

Star Sport

DHAKA, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-133

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

Competition closes at 8 pm July 28, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

Which country will host 2006 football World Cup?

South Africa England Germany

When did Germany host its last World Cup?

1968 1974 1978

Who led the German bid for 2006 World Cup?

Beckenbauer Matthäus Müller

Where did the voting for 2006 World Cup take place?

Naty Belgium Switzerland

Who conducted the voting?

UEFA FIFA AFC

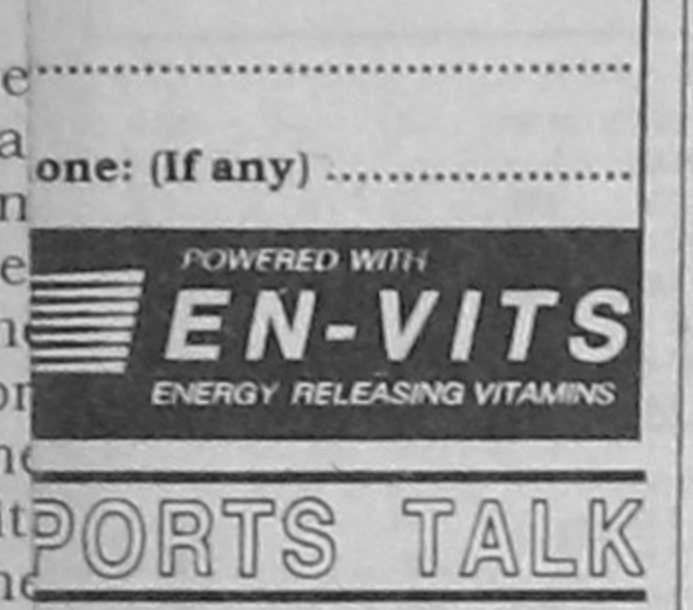
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SPORTS TALK



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Mohammedans' Pakistani superstar Shahbaz Ahmed (C) trying to make his way through a couple of Bangladesh Sporting defenders during their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Mohammedan on a roll

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club maintained the high standard they set in the opening match of the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League when they flattened Bangladesh Sporting 7-0 at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The holders, who rout Sonali Bank 7-1 in the first match, looked more devastating with the inclusion of fearsome Pakistani strike duo of Shahbaz Ahmed and Tahir Zaman.

Although Shahbaz, affectionately called as hockey's Maradona, appeared a bit rusty his attacking partner Tahir got straight into his usual stride, marshalling Mohammedan's operation demolition.

Playing for the popular outfit for the fourth successive season, Tahir pronounced his intention to win the title for a

record fourth time.

The stocky Pakistan centre-half began the goal-glut in the ninth minute with a powerful reverse shot from top of the box. Tahir scored his second goal in the 30th minute from a penalty corner to give Mohammedan a 3-0 lead at the breather. In between Tahir's double strike forward Shamini added the second in the 20th minute from a goal-mouth mele.

Mohammedan attack gained momentum in the second session, where they scored four goals without any reply from Bangladesh Sporting, who fell back to their own half in face of constant onslaught.

Centre forward Ramiz struck twice, Ashiqur and Shipu, who donned the captain's arm-band in place of suspended Sharafat, shared two other goals for the Mohammedan outfit.

Although Ramiz scored the last two goals within a space of

ten minutes, the nimble forward was responsible for depriving Mohammedan of even bigger margin victory. He missed out on at least half a dozen sitters before eventually finding the net in the 55th minute.

Moksed Ahmad, another Pakistani recruit of Mohammedan, also made brief appearance in the match after Shahbaz opted to take rest for a while. But the robust Pakistan failed to make any lasting impression in his first game.

Meanwhile, in the First Division League, Wari Club posted a 2-0 victory over Mukta Bhangra Tarun Sangha.

After a barren first half, Rahat and Sohagh scored for Wari in the last eight minutes of the game.

TODAY'S MATCH

Sadharan Bima v Dhaka Wanderers (2.15pm)

Abahiani v Sonali Bank (4pm)



Mohammedan Sporting Club coach Abul briefing his charges prior to a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

BFF playing silly game

Sports Reporter

As if to prove that it owns the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) at the moment the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has given permission to hold the second round matches of the low-profile Pioneer Division Football League.

When these matches could easily be accommodated at other grounds, BFF appeared adamant to overuse the BNS, a perennial apple of discord between football and cricket.

Many consider it as a provocative decision of BFF to try the patience of Bangladesh Cricket Board, who are expected to get back the possession over BNS after October 31.

The extent of damage done by a day's football was quite evident after the first of the fourteen scheduled matches played yesterday. The eastern half of the BNS, where the match was held, would give one a distinct impression of a paddy field.

The BCB however sent a letter to the NSC protesting the move.

"They (BFF) might arrange a match between Maniknagar and Gopibagh since they've now got the possession of the ground. We can only express our grievances to the NSC, who is the owner of the ground", said the BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq.

The BFF on the other hand remained indifferent about their act.

"We need two grounds to hold the second round matches of the Pioneer League. We do not have better grounds than the Mirpur Stadium and the Bangabandhu National Stadium at the moment", said BFF acting general secretary Sirajul Islam to the Daily Star yesterday.

AB Bank TT

Smooth sail for Biman

Sports Reporter

Holders Bangladesh Biman recorded their fourth straight victory in the AB Bank Senior Division Table Tennis League at the NSC Wooden-floor Gymnasium yesterday.

The national airline outfit, who struggled to overcome Wari in the previous match, had a rather easy outing against Armanitola Junior. The star-studded Biman defeated the old timers by three sets to nil with Mostafa, Rachi and Mahabub winning their respective games.

Title contenders Wari, snarling under their 3-2 defeat against Biman, also posted an identical 3-0 victory over Inter Sports.

Brothers finally registered their first win after three consecutive defeats when the Gopibagh outfit blashed Swamibagh Boys in a clash of neighbours.

Meanwhile, in the First Division League, Dilkusha SC, Angels' Club, Barna TTS and Mohammadpur Boys won their respective matches by identical margin of 3-0 against Swamibagh TTS, Jagorani TT Club, Khelaghar SKS and Purbachal Parishad.

Oval sold out for Asia vs ROW clash

LONDON, July 26 (Internet report): The Oval will be sold out for this Saturday's match between an Asia XI captained by Sachin Tendulkar and the Rest of the World, led by Alec Stewart.

Eighteen thousand tickets have been sold for the match, and host club Surrey estimate that 50 per cent of spectators will be shouting for the Asian side.

At the invitation of Surrey President and ex-British Prime Minister John Major, the stars of the current Indian and Pakistani teams, will line up to help raise money for the redevelopment of The Oval - one of the world's most famous Test grounds.

Tendulkar said "I consider it an honour and am proud to be invited by John Major".

Other Indian stars include Ajay Jadeja, Venkatesh Prasad, Javagal Srinath, Robin Singh, Mohammad Azharuddin and Anil Kumble. Pakistani stars wasim Akram, Saad Anwar, and Saqlain Mushtaq - who plays his county cricket at the ground - are also in the lineup, managed by former Indian great Kapil Dev.

Stewart's Rest of the World team includes England skipper Nasser Hussain, Aussie spinner Shane Warne and New Zealand allrounder Chris Cairns.

Nakata's ultimatum

ROME, July 26: AS Roma's Japanese star Hidetoshi Nakata has given club bosses an ultimatum that he is ready to pack his bags unless he is given a first team place, the Italian daily La Repubblica reported Wednesday, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old said that he did not feel inferior to first team choice Francesco Totti.

Soya America 6th Asian Women Juniors Handball

Hosts shown the door

Sports Reporter

Hosts Bangladesh were predictably eliminated from the Soya America 6th Asian Women Juniors Handball Championship when they were crushed by Japan in their last Group A match at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Stadium last night.

In the day's other matches, holders South Korea paved their way into the semifinals with a 39-9 win over India while Chinese Taipei hammered Nepal 37-12 in Group B.

JAPAN - 44, BANGLADESH - 10

The day's last match turned out to be a forgettable experience for the home team and it's fairs as the Japanese virtually toyed with the Bangladeshis.

The winners led the first half 18-4, totally dominating the proceedings over their inexperienced opponents.

In the second session, Japan went rampant and added another 26 goals to their account. Okada Naho stole the show for Japan with eight goals followed by Kawabata Akiko and Hosogi Mika who added seven goals apiece. Among others, Ota Tomoko scored six goals for the winners.

Erina Nahar top-scored with four goals for Bangladesh while Shahida Khatun, who scored eight goals against China the previous day, netted three. Mina Khatun, Rita Khatun and Rozina Akhter bagged one goal each.

Kato Eri of Japan was adjudged player-of-the-match.

With yesterday's defeat, Bangladesh were ousted from the seven-nation meet having lost both their games in three-team Group B. On the other hand, Japan confirmed their berth in the semifinals along with China from the group.

Both teams will face each other for the group championship today.

TEAMS

Japan: Tashiro Hiroki, Kato Eri, Tanaka Mikiko, Ota Yayoi, Kawabata Akiko, Okazaki Miki, Nitta Sumiko, Ota Tomoko, Okada Naho, Harada Natsuko and Hosogi Mika.

Bangladesh: Shaila Parveen, Dalia Akhter, Rozina Khatun, Airoza Begum, Rukhsana Parveen, Anwara Begum, Shahida Khatun, Lipi Begum, Farhana Yasmeen, Erina Nahar, Mina Khatun and Rita Khatun.

SOUTH KOREA - 39, INDIA - 9

South Korea handed a lesson in handball to the awestruck Indians in the second fixture of the day. The defending champions were up 14-7 in the first half. India, who thrashed Nepal 39-8 goals on Tuesday, looked sluggish in trying to contain the strength and agility of the Koreans.

Park Hyo Jin scored the highest six goals for the winners followed by Kim Cha Youn who added five.

Anita Kumari hit four goals for the Indians. Park Hyo Jin was later declared player-of-the-match. South Korea, with their second successive win, confirmed their berth in the last four with a match in hand. They will take on babes Nepal in their last match today. In another encounter today, India and Chinese Taipei will meet to determine who becomes the second qualifier.

TAIPEI - 37, NEPAL - 12

Chinese Taipei recorded their first win in group A with a 37-12 cake-walk over Nepal. The winners led the first half 20-0.

Chia Ling Hui struck seven goals for Taipei while her compatriot and player-of-the-match Wen Ya Ling scored six. Leela Maya Thapa salvaged some pride for Nepal with a wonderful individual performance which saw her hit all but one of her team's goals.

Taipei are now sharing the second spot in Group A along with India with each team having two points each.

TODAY'S MATCHES

China v Japan (3:15 pm)

South Korea v Nepal (4:45 pm)

Chinese Taipei v India (6:15 pm)

Scene from yesterday's Soya America 6th Asian Women Juniors Handball Championship clash between Bangladesh and Japan at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium in Mirpur. —Star photo

Mark ready to be examined

SYDNEY, July 26: Australian Test batsman Mark Waugh says he is willing to have his financial records scrutinised if necessary to prove he has told the truth about his dealings with an Indian bookmaker, reports AFP.

Waugh Wednesday dismissed comments by former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, who has expressed doubt about the explanations given by Waugh and teammate Shane Warne over their involvement with the bookmaker.

The two leading Australian players were fined by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) after admitting accepting money in 1994 from the bookie known as "John" in return for weather and pitch information.

Imran questioned their explanation when interviewed by the ABC's Four Corners in a programme broadcast here on Monday night.

"With hindsight it makes no sense," Imran said. "Why would the bookies just give money to anyone for just giving a pitch report?"

Imran called on the Australian Cricket Board to reopen its inquiry into the Waugh-Waugh affair but the ACB said Tuesday there was no point unless fresh evidence came to light.

Waugh agreed Wednesday. "I've been through two inquiries, the Pakistan judicial inquiry and the (ACB's) O'Regan inquiry last year, and as far as I'm concerned that's plenty," Waugh told a press conference.

"I didn't see the (Four Corners) show. I saw his (Imran's) comments on the news and those off-the-cuff comments, I don't think they carry any importance at all."

"It's easy for someone just to come out and say something that doesn't mean much."

"I think rumours are the worst things in the world. As

See page 9

Taxmen on treasure hunt

NEW DELHI, July 26 (AFP/PTI): Indian revenue detectives said Wednesday they were waiting to interview three

top cricketers on their return from Britain, as officials seized gold worth one million rupees (\$2,200 dollars) from a bookmaker.

The Income Tax Department said it was awaiting the return of former captain Mohammad Azharuddin and players Ajay Jadedja and Nikhil Chopra from London, where the three are set to play a one-day match at the Oval on July 29.

"They will be closely questioned on their return," said a source from the department, which conducted nation-wide raids last week at the homes of players, cricket officials and bookmakers suspected to be linked to match-fixing.

Jadedja has already been questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation, which is probing only the match-fixing element.

The income tax sources said the three players' homes would be also searched in their presence.

Indian revenue officials, who during the raids sealed 60 bank safe deposit boxes, said federal detectives found one million rupees worth of ornaments from one of the three boxes searched here on Wednesday.

"The lockers are a virtual treasure trove," one said, adding the department was determined to search each and every safe deposit box belonging to cricketers, officials and bookmakers under federal scrutiny.

"We have started the process of opening the lockers yesterday. Two out of the 17 lockers sealed were opened today. One belonged to a cricketer and the other to a relative of another player," said S.C. Parjia, Director General (Investigation) of Income Tax.

Parjia said the owners of the lockers were present when they were opened, which is mandatory. He gave no other details.

On Tuesday, jewellery worth half a million rupees was confiscated from the bank safe of an unnamed player, who is being investigated for his role in

fixing international matches in league with bookies in India and abroad.

Tax officials say that besides examining the deposit boxes for unaccounted wealth, detectives have also started the task of scrutinising documents which have been seized during the July 20-21 tax blitz.

Officials swooped on 84 offices, including 36 in New Delhi. Those raided included Indian cricket icon Kapil Dev, who is also the current national coach, Azharuddin, Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar, Chopra, Navjot Singh Sidhu and Ajay Sharma. The former chief of the International Cricket Council, Jagmohan Dalmiya and the Indian cricket board's treasurer, Kishore Rungta, were also targeted.

Junior Finance Minister Dharmajay Kumar said the southern city of Bangalore on Saturday that tax investigators have found evidence of links with match-fixing after the searches.

The minister said the tax authorities were concerned only with collecting taxes that might be due from those searched, while the criminal aspect of match-fixing would be investigated by other government agencies.

Under Indian tax laws, the minister said, tax authorities could collect 69 per cent of un-declared or unexplained wealth as a penalty.

Tax laws also provide for imprisonment ranging from three to seven years for not declaring earnings on time, for not filing tax returns and for non-payment of taxes.

"I think in a way it'll help my own game because I seem to play better with that added responsibility," Lee said.

"So if I score enough runs and take enough wickets, I'll push my own way into the Test team.

Lee hopeful of playing Test

SYDNEY, July 26: New South Wales cricket captain Shane Lee hasn't given up on making his Test match debut for Australia, despite the extra responsibility of leading his state in the Sheffield Shield, reports AFP.

Lee's appointment as the Blues captain was officially announced here Wednesday.

Lee said that most state captains had played Test cricket for Australia, citing West Australian Tom Moody as an example.

"I think in a way it'll help my own game because I seem to play better with that added responsibility," Lee said.

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