

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID Competition-130

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 26, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who replaced David Lloyd
as England cricket coach?
Fletcher Woolmer Richardson

2. Which country will host the
Euro 2004 Championship?
Portugal Germany Spain

3. Which batsman hit 214
on his Test debut against
West Indies?
Srin Lanka Bangladesh India

4. Which country won the four-
nation football tournament in
Maldives?
Sri Lanka Bangladesh India

5. Who won the national chess
title this year?
Rezaul Zia Tipu

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Mary Pierce
(French tennis star)
"I've just become more and
more relaxed on the court and
just really at peace with
everything."
Said recently.

WHIZZ KID-129
Boost winner
**Tasneem-binte-
Alam**

Model Academy, Mirpur,
Dhaka
(Congratulations! Please
bring your identity card and a
passport size attested photo-
graph while collecting the win-
ner's prize from the Sports Desk
of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on
May 18).

WHIZZ KID-129
correct answers

- Who won the 2000 Trophy
in West Indies?
Ans: Pakistan
- Who was the man-of-the-
series in 2000 Trophy?
Ans: Inzamam
- Who is South Africa's
cricket captain?
Ans: Pollock
- Who was the man-of-the-
match in the Asia vs World
Eleven cricket match?
Ans: Bevan
- Who is the fastest man in
the country now?
Ans: Mahbub

WHIZZ KID-128
winner



Akif Bin Halim
(Sunnydale, Dhanmondi,
Dhaka)

Harrison explains the facts

Sports Reporter



MARK HARRISON

Bangladesh football coach Mark Harrison blamed lack of preparation for the national team's dismal performance in the four-nation Golden Jubilee International Football Tournament in Maldives.

The bespectacled Englishman gave his opinion while speaking at a press briefing held at the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) office yesterday. Team leader Kazi Usha Mishu, assistant coach Hassanuzzaman Bablu and captain Alfaz Ahmed were also present.

The 1999 SAFF Games champions failed to reach the final. They were held to one-all draws against India and the hosts respectively before going down 1-0 to eventual champions Sri Lanka in their final round robin match.

The Bangladesh coach said a ten-day camp was not at all adequate for participation in such an international tournament.

"You see I got only ten days to train the boys which was not good enough to assimilate my system as you have seen on television," Harrison said.

"Moreover the boys have not played any international match for the last five months whereas Maldives had eleven international matches as part

of their build-up for the tournament. That's what we were lacking," said Harrison adding that Sri Lanka and Maldives were hundred per cent prepared. He however felt optimistic



MARK HARRISON

about his team's future.

"We have a team where half of the players are missing from the SAFF Games squad. These boys need some more time to improve their standard as a unit and I hope they will perform better when they face India in an exhibition match in England in July," he said.

"And you will see more im-

provements after another three months. That's how Bangladesh will be a balanced side after a year," added Harrison.

"The boys are new, they need more exposure on the international stage."

That is why I have proposed and BFF has agreed to in principle that Bangladesh will have to play more international matches from now on. We will try to arrange an international match every six to eight weeks that will help the boys to learn more.

"We have to look forward to the future and I can promise you that the team will do better in the days to come," Harrison assured. He left for London last night on a two-week private visit.

Alfaz, who could not play a single match because of a viral fever, felt his absence badly affected the team's morale.

Mishu cited management failure for the debacle.

"We (management) take the blame on our shoulders," said the team leader without elaborating.

He also apologised for his poor conduct with the match officials during Bangladesh-Maldives match.

It was reported in a Bangla daily that Mishu asked the team to leave the ground in protest at a referee's decision.

All rumour about Lara



BRIDGETOWN, May 12: Convinced ideal arrangements had been put in place to handle his ailing mother Pearl,

family and friends coerced Brian Lara into making this summer's visit to England with West Indies, reports AFP.

The world awoke on Thursday to hear Lara had extended his self-imposed exile from international cricket to the tour to England starting in three weeks and he was looking to retire from the game which has made him into a star.

When Mike Findlay, chairman of the West Indies selection panel, announced at a news conference here on Thursday that Lara would be paying another visit to England, the room was in complete shock.

Findlay, a former West Indies wicketkeeper, explained however, Lara's decision to make the tour came "late in the midnight hour" after consultation with people close to him and his family.

"We met in Guyana on Tues-

day to select the squad and Brian had visited his mother a few days before and thought she looked a little weaker and was concerned," Findlay said.

"I think that must have prompted his decision on the spur of the moment to make himself unavailable for the tour of England," added Findlay, who along with Joel Garner, Joey Carew, coach Roger Harper and captain Jimmy Adams form the selection panel.

Findlay outlined that Lara had subsequent discussions with people close to him and late on Wednesday, an official of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board informed him that the gifted left-hander was willing to go.

"I immediately contacted Brian, he explained the circumstances to me and gave the assurance he was fully committed to the tour," Findlay said.

"Brian told me he was prepared to get himself physically ready and to practice between now and the time of the tour, and he was fully committed once again to West Indies

cricket," he added.

Left-hander Lara, who holds world records for the highest individual Test and first-class scores, has not played international cricket since returning from the ill-starred tour of New Zealand in January.

Under his leadership, West Indies lost both Tests and all five limited-overs internationals in New Zealand and Lara resigned from the post of captain and then withdrew from home series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

Repeatedly throughout the home series, his successor Jimmy Adams has called for Lara to return to the side and likened him to a brother.

Lara is one of two additions to the squad of 14 picked for the opening Test of the on-going home series against Pakistan in Georgetown that will form the England tour party.

The other is fast bowler Corey Collymore.

There are sure to be some long faces in the England dressing room with the news that Lara is paying another visit to

Ganguly goes to Lancs' rescue



STEVE HARMISON

LONDON, May 12: Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly put Lancashire's innings back on track after Durham's England pace prospect

Steve Harmison struck two early blows on the first day of their County Championship Division One match on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Harmison, who finished with four for 74 to enhance his

Test hopes, claimed the wickets of John Crawley and Andy Flintoff before the Indian left-hander steadied matters by posting 73.

Leg-spinner Chris Schofield also chipped in with 50 to help the visitors to 263. At the close Durham had reached 60 for two.

Somerset opener Marcus Trescothick posted a century to rescue his side at Leicester where bowlers also held the upper hand.

Trescothick, who hit 105 before becoming the ninth man out, found an ally in Ian Blackwell (58), the pair sharing a century stand for the eighth wicket.

Indian spinner Anil Kumble ended their resistance, dismissing both to restrict Somerset to 262.

Rain prevented play in Division One's other match between Surrey and Kent at The Oval.

Northamptonshire's England batsman David Sales produced the batting performance of the day against visiting Nottinghamshire in Division Two.

The 22-year-old, who scores big hundreds once he passes three figures, posted an unbeaten 199 out of 402 for five.

It was a bowlers' day in the Division's other three fixtures, however. Alan Richardson was the pick of the Warwickshire attack at Hove, claiming four for 69, including top-scorer Chris Adams (70) as Sussex were dismissed for 224.

At the close Warwickshire had reached 70 for two in reply. Gloucestershire's Jonathan Lewis produced the best bowling performance of the day, taking five for 61 to help reduce Glamorgan to 169 for nine at Cardiff.

The hosts were indebted to Australian Matthew Elliott (49) and Adrian Shaw (64 not out) for more than half that total.

Wickets tumbled at Worcester where Middlesex were the visitors. Stuart Lampitt and Alamgir Shariyar claimed four victims each as Middlesex were dismissed for 161.

Worcestershire, apart from opener Elliott Wilson (75 not out), also found scoring tough in reply, closing on 147 for eight.



Durham players celebrate the fall of a Lancashire wicket on the first day of their County Championship encounter on May 11. —AFP photo

Test status Quader seeks India's support

NEW DELHI, May 12: Bangladesh sought renewed support and cooperation from India for its bid to have Test status in cricket, reports BSS.

The request was made when State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, who is now in India, called on Indian Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Chaoba Singh at his office at Shastri Bhawan here this morning.

During the meeting both ministers reviewed the existing level of cooperation between the two countries in the field of sports and culture and emphasised the need for further strengthening those to reach a new plane.

While appreciating India's cooperation and support to the field of sports, particularly in cricket, Quader conveyed thanks to his Indian counterpart for supporting Bangladesh's candidature for Test status in the ICC meeting last year at its headquarters in London.

Quader sought further support and cooperation from India for Bangladesh's bid to become a Test-playing nation when ICC meets at Lord's in London next month. The Indian minister assured him of their full support in this regard.

Yousuf Guni passes away

Sports Reporter

Renowned sports organiser and a true lover of sports Yousuf Guni Chowdhury died at a clinic in Chittagong yesterday evening. He was 62.



He had been suffering from diabetes.

Yousuf Guni was the vice-president of Bangladesh Badminton Federation and Chittagong District Sports Association (CJKA) and also the treasurer of Chittagong Divisional Sports Association.

The news of the untimely demise of Yousuf came as a great shock for thousands of sports enthusiasts in the port city who rushed to his residence at Andarkilla immediately to pay their homage.

The namaaj-e-janaza of Yousuf Guni will be held at the Lalghiri Maidan at 2 pm today. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Meanwhile, BSS adds, Minister for Labour and Employment M.A. Mannan, Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism, Housing and Public Works Engineer Mosarraf Hossain, Chittagong Mayor, Mohiuddin Chowdhury condoled the death of Yousuf Guni.

No date yet for Hansie inquiry

CAPE TOWN, May 12: The South African inquiry into the Hansie Cronje affair had still not been given a starting date on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The inquiry, initially announced as due to begin last Monday, followed the sacking of Cronje as South African captain after he admitted taking money from a bookmaker for providing information.

Meetings were held involving retired judge Edwin King, who will head the investigation, advocate Shamula Batohli, who will gather and lead the evidence, and department of sport spokesman Graham Abraham.

But Abraham said no information would be made available by his office on Thursday as to where the inquiry would be held in Cape Town, who would make up the remainder of the investigation team, or when hearings would start.

Cronje, Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom were charged with "cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy" by Indian police on April 7. They have all denied match-fixing.

Renault Cup golf held

Ayesha Farid emerged champion in the ladies' group while Lt Col Khandakar Abdul Wahed in the gents group in the Renault Cup golf tournament at Savar Golf Club yesterday, reports UNB.

Group Captain Rashidul Haque, Nazmul Haque and Major General M Kamal Uddin became the 1st, 2nd and 3rd runners-up respectively.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman also took part in the tournament and distributed prizes as chief guest.



Bangladesh national cricket team's newly-appointed coach Sarwar Imran imparting tips to his charges during a training session at the BUET ground yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

Pakistan look to batsmen



BRIDGETOWN, May 12: Searching for match-winning form ahead of the pivotal second cricket Test start

ing here next Thursday, Pakistan face West Indies A at the Kensington Oval in a four-day match, starting on Friday, reports AFP.

Captain Moin Khan said his side were looking forward to the match, after the disappointment over the opening Test in Georgetown being washed out by rain.

Recognising that his batting continues to struggle, Moin is hoping that they can find some kind of form during the match, so that they will be in the right frame of mind for the upcoming Test.

Only vice-captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has equipped himself well in the international matches Pakistan has played on their fifth visit to the Caribbean.

In the tri-nation Cable and Wireless 2000 Trophy limited-overs series, he drove away with a brand new Rover car after he was named man-of-the-series for his batting.

In the opening Test, Inzamam hit his tenth Test century and third against West Indies to help save Pakistan blushes after they had declined to 39 for five before lunch on the opening day.

Pakistan, however, will want to see a higher level of production from batsmen like Yousuf Youhana, Yousif Khan, Wajahatullah Wasti and Mohammad Wasim against the local side and in the two Tests to come.

Five other players in the side

Moin told reporters at the end of the Test in Georgetown that opening batsman Saad Anwar, a former Pakistan captain, was to join the squad in Bridgetown. If he does, he would certainly lift Pakistan's unpredictable batting.

Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, dubbed the Rawalpindi Express for his blinding pace, is expected to be in the line-up for this match.

Pakistan's selection policy is such, however, that one never knows who will or will not play in a match and Shoaib, whose only match on tour is the last of the three 2000 Trophy finals in Port-of-Spain, could very well not play.

He has recovered from a groin injury he sustained in the Sharjah Cup limited-overs series prior to the Caribbean visit, but Moin revealed he strained muscles in his right side when bowling in that Port-of-Spain match.

The match will mark the return to first-class cricket for A team fast bowler Corey Collymore, who has been named in the West Indies 16-man squad for their visit to England.

Collymore, 22, played one Test against Australia in St. John's last year, but has not played first-class cricket since suffering a recurring back injury in the DMC Trophy limited-overs series in Toronto, Canada, last September.

Newspaper reports suggested he has recovered and was bowling in the nets at his club, Cable et Wireless BET, over the last two months and that his doctors were happy with what they had seen.

Five other players in the side

have appeared in Tests for West Indies. There are wicketkeeper-batsman Courtney Browne, the captain; batsmen Daren Ganga and Ricardo Powell, along with fast bowlers Mervyn Dillon and Pedro Collins.

The side also includes batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan and leg-spin all-rounder Mahendra Nagamootoo, both of whom are tagged to go to England with West Indies this summer and were picked in the Windies 13-man squad for the first Test against Pakistan.

Sylvester Joseph, who played in the first 2000 Trophy final in Bridgetown a few weeks ago, along with the promising teenage left-handers, Ryan Hinds and Marlon Samuels, captain and vice-captain respectively of the Young West Indies side to this year's Youth World Cup in Sri Lanka, also find a place.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES A: Courtney Browne (captain), Daren Ganga, Azeemul Haniff, Sylvester Joseph, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Ricardo Powell, Ryan Hinds, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Mervyn Dillon, Corey Collymore, Pedro Collins, Kerry Jeremy.

PAKISTAN: Moin Khan (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (vice-captain), Imran Nazir, Shahid Afridi, Yousif Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Arshad Khan, Wajahatullah Wasti, Mohammed Wasim, Mohammed Akram, Shabbir Ahmed.

England a sure bet?

LONDON, May 11: FIFA vice-president David Will on Thursday predicted that England's 'flawless' bid will win the right to stage the 2006 World Cup, reports AFP.

The Scottish lawyer is the sole British representative on the 24-man executive committee which will decide who hosts the prestigious tournament at a two-day meeting in Zurich at the beginning of July.

Will has already declared his intention to vote for England but is one of only four members of the executive to reveal his hand.

Speculation has been rife as to where the other votes might go, with South Africa still the favourite, followed by England and Germany, with Morocco and Brazil the rank outsiders.

Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Geoff Hurst are currently heading an English deputation in the Bahamas, who will make a formal presentation at the CONCACAF meeting in Nassau on Saturday.

Three votes are at stake in the region and with the organisation lacking an entrant in the



on Saturday.

Three votes are at stake in the region and with the organisation lacking an entrant in the

campaign, the destination of those votes could be crucial in the overall outcome.

"It is easy to lose track of the fact that it is only 24 individuals who have this vote," said Will.

"When you attend a congress there are a maximum four people who have the vote but you can never leave anything alone because you never know when you are answering an all-important question."

The CONCACAF region is very important in the opening stages because they do not have a representative bidding.

"I have heard it said that England are not going to get through the first round but I think they will achieve that comfortably and eventually they will win."

In a complicated voting process, each of the 24 executive members will choose a candidate.

Once any country reaches 13 votes, they will win on a straight majority decision.

If no majority is achieved, the bottom-placed candidate drops out of the race with a completely new ballot being held.

So, the second and even third choices of the delegates could decide the final outcome, which is why the England team are campaigning so vigorously.

Having been boosted last week by the news that Brent Council are set to grant planning permission for the 'new' Wembley, England's major hope is that if they can overcome Brazil and Morocco in the opening rounds, they will pick up enough second-choice votes to push them in front.

"Brazil doesn't seem to be canvassing at all but the rest have been positive presentations," said Will.

"However, the England bid is so well put together it is difficult to see a flaw in it and I would imagine they will gain in strength as the voting progresses."

"There is a block with Africa but I do not know whether it is with South Africa or Morocco."

"England will gain strength as the other countries are knocked out and I think they will accumulate sufficient strength to win."



Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman handing over the trophy of the Renault Cup golf tournament to winner (R) at the Savar Golf Club yesterday.