

Column One

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?
Minhazul Alam Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?
Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Sir Alex Ferguson
(Manchester United manager)

"It was quite an enthralling match to mind, so to get out of it with a result is a good one."

After his side beat Arsenal in the Premiership this week.

Vodafone not unhappy

LONDON, Aug 24 (Internet report): Vodafone insist they are delighted to be associated with the England team.

The mobile phone company is happy with their deal to back England, who lost the series with New Zealand on Sunday.

Mike Caldwell, Vodafone's corporate communications director, said: "We have a long-term contract to support the England cricket team and from our point of view, as sponsors, we've had excellent value out of it."

"Last year we beat South Africa in the home series and this year we've had the World Cup which, while England didn't get as far as we would have liked them to, we had great exposure and TV coverage."

"As a sponsor, what happens when England win is we get front page and back page coverage, and the same happens when England lose."

Game Two drawn

LAS VEGAS, Aug 24: Alexander Khalifman of Russia and Vladimir Klopov of Armenia agreed to an 18-move draw in the second game of six in the final of the World Chess Championship, reports AP.

Khalifman admitted Monday to being tired and not wanting to risk losing. He was satisfied to preserve the one-game lead he acquired with Sunday's victory.

Norris named as Tyson's opponent

LAS VEGAS, Aug 24: Orlin Norris has emerged as the likely comeback opponent for Mike Tyson, whose first fight since getting out of a Maryland prison will take place in late October, reports AP.

Sources close to Tyson's camp said Monday Norris is expected to sign this week for a fight that will take place either October 22 or October 23.



Chairman of the organising committee for Bangabandhu Cup and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim briefing the media at a city hotel yesterday. — Star Photo

Brazil, Ghana, Hungary demand big pay cheques

Nasim appeals for concord from all political parties

Sports Reporter

With footballers from across the world starting to arrive in the capital from today, the organising committee chairman of the Bangabandhu Cup, Mohammad Nasim made an ardent plea to all the political parties to refrain from any agitation programme and invited everyone to join the football fest.

"I invite all the political parties to join the football festival," said Nasim, who is also the Home Minister. He was addressing a press briefing at a local hotel yesterday in connection with the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup, scheduled to begin at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from August 27.

"I appeal to all the political parties to ensure a peaceful atmosphere during the 12-day tournament, where eleven teams from across the world and the hosts will take part," said Nasim.

"We have seen the glorious chapter of our cricket. Now, it is time for football to make a mark in the world stage. I believe the opposition political parties will extend their helping hand to make the tournament a success as they did for the mini cricket World Cup last year," the minister said.

Nasim, the man at the helm of affairs for the second consecutive year after a disappointing first edition of the tournament three years back, said that this time around it would be a more colourful event with the inclusion of world-beater teams like Brazil, Hungary and Ghana.

"I think the tournament will be a shot in the arm for reviving our football. Besides, after the cricket fever, I believe this tournament will provide the much-needed thrust for our young footballers," said the seasoned Awami League leader. The press briefing presided



over by the BFF president Mohammed Hanif failed, however, to provide details of the tournament, dedicated to the memory of the nation's undisputed leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Although Hanif, who is also the Mayor of Dhaka, said that they have taken all the preparations for a successful holding of the meet, he appeared short-supplied with information while trying to provide the tournament budget.

"We have earmarked a budget of Taka 3.5 crore," said Hanif. But his knowledge seemed to end at that point, as he could not provide any further details of the monetary situation.

While Hanif, an occasional visitor at the BFF, was uncertain about the fiscal matters, his able deputy and BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid, MP, shelved the issue with the words: "We will provide the breakdown of the budget after the tournament."

Sadly though, Harun and Co. are yet to provide the final account of the last Bangabandhu Cup, held in 1996-97.

Although the organisers are being enigmatic regarding the monetary aspect of the tournament, a senior BFF official said that chances of making a profit from the multi-million Taka event looked distant.

Moreover, the BFF has one more reason to be worried; that about the persistent inclement weather condition.

With a tight schedule on the card, BFF's hopes of getting an extra day of using the Bangabandhu National Stadium after September 7, which is billed for the final, appears quite impossible.

"Cricket will get the ground from September 8. I don't think it would be possible to violate the agreement reached between the BFF and the BCB earlier," said the State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, who is the co-chairman of the organising committee.

Meanwhile, the secretary of the tournament committee Sirajul Islam Bachchu said that BFF is spending a lot of money for the three professional sides from Brazil, Hungary and Ghana.

"Both the Brazilian side and the Ghanaian Olympic team have demanded an appearance fee of US 8,000 dollars. The Hungarian team has demanded US 5,000 dollars as appearance fee. In addition, we will have to pay US 2,000 dollars per match to both the Brazilian and the Hungarian team," said Bachchu.

Different organisations have also announced cash awards for the winners.

The Bangladesh Broadcasting Telephone Technology (BBTT) will pay US 200 dollars for 'man of the match' while the man-of-the-tournament will receive US 2,000 dollars.

The highest scorer of the tournament will receive US 2,000 dollars from Azad Products.

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India's itinerary down under

MUMBAI, Aug 24: India play the three Tests on their tour to Australia, commencing in late November, at Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney before taking part in the tri-series also featuring Pakistan, reports PTI.

The Indians are scheduled to open their full tour of Australia, their first since 1991-92 with a four-day fixture against Queensland at an unnamed venue from November 26-29.

They take on New South Wales in their second four-day warm-up match (venue not decided) from December 2-5 before meeting the Australian Prime Minister's XI in a one-day tie on December 7 prior to the first Test at Adelaide commencing on December 10.

The tourists will play their third four-day fixture, against Australia 'A' at Melbourne from December 17-20, before clashing with the hosts in back-to-back games at Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 2-6), according to the schedule released here by the Indian cricket board.

India, Pakistan and Australia will then clash in the triangular series, meeting each other five times in the round-robin phase to decide the two finalists, which is scheduled from January 9-February 13.

Boon points at an academy

LONDON, Aug 24 (Internet report): Former Australia batsman David Boon insists a national academy for young players is vital if England are to improve their standing in world cricket.

England have been widely condemned after this summer's series defeat against New Zealand left them bottom of the unofficial Test rankings.

But Durham captain Boon believes the academy at his county, which has produced three players currently starring for England Under-19s in their series against Australia's youngsters, should point the way forward.

The Under-19s are currently world champions in their age group and 1-0 up in the three-match series with Australia.

"A national academy is something which has to be seriously looked at here in England," said Boon.

"It has proven its worth in Australia and here in Durham, on a very small basis, you can see how an academy helps young cricketers."

The Australian academy started from scratch and it was three or four years before you started seeing the emergence of some young academy kids in Sheffield Shield sides.

"You hope that some of those go on and fortunately we've seen quite a few who have been to the academy are now playing Test cricket."

The potential in England is there but it must go further than just installing young people into the Test side.

"You do have to have a mix of experience with the youngsters and you've still got to pick what you think is your best possible side."

Khulna soccer

KHULNA, Aug 24: A superb hat-trick by Arif helped Mohammed Shaukat Club humble defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra 3-2 in the inaugural match of the 12th Meghna Cement DSA Cup football tournament organised by Khulna District Sports Association at the local stadium on Monday, reports BSS.

Abahani opened their account in the 5th minute of the first half through Ujjal but could not sustain their lead when Arif equalised in the 12th minute.

Arif doubled the margin in the 52nd minute and scored again in the 55th minute.

Relegated ref!

BRUSSELS, Aug 24: Belgian referee Amand Ancion, who sent off four players and awarded five penalties in a 6-6 draw between Westerlo and champions Genk on the first day of the season, has been relegated to the lower divisions to "cool off," reports Reuters.

Belgian media reported on Monday that Ancion, who was in charge of a Belgian Cup match on Sunday, had been handed games in the lower divisions for the next few weeks while the refereeing committee reviewed his case.

"This isn't a suspension as I'll still be in charge of matches, but I think I deserve a second chance," Ancion told daily Het Laatste Nieuws.

He said the committee had taken the decision at a weekend meeting to allow him to "regain his self-confidence."

"That shouldn't be a problem," the referee said. "All I'm waiting for now is to see how long it'll be before an official report on me."

More galling for him is a decision by UEFA, the sport's European governing body, to strip him of Wednesday's European Champions League qualifier between Anorthosis Famagusta of Cyprus and Hertha Berlin.

"That's a real slap in the face because I reckon UEFA only took that decision on the basis of negative media reports," Ancion said.

Rixon shows interest Marsh intends to retire



LONDON, Aug 24 (Reuters/AFP): New Zealand cricket coach Steve Rixon said today he might enter the running to become Australian coach after Geoff Marsh announced he was quitting the post at the end of Australia's tour of Sri Lanka.

New Zealand's series win over England ended Rixon's three-year stint in charge and he said the sudden availability of the Australian job would give him something to think about.

"It's always been something I thought I'd like to do and could do well. It now has to become a consideration," said Rixon who played 13 Tests for Australia in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Australian Cricket Board said earlier Marsh was quitting as coach for personal reasons.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said Marsh had decided that family commitments and personal priorities meant he could no longer continue in the role.

The former opening batsman was reappointed coach for another two years only one month ago after Australia's World Cup triumph.

Marsh leaves the team after the Sri Lanka tour on October 4, with the ACB arranging for an interim coach to accompany the team on their tour to Zimbabwe starting on October 6.

The ACB has started to look for a permanent replacement with former captain Allan Border and Queensland coach John Buchanan early favourites.

Rixon proved a success as

coach of New South Wales before being headhunted by New Zealand Cricket in 1996.

Marsh leaves the job after a period of enormous success for the Australian team with a series win in the West Indies, an Ashes victory and a win in Pakistan, followed by the World Cup success.

He said his decision was a difficult one but came down to the priority he placed on his family after 14 years with the national team as a player and coach.

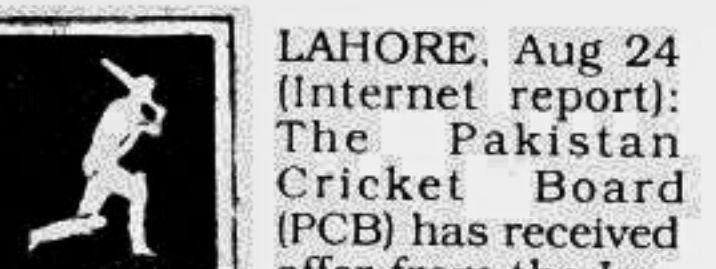
"Life on the international cricket circuit is tremendously

rewarding and I doubt if there is any better position than coach of the Australian team," said Marsh in a statement.



GEOFF MARSH

Pak-WI series in Toronto?



LAHORE, Aug 24 (Internet report): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has received offer from the International Management Group (IMG) to play three-match series at Toronto against West Indies, after India pulled out its team due to Kargil issue.

The series is planned to be played between September 16 and 20, according to a report of the English daily The Dawn.

The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ad hoc committee Mueeb-ur-Rehman admitted that an offer has been made by the IMG.

"We have been offered to play a series with the West Indies. But I will decide by the end of this week whether to send the team or not," he said from Islamabad.

The board will get richer and that money could be spent over more development work in the country," he remarked.

He added that in addition to this, Pakistan would get a great opportunity to prepare mentally and physically for the October's Sharjah event followed up by the tour to Australia.

"You can imagine the confidence the team would be in if it beats the West Indies. The defeat, on the contrary, will help

the team management to have a look into the reasons and rectify them for the following events," he observed.

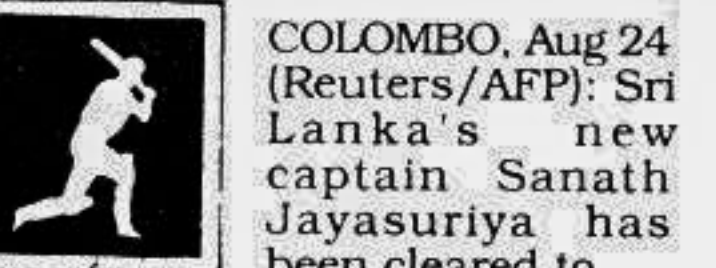
According to informed sources of the newspaper, IMG has also approached the Indian cricket board and have offered them to play the West Indies between Sept 11 and 15 in Toronto.

The IMG official, however, said when the dates of the event would be finalised.

Pakistan will get the priority. We will first accommodate Pakistan and will then consider India. If Pakistan is ready to play between Sept 16 and 20, India will be asked to play between Sept 11 and 15."

He said the profits of the two series would be equally shared by the three parties (IMG, Pakistan and India) while the West Indies will be paid a guarantee money.

Sanath passed fit



COLOMBO, Aug 24 (Reuters/AFP): Sri Lanka's new captain Sanath Jayasuriya has been cleared to play in the Airtel Cup one-day triangular tournament match against India following a hand injury, the team manager said today.

Jayasuriya split the web between the thumb and forefinger in his right hand while attempting to stop a powerful drive by Australian batsman Ricky Ponting during the opening match of the tournament in southern Galle town on Sunday.

He received two stitches, but team manager Chandira Schaffer said that he would be playing against India in Sri Lanka's capital on Wednesday.

"He hurt the webbing of his finger, but he is okay and should play," Schaffer said.

Jayasuriya was unable to shake hands with the Australian players after the match because of the injury and offered his left hand instead.

Just before Sri Lanka entered the May World Cup, Jayasuriya broke his right forearm but played in England with a metal plate inserted inside his hand.

Despite the injury he took his first haul of five wickets for 28 runs in one-day internationals, but Australia went on to beat Sri Lanka by 51 runs.

Australia's main strike bowler Glenn McGrath has been also sidelined during the first two matches of the tournament

due to a strained thigh that he suffered during a one-day practice match against Sri Lanka's Board XI last week.

India expects a major contribution from captain Sachin Tendulkar who is also plagued with a back injury. However, Tendulkar said that despite a stiff back just before arriving in Sri Lanka last week, he was determined to play in the tournament.

Victory in Wednesday's match will give either team a better chance of staying in contention for the final after the world champions beat both sides comfortably.

The three teams play each other twice before the final on August 31.

Meanwhile local newspapers said the future of a Sri Lankan umpire is in the balance after his controversial decision against Australian opening batsman Adam Gilchrist during the first match against the hosts.

D N Pathirana, officiating as the third umpire, ruled Gilchrist run out even though the television replays favoured the batsman.

Later, Pathirana defended his action in a statement to a newspaper, saying he had viewed all angles before sending Gilchrist back to the pavilion at the Galle International Cricket stadium on Sunday.

Pathirana is also in hot water for violating his contract with the Board by speaking to the media during an ongoing tournament.

Despite the controversial run out, Australia beat Sri Lanka comfortably by 51 runs in a rain-affected match. On the following day, Gilchrist scored a cautious 68 to steer Australia to an even more comfortable eight-wicket victory over India.

Pathirana, however, is due to officiate at Sri Lanka and India game Wednesday but the Umpires' Committee of the Board is due to take a final decision later Tuesday.

Earlier in the season, hosts England had failed to get beyond the first round of the World Cup.

Selectors need more time



LONDON, Aug 24: England have postponed naming their squad to tour South Africa later this year until next Tuesday to allow the selectors more time to consider their options, the England Cricket Board (ECB) said today, reports Reuters.

The squad for the tour to South Africa was to have been named on Wednesday but ECB spokesman Andrew Walpole said the decision had been delayed to give the selectors more time to consider their options.

Walpole said it had been

planned to announce the Test squad on Wednesday.

"But it makes sense now to take more time and announce both the Test and one-day squads next Tuesday," he said.

Apart from the Test series, England will also play in a triangular one-day tournament against South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Chairman of the selectors David Graveney, captain Nasser Hussain and incoming coach Duncan Fletcher would meet again this weekend to deliberate over their squads, Walpole said.

Meanwhile, just over 24

hours after England completed their worst home season in recent cricket history, the first move was made in an attempt to haul the national team out of the doldrums.

Central contracts for the leading England players from the start of next season were agreed at a meeting at Lord's on Monday by the First-Class Forum (FCF) which comprises the 18 first-class counties and MCC.

Earlier in the season, hosts England had failed to get beyond the first round of the World Cup.