

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
Sept 3, '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?
Mehazul 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



Carlos Roa
(Ex Argentine national goalie)
"Money is not everything, I shall certainly never play football again."

Khalifman closer to crown

LAS VEGAS, Aug 28: Alexander Khalifman coolly defended an inferior position to emerge with a draw in the fifth game of his match with Vladimir Akopian for the World Chess Championship at Caesars Palace, reports AP.

Leading by a full point after Friday night's game, Khalifman stands just a half a point away from becoming chess' 14th world champion and collecting 660,000 dollars. The loser here will receive 396,000.

Akopian must win the sixth game Saturday, when he plays black, to force tie-break matches Sunday. Since white always moves first, playing that colour is a significant advantage at this level.

Grand Master Amador Rodriguez of Spain equates Akopian's situation as similar to a baseball team being forced to spot its opponent three or four runs.

Both players say they are tired after a full month of competition. They each defeated six opponents to reach the finals.

The knockout-style event, organized by the Federation Internationale des Echecs, began with 100 players. The prize fund is 3 million dollars.

Friday's game began with a well-known series of moves. There was little chance that either Grand Master would run into a surprise move early in the game, as happened the last time Akopian played white.



Action from yesterday's Bangabandhu Cup match between Ghana and Nepal.—Star photo

Cup may have to be shifted to Mirpur Ghana scrape thru' in the mud, Korea-Thai match postponed

After an inspiring start the Bangabandhu Cup International Football Tournament hit a low on the second day yesterday when the Olympic team of Ghana survived a Nepalese second-half rally to squeeze past by the odd goal in three.

The day turned out to be sheer disappointment for the sparse crowd at the Bangabandhu National Stadium where the Ghanaian team miserably failed to live up to their lofty tag.

Dubbed one of the favourites to win the title, the African side, who on their arrival in the city promised to display the beautiful game, did hardly anything to enthrall the Dhaka crowd apart from the two first-half goals.

Shila Ali Hasan gave Ghana the lead in the 16th minute by side-footing a nice low cross from Kwame Osei.

The mutual understanding between Ali Hasan and Osei came to play again in the 33rd minute. This time the former reciprocated with an imaginative floater, from which Osei found the net with a neat placing shot.

Nepal showed signs of an intriguing finish when they pulled off one goal back fifteen minutes later when Kumar Thapa let loose a scorching right-footer into an empty net after winning the ball from an itchy-foot Osei Boateng, the Ghanaian custodian, outside the left of the box. But central defender Alex Amon saved the Ghanaian blush from ultimate



TODAY'S MATCHES

Korea vs Thailand 4 pm
Hungary vs Malaysia 6 pm

TOMORROW'S MATCHES

Kuwait vs Indonesia 4 pm
Uzbekistan vs Nepal 6 pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

match on September 2.

Apart from the three goals it was, however, an equally disappointing day for both sides on a surface where players had to concentrate more on mustering their ability to balance rather than displaying the art of the most global sport.

With the incessant rain continuing to play havoc, the already-damaged green top of the big bowl had turned into a virtual paddy field even before the match reached the halfway

mark. Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) had earlier suspended the scheduled second match of the day between Korea and Thailand to save the ground from complete wreckage.

But the shifting of the fixture hardly helped BFF's cherished desire to cling to the all-purpose venue. A brief, yet very significant, spell of shower left behind a trail of devastation, making the pitch look like the face of a man with chicken pox.

BFF appeared adamant to run the invitational tournament on the virtual minefield where serious injury to the players is always on the card. But, if the inclement weather continues, it is likely that some matches will be held at the Sher-e Bangla Stadium in Mirpur.

Yellow cards: Dennis Boateng (Ghana), Deepak Amatya, Sunil Tuladhar, Harri Khadka and Dilli Ram (Nepal).

TEAMS

Ghana Olympic Team: Osei Boateng, Felix Yeboah, Alex Amon, Kofi Amoako, Joe Sam, Abdul Razzak, Johnson Ekili, Goodwin Abloreye (Nana Arhin), Dennis Boateng (Eric Nil), Shila Ali Hasan and Kwame Osei (Kwame Ali).

Nepal: Upendra Man Singh, Romesh Shrestha, Sunil Tuladhar, Bal Gopal (S Shrestha), Dev Narayan, Basanta Thapa, Basanta Gauchan, Kumar Thapa, Harri Khadka (Dilli Ram) and Deepak Amatya (Ananta Thapa) and Naresh Joshi.

Referee: Tayeb Hassan (Bangladesh)

Man-of-the-match: Kwame Osei (Ghana)

Australia abase India

COLOMBO, Aug 28: Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath shattered India's top order batting with a five-wicket burst to thrust Australia to a 41-run victory in the Aupa Cup triangular tournament today, reports Reuters.

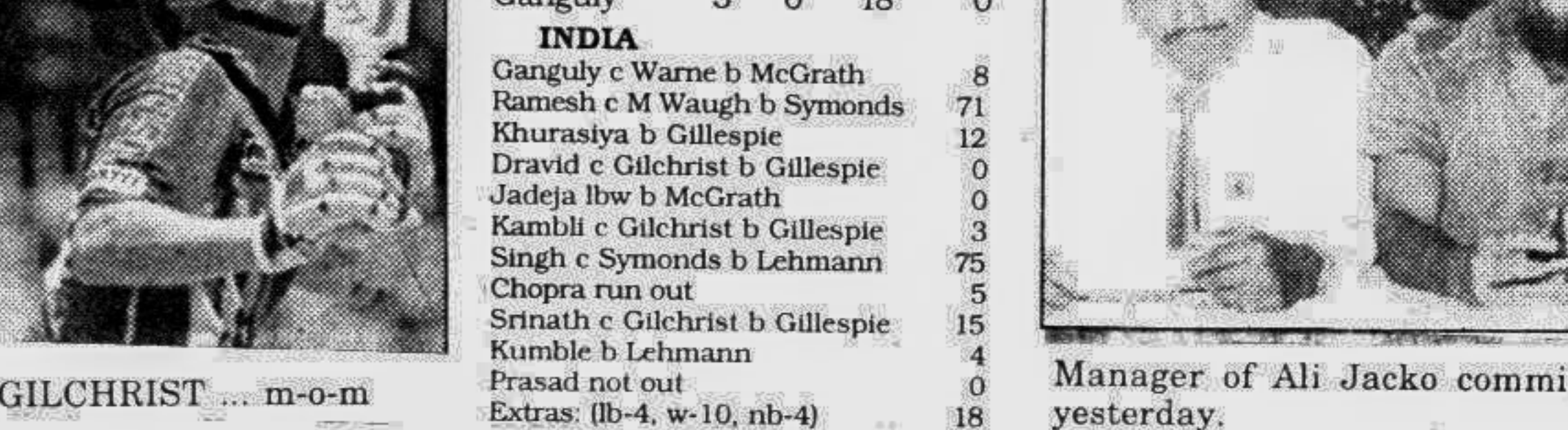
India, facing Australia's 252 for eight in their 50 overs, crashed to 44 for five against Gillespie and McGrath, who took four of the wickets for 13 runs at one stage.

A face-saving sixth wicket stand of 123 between Sadagopan Ramesh, who hit 71, and Robin Singh, with 75, lifted India to 211 all out in 48.3 overs.

World Cup winners Australia have now won all four of their qualifying games, having already secured their place in the final.

India, beaten three times, and hosts Sri Lanka battle for the other spot in the final. They meet in the last qualifying game on Sunday, with Sri Lanka ahead of India by two points as well as having a better net run rate.

The Indians hopes of pulling



GILCHRIST... m-o-m

Saber leaves for Colombo today

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Deputy Minister for LGED and Co-operatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury leaves for Colombo today to attend the annual general meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), reports BSS.

The ACC meeting will be held in the Sri Lankan capital on August 30. The meeting would finalise dates for the next Asia Cup, scheduled in Dhaka in April next year, official sources said.

The meeting will discuss Bangladesh's bid for a direct entry into the regional competition for getting the one-day international status. However, Bangladesh has already qualified for the next Asia Cup as ACC Trophy, which was held in Kathmandu last year, champions.

President's monsoon golf results

The President's Monsoon Golf tournament ended at the Savar Golf Club yesterday, says a press release.

The two-day event was won by Brigadier M Abu Isaque Ibrahim. Kazi Mosaddik Ali became runner-up.

Elani Zulkifly and Kosaka finished ladies champion and runner-up respectively.

Major General Syeed Ahmed collected the best gross.

On the final day, the Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

Cloud over Tendulkar

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Aug 28: A lingering back injury is casting its shadow on the future of India's cricket captain and one of the world's top batsmen, Sachin Tendulkar, reports AP.

Tendulkar, 26, could not play in India's crucial match against Australia on Saturday in the three-nation cricket championship.

"The pain is coming back and it is making it difficult for Sachin to take a decision (to play or not)," said one source. Tendulkar had decided against playing Saturday, hoping the day's rest would leave him fit for the other matches, he said on condition of anonymity.

Tendulkar suffered back spasms for the first time in January during the first Test match against India's traditional rival Pakistan at Madras, capital of India's southern Tamil Nadu state.

He consulted specialists at home and in London. On their advice he skipped the limited-overs tri-series at home and in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Tendulkar later said he was fully fit to play in the World Cup and took part in cricket's Olympics. While in London he did not face any back problem.

But while in Madras, where the Indian team attended a training camp, Tendulkar suffered the pain again.

In Colombo, where the team is taking part in its first limited overs championship after the World Cup, Tendulkar played in India's first match against Australia and scored 14 and then made 37 against Sri Lanka. He did not tell anyone if he was suffering. Neither did he show symptoms.

Specialists say that the pain may be getting aggravated in humid conditions like in Colombo and in Madras, which have similar weather.

"Hope this is just a bad dream," said another source close to the Indian team, hoping that Tendulkar will be able to overcome the problem.

Before coming to Colombo, Tendulkar was quoted as saying: "It was not the same problem and the present stiffness is not a serious one."

"I wanted to take precaution before the tour. Doctors advised me to take rest and not aggravate the problem," he told reporters.

Tendulkar was born in the western Indian metropolis of Bombay and made his debut for India in 1989 at the age of 16.

Ghana discover the truth the dank way Football on a cricket ground?

Sports Reporter

Ghana Olympic football team manager YA Ibrahim compared the ground of the Bangabandhu National Stadium with a rice or a potato field and said "football could not be played on such a surface".

The tall Ghana Football Association official was talking to a host of reporters after his team's 2-1 win over the Nepal national side in the group C opener of the Bangabandhu Cup yesterday evening.

"This is absolutely a rice field. And how can you play soccer here?" asked an angry Ibrahim.

"Our main mission on this trip was to show Bangladesh the brilliance of Ghanaian football but I'm afraid if we have to play here, we may not be able to do that."

"I heard it's a cricket ground. Then why have you organised an international football tournament here?" asked the Ghanaian manager.

While the manager appeared disturbed with the ground condition, the coach seemed quite happy with the start.

"I agree that football cannot be played on such a soil but I'm also happy with the way my boys have adapted to the ground and won the match," said the ever-smiling Ghana coach Oti Akeneng.

"Nepal was a better side and their booters used hard spikes, which was suitable for the muddy ground. But our players faced a lot of problems with their rubber studs," said Akeneng.

When asked about his man-of-the-match, the happy Ghanaian manager thanked the authority for selecting Kwame Osei as the day's best player.

"He is my man-of-the-match too."

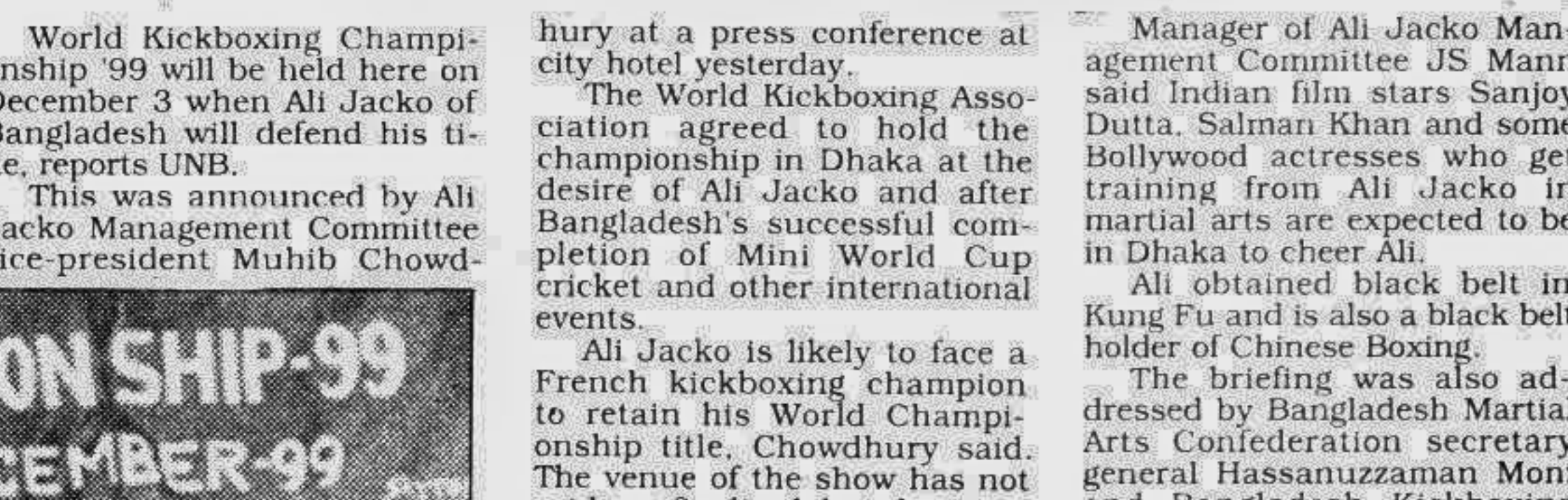
"Our performance will improve from the next match," Akeneng assured the press before leaving.

In a gesture of goodwill, Nepal officials congratulated their counterparts for their magnificent game and said the better team won at the end.

"I think Ghana played better than us and won. Full credit to them," said Nepal's English coach Stephen Constantine.

"Today is the 28th day of my taking over the Nepalese national team and I'm quite impressed with them. Ghana is better than us in all the departments and that's why they have won. This Nepal team is a new selection. We have come here to gain experience," said the balding Nepal coach.

Nepal and Ghana will meet Uzbekistan in their next group C match on August 30 and September 2 respectively.



Members of the Uzbekistan football team watch proceedings of the Ghana-Nepal game.—Star photo

Sports Ministry okays 170 for Nepal SAF Games

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday got the final nod from the government to send a 170-member Bangladesh contingent to the 8th SAF Games to be held in Kathmandu from September 25. This was revealed by BOA secretary-general Zafar Imam yesterday evening.

Talking to The Daily Star, Zafar said that State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader yesterday okayed the number, which was proposed by BOA on Thursday.

"I had a talk with the State Minister this morning and he has verbally given me the green signal," said Zafar, who declined to give the breakdown of the list.

Bangladesh will take part in all the 12 disciplines in the biggest regional games, which will end on October 4.

Zafar also informed that the Organising Committee of the 8th SAF Games, which was originally scheduled in winter 1997 but was deferred because of

their poor preparations, was still "going too slow with different formalities".

"They have not yet sent us the technical books, which were supposed to reach us long before," said Zafar, adding that 40 Bangladeshi sports journalists and photographers will be accredited for the 10-day Games.

Although Zafar did not disclose the break-up of the Bangladesh contingent, it was learnt that five journalists including two photographers will be included.

In order to curtail the numbers, local coaches of some teams will double as the manager of that particular discipline. These will be in addition to the foreign coaches attached to the eleven disciplines. The exceptions being karate, which is coached by a Bangladeshi.

Bangladeshi teams are being coached for the SAF Games by the following nationals: Football -- Iraqi, Volleyball -- Chinese, Shooting -- Chinese, Athletics -- Chinese, Kabadi -- Indian.

Swimming -- Chinese, Karate -- Bangladeshi, Boxing -- Chinese, Taekwondo -- Nepalese, Table Tennis -- Indian.

Wrestling -- Chinese, and Weightlifting -- Chinese.

The Bangladeshi delegation is likely to include a Chef-de-Mission, a Deputy Chef-de-Mission, doctors, journalists and officials from NSC, BOA and the Ministry, totalling 16.

According to a source close to the BOA, the Bangladesh contingent is likely to include the following 154 players and team officials:

Discipline	Players+Officials
Football	18+3
Volleyball	22+2
Shooting	16+4
Athletics	10+2
Kabadi	10+2
Swimming	9+2
Karate	8+2
Boxing	8+2
Taekwondo	7+2
Table Tennis	7+2
Wrestling	6+2
Weightlifting	6+2

World Kickboxing in Dhaka in Dec

Ali Jacko puts title on the line

World Kickboxing Championship '99 will be held here on December 3 when Ali Jacko of Bangladesh will defend his title, reports UNB.

This was announced by Ali Jacko Management Committee vice-president Mubib Chowdhury at a press conference at city hotel yesterday.

The World Kickboxing Association agreed to hold the championship in Dhaka at the desire of Ali Jacko and after Bangladesh's successful completion of Mini World Cup cricket and other international events.

Ali Jacko is likely to face a French kickboxing champion to retain his World Championship title, Chowdhury said. The venue of the show has not yet been finalised, but there is a possibility of staging the championship at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

All halls from a village Jaberbar of Chhatrak thana in Sunamganj district. A 30-year-old Ali born in London in 1969 and spent six years of his childhood in Sylhet.

In May 1996, he became the world light-weight kickboxing champion held in London. In July 1990, Ali became the British light-weight champion and in February 1996, he clinched the title of European light-weight before he became the world champion. Ali's trainer Eddy Dujon is a former British kickboxing champion.

It has always been Ali's dream to come to his own country and stage the greatest show of his career in front of his countrymen.

Ali obtained black belt in Kung Fu and is also a black belt holder of Chinese Boxing.

The briefing was also addressed by Bangladesh Martial Arts Confederation secretary general Hassanuzzaman Moni and Bangladesh Kickboxing Federation general secretary Haji MA Rahim.

Manager of Ali Jacko Management Committee JS Mann said Indian film stars Sanjoy Dutta, Salman Khan and some Bollywood actresses who get training from Ali Jacko in martial arts are expected to be in Dhaka to cheer Ali.

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