

# Star Sport

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-124

Tick the Correct Answers. Post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes.

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 10, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Argentine soccer star Batistuta plays for Serie A club

2 Which country will host the 12th Asian Cup football finals?

3 How many Test double hundreds has Sri Lankan batsman Marvan Atapattu scored so far?

4 Where will the ninth SAIF Games be held?

5 How many teams are playing in the National Cricket League?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_ School Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



### Kapil Dev

(Indian cricket coach)

"I don't have to really reply if I don't feel like it. If necessary I might do it. I'll take my own sweet time. It's the beginning of the tour."

After the Indian team was reported for dissent for the second day in a row during their 4-day match against NSW last week.

### Ponting to play in Adelaide

ADELAIDE, Dec 7: Number six batsman Ricky Ponting today said he will play in Friday's opening cricket Test against India at the Adelaide Oval, reports AFP.

Ponting, hampered by a back strain, has been ruled out of bowling in the series opener but said the injury would not affect his batting.

The Tasmanian's back ailment flared up in Hobart during the recent four-day Sheffield Shield match against South Australia.

### Prize distribution ceremony

Sports Reporter

The prize-giving ceremony of the 8th inter-college chess tournament was held at the Notre Dame College Auditorium yesterday.

Green of the hosts won the eighth edition of the annual event, organised by Notre Dame Chess Club. Principal of Notre Dame College Father Benjamin Costa, CSC, distributed prizes among the winners. Asad Karim Khan of Notre Dame Green was adjudged the best player of the meet.

Twenty-two teams from fifteen different colleges took part in the tourney this year.

### England's tour match tied

DURBAN, Dec 7: Fast bowler Alex Tudor hinted at a return to form as England drew with KwaZulu-Natal on the final day of their rain-hit four-day match on Monday, reports Reuters.

When play was abandoned 90 minutes before the scheduled close, KwaZulu-Natal were 152 for two in their second innings — 41 ahead — after England had been bowled out for 421 in their first innings during the morning session.

A draw had been on the cards from the second day on a flat, unresponsive pitch tailor-made for batting.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader (2nd from R) and Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif unveil the logo of the upcoming national football league during a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. —Star photo

### Damal semis start Dec 9

Sports Reporter

The first semifinal of the 19th Damal Smriti cricket tournament between Dhaka Wanderers and Lalmitia Club commences at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

Dhaka Wanderers advanced into the last four of the traditional season's curtain raiser with an impressive eight-wicket win over Dhamondi on Monday while Lalmitia, relegated from the Premier League last year, rallied back defeating Young Cricketers by 54 runs.

On the other hand, Khelghar SKS will take on Dhamondi Club in the other semifinal at the same venue on December 10. The final is billed for December 12.

### Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Dec 7: Dhoneshor Jubo Club and the Gachi Lions Club jointly became champions in the final of the Shah Mohammad Jafarullah Smriti football tournament at Bagmara College ground today.

Both teams netted one goal each during the regulation period.

## Nitol-Tata nat'l soccer league

Sports Reporter

Nitol Group of Bangladesh and Tata Automobiles of India will jointly sponsor the inaugural National Football League which will start from the third week of January. This was formally announced by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) at a media briefing held at a local hotel yesterday evening.

Eight teams will make up the Nitol-Tata National Football League. They are: Premier League champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, runners-up Abahani Krira Chakra, Federation Cup finalists Muktioddha Sangsad Krira Chakra together with divisional teams from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. The other divisional side to be decided after the play-off between Barisal and Sylhet.

Four different venues—Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi—will stage matches. Bangladesh Television is likely to provide coverage.

Chaired by BFF president and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, BFF general secretary Harun Rashid MP,

league committee chairman and BFF vice-president Anjan Chowdhury Pintoo and chairman of Nitol Group Abdul Matlub Ahmed, Tata representative Dharmendra Thoria and SS Das Gupta of BFF's marketing agent Leisure Sports Management (LSM), were present.

BFF general secretary Harun Rashid hailed the occasion as a red-letter day for the country's football. He said that the fixture will be finalised soon. He also revealed that LSM, the marketing agent, would deal with all commercial aspects of the league and would get sixty per cent of the BFF earnings from the sponsorship deals after crossing the initial target of Taka 50 lakh.

Nitol Group chairman Abdul Matlub disclosed that his group in a joint arrangement with Tata, will pay Taka 40 lakh to BFF as title sponsor.

In his vote of thanks after unveiling the logo of the league, BFF president Mohammad Hanif thanked the sponsors for extending their hands to promote football in Bangladesh.

## India beaten badly

CANBERRA, Dec 7 (AFP/Reuters): The touring Indians received a rude shock ahead of the Test series against Australia when they crashed to a 164-run defeat against the Prime Minister's team here today.

What was expected to be an easy stroll in the exhibition one-day match watched by Australian Prime Minister John Howard, turned into a morale-sapping disaster for Sachin Tendulkar's men.

Centuries by David Fitzgerald and Andrew Symonds lifted the young local team to a massive 334 for five from 50 overs after Tendulkar elected to field.

The Indians, who face Australia in the first of three Tests at Adelaide on Friday, were shot out for 170 in reply.

Paceman Brett Lee, the fastest bowler in Australia but still not good enough to make the Test team, ripped through the top order with four wickets, including the prized one of Tendulkar for two.

The Indians were reduced to 44-5, before Saurav Ganguly (46) and Vijay Bharadwaj (45) restored some sanity to the proceedings.

The lack of Indian firepower showed up as South Australia's Fitzgerald made 115 off 123

balls, while Queenslanders Symonds clubbed 101 from 90 balls in a second-wicket stand of 187.

Captain Shane Lee struck an unbeaten 55 from 38 balls to push the score beyond 300 in perfect conditions at the Manuka Oval.

The heavy defeat left the Indians struggling to find the right combination to battle Steve Waugh's Australians, who whipped Pakistan 3-0 earlier in the season.

India go into the first Test with two heavy defeats in their first three matches. They went down by 10 wickets to Queensland in the tour opener at the Gabba, before defeating new South Wales in another four-day match at Sydney.

"I'm pretty disappointed not to have won, but the real cricket starts now," said Tendulkar.

"I don't know that we can take anything from this match. But it is a tradition and the Prime Minister has looked after us really well. We've really enjoyed his hospitality."

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the limited-overs cricket match between an Australian Prime Minister's XI and India on Tuesday

**PRIME MINISTER'S XI**  
Hussey c Kanitkar b Kumaran 18  
Fitzgerald c Tendulkar b Mohanty 115  
Symonds c Laxman b Kumaran 101  
Hodge run out 5

**Result:** Prime Minister's XI won by 164 runs  
**Man-of-the-match:** David Fitzgerald.

## Record beckons Steve

ADELAIDE, Dec 7 (AFP/Reuters): Australian captain Steve Waugh goes into the first Test against India here from Friday aiming to become the first batsman to score a century against all Test-playing nations.

India is the only team that has escaped Waugh's tally of 20 Test hundreds, partly because of the scarcity of matches between the two countries in the last decade.

India's last tour of Australia in 1991-92, coincided with Waugh's darkest days as a cricketer after being dumped from the national lineup.

"I haven't played a lot of Test cricket against India so it would be nice to do well against them," Waugh said ahead of the first Test at the Adelaide Oval.

Twin brother Mark missed the distinction Steve is after when he was dismissed for 90 in the Harare Test against Zimbabwe in October.

Steve Waugh cracked an unbeaten 151 in the same match, leaving India as the only gap in his polished 122-Test career.

"I hadn't really thought about it until recently," Waugh said.

Mark missed out on the record in Zimbabwe which he was disappointed about. I've got the opportunity now because I got a hundred against Zimbabwe.

"It would be great, but more importantly we have got to play well as a team."

Waugh hit out at claims his team ruthlessly sledged Pakistan's players during their recent tour.

Responding to uncorroborated media reports that Pakistan wanted to boycott next month's limited-overs tournament in Australia because of the sledging, Waugh angrily dismissed the allegations.

"I've had a gutful of it," Waugh said.

"I just can't believe what has been made out of the last test match and frankly I'm sick of it."

India served notice of their intention to be aggressive when they were embroiled in verbal duels during the four-day match against New South Wales in Sydney last week.

Waugh, however, warned against being complacent against the Indians after the 3-0 series win. —Star photo

### Saudi double for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh have been placed in Group 10 of the Asian qualifying zone for the 2002 Football World Cup along with Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Mongolia. The draw was held in Tokyo yesterday.

Interestingly, this is for the second consecutive time Bangladesh are drafted in a group with Saudi Arabia, seeded top in Asia by the latest FIFA rankings.

Although Saudi Arabia are the overwhelming favourites in the group, joint-secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Sirajul Islam felt the fixture could not have been better for the Asian minnows.

"I think this is a better group for us. Saudi Arabia is certainly the best side in the group. But we are better than the other two teams," said Sirajul Islam while talking to the Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh have never crossed the first round and carry disappointing memories of their encounter four years ago against the desert kingdom. They lost to Saudi Arabia 4-1 in the first leg and went down 0-3 in the second leg in the qualifying round of the 1998 World Cup.

Although Saudi Arabia are familiar opponents, Bangladesh hardly played against Mongolia and Vietnam.

"We did not play against Vietnam but I don't think they have a better side than ours. I have seen Mongolia in action and I think they are the weakest in the group," said the BFF joint-secretary.

Replying to a query Sirajul Islam said they were not sure whether they will prefer home and away matches or choose a single venue as they did in the previous occasion.

Forty Asian countries, split into ten groups, are taking part in the first round. The winners of each group will advance to two second round groups of five, the two winners of which will qualify for the finals, to be held in Japan and South Korea.

The runners-up of the two second round groups will play each other for the right to play off against a runners-up from the European groups for the third possible place for an Asian side.

### World Youth Cricket

BKSP camp gets going

Sports Reporter

All but one, called up in the residential camp for the World Youth cricket championship to be held in Sri Lanka in January next year, have reported to the director of coaching Eddie Barlow at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office yesterday.

Tariqul Hasan is reported to have taken prior permission from the Board for a few days' leave due to examination.

Besides, five other cricketers, after reporting to the South African coach of the national team, did not join the camp, which started at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

The quintet—Hannan Sarker, Rajin Saleh, Imran Rahim, Rezaul Haq and Selim—stayed back in the city for playing in the ongoing National League, which resumes tomorrow after a three-day break.

Thirty cricketers got the primary nod of the BCB. The World Youth cricket championship begins in Colombo from January 10, 2000.

Pencilled into Group B, Bangladesh will play their first match against fancied India on January 12.

Bangladesh will play their second group league match against New Zealand on January 14. Bangladesh, who lifted the Plate title in South Africa two years back, will meet Holland in the last Group B match on January 16.

## FULL QUALIFYING ROUND DRAW

TOKYO, Dec 7 (AFP): The complete draw for the qualifying round of the 2002 World Cup.

A record 195 teams will play in the qualifying round. 32 teams will play in the finals.



Hosts Japan and South Korea and holders France qualify automatically.

ASIA (four or five teams qualify including Japan and South Korea)

OCEANIA (0 or 1 team to qualify) Winners of two groups play

AFRICA (5 teams qualify) A first round played on basis of 25 two-leg knockout matches. The 25 winners then go into a fresh draw for five groups of five, the winners of which qualify for the finals.

FIRST ROUND

Group A Cape Verde Islands vs Algeria Mauritania vs Tunisia Benin vs Senegal Guinea-Bissau vs Togo Gambia vs Togo

Group B Lesotho vs South Africa Swaziland vs Angola Botswana vs Zambia Madagascar vs Gabon Sudan vs Mozambique

Group C Equatorial Guinea vs Congo Libya vs Mali Rwanda vs Cote d'Ivoire Sao Tome e Principe vs Sierra Leone Central African Republic vs Zimbabwe

Group D Seychelles vs Namibia Djibouti vs Congo DR Somalia vs Cameroon Mauritius vs Egypt Eritrea vs Nigeria

Group E Chad vs Liberia Uganda vs Guinea Ethiopia vs Burkina Faso Malawi vs Kenya Tanzania vs Ghana

EUROPE (14 or 15 teams to qualify including France) Winners of each group qualify directly for finals. The nine runners up will join one Asian side in two-leg play-offs for another five places.

Group 1 Yugoslavia Russia Switzerland Slovenia Luxembourg Faroe Islands

Group 2 Netherlands Portugal Republic of Ireland Cyprus Andorra Estonia

Group 3 Czech Republic Denmark Bulgaria Iceland Northern Ireland Malta

Group 4 Sweden Turkey Slovakia FYR Macedonia Azerbaijan Moldova

Group 5 Norway Ukraine Poland Wales Armenia Belarus

Group 6 Belgium Scotland Croatia Latvia San Marino

Group 7 Spain Austria Israel Bosnia-Herzegovina Lichtenstein

Group 8 Romania Italy Lithuania Hungary Georgia

Group 9 Germany England Greece Finland Albania

### Sports for the handicapped

Sports Reporter

A daylong sports competition for the disabled will be held at the Army Stadium in Banani tomorrow.

About 500 handicapped athletes will take part in the meet, organised by the National Forum of Organisations Working With The Disabled. State Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Mozammel Hossain will inaugurate the meet at 8.30 in the morning.

### CARIBBEAN

Preliminary phase Caribbean Zone (Cup system) with three rounds. Winners of third round matches advance to semi-final stage. Loser in round three of group one plays Canada for place in the semi-final stage.

Losers in groups two and

three play the runners up in the central American groups for place in semi-finals

Group 1 Cuba vs Cayman Islands St Lucia vs Surinam Aruba vs Puerto Rico Barbados vs Grenada

Group 2 St Vincent and Grenada vs US Virgin Islands St Kitts and Nevis vs Turks and Caicos Islands Guyana vs Antigua and Barbuda British Virgin Islands vs Bermuda

Group 3 Trinidad and Tobago vs Netherlands Antilles Dominican Republic vs Montserrat Dominica vs Haiti Anguilla vs Bahamas

Group 4 El Salvador Belize Guatemala

Group 5 Honduras Nicaragua Panama

Group 6 Iraq Kazakhstan Nepal Macau

Group 7 Uzbekistan Jordan Turkmenistan Taiwan

Group 8 United Arab Emirates India Yemen Brunei

Group 9 China Indonesia Maldives Cambodia

Group 10 Saudi Arabia Vietnam Bangladesh Mongolia

### OUR GROUP: FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen (C) is flanked by former Japanese ladies' tennis star Kimiko Date (L) and France's World Cup 1998 winning coach Aime Jacquet during the qualifying round's draw for the Asian Group 10 in Tokyo yesterday.



OUR GROUP: FIFA general secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen (C) is flanked by former Japanese ladies' tennis star Kimiko Date (L) and France's World Cup 1998 winning coach Aime Jacquet during the qualifying round's draw for the Asian Group 10 in Tokyo yesterday.

Group winners advance to two second round groups of five, the winners of which qualify. Runners-up play each other for right to play-off against a runner-up from the European groups for an extra place.

each other for the right to play off against the team that is fifth in the South America qualifying group.

**FIRST GROUPS**

Group 1 Australia Tonga Fiji American Samoa Samoa

Group 2 New Zealand Tahiti Solomon Islands Vanuatu Cook Islands

Group 3 Qatar Malaysia Hong Kong Palestine

Group 4 Kuwait Singapore Bahrain Kyrgyzstan

Group 5 Thailand

### SOUTH AMERICA

(four or five teams to qualify)

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela to play each other home and away in round-robin group.

The top four qualify directly with the fifth going into a play off against the winner of the Oceania zone.

### CONCACAF

(3 teams qualify)

North America Mexico, Jamaica and the USA are seeded. Along with Costa Rica they go straight to semi-final stage — 12 teams in three groups of four. Top two from each go into final round-robin with top three qualifying.

### CENTRAL AMERICA

Preliminary phase Central American Zone (League system). Group winners qualify for semi-final round, runners up play Caribbean zone third round losers.)

Group A El Salvador Belize Guatemala

Group B Honduras Nicaragua Panama

Group C El Salvador Belize Guatemala



Members of the Windows team, who became champions in the Apteck Dhanmondi Centre crickets tournament, pose after beating PowerPoint by six wickets in the final at the Dhanmondi Club ground on December 2. Sent in to bat, PowerPoint made 114 all out in 22.2 overs. In reply, the winners reached the target of 115 in just 12.4 overs.