

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-122

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Oct 29, 99 and draw

shortly afterwards

1 Which country won the SAF

football gold?

Bangladesh India Nepal

2 Who is the captain of Brazil?

Cafu Rivaldo Ronaldo

3 How many teams will play in next

year's Asia Cup cricket?

4 5 6

4 Who won the men's 100 m in the

Summer Athletics?

Mahub Yasin Ratan

5 Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup

title?

Rusedski Agassi Kafelnikov

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## SPORTS TALK



### Diego Maradona

(Argentine soccer legend)

"I know the feeling. It is difficult to show people what you are worth when you are not fit."

About the plight of French striker Nicolas Anelka.

### Aravinda skips Zimbabwe tour

COLOMBO, Oct 28 (AFP): Sri Lanka's dashing batsman Aravinda de Silva has pulled out of the forthcoming tour of Zimbabwe, cricket selectors here said Thursday.

Head of the selection board Sidath Wettimuni said De Silva cited personal reasons to be excused from the Zimbabwe tour but made it clear he will be available for other matches.

Sri Lanka Wednesday named a 16-member squad led by skipper Sanath Jayasuriya but it was not immediately clear who would replace de Silva.

### Fletcher sees no problem

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 28: England cricket coach Duncan Fletcher, a former South African provincial coach, said on Wednesday he did not expect to gain an advantage by having worked with many of South Africa's leading national players, reports Reuters.

Fletcher, who took over as coach on October 1 from David Lloyd, arrived in South Africa with his team for a four-match tour that includes a five-match Test series and a triangular series with Zimbabwe.

But Fletcher, who coached the likes of Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis and Paul Adams while at Western Province, said he did not expect that his local knowledge would play a big role.

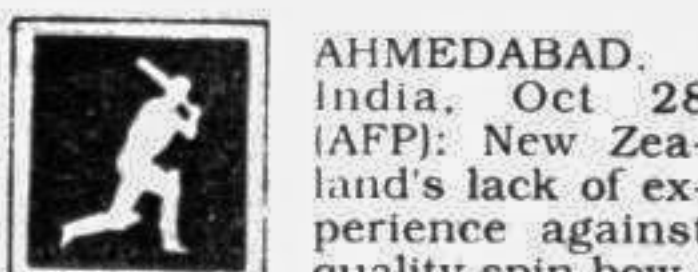
"In the modern age with things like video analysis anybody can study a player," Fletcher said. "I don't think that my involvement with these players will be as significant as people think it is."

"It's not like me saying 'do this and we'll get him out next ball.' The South Africans are already sound players and it just doesn't work that way."

Fletcher, who still owns a house in Cape Town, said he had confidence in an relatively young England side which includes four new faces.

"We have five youngsters between the ages of 20 and 22 and they are all superb athletes in all three dimensions of the game — batting, fielding and bowling," Fletcher said. "They are fine players and have been brought here to perform."

## Spin-trap awaits Kiwis



AHMEDABAD, India, Oct 28 (AFP): New Zealand's lack of experience against quality spin bowling is likely to show up again as India go for the kill in the third and final Test starting here on Friday.

The Motera stadium wicket

is as dry and spin-friendly as the one at the Green Park in Kanpur, where India won the second Test by eight wickets with a day to spare earlier this week.

The Kiwis have not come to terms with the low bounce of Indian wickets, allowing leg-spinner Anil Kumble to read his familiar riot act in a condition tailor-made for him.

Kumble, who grabbed all 10 wickets against Pakistan at New Delhi earlier this year, destroyed the Kiwis in Kanpur with six second innings wickets to take his career tally to 253.

Only Kapil Dev, the Indian team's current coach, with a record haul of 434, and former spin great Bishan Bedi (266) have taken more Test wickets for India than Kumble.

The genial computer engi-

neer from Bangalore will once again team up with off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and left-arm Sunil Joshi to plot another Indian win at home.

India have not lost a home series since 1987, but have managed to win just one Test abroad — against Sri Lanka at Colombo in 1993 — in the same period.

Sachin Tendulkar, enjoying his second stint as Indian captain, will settle for nothing less than a 2-0 win ahead of next month's important tour of Australia.

The scoreline must show we are much stronger than them," said Tendulkar, whose hopes of a 3-0 rout were dashed by resolute Kiwi batting in the first Test at Mohali.

Tendulkar was not entirely pleased the way victory was achieved in the Kanpur Test, saying his bowlers should not have allowed New Zealand to get 155 in the second innings.

Tendulkar was particularly unhappy with Joshi's solitary wicket in the innings, but the selectors turned down his request for Bombay's Nilesh Kulkarni instead at Ahmedabad.

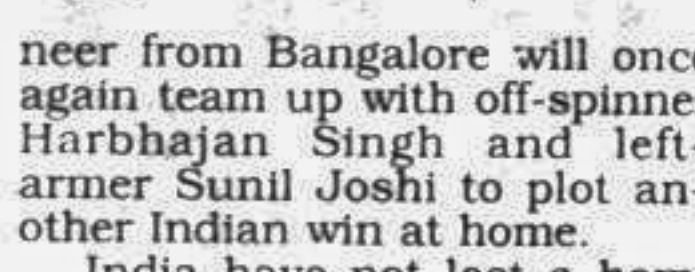
With the Indian squad for Australia to be named during the Test, there is a strong incentive for Joshi and the rest of the team to tighten the noose around the hapless Kiwis.

India are likely to field an unchanged team, but New Zealand must find a replacement for star batsman Craig McMillan, who broke the index finger of his right hand while fielding at Kanpur.

With opener Matthew Bell struggling to find form, the Kiwis may be forced to play Canterbury captain Gary Stead, who flew in on Wednesday to reinforce the team.

New Zealand manager Jeff Crowe said all was not lost for the tourists.

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by the Indians," said Crowe, a former Test captain.

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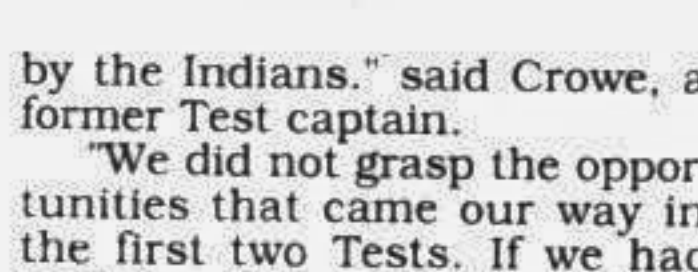
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