

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

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?

Mintazul Akram Aminul

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

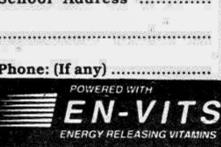
Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



Steffi Graf
(German tennis legend)
"I feel pretty happy about leaving it right now."
About her retirement.

Tendulkar gets green signal

COLOMBO, Aug 30: Medical tests have given Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar the all-clear despite recurring back stiffness, and he will play in an upcoming triangular series in Singapore, an official said today, reports AFP.

Secretary of the Indian cricket board, Lele, said the tests found nothing wrong with Tendulkar and they were yet to explain the back pain that has bothered him since the World Cup in England.

He said Tendulkar will be included in the squad that will leave on Tuesday for another tri-nation tournament with the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Marat's maiden ATP title

BOSTON, Massachusetts, Aug 30: Russian teenager Marat Safin, due to face world number one Pete Sampras in the first round of the US Open this week, captured his first career ATP Tour title Sunday with a victory over Greg Rusedski, reports AFP.

Safin defeated the Briton, the top seed here and ninth seed at the US Open, 6-4, 7-6.

Seeded sixth, the 19-year-old Safin dropped only one set all week as he became the 12th first-time winner on the ATP Tour this year. He collected the top prize of 46,000 dollars.

"I feel great to win the title," Safin said. "I was very nervous and I couldn't put one ball in during the warmup. But I served very well today, a very good percentage."

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rio de Janeiro FC vs Thailand 4pm
Bangladesh vs Malaysia 6 pm
(Venue: Bangabandhu National stadium).
No matches will be played tomorrow.



Kuwait's Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Dwaisan (2nd from R) heads in his side's first goal against Indonesia during their Bangabandhu Cup match at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Indonesia first to be eliminated

Kuwait set up Japan clash

Sports Reporter

year old Kuwaiti striker, was adjudged man-of-the-match that fattened his purse by 200 USD.

Yellow cards: Mohammad Shamroukh, Faisal Rada'an, Yousef (Kuwait) and Suriadi (Indonesia).

TEAMS

Kuwait Olympic team: Adel Ahmed, Fauzi Almass, Hussain Saraj, Abdullah Ibrahim (Hamad Harbi), Nader Khalaf, M Shamroukh, Bader Rashidi, Faisal (Nasser), Kalaf Al-Shimmari, Yousef and Hamad Al-Busairi.

Pudang Semen FC (Indonesia): Ngadiono, Husaini (Agus Rianto), Erol Iba (Kusdianto), Suriadi (Weliansyah), Dwi Prio, Elendi Ibrahim, Syafril, Purwanto, Buyung Ismu, Masykur Rauf and Suwarno.

Referee: Ramkrishna Ghosh (Bangladesh).



Athar, Rafiq retire

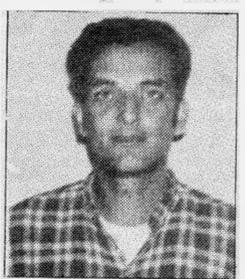
Sports Reporter

Discarded national opener Athar Ali and all rounder Mohammad Rafique have retired from international cricket. Athar, the tall right-hand batsman, who made his international debut at Chittagong Stadium against India in the 2nd Asia Cup in 1988, tendered his resignation to the Bangladesh Cricket

Board yesterday, five days after he was recalled to the national camp for the home series against West Indies and England A next October.

Rafique, a Bangladeshi World Cupper and also called to the latest national camp, submitted his resignation letter last Sunday.

Born in Dhaka in 1962, Athar Ali played 19 one-day



ATHAR ALI KHAN



MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE

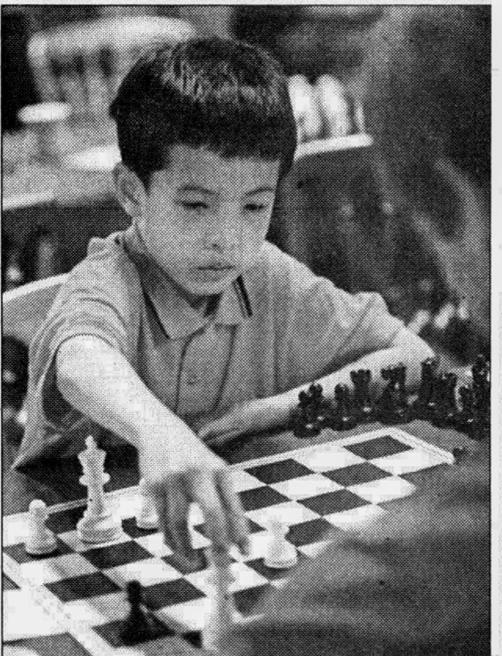
Wow, Howell!

LONDON, Aug 30: An eight-year-old British chess whizz-kid went down in history yesterday as the youngest player to beat a Grand Master, reports AFP.

David Howell, a schoolboy from Seaford in eastern England, fumbled Grand Master John Nunn who is more than 30 years his senior in a rapid-play exhibition match here.

"I'm quite excited by the win. I thought I was going to lose quite badly," said David, who started to play chess at the age of five and is national under-10 champion.

His father Martin, a doctor, said after the match: "I taught him to play and he made sense of the game very quickly, in about an afternoon."



WUNDERKIND: Eight-year-old David Howell makes a move against Grand Master John Nunn at the Mind Sports Olympiad in London on August 29. -AFP photo

Unanimity in all quarters: Mirpur better for soccer

Sports Reporter

Officials of four foreign teams now taking part in the Bangabandhu Cup find Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur more suitable for football than Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The officials of Japan, Ghana, Kuwait and Indonesia bared their mind to The Daily Star when matches were being played at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Japan Football League team manager Mitsunga Shitara said he found Sher-e-Bangla Stadium much better than the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"This looks like a real soccer stadium," said the Japanese manager.

Ghana Olympic team coach Oti Akenteng also reiterated the Japan manager's remark.

"This is the better among the two stadiums and we would love to play our next match against Uzbekistan here," said Akenteng, who went to watch the Group C clash between Uzbekistan and Nepal, Ghana had beaten Nepal 2-1 in their inaugural match at the Bangabandhu.

Indonesian manager Toto Sudbyo asked why the organisers were not holding all the matches at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium.

"Although we have lost both the matches, I think we could have played better against Japan had the match been played here instead of the Bangabandhu Stadium. I don't know why you don't play football here (Sher-e-Bangla Stadium)," asked a puzzled Toto.

Kuwait Olympic team coach Bader Ahmed, who played for Kuwait in the 20th Asian Youth Football Championship held in Dhaka way back in 1978, also praised the Mirpur Stadium and said his team was comfortable playing on such a ground.

Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harunur Rashid MP also agreed with the comments of the foreign team officials and said that Mirpur will host the remaining first round matches every alternate day.

"I'm totally impressed with this stadium. I'm thinking of holding all the remaining matches before the final at Mirpur. But it will not be possible. Tomorrow we have two big matches involving Brazil and Bangladesh, which I think should be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. After that the next two matches will be held here (Mirpur)," said Harun.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader put the icing on the cake saying that football could be played better in Mirpur than at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"I have seen the first match today and I felt both the teams were comfortable playing here," said Quader, who was scheduled to fly for USA last night.

Gloucs' one-day double

LONDON, Aug 30 (Internet report): Gloucestershire added the NatWest Trophy to the Benson and Hedges Super Cup as they completed a memorable Lord's double with victory over west country rivals Somerset on Sunday.

The Taunton side looked to be in the driving seat after restricting Mark Alleyne's side to 230 for eight from their 50 overs.

But a superb display in the field ensured that it was the fans from Bristol and Gloucester who returned home down the M4 with flags flying after a 50-run victory.

Gloucestershire captain Mark Alleyne struck twice in his first two overs to leave Somerset struggling at 52 for five - and they never recovered as they were dismissed for 180 in the 46th over.

Alleyne, who hit 112 in the Super Cup final last month, stepped up to have Michael Burns taken at slip by Martyn Ball and then wicketkeeper Jack Russell picked up a low catch to remove Marcus Trescothick.

Somerset's bid to make 231 for victory got off to a disastrous start when Peter Bowler and captain Jamie Cox were dismissed in the third and fourth overs respectively.

Bowler was caught behind driving at Ian Harvey and Cox, man of the match in the previous two rounds, went lbw to Mike Smith.

Form player Piran Holloway also fell victim to a slip catch by Ball and it was left to Keith Parsons and England tour candidate Rob Turner to get Somerset back into contention.

After 25 overs they were 87 for five compared to Gloucestershire's 111 for no wicket at the same stage.

But Gloucestershire were later pegged back by seamers Graham Rose and Paul Jarvis in effective second spells.

Rose came back with figures of 6-2-12-2 and Jarvis (five for 55) claimed three for 17 in 21 balls as instead of facing a big score Somerset kept their target within bounds, initially at least.

Asia plans to be the best Saber bids for 2011 WC



SABER HOSSAIN

COLOMBO, Aug 30: Bangladesh has proposed to host the 2011 World Cup at the day-long meeting of the Asian Cricket Council in Lankan capital today.

The bid of Bangladesh, a key member of the ACC, is backed by other Asian nations, said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to UNB.

"We proposed to host the World Cup cricket in 2011. The ACC has agreed to take the proposal to the International Cricket Council," he said from Colombo.

"It is time that Asia gets a chance to host the World Cup in 2011," the BCB boss said. "We are getting the support of the other Asian members to pool our resources and host the event."

The proposal by any nation to host the World Cup is to reach ICC as a notice of demand through the continental council along with its approval.

"Our boys' performance in last World Cup will be a plus," the BCB president added to the UNB. Bangladesh pulled up the biggest upset in the history of the championship beating mighty Pakistan convincingly in their maiden appearance at the mega event. The Bengal Tigers also beat fellow associate member Scotland.

South Africa will hold the next World Cup in 2003 and West Indies are likely to get the right for the carnival in 2007.

Saber revealed that the ACC meeting also decided to allow Bangladesh direct entry to the Asia Cup from 2001 on wards following the bid of BCB.

Bangladesh had been playing in the four-nation biennial meet, which included three Test-playing nations, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as qualifiers. It has already qualified for the 8 Asia Cup scheduled to be held in Dhaka early next year.

Upon another BCB proposal, the ACC has agreed to make Asia Cup a six-nation meet.

"It means the 8 Asia Cup will include the champions and runners-up of the ICC Trophy along with the selected four," Saber said.

more money from the International Cricket Council (ICC) to develop skills, infrastructure and umpiring.

Officials said that they had merged their development plans with those of the ICC for the region.

"We want to be the best cricket playing region in the world by 2002," said outgoing president of the ACC, Thilanga Sumathipala. "It funding is totally in adequate, especially for an underprivileged region where playing cricket is a luxury. In terms of assistance we would like to see more (money) coming our way."

He said they hoped to spend just over a million dollars this year to improve cricket and 360,000 dollars out of that will come from the ICC.

Sumathipala said they hoped Bangladesh will soon win ICC Test status and by 2002 at least one more country (Nepal or Singapore) in the region should be recognised as a one-day International (ODI) member of the ICC.

He said the ACC will have a new constitution in six months and they agreed to have a chief executive officer.

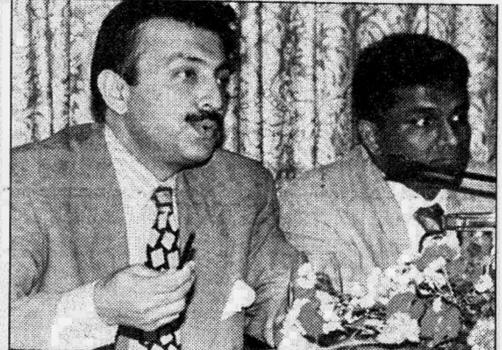
"We will mirror the administrative and financial structure of the ICC within the ACC," Sumathipala said as he handed over the leadership of the ACC to Muejibur Rehman of Pakistan.

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were the co-hosts of the 1996 World Cup and all the three nations had won the title once.

The ACC, with 15 member countries, organised the first tri-nation Test championship between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka last year.

An AFP report meanwhile said the Asian cricket officials ended the meeting with calls for more money to turn the region into the world's best in two years.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said it was hoping to get



Newly elected Asian Cricket Council president Muejibur Rehman (L) of Pakistan talking to press after the daylong ACC meeting in Colombo yesterday. To his left is outgoing ACC chief Thilanga Sumathipala of Sri Lanka. - AFP photo

Aiwa Cup final today

Aussies after a farewell gift

COLOMBO, Aug 30 (AFP): With four straight victories under their belt, Australia are looking to bid farewell to coach Geoff Marsh with a new triumph over Sri Lanka here Tuesday.

Australia have dominated the three-nation tournament here and are strong favourites to beat the Sri Lankans who have won only one match against India in the tournament.

"If you look at our side and the way we are playing, lined up against Sri Lanka, we should win the game," said Australian captain Steve Waugh as his team practised Monday.

"I know its good enough to keep winning games. Just because its a final it doesn't mean you should put more pressure on yourself," he said.

Waugh, 34, will be equalling Allan Border's Australian record for the most number of one-day appearances when he

plays in his 273rd match Tuesday under lights.

Australia are also in line to equal the record for the most number of consecutive victories in one-day cricket. If they win the final, they will stretch their winning streak to 12 matches in a row starting from the World Cup.

England are the only team to go through 12 games without defeat between May 23 1991 and March 12, 1992.

Australian coach Marsh announced last week that he would be quitting his position after the Sri Lanka leg of the tour due to family reasons.

After three Tests against Sri Lanka next month, Australia are due to travel to Zimbabwe.

Australia are likely to include three fast bowlers in their line-up. But Waugh said it depends on the pitch. Australia came into the final with a 100 per cent record, beating Sri Lanka and India twice each in the qualifying round.

Sri Lanka hope to put on a

PCB chief wants action

COLOMBO, Aug 30: Pakistani cricket chief Muejibur-Rehman today called for a swift decision on allegations of betting and match-fixing against leading players Wasim Akram, Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik, reports Reuters.

"If they are guilty they should be out. If not they should be allowed to play. But until the court decides they will be kept out," said Rehman, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board's powerful ad hoc committee.

"It has dragged on due to indecisiveness by the former cricket management."

Akram, Ijaz and Salim were suspended on the basis of a 10-month-old report prepared by a committee probing allegations of betting and match-fixing.

No room for Ramprakash



MARK RAMPRAKASH

LONDON, Aug 30 (AFP/Internet reports): Former skipper Alec Stewart on Monday retained his place in England's Test squad for the winter tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe but Middlesex captain Mark Ramprakash lost out, despite finishing top of the averages in last winter's Ashes tour to Australia.

The Test squad will leave for South Africa on October 26 for the five-Test series, while the triangular one-day series against South Africa and Zimbabwe starts on January 23 in South Africa, then moves on to Zimbabwe for four one-day internationals against the host country.

The England A tour to Bangladesh and New Zealand will be announced on September 6 and will contain a number of reserve players for the senior tour.

Stewart was not chosen, however, in the 15-man party



Ramprakash's county colleague Phil Tufnell is retained in a 17-strong squad, which includes four uncapped players - Sussex captain Chris Adams, Northamptonshire's Graeme Swann, Yorkshire all rounder Gavin Hamilton and his teammate Michael Vaughan, the opening batsman and off spinner who captain England A to South Africa last winter.

The side has a fair sprinkling of youth with seven players 25 or under.

In addition, Darren Gough is back in the line-up after missing the entire New Zealand series through injury.

Surrey batsman-wicket-keeper Stewart had been one of the senior players whose Test place was under pressure following England's dismal summer in which they crashed out of the World Cup at the earliest stage and then lost the Test series against New Zealand to plunge to the foot of the world league table.

There is no Test squad place for Warwickshire fast bowler Ed Giddins, who made his debut in the final Test at The Oval.

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