

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

#### Competition-131

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

Competition closes at 8 pm  
June 30, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?

Hings Pierce V Williams

2 Who won the European Champions' League?

M United Real Madrid Lazio

3 Who won the UEFA Cup?

Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina

4 Who lifted national schools cricket title?

St Joseph Misingh Zila Cig Khastagr

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?

Harrison Van Gaal Shaker

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

## SPORTS TALK



### Frank Rijkaard

(Dutch manager)  
The 11 players gave everything they had. I think the crowd today was our 12th player and that's a wonderful feeling. We can be glad about that.

Talking after his side's demolition of Yugoslavia at Euro 2000.

### First semi ends in a farce

Sports Reporter

The first 'super four' match of the Rabig Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Mariner Youngs Club saw a premature end after Mohammedan refused to play in protest of a goal awarded against them in the 66th minute.

The umpires waited for ten minutes before blowing the final whistle.

It happened in the late second half with the match tied on 1-1 when Mariner got a free hit inside the 21-yard half circle.

Yousuf passed the ball to defender Isa Miah who hit the ball into the net past Mohammedan keeper Anul Islam.

After umpire Latifur Rahman signaled the goal, Mohammedan players argued with the umpires saying the two Mariner players were inside two yards breaking the five-yard bar while taking a free hit inside 21-yard half circle.

When the umpires refused to cancel the goal, Mohammedan players left the ground.

Earlier, after a barren first half, Isa put Mariner ahead from a penalty corner in the 36th minute while Mahbubul Alam Rana equalised for Mohammedan also from a penalty corner in the 42nd minutes.

After the match, tournament committee secretary Nurul Amin said they would take action against Mohammedan after receiving the umpires report.

Meanwhile, today's match between holders Usha Krira Chakra and Abahani Krira Chakra has been deferred by a day because of today's mass gathering in celebration of the Bangladesh's Test status at the Paltan Maidan.

The match will now be held tomorrow. The remaining fixtures will bodily be shifted.



Tiny tots from different coaching centres of the city parading through the streets near the Bangabandhu National Stadium hailing Bangladesh's attainment of Test status yesterday.

## BCB turns sweet!

Sports Reporter

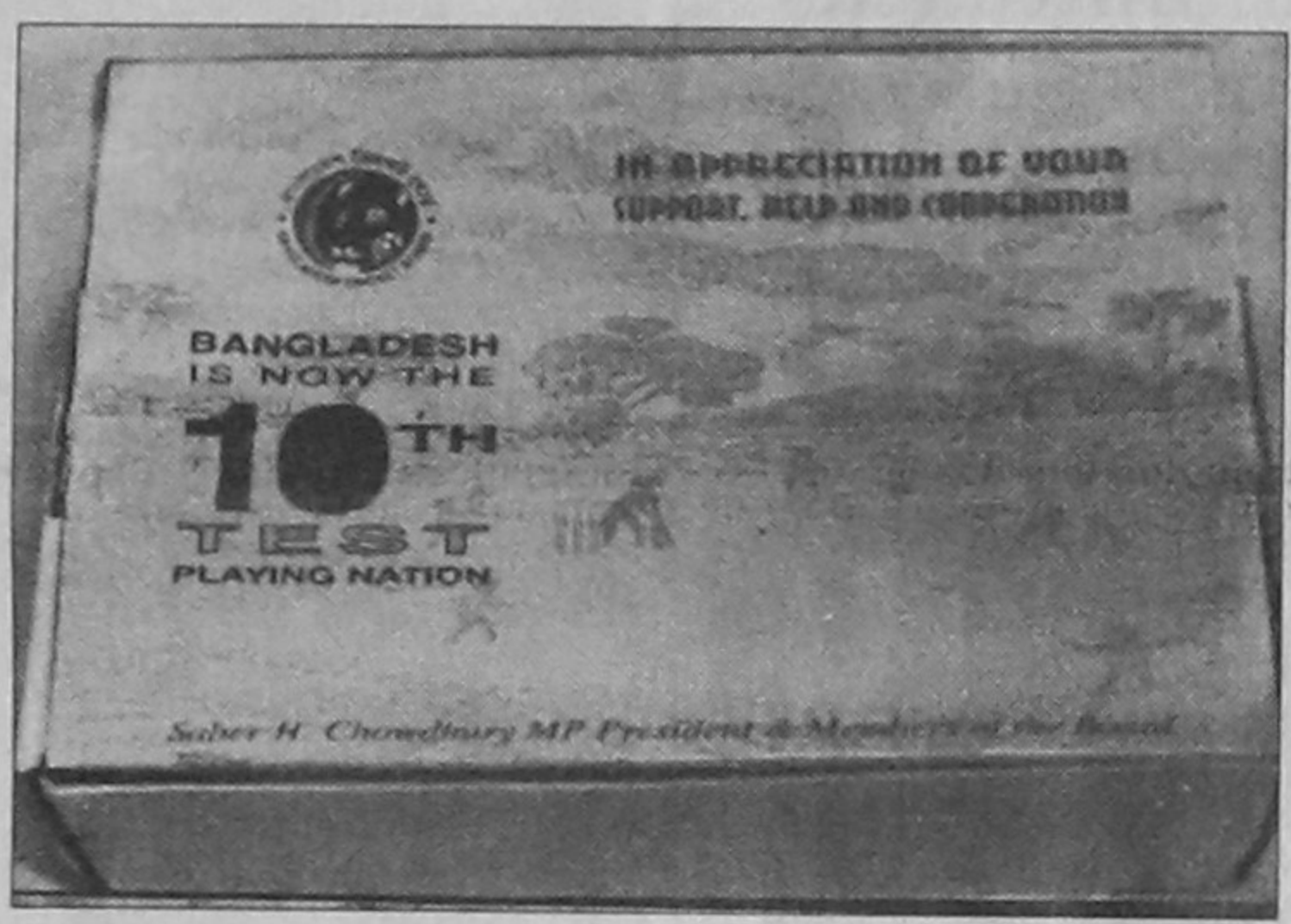
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday celebrated the country's receiving of the Test status with joyous rallies and distribution of sweets.

Bangladesh was unanimously accepted by International Cricket Council (ICC) as the tenth Test playing nation in its meeting at Lord's on Monday.

The sweets were distributed to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, all the ministries and other government organisations, all federations, clubs, District Sports Associations and leading newspaper offices.

Joint secretaries of BCB Mahmud Ul Haq and Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul called on the Prime Minister at the Jatiya Sangsad in the afternoon with specially designed packets of the famous Tangail 'Cham Chai'.

The officials then visited Begum Zia at her Cantonment residence. In the evening, the BCB joint-secretaries went to the Bangabhaban residence of President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.



The nicely designed sweet-box. —Star photo

## Better moment of ICC

LONDON, June 27 (Internet report): International Cricket Council (ICC) still reeling under the heavy weight of match-fixing, certainly needs its fair share of positive developments at the moment.

Remarkably it can now celebrate two with the news that England have said they remain committed to their winter tour to Pakistan and Bangladesh have become the 10th country to gain Test status.

As the annual conference of the International Cricket Council (ICC) ended at Lord's on Monday, England's representative Lord MacLaurin confirmed that his country's away tour to Pakistan would indeed go ahead this winter.

Prior to the Lord's get-together, England had been making significant noises that they might cancel the tour if further punitive action was not taken against certain Pakistani players named in the long-awaited judicial report on match-fixing by Justice Qayyum.

Some critics have attacked Qayyum for not urging bans against current international players like Wasim Akram and Moin Khan.

But MacLaurin, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has since assured Pakistan that the ECB has no intention of pulling out of their proposed winter schedule, which comprises three Tests and three one-day internationals and also includes a tour of Sri Lanka in the New Year.



Mohammedan players sitting on the pitch in protest against a ruling during their Rabig Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament encounter with Mariner Youngs at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## Greetings galore

Sports Reporter

Felicitations continued to flow into the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office from different organisations hailing the elevation Bangladesh cricket in the Test League.

Pakistan Sports Minister Derriek Ciprian congratulated his Bangladesh counterpart Obaidul Quader over telephone yesterday.

On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan I congratulate Bangladesh getting Test status.

Bangladesh Biman, who maintained a close association with the game at both national and international level, lauded Bangladesh's entrance into the Test family.

Biman has been playing a glorious role in patronising games and sports — especially the promotion of cricket, would like to share the immense pleasure on this historic occasion and thanked the Sports Ministry, BCB, cricketers, officials and organisers for taking the country to a new height.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) in a statement said: "Bangladesh established herself again in the international arena with pride as all the nine full members of the ICC (International Cricket Council) unanimously supported its bid."

State Minister for Textile AKM Jahangir Hussain in another statement expressed his satisfaction for country fulfilling the long cherished Test status. He hoped that the golden boys would bring more laurels in the years to come.

Bangladesh Sports Writers Association arranged a celebration party at the Paltan Maidan to mark the historic June 26.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader was present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council, Bangladesh Carrom Federation and Tejaon Club conveyed their greetings.

## U-16 score success

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh emerged champions of Group Four of the Asian Youth (under-16) football championship after defeating hosts India by a solitary goal in their last qualifying in Jamshedpur, India, yesterday.

Bangladesh will now play in the final round of the competition. The ten-team final round will be held in Vietnam from September 3 to 17.

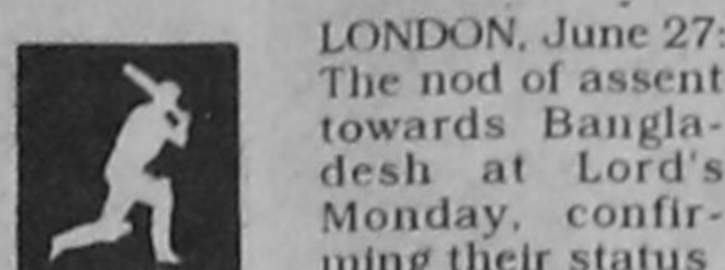
After a barren first half, striker Anwarul Karim Sohail scored the all important match winner in the 86th minute much to the disappointment of the 20,000 plus partisan crowd at the JRD Tata Sports Complex Stadium in the Steel City.

India needed only a draw to qualify for the final round. But Bangladesh stole the limelight with the late winners from Sohail, who was nicely fed by Pappu in the forbidden zone. India were mortified after Bangladesh custodian Munna saved a penalty midway through the first half. The reserved Bangladesh custodian, playing his first match in place of injured regular keeper Amuz, listed away the 12-yarder diving to his right.

Bangladesh, who beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in their opening

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## Barlow's belief justified



LONDON, June 27: The nod of assent towards Bangladesh at Lord's Monday, confirming their status as the 10th Test nation, was the cue for Eddie Barlow to enjoy a modest celebration. A stroke interrupted Barlow's term as Bangladesh's director of cricket in April, but he has followed their progress from afar during his recovery.

He was discharged from a clinic in Cape Town last week. Barlow, 59, the former South Africa all-rounder, has achieved the first target he was set - convincing the International Cricket Council that Bangladesh deserve their enhanced status - and he is hoping to return to Dhaka to watch his charges play their inaugural Test match, probably in August, against opponents still to be announced.

Cricket is focused mainly on Dhaka, the capital, and Chittagong, the cities boasting the two principal Test venues.

Bangladesh are probably well below Test-playing standard, though they have proved difficult to beat on their own dead strips in the few first-class matches they have played. The

one-day victory over Pakistan in the World Cup at Northampton last year gave them less credibility than they imagined, even before corruption doubts about the result emerged.

The reason for Bangladesh's admission is a compelling one. The country has twice the population of the United Kingdom and fits in with the ICC's policy of globalisation.

Barlow arrived last year to



EDDIE BARLOW

find a nation "besotted with cricket", as he put it, though he soon noticed that sponsorship and funding were directed towards the club scene, which enjoyed a higher public profile than the national side.

He urged the ICC to award Test status when the facilities and a new six-team first-class competition were in place.

Barlow noted cricket similarities with South Africa. "In both countries there's a third-world situation and, despite large populations, the number of high-quality cricketers coming through is relatively small," he said. "Bangladesh's population is besotted with the game. It makes my job easier because there's a cricket culture, and harder because expectations are incredibly high."

He said when he arrived "the players weren't fit and had little endurance" but "their fitness levels rose dramatically in two weeks. They often train and practise all day from 7am, breaking only for meals."

Bangladesh have yet to win a first-class match but, said Barlow, "to improve we have to play against the best. That's the only way." And the ICC have agreed.

Courtesy: The Electronic Telegraph

## SEMIFINAL PREVIEW

## France v Portugal: Fireworks promised



BRUSSELS, June 27: World champions France and Euro 2000 outsiders Portugal meet in the semi-final here on Wednesday (1845 GMT) in a rematch of their famous 1984 last four meeting in the same competition, reports AFP.

Two of the most impressive midfielders in the world of football test themselves against each other on the biggest international stage since the 1998 World Cup. For Portugal it is a chance to reach their first major final in the senior game.

Although currently European champions at under-16 and under-18 level, Portugal's senior side, which reached the 1966 World Cup semi-finals in England thanks to goals from Mozambique-born Eusebio as well as the Euro 84 last four, have never reached a final in European or world competitions at senior level.

France, of course, have reached two finals, winning both the 1984 Euro final and the 1998 World Cup Final but nearly came unstuck in their Euro 2000 quarter-final match with Spain.

French keeper Fabien Barthez survived a last-gasp penalty in Bruges, Belgium on Sunday when Spain's Raul hit the ball over the crossbar to keep the scoreline at 2-1 and book France's last four berth.

Portugal's qualification was a little easier when Turkey were reduced to 10 men and keeper Vitor Baia made a spectacular penalty stop, both right at the end of the first half.

A double score by youngster Nuno Gomes, who came of age as an international striker af-

ter previous lacklustre performances, earned the 2-0 victory at the Amsterdam Arena on Saturday.

But now both teams can concentrate on the semi-finals.

Portugal left back Dimas said during Monday's post-training press conference that France had a superb midfield.

"Zinedine Zidane is the best number 10 in the world," Dimas said which was a high compliment and an indirect inference that he was better than Portugal playmaker and number 10 Rui Costa.

Dimas used to play with Zidane at Juventus before joining his current club Standard Liege via a spell in Turkey.

## TIMING OF THE FIRST SEMIFINAL

France v Portugal  
00:45 am BST (Thursday)  
\* Live coverage on Eklushey TV and DD Sports

"Zidane is a very good friend of mine and someone I respect as a player but outside football he also has a fantastic mentality," Dimas said. "I can't really say how the battle with him and Luis Figo will go because they have different styles."

"Both of them are exceptional players but I think the match is going to be 11 versus 11 and not one against one."

Meanwhile Gomes said it would be a tough game for Portugal's strikers. "It will be a tough game for us because they have beautiful defenders and they are the world champions," Gomes said. "But we must play this game like it was just one of the others."

The Benfica striker did not

believe it was a revenge game for their 1984 clash which France won 3-2 with a goal by Michel Platini after Portugal led 2-1 in extra time.

"I don't think it's a revenge match but we know supporters back home want to win this game because of the 1984 match. We want to win, not because of that game, but because of the chance to get into the final," he added.

Portugal are fully-fit following Monday's training session in Ermelo in the centre of the Netherlands. One of the two assistant coaches Adelino Teixeira confirmed in a post-training conference: "All the players are fit and ready for the match. Against France we will play our strongest team."

Portugal travel to Waterloo, Belgium, on Tuesday before holding a 1430 GMT press conference and training at the King Baudouin stadium at 1530 GMT.

Coach Humberto Coelho clearly has a variety of options, given that his second-string side still managed to beat Germany 3-0 last Tuesday in Rotterdam thanks to a Sergio Conceicao hat-trick.

Portugal however have not really been tested by any of the serious favourites so far.

In group A, Germany's ageing squad, lacking talent, and England's several good individuals, unable to really gel as a team, are Portugal's two most difficult opponents to date.

Nevertheless this event is a chance for Portugal, who possess the talent of colonial offspring Brazil yet not the silverware to match, to finally end their championship-winning drought in the July 2 final in Rotterdam.

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# CLEAR

## ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations  
Bangladesh Cricket Team

WITH IPTO