his faith in the new faces, however, as he attempts to build a lively dressing room full of spirit and banter and capable of fostering enough self-belief to begin Ergland's international recovery. "This is a long-term policy,"

stressed Hussain. "In the past we have been up and down with policy decisions, but the policy is now to pick new faces and mingle them with old, responsible players and back them - we want to give them the right atmosphere and the right training.

"It's still up to the individual to perform. People can't just get jobs for life and no one can say

that they are going to be in for the next three years, but 90 per cent of the people here have a very good chance of being on tour, if not 100 per cent." Hussain believes the chopping and changing has con-

tributed to rumours of dressing room disharmony, most recently when former coach David Lloyd claimed Leicestershire's Aftab Habib and Chris Read were "traumatised" by their period in the England side this summer. With Warwickshire's Ed Gid-

dins, Darren Maddy of Leicestershire and emerging Northamptonshire off-spinner Graeme Swann all joining up with England for the first time this week, extra time has been taken to ensure they feel comfortable in their new environment and join in with "the ban-

See page 14