Star Sport

DHAKA FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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 14 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?
   Klusener | 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

Roberto Baggio

(Italian soccer star)

"I don't like talking about it because I am easily misunderstood. Buddhism has given me a lot. It has taught me to believe more in myself."

On his religious inclinations.

Cricket goes indoors!

SINGAPORE, Feb 10: World cricket chiefs approved a request by the Australian Cricket Board for official one-day internationals to be played indoors, reports Reuters.

The decision, taken at the International Cricket Council (ICC) two-day meeting that ended on Thursday, was prompted by Australia's planned three-match series against South Africa at Melbourne's new Colonial Stadium in mid-August.

ICC chief executive David Richards said: "The only doubt raised (in the meeting) was what happens if the ball hits the roof.

"We then decided to recommend to the Australian board that the ball be declared a dead ball and bowled again in case the 38-metre ceiling is indeed hit."

The ICC has also approved an application by New Zealand to organise indoor cricket in their next season.

A cricket week from April 2-9 organised by the ICC to promote global interest in the game is to feature events in Zimbabwe as well as Bangladesh.

ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya said a tournament for emerging cricketing nations would be held in Harare during the week. Denmark, the Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland and Zimbabwe would be among the teams taking part.

The highlight of the week in Dhaka is a match between Asia and the Rest of World on April 8.

Nat'l Junior gymnastics from Feb 25

Sports Reporter

The 15th National Junior Gymnastics Championship will begin at the NSC gymnasium on February 25.

There will be a total of eight boys' and girls' events in the two-day meet, to be concluded on February 26.

Interested organisations have been asked to complete entry formalities by February 23.

Scene from the 26th National Chess Cxhampionship qualifiers at the NSC yesterday.
—Star photo

Nitol-Tata Nat'l League

Mukti scrape through

From Hasan Masood

CHITTAGONG, Feb 10: A late second half strike by substitute Bakhtiar helped title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra edge past Chaturanga Jubo Sangha of Sylhet (1-0) in their Nitol-Tata National Football League Group B opener at the MA Aziz Stadium here this evening.

The midfielder, who came in to replace striker Saiful Islam Khokon in the early second half, vindicated the decision of his coach with the all-important goal in the 76th minute following a counter attack.

But it took a lot of Muktijoddah efforts to break the deadlock. Following an abortive attempt by veteran striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, an opportunist Bakhtiar sent the ball home tabbing on a rebounder.

Nakib initiated the move down the left flank. The lanky forward sent a powerful angular shot, which ricocheted off Sylhet custodian Rakib Mahmud Apel. The ball travelled back to Nakib, who then chipped the ball to an unguarded Bakhtiar who made no mistake to break the stalemate. Receiving the ball with his left foot, Bakhtiar beat Apel with neat grounder with his right-foot.

But apart from that goal, the all-reds came up with a pedestrian display in front of an almost barren stadium. All the toothless Mukti attacks were fended off against the defence wall of Chaturanga Sangha. The unheralded Sylhetis, who gave their star-studded opponents a good run for their money, played defensively in the first half.

But they came out of their negative approach in the second session with sudden counterattacks that kept Muktijoddha on their toes.

They produced as many as four good chances after the lemon-break, but all the good works of their creative medios went awry due to the poor marksmanship.

Chaturanga came close to scoring in the eleventh minute, but substitute Babu Zaman's shot was brilliantly parried off by national golakeeper Biplab Bhattachariya.

Babu Zaman then spoiled another chance seven minutes later when he volleyed over the cross-piece after being nicely fed by skipper Mahbubur Rahman Roxy.

A popular name in the Dhaka football area, Mahbub was also party to the crime of mis-hit when he shot wide of the near post in the 69th minute.

Muktis however also got chances of doubling the margin in the injury time. But Nakib and Ritu continued to be off-the-mark from close after both were nicely fed by captain Jewel Rana.

Mukti attacks never looked menacing as both their wing-backs-- Hasan Al-Mamun and Masood Rana-- failed to live up to their reputation. Had not the three-man defence of Jewel Rana, Rajani Kanta Barman and Nazrul Islam manned the fort successfully the all-reds would have ended up with a defeat.

Yellow cards: Hasan Al-Mmun (Muktijoddha Sangsad) and Riad Mahmud (Chaturanga Sangha).

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC: Biplab, Hasan Al-Mamun (Tito), Jewel Rana, Rajani, Nazrul, Masood Rana, Liton (Mamun Joarder), Tushar, Ritu, Khokon (Bakhtiar) and Nakib.

CHATURANGA JUBO SANGHA : Apel, Riad, Sujon, Shiper, Aminul, Zahid, Saiful, Rahel, Roxy, Murad (Babu Zaman) and Walid.

Referee : Maruf Sikdar.

Eskaton SS embarrass Khelaghar

Sports Reporter

Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha hurtled to their second defeat in the First Division Cricket League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The league leaders stumbled at the hands of Eskaton Sabuj Sangha in a low-scoring affair where Eskaton, set to score 127 in 50 overs, reached the target in 32.5 overs and with three wickets in hand.

The defeat of the Damal Smriti champions enabled Young Cricketers to join them at the top of the table with a comprehensive five-wicket win against Uttara SC in the other match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The most consistent performers in the league so far Khelaghar however had a bad day in the field when, sent into bat, were bundled out for 126 in 31 overs with Khokon doing the damage for Eskaton, claiming four wicket for only 18 runs in his seven economical overs.

Only skipper Shamsul with a breezy 38 and opener Islam, who made 27, put up some resistance against disciplined Eskaton bowling.

While Khelaghar faltered their nearest challengers Young Cricketers ambled past Uttara Sporting Club. Chasing a fighting Uttara total of 193 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs, Young Cricketers reached 196 for five with 15 balls to spare.

Khokon scored an unbeaten 54 and Azim scored a captain's knock of 37 to steer the Dhanmondi outfit to their sixth win.

Earlier, Mahfuz scored highest 65 for Uttara followed by a fine 51 from Rose. Together they put on 97 runs for the second wicket. But runs dried up after the departure of the duo in quick succession.

BRIEF SCORES

Eskaton SS vs Khelaghar SKS
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
KHELAGHAR: 126 all out in 31 overs (Shamsul 38, Islam 27; Khokon 4/18, Farhad 2/35)
ESKARON SS: 127 for 7 wickets in 32.5 overs (Tushar 25, Turky 14; Raju 2/18)
Result: Eskaton won by 3 wickets.

Young Cricketers vs Uttara SC
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium
UTTARA: 193 for 8 wickets in 50 overs (Mahfuz 65, Rose 51; Ripon 2/30)
YOUNG CRICKETERS: 196 for 5 wickets in 47.3 overs (Khokon 54 not out, Azam 37, Sajal 4/30)
Result: Young Cricketers won by 5 wickets.

Nat'l chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

At the end of the third round of the 26th National Chess Championship qualifiers on Wednesday nine players were leading the table with maximum points.

IM Abdullah-al Rakib, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu, Taibur Rahman Sumon, Sawkat Hossain Pallab, Aminul Islam Pallash, Abu Sufian Sakil, Aminul Islam, Abul Kashem Bhuiyan and Safiq Ahmed were the joint leaders.

Ten players are in the second position with two and a half points. They are: Enamul Hossain Rajib, Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Iman, Kayes Hasan, Monir Hossain, Arifuzzaman Shikder, Anisuzzaman Mallik, Shahadat Hossain, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan, Mahbub Afjal and Mohsin Ali.

NBL v'ball leagues start today

The National Bank Metropolis Premier, First and Second Division Volleyball Leagues begin today simultaneously at the Dhaka Volleyball Stadium, reports UNB.

Vice-President of Bangladesh Olympic Association Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan, MP, will inaugurate the leagues at 4 pm while managing director of National Bank Limited Rafiqul Islam Khan will be the special guest at the opening function.

Six matches will be held on the opening day.

Bangladesh Rifles will meet Dilkusha SC while Titas Club will encounter Bangladesh Bank in the Premier League matches.

Revised Caribbean tours

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb 10: The schedule for the forthcoming tours of the Caribbean by Zimbabwe and Pakistan has been revised to accommodate a United Nations-backed cricket week in Bangladesh during April, reports Reuters.

Changes were made because the best Test players are needed for a day-night match between Asia and the Rest of the World in Dhaka that is the highlight of the week from April 2-9 organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The cricket week, which has been acclaimed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, is being staged to develop the game and to promote worldwide awareness of it.

It means there will be a one-week break during a triangular limited-overs tournament between West Indies, Zimbabwe and Pakistan in April, and the three-Test series between West Indies and Pakistan will now run from May 5-29 instead of from April 28-May 23.

REVISED SCHEDULE

March 4-6: Zimbabwe v Board X1, Queen's Park, Grenada
March 10-13: Zimbabwe v President's X1, Guaracara Park, Trinidad
March 16-20: Zimbabwe v West Indies, 1st Test, Port of Spain, Trinidad
March 24-28: Zimbabwe v West Indies, 2nd Test, Kingston, Jamaica
April 1: Zimbabwe v West Indies, 1st one-dayer, Kingston
April 2: West Indies v Zimbabwe, 2nd one-dayer, Kingston
April 5: Pakistan v Zimbabwe, 3rd one-dayer, St John's, Antigua
April 12: Pakistan v West Indies, 4th one-dayer, Kingstown, St. Vincent
April 15: Zimbabwe v Pakistan, 5th one-dayer, Grenada
April 16: West Indies v Pakistan, 6th one-dayer, Grenada
April 19: 1st one-day final, Bridgetown, Barbados
April 22: 2nd one-day final, Port of Spain
April 23: 3rd one-day final, Port of Spain
April 27-30: West Indies under-23 v Pakistan, Everest, Guyana
May 5-9: West Indies v Pakistan, 1st Test, Georgetown, Guyana
May 12-15: West Indies A v Pakistan, Bridgetown
May 18-22: West Indies v Pakistan, 2nd Test, Bridgetown
May 2 5-29: West Indies v Pakistan, 3rd Test, St John's

Battle of Abahanis

From Sports Reporter

CHITTAGONG, Feb 10: Local favourities Abahani Krira Chakra of Chittagong will take on Abahani Krira Chakra of Rajshahi in their opening Nitol-Tata National Football League clash at the MA Aziz Stadium tomorrow.

The match will start at 5 pm with both the state-run electronic media- Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar- providing live coverage.

Soccer fans are expected to turn up handsomely as the local Abahani would appear in the League for the first time. Organisers are anticipating a full house at the 25-tounsand capacity stadium.

But Chittagong captain Aminur Rahman thinks that the crowd would not of any help if his side does not play well.

"We are a better side than Sylhet, at least on paper. We have some talented players in the side. But to win, we need to play well, capitalising on every opportunity that comes by," said Amin at his hotel room today. Following their practice at the local Abahani ground this afternoon, coach Abu Yusuf had a two-hour briefing session for his players at the hotel lobby.

"Home crowd will obviously be there to buck us up, but it is the performance on the field that matters," said Amin.

On the other hand, captain of the visiting Rajshahi outfit Saidul Islam Saidur said his team would not come under any pressure while playing against the local side.

"I think they would be under pressure instead of us," said the former national custodian. He also revealed that his team had practised for only two weeks, which, he thought, not enough to play well against strong teams.

The hosts will wear yellow and the visitors will don sky colour jerseys tomorrow.

TEAMS

ABAHANI KC (CHITTAGONG): Bijan, Tony, Papel, Asir, Mahbub, Kawsar, Al-Amin, Aminur Rahman, Taju, Sourav Raju, Biplab Marma, Nazrul, Moni Rezaul, Kamrul, Tareq, Farhad, Apu, Asad and Nurul Islam.

ABAHANI KC (RAJSHAHI): Saidur, Anwar, Anu, Eti, Shamim, Jet, Palash, Malek, Ratan, Nayan, Shanto, Kamal, Azimuddin, Tota, Rubel, Biplab, Eko and Royal.

Zia keeps on winning

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman recorded his second successive victory in the 11th Goodricke Internationa' Open Chess Tournament, now being held in Calcutta.

The talented Biman player defeated Indian International Master Arun Vaidya in the fourth round yesterday. Playing with black pieces and adopting the English Defence, Zia forced his Indian counterpart to resign after 46 moves.

Still unbeaten in the prestigious meet Zia defeated Czech Republic Grand Master Pavel Blatny in the third round on Wednesday. With this win Zia raised his tally to three points from four games.

Meanwhile International Master Reefat-bin Sattar suffered his second successive defeat. This time he lost to Indian Saptarshi Roy. It was Reefat's third defeat.

Zia will take on Grand Master Alexander Goloshchepov of Ukraine and Reefat against Laisram Imocha of India in the fifth round today.

Klusener disciplined

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Feb 10: South African all-rounder Lance Klusener was handed a four-match ban, suspended for three months, after a verbal altercation with Zimbabwean Guy Whittall during a weekend match, officials announced Wednesday, reports AFP.

International match referee Hannumant Singh also fined Whittall 30 per cent of his match fee, suspended for a month, for his role in the incident, the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) said in a statement.

The pair were found guilty of bad behaviour at a disciplinary hearing in the south coast town of Port Elizabeth, where South Africa beat Zimbabwe by 53 runs in a limited-overs international on Sunday.

The cricketers engaged in an angry exchange after Klusener dismissed Whittall. Zimbabwe manager Dave Kelly made an official complaint against Klusener about the incident.

Singh found Klusener had breached International Cricket Council (ICC) rules when he "verbally abused Whittall by using crude and abusive language and engaged in unbecoming conduct which could bring the game of cricket into disrepute," the statement said.

"He has been suspended from participating in two Test matches and two one-day internationals, both of which has been suspended for a period of three months," it said.

Whittall was fined because he had also "used abusive language thereby bringing the game into disrepute."

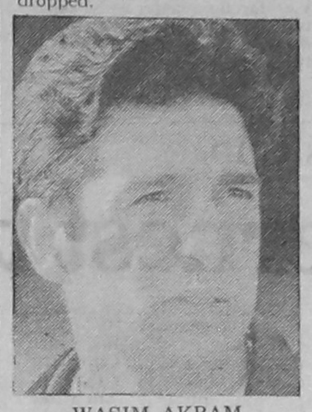
New kids dominate Anwar's team

Wasim quits Pak hot seat

KARACHI, Feb 10 (AFP/ The News): Wasim Akram has stepped down as captain of Pakistan's cricket team in a major shake-up ahead of the home series against Sri Lanka, the Pakistan Cricket Board said Thursday.

Opener Saeed Anwar will instead lead Pakistan.

The team announced by the PCB advisory council is for the first one-day international to be played in Karachi on February 13. Seven players who toured Australia have been dropped.



WASIM AKRAM

"Wasim has stepped down voluntarily as he wants to give more time to his family and has certain domestic commitments, there is no controversial thing in it," said Yawar Saeed, director cricket operations at the PCB.

"He has not been removed and he feels it a privilege to play for Pakistan as ordinary player," Yawar said.

Middle-order batsmen Inzamamul Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Mohammad Wasim, Wajahatullah Wasti, Shahid Afridi, all-rounder Azhar Mahmood and pacer Waqar Younis were all axed.

"The PCB respects every Pakistani player and all the senior players are not dropped but are rested, we wanted to test some youngsters with an eye to the future," he said.

"The dropped players will be duly considered for future commitments as required," he added.

Meanwhile a PCB source said: "In the twilight of his career, Wasim wants to concentrate only on cricket. He feels that additional pressures at this stage were affecting his performance. In addition to this, he was dejected with the team's performance in Australia."

"The manager cited a couple of incidents from the Australian tour when Wasim lost his temper and eventually collapsed with low sugar level," he added.

Wasim has been keeping a low profile since his return from Australia.

Wasim was first appointed captain in February 1993 but was dismissed after a nine-player revolt led by Waqar Younis in January 1994. His second tenure as captain began from the Australian tour in November 1995 when the Board sacked Ramiz Raja (after Sri Lanka had won both the Test and one-day rubbers) and until he withdrew for the home series against New Zealand in late 1996. In October 1997 he was appointed captain for the third time but was removed two months later after he led Pakistan to their first-ever Test whitewash over the West Indies. He resumed charge in January 1999 for the tour of India.

"Wasim's objective now is to capture, at least, 400 wickets in Tests if not the world record of 431 presently held by Kapil Dev," sources close to Wasim said.

For Saeed Anwar, a veteran of 197 one-day internationals, it will be the second stint as captain. Anwar led Pakistan (when Wasim was injured) in five Tests in 1997-98, losing the Test series against South Africa 1-0 and levelled the two match series 1-1 against New Zealand. He has also led Pakistan in four limited-over games.

"It's a huge responsibility to lead the team, particularly after they performed poorly in Australia," Anwar said from Lahore. "But we will be playing in home conditions which makes it a little easier."

Pakistan was defeated 3-0 in the Test series against Australia and were whitewashed 2-0 in the finals of the tri-series down under.

Wholesale changes were expected although captain Wasim and coach Intikhab Alam warned a major shake-up may unbalance the team.

Former captain Aamir Sohail stages a comeback. Sohail, who fell out with fellow players last year, made more than 700 runs in Pakistan's season and staked his claim with a swashbuckling 64 in a warm up game against Sri Lanka.

The team for the second one-dayer will be announced on February 13.

Rawalpindi Express Shoaib Akhtar is suspended by the PCB for the Karachi one-dayer on disciplinary charges.

Five newcomers Younis Khan, Imran Abbas, Faisal Iqbal, Yasir Arfat and Zahid Saeed are all uncapped.

Eighteen-year-old left-arm pacer Saeed was declared best bowler of the recently concluded junior World Cup in Sri Lanka.

SAEED ANWAR

Younis made 1,100 runs in Pakistan's domestic season while Abbas made a polished 79 against Sri Lanka in a warm up one-day game.

Iqbal, 18, is a nephew of former Pakistan batting maestro Javed Miandad. Arfat, a hard-hitting all-rounder from Islamabad, impressed in the junior World Cup.

The two officials, manager Brigadier Mohammad Nasir and coach Intikhab Alam, were already retained for the Sri Lankan series.

Pakistan will play three one-day internationals and as many Tests against Sri Lanka.

The Test series begins with the first Test in Rawalpindi from February 26.

TEAM

Saeed Anwer (captain), Aamir Sohail, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhanna, Imran Abbas, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Abdur Razzak, Saqlain Mushtaq, Zahid Saeed, Yasir Arfat, Shoaib Malik, Faisal Iqbal, Imran Nazir and Shahid Nazir

ICC panel can't ban bowlers

SINGAPORE, Feb 10 (Reuters/AP): The International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Thursday its advisory panel would no longer have the power to suspend players with a "suspect" bowling action from taking part in international cricket.

The ICC's Advisory Panel on Illegal Deliveries would only be able to advise cricket boards of different countries of a problem with a bowler's action and recommend remedial measures.

The decision was made at a two-day meeting of the ICC executive board here, ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya said at a press conference.

Dalmiya said the decision to suspend the power to ban a player was taken in view of "wide-ranging legal ramifications that need to be considered."

Meanwhile, Shoaib Akhtar's Test cricket status remained in limbo when the ICC withdrew its advisory panel's power.

That means Akhtar's suspension technically remains in force. But the ICC will next week listen to recommendations from the Pakistan Cricket Board, which will report back on measures to remedy his illegal bouncer.

The advisory panel set up by the ICC to investigate illegal bowling will have a conference call next week, said ICC chief executive David Richards.

During the call the Pakistan Cricket Board is expected to report its progress on remedial work on Akhtar's action and recommend to the ICC whether or not he should be free to return to Test cricket in time for the first Test against Sri Lanka February 26.

With specific reference to Akhtar, Dalmiya said: "The Pakistan Cricket Board will report to the panel about the remedial measures on the bowler's action. The panel will then consider the report and, if necessary, fresh video tapes before deciding on any further course of action."

SHOAIB AKHTAR

He said Akhtar will be free to play, if selected, in the one-day matches against Sri Lanka starting February 13.

"Since the problem with Akhtar's action was only with regard to short-pitched deliveries, we in the ICC feel that the advisory panel will be able to take a decision before the scheduled start of the first Test match against the Sri Lankans on February 26," said the ICC president.

Akhtar, the world's fastest bowler, has been suspended because his bouncer, seemingly bowled with a slightly bent arm, is deemed illegal.

"We don't know what that final outcome will be," Richards told reporters at a news conference. "It's the Pakistan Cricket Board's decision about that (Akhtar's return) because we have now suspended the power to suspend a player, or withdraw a player, or ban a player.

Last month, Dalmiya and Clyde Walcott, chairman of the ICC advisory panel on illegal bowling, had allowed Akhtar to participate in a one-day tri-series involving Australia, Pakistan and India.

Richards rejected the suggestion the ICC had washed its hands of the affair.

"This new power to suspend the player was only introduced last year and we learn as we go," he said. "What we've learned is that there is some very real questions as to whether that's a fair policy and we thought that in the interest of the player it would be better to suspend that provision at this point in time."

Bugner-Tyson bout in June?

SYDNEY, Feb 10 (AFP): Veteran Joe Bugner knows a good pay day when he sees one and a fight with Mike Tyson will be just that.

And the former British, Commonwealth, European, Australian and World Boxing Federation heavyweight champion says it isn't a dream.

The possibility of Tyson, 33, taking on Bugner, 49, has been suggested by former triple world champion Jeff Fenech, a close friend of both fighters.

"Jeff rang me four days ago and said Tyson was desperate to come to Australia and to see if he could arrange some business for him," Bugner told The Australian newspaper.

"Jeff asked if I'd be interested in fighting Tyson because I'm the only Australian capable. I asked him if he was pulling my leg and he said he was fair dinkum (being serious). I said name the date."

Bugner said Fenech and a well-known Sydney entrepreneur were negotiating for the fight to be held in Melbourne, possibly at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in June.

"They're talking Melbourne because that's where the big venues and numbers are," he said.

Tyson, the former undisputed world heavyweight champion, stopped British champion Julius Francis in the second round of a non-title bout at Manchester's MEN Arena on January 29.

After the fight he claimed he could regain the titles off current holder Lennox Lewis but would need three more bouts to be ready for the challenge.

Fenech spent two weeks with him in the lead-up. Tyson also uses Fenech-brand training gear.

Bugner fought most of the greats in his era and twice went the distance with Muhammad Ali, once for the world title, losing both bouts on points.

He said he was hanging up his gloves, for the third time, after a 32-year career after defeating American Levi Billups at the Gold Coast last June but now says the Tyson prospect is "too good an opportunity to miss", making no bones that his motivation "is for the money".

And he is not worried by the age difference, saying he had the measure of Tyson and was smarter.

Hungarian-born Bugner said he respected Tyson and wasn't worried by his tactics.

"I'm 6ft 4ins (193 cm) and he's only 5ft 11ins (180cm) He'd need to stand on his stool to bite my ear," he said, referring to Tyson's infamous ear-biting of former world champion Evander Holyfield.

And Bugner said there would be no point anyone advertising on his shoes, as London's Daily Mirror did on Francis's.