

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-126

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to the Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 7, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. How many centuries did Tendulkar
score in the Tests series against
Australia recently?

One Two Three

2. Who won the last ever European
Cup Winners' Cup soccer?

Lazio Barcelona Man United

3. Who was named player of the
cricket World Cup?

Kluseker S Waugh Dravid

4. Where did Maurice Greene break
the 100m world record?

Athens Seville Toronto

5. Who lifted the National Cricket
League title?

Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Steve Waugh

(Australian cricket captain)

"It's been a great end to a

great season."

After winning the Carlton

and United tri-series.

Shoaib seeks

time from

Notts

UNDATED, Feb 5 (Internet

report): Pakistani speedster

Shoaib Akhtar has set a dead-

line with Nottinghamshire for

deciding his fate at Trent Bridge

as mindful Chris Cairns is

waiting in the wings.

The Pakistani paceman has

asked the club to give him until

February 20 to find out whether

his international commit-

ments will prevent him fulfill-

ing his contract this summer.

If Shoaib is chosen for all

four Pakistan tours, he will

only be available for five

County Championship matches

and Notts will turn to all-

rounder Cairns as his replace-

ment.

Notts chairman Albert

Bocking said: "Shoaib wants to

come to Trent Bridge but the

bottom line is that Pakistan

have first call on him.

"If they pick him for all four

tours we would probably want

to come to some agreement to

terminate his contract."

Ossie fears

for Diego

TOKYO, Feb 5: World Cup-

winning Argentine Ossie

Ardiles said on Saturday he

feared for the life of his former

international teammate Diego

Maradona, who is undergoing

drug rehabilitation in Cuba, re-

ports AFP.

Maradona, who played

alongside Ardiles at the 1982



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING! Faruque Ahmed (R) deposits his token to Biman official Ali Ahsan Babu (L) while Aminul Islam (2nd from R) looks on at Gazipur yesterday. Both Faruque and Aminul played for Biman last year. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Inter-club players' transfer on No surprise from stars

Sports Reporter



Star cricketers stayed out of the inter-club cricketers' transfer as the three-day bourse began in a dreary fashion at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Conference Room yesterday.

Although almost all the leading cricketers paid courtesy visit, none of them showed the enthusiasm and excitement of a transfer that offered lots of speculation and drama previously.

At the onset of the bourse, the 12 Premier League clubs of Dhaka reached an off-hand deal, dubbed as gentleman's agreement, for not to chase after the bracketed top four players of each team.

Forty-eight cricketers collected their tokens on the opening day and thirty-nine participated in the transfer business so far.

The only notable incident on the day, highlighted by the presence of mediocre players, were the signings of national captain Aminul Islam and his predecessor Faruque Ahmed on commission. Words were on the air that the controversial agreement of the clubs might be sabotaged by some ambitious teams as Aminul and Faruque headed off to a secret place to settle a surprise deal.

But the duo made a fuss out of nothing as they eventually preferred to stay with their old club—Bangladesh Biman. Biman had a little doubt about its bracketed player Aminul. But as there was no 'don't touch' sign over Faruque, the national players were very skeptical about the allegiance of their captain. The former Bangladesh captain however put the growing speculation of moving to Mohammedan Sporting Club to rest by submitting his token to Biman officials yesterday.

Apart from the two big deals, the defending champions ensured the services of other three pool players—Habibul Bashar, Javed Omar Belim and Saifulah Khan. Besides, the holders also roped in two young players including right-arm seamer Aminul Islam Bhola, who played for Ajax last season.

Like Biman, Surjo Tarun Club, Brothers Union and Kalabagan also came to the BCB of Dhaka accompanied by their star players. But Abahani and Mohammedan, the two most crowd-pulling outfits in the country, did not show up in the transfer market yesterday.

Brothers Union stirred some sensation in an otherwise mundane market when they signed up Pakistani Shahed Mehmud. The Lahore-based left-arm spinner, who played for Mo-

ammedan last year, took all by surprise when he took an amazing haul of 54 wickets in only seven matches for Chittagong in the National League. The Gopibagh club also obtained the token of Abahani pacer Ahmed Kamal.

Surjo Tarun, a new force in Dhaka cricket, also had a happy hunting on the day. They secured the jobs of Mohammedan's right-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan, Victoria's young opener Imran Ahmed and Agrani Bank's left-arm spinner Suja Erfan. Al-Amin of Victoria also joined Surjo Tarun.

The transfer will resume at 5pm today.

The following 24 cricketers have lost their rights to bargain in the transfer market: Biman: Aminul Islam, Habibul Bashar, Hasanuzzaman and Javed Omar; Abahani: Naimur Rahman, Mehrez Hossain, Hasibul Hossain and Azam Iqbal; Mohammedan SC: Nasirul Alam, Rashedul Haque, Monjurul Islam and Mohammad Rafique; Brothers Union: Sanwar Hossain, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Shahriar Hossain and Jahangir Alam; Kalabagan KC: Fahim Muntasir, Mushfiqur Rahman, Saiful Islam and Harunur Rashid; Surjo Tarun Club: Minhazul Abedin, Al Shahriar, Khaled Masood and Enamul Hoque.



Pakistani Shahed Mehmud (L), who played for Mohammedan last season, shakes hands with his new club mate Shahriar Hossain of Brothers Union after completing transfer formalities yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

The 39 players who were involved in the bourse on first day of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer yesterday:

Name	Previous Club	Present Club
Habibul Bashar	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Hasanuzzaman	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Saifulah Khan	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Javed Omar	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Salahuddin	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Humayun Rashid	City Club	City Club
Aminul Islam Bhola	Ajax	Ajax
Zakir Hasan	Victoria SC	Wari Club
Munirul Haq Mondal	GMCC	Agani Bank
Mazharul Haq Mondal	Orient SC	Agani Bank
Omar Sharif Khan	Ajax	Wari Club
Labirul Rahman	Agani Bank	Wari Club
Md. Salahuddin	Surjo Tarun	Wari Club
Tanvir Ahmed	Bangladesh Biman	Wari Club
Mizanur Rahman	Orient SC	Agani Bank
Jamaluddin Babu	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
Mofizul Islam	Orient SC	Brothers Union
Ali Nishan	Prantik Club	Brothers Union
Morshed Alam Sentu	City Club	Brothers Union
Ahmed Kamal	Abahani KC	Brothers Union
Mokter Siddiki	Wari Club	Brothers Union
Morshed Ali Khan	Mohammedan SC	Surjo Tarun
Imran Ahmed	Victoria SC	Surjo Tarun
Suja Erfan	Agani Bank	Surjo Tarun
Al-Amin	Victoria SC	Surjo Tarun
Shahed Mehmud	Mohammedan SC	Brothers Union
Tarunul Hasan	Dharmad Club	Brothers Union
Mustafizur Litu	Victoria SC	Kalabagan KC
Ashfaq Ali	Mohammedan SC	Kalabagan KC
Rafiqul Islam	Bangladesh Biman	Kalabagan KC
Murad Khan	Wari Club	Kalabagan KC
Rajin Saleh	Agani Bank	Kalabagan KC
Emran Parvez	Ajax	Kalabagan KC
Bikash Ranjan Das	Dhaka Wanderers	Kalabagan KC
Biplob Sarkar	GMCC	Victoria SC
Sajid Hasan	Kalabagan KC	City Club
Masudur Rahman	Kalabagan KC	Wari Club
Mahabubur Rahman	Kalabagan KC	Wari Club
Towhid Hossain	Brothers Union	Victoria SC

Ctg ready for NFL opener

Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJKS) is now ready to host the first-ever National Football League at MA Aziz Stadium. Officials said yesterday, reports BSS.

Post and Telecommunications and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim will inaugurate the tournament on February 9. Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and officials of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be present.

The tournament is expected to generate much enthusiasm among the football loving people in the district and adjoining areas and the CJKS officials have been working round-the-clock to make it a grand meet.

The stadium has been readied and decorated properly to welcome the football heroes of the past and present, acting general secretary F H Khan Fazu said.

He said, "We have organised successfully a three-day cricket match between England 'A' and Bangladesh late last year and we are capable of hosting the four scheduled matches of the League smoothly."

Tournament secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu, who is also BFF joint secretary, and another BFF joint secretary Badal Roy are now in Chittagong to oversee the preparations.

Eight teams split into two groups will take part in the tournament on league basis.

The teams are Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, Dhaka Abahani Krira Chakra, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Chittagong Abahani, Khulna Abahani, Sylhet Chaturanga, Rajshahi Abahani and Netrokona Mohammedan.

Dhaka Mohammedan will take on Khulna Abahani in the inaugural match.

Akram's advice

SYDNEY, Feb 5: Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram wants his country's officials to review the way they approach the game after another promising tour of Australia ended in defeat, reports Reuters.

Akram, speaking after his side crashed to a 152-run defeat in the second one-day final at the Sydney Cricket Ground, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) needed to change the way it ran the game if it was serious about wanting to challenge teams like Australia.

"We always come to Australia and get hammered. It's not the first time," Akram said. "We have to get our standard higher in Pakistan cricket. Talent's not enough."

"It can be enough if you want to win once in five games or maybe on the subcontinent, but if you want to win in Australia or in South Africa you have to have a very good structure and very good back-up as well."

Pakistan were beaten 3-0 in their three-match test series with Australia after coming here with high hopes of success.

They beat Australia in the first preliminary match of the triangular series which also included India but failed to beat them again, losing their next five clashes including the two finals.

Akram, who needs just 17 wickets to become only the fourth man in history to take 400 test scalps, said it was unlikely he would get the chance to tour Australia again as his career draws to a close but said he hoped the PCB would listen to his advice on how to improve their chances of winning.

"I'll go back and find out the reaction there from the cricket board," he said.

"I always go back with ideas. It depends how many people want to listen."

L'pool squad's scary landing

LONDON, Feb 5: English Premiership giants Liverpool were involved in a terrifying plane ordeal after a club trip to Malta, goalkeeper Sander Westerveld reported Saturday, reports AFP.

A field manager Gerard Houllier and his players were shaken after the incident, which happened as they prepared to land in bad weather at Manchester Airport last Saturday, the Dutch stopper told The Sun.

Westerveld said: "It was the worst flight I have ever experienced. I was scared stiff."

"I must have been in 100 aeroplanes but I had never come across a landing like this before. It was unbelievable."

"The only thing the plane didn't do was go into a loop. There was so much turbulence that the plane was going from left to right, up and down, and it was also shaking."

"We even bounced on the tarmac as we came in to land. I was really sweating, so you can imagine how relieved I was when we finally got all the wheels down on the ground."

The incident happened last Saturday as the team returned from a mid-season trip to the sunshine island.

Liverpool's opponents in the Premiership Saturday Leeds also suffered a horrifying air ordeal two years ago when an engine fire caused their jet to crash-land just after take-off at Stansted - the Yorkshire party also escaped injury.



Aminul Islam Bhola signing for Bangladesh Biman while his new club teammates Javed Omar (L) and Habibul Bashar watch. —Star photo

Pollock pilots Proteas



EAST LONDON, South Africa, Feb 5: Shaun Pollock hit boundaries off consecutive balls to earn South Africa a two-wicket win with two balls to spare over England in a one-day international on Friday, reports Reuters.

The home side, who won the toss and elected to field, replied to England's 231 for six with 233 for eight in 49.4 overs to keep alive their hopes of

winning the final of the triangular tournament, which also involves Zimbabwe.

South Africa went into the last over, bowled by medium-pacer Mark Ealham, needing eight runs to win and Peter Strydom took a single to mid-on off the first ball.

Pollock drove the next delivery to Nasser Hussain at short cover for no run but swept the third to the fine leg boundary and pulled the fourth, a full toss, to the midwicket ropes to end the match. Pollock was nine not out with Strydom on seven.

South Africa relied on their middle and late order batsmen for their win after slumping to 126 for five in the 32nd over in the face of tight bowling and committed fielding by England.

England might have been more successful but wicket-keeper Chris Read dropped Jacques Kallis twice in the space of six balls — first off left-arm fast bowler Alan Mullally on 13 with the total at 69 for two and then on 21 off Ealham at 78 for two.

Kallis went on to make 36,

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