

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former Indian captain)
"I didn't want to produce a certificate that I am fit and then not be able to field in the deep."

On why he opted not to be selected for the Kenya-bound team.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-120

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Sept 24, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who won the Singapore Cricket Challenge?
2	Zimbabwe W Indies India
3	Who lifted the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup?
4	Brazil Ghana Japan
5	Who was the man-of-the-series in the Awa Cup?
6	Jayasurya Gilchrist Dravid
7	Where will the next ICC mini World Cup be held?
8	Kenya Canada Sharjah
9	Who will captain Bangladesh football team in the SA Games?
10	Jewel Rana Aliaz Masud Rana

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Kabadi super league on

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Sept 18: The super league matches of Rajshahi First Division Kabadi League began yesterday at the Rajshahi Outer Stadium.

A total of six teams are taking part in the league.

Jagrata Shangha achieved an easy win over Modern Boxing Club 113-35 in the inaugural match of the super league.

Meanwhile, Jagrata Tarun Samaj clinched the championship of the First Alm Smriti Football tournament.

In the final also held yesterday at Shakhen Chak Panchayat, the winner defeated Hathat Brishu Club 4-0.

Kumble to play at Grace Road

LONDON, Sept 18 (Internet report): Leicestershire today signed Indian Test star Anil Kumble as their overseas player for next season. The 28-year-old leg-spinner will replace Australian fast bowler Michael Kasprowicz at Grace Road and has signed a one-year contract.

It will be Kumble's second experience of county cricket -- he played for Northamptonshire in 1995 when he became the first bowler to take 100 wickets in a season since the start of four day matches in 1993.

He took 105 at an average of 20.4 and made a huge impact on Northants' season.

Kumble has played for India in more than 40 Tests and over 100 one-day internationals and took 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan earlier this year.

Leicestershire manager Jack Birkenshaw said: "We are delighted that Kumble will be joining us because he is a world-class player."

"There has been a shift in balance in recent years and world class spin-bowlers are increasingly winning matches for teams in England."

"He is also a very experienced bowler in bowling at the close of one day innings and we are sure that his one day international experience will be of great benefit to us."

Three new caps in Bangladesh squad BCB gaffe cause uproar

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 16-member national team for a couple of one-day and a three-day match against the touring West Indies. The Caribbeans, led by Brian Lara, are scheduled to fly into the city on October 1.

However, the manner in which the board disclosed the list can only be termed as strange and, to some extent, the bizarre attitude on its part.

While most Test nations usually choose to call the press before making an official announcement in presence of the chief selector, the BCB for the 18th time decided to do otherwise.

Although it would not cost the board anything to develop rapport with the fourth estate, its uncanny attitude came as a shock to many after chief selector Tanveer Haider had announced he would be available to the press when the team was officially announced.

"We want to disclose the team in a press briefing. I think Barlow (the South African coach of the national team) will also be present there," had said an hour before BCB announced the list yesterday.

"We sent the list of 24 players including eight stand-byes

for approval of the board president on Friday," added.

But, to the utter surprise of

AMINUL ISLAM

many in the conscientious corps, some newspapers published the team yesterday even before the board president opened the sealed envelope.

Although admitted that the list published in some newspapers yesterday was exactly the same that they sent to the president for approval, he expressed his ignorance about how it was leaked to a section of the press.

While the chief selector ex-

pressed his innocence, many were convinced that one of the three selectors played the role of the 'bad boy', forcing the board to make the impromptu announcement yesterday evening.

Aminal Islam was retained as captain in a side where the selectors named three rookies in Ahmed Kamal, Nasirul Alam and Mosaddeq Hossain.

Al Shahriar is a medium pacer who played for Abahani last season. Nasirul Alam, a middle-order batsman, played for Mohammmedan last year. But the sensational inclusion in the team was that of young leg-spinner Mosaddeq Hossain.

Apart from the three pairs of fresh legs, Al Shahriar and Javed Omar are the two notable inclusions in the side. Al Shahriar, a free stroke-maker and Javed, a doughty opening batsman, were ignored in Bangladesh's World Cup team.

The Bangladesh squad:

Mehrab Hossain, Shahriar Islam (captain), Naimur Rahman, Al Shahriar, Khaled Mahmud (vice captain), Khaled Masood, Hasibul Hossain, Neeyamur Rashid, Enamul Hoque, Mosaddeq Hossain, Sufiuddin Ahmed, Nasirul Alam, Monjurul Islam and Ahmed Kamal.



Members of the American (L) and Russian Fed Cup teams pose at Stanford University in California on September 17.

— AFP photo

Warne relishes prospect



SHANE WARNE

COLOMBO, Sept 18 (Reuters/Internet): Shane Warne, the extrovert Australian who helped revive the art of wrist spin, said on Saturday he was excited about playing for Hampshire in next year's county championship and the timing was just right.

"Playing county cricket is something I always wanted to do. The timing has not been quite right over the years but this time I think the 'time' is right," he said in an interview.

I am quiet excited and looking forward to the challenge," he said.

Warne, who is second on the all-time Australian list of Test wicket takers with 322 victims, signed a six-figure contract and will replace fast bowler Nixon McLean who is likely to tour England with the West Indies.

With Australia scheduled to visit in 2001, next season probably represented Warne's best opportunity to fulfil his ambition to play county cricket.

"The deal we got makes both parties happy. Initially three or four counties were involved, then I got down to a couple," Warne said, adding that his family would join him in England while he plays.

On Friday, Hampshire captain Robin Smith backed Warne to raise the profile of the county.

The former hard-hitting South African born batsman said: "It's a huge coup for us because names don't come any bigger than Shane. The interest he will generate will lift everyone at the club and give us all a boost."

"I've played against him for many years but Shane has always remained a good friend. We've kept in touch and he has always said he would like to play in county cricket before he finished."

Hampshire chairman Brian Ford said: "It's going to be the biggest sum we've ever spent on a player but I feel certain it will be well worth it. The sum in-

Mohammedan Sptg record big win

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting got off to a rollicking start in the 15th All Airlines Gold Cup invitational football tournament with a 4-0 rout over County Sports Federation in Haldia, Calcutta yesterday.

Ritu with a brilliant hat trick paved the way for a resounding victory for the black-and-whites. Rakib scored the other goal.

Mohammedan will take on Mohun Bagan in their next group league match tomorrow.

Ronaldo, Baggio to miss Parma match

MILAN, Sept 18: Roberto Baggio and Ronaldo were left off the list of players suiting up for Internazionale of Milan's match with AC Parma on Sunday, reports AP.

Both star strikers have been battling leg injuries since last season, and Inter coach Marcelo Lippi said Saturday that neither is fit to play.

Ronaldo has played only 104 out of a possible 180 minutes so far this season for Inter and has yet to score.

The Brazilian looked out of sorts against AS Roma last weekend, when Lippi removed him from the field after 59 minutes.

Baggio, who led Italy to the 1994 World Cup final, has not practised with Inter for 10 days.

Warne's manager Michael Cohen said the Australian star always wanted to play county cricket but so far his commitments in international cricket have prevented him from doing so.

"I played only on Ashes tours and in tour games they try out younger guys and the senior players rest so you don't get a true indication of what county cricket is like," Warne said.

Warne, the Australian vice-captain, lost his place in the tour of West Indies this year but was a key figure in their World Cup winning campaign.

He took his 15th five-wicket haul in Australia's first test loss to Sri Lanka last week.

Warne may combine with England left-arm pace bowler Alan Mullally who will quit Leicestershire at the end of the season.

Newspaper reports on Friday said Mullally was likely to join Hampshire.

LBWs unaffected!

LONDON, Sept 18 (Internet report): A British scientist says the advent of neutral Test cricket umpires has had no effect on leg-before-wicket rates.

Dr Trevor Ringrose, a statistician from Cranfield University in England, says he had reached the conclusion after studying 340 series, 89 of which had one neutral umpire per game.

He told the British Association of Science Festival that the old perception that umpires were neutral no matter where they came from held true.

However, Ringrose's study found visiting batsmen were more likely to be given out LBW in Australia, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka than in the other five Test playing nations.

But there's no evidence to suggest this was from biased umpiring.

Schools b'ball BKSP, Happy Times win

Sports Reporter

BKSP and Happy Times School won their respective Tom McCabe Schools Basketball Tournament at the Dhamondi Gymnasium yesterday.

BKSP handed a crushing 106-22 point defeat on BN School in the first match of the day. In a lop-sided affair the boys from the country's lone sports institute led a weak BN team 54-13 in the first half.

Nazmul notched highest 21 points for the winners.

In the second match of the day, Happy Times School recorded a 77-48 point victory over Scholastica. Nandita with 24 points was the leading cager for the winners.

SAF flag-bearer BOA undecided

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) appears to be in a thick soup in announcing the name of the flag-bearer of the Bangladesh contingent at the forthcoming SAF Games, scheduled to start in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu from September 27.

It is certain that he would not be available for Bangladesh's matches against the West Indies. But we are working on getting him fit before our matches against the visiting English. Tanvir added.

SAF flag-bearer GRAHAM THORPE

The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) appears to be in a thick soup in announcing the name of the flag-bearer of the Bangladesh contingent at the forthcoming SAF Games, scheduled to start in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu from September 27.

It was learnt that the athletics and the shooting federations were involved in a tug-of-war to carry the red-and-green national colours. While the athletics federation claimed that Mahabubur Rahman, who won the 200m gold in the last SAF Games in Madras in 1995, should have the honour, the shooting federation considers Commonwealth and SAF gold medallist Saiful Alam Rinky as a more fitting contender to do a match-up its mind about the flag-bearer.

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Wushu contest mark China day

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic & Mass Communication Centre (BCCEMCC) held a martial arts competition at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex on Friday.

The long competition, which attracted a lot of enthusiasts from across the country, was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Wushu Federation and the BCCEMCC to mark the 50th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Yao Bao Lai, first secretary (cultural) of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka was present on the occasion.

Usha in SAF Games squad

Sports Reporter

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: Veteran sprint queen P T Usha was yesterday included in the 64-member strong athletics squad named for the South Asian Federation Games to be held in Kathmandu from September 25 to October 4, reports PTI.



Members of the American (L) and Russian Fed Cup teams pose at Stanford University in California on September 17.

— AFP photo

Latif cross-examined

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, Sept 18 (Internet report): Former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif had a disappointing session yesterday with the inquiry commission, which is probing match-fixing allegations against some star cricketers.

The former national captain, who is nursing the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday said that nothing had come out of Latif's meeting with Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum, who is due to submit his detailed findings from a year-long inquiry in few days.

The board is preparing a national team for a series of matches against the visiting West Indies and the England 'A'.