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Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-134

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Aug 11, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who is the world's most expensive football player?
Crispo Zidane Pigo

2. Who won the ICC Under-17 Asia Cup?
Pakistan Sri Lanka India

3. Bangladesh's opening match in the second ICC Knock-out tournament is against:
South Africa West Indies England

4. Who won the NatWest tri-series?
West Indies Zimbabwe England

5. Name the winner of the British Open golf:
Faldo Woods Els

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

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ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS



Tony Greig
(TV commentator)
"Reverse swing is an art and the Pakistan fast bowlers do it better than anybody else."

Sachin's return to be delayed

NEW DELHI, July 31: Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar, down in London with nasty chicken pox, is likely to delay his return to India, family sources said yesterday.

It's a nasty bout of chicken pox. At the moment we don't know when he will be able to return home, the sources told PTI on telephone from London.

Tendulkar, who was in London with his wife and children on a holiday, was to lead an Asian team in an exhibition match against a Rest of the World XI but had to pull out at the last moment after he was found to have contracted chicken pox.

SA selectors play musical chairs

JOHANNESBURG, July 31 (Internet report): The new panel of South African selectors includes two big names from a former era, who come in at the expense of two players from more recent times.

Clive Rice and Kepler Wessels lose their places, having failed to gain nominations from the provincial unions, and are replaced by Graeme Pollock (South Africa's Player of the Century) and Hylton Ackerman.

Rice's position at the helm of coaching at Nottinghamshire will have undermined his chances of being re-appointed, while Wessels' outspoken comments in the media will not have endeared him to the rank and file in South Africa's administrative set-up.

Hylton Ackerman has been coach of both Western Province and Boland, and he was a member of the Proteas' side during the apartheid years. He was also a regular in the English County Championship as a player with Northamptonshire.

Graeme Pollock averaged a shade over 60 runs in innings in 23 Tests for South Africa, and played his most famous innings of 125 at Trent Bridge in 1965.

He will now be faced with the prospect of having to select his nephew to play in South Africa's Test team. Perhaps not as tough as his brother, Peter, having to select his own son!



South Korean coach Kang Tae Koo becomes the centre of celebration. — Star photo

Soya America Handball Double hattrick for Koreans

South Korea once again proved their indomitable class when they retained the Soya America 6th Asian Women Juniors Handball Championship title after a comfortable 37-23 victory over Chinese Taipei in the final at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Koreans now enjoy an unprecedented record of winning all the six tournaments till date.

The game failed to live up to the expectation of the near capacity crowd as the Koreans control from the beginning. By half time they were already leading 17-13.

The second session became a mere formality for the distinctly superior Koreans who netted another 20 goals to their account with some swift passing and lightning counter attack.

Player-of-the-match Kim Cha Youn and Moon Pil Hee led the scorers list for the victors with eight goals apiece while Choi In Jeong tallied seven.

Lee Hsiu-Wei with four was Taipei's main goal-getter.

South Korean Choi In Jong was adjudged player-of-the-tournament while the best goalkeeper's prize went to Japanese custodian Hiromi.

Moon Pil Hee of South Korea, who blasted 39 goals in five matches, received the highest scorer's award.

Minister for Local Government Zillur Rahman witnessed the final as chief guest and handed over the prizes. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, Bangladesh Handball Federation President Lt Col (ret'd) Abdul Hamid, the secretary general of the Organising Committee Hamida Ali were present among other distinguished guests.

JAPAN CLINCH THIRD SPOT

Earlier, in the day's first match, a brilliant second half rally by Japan saw them come from behind to win the third position play-off 26-16 against bitter rivals China.

Trailing the first half 9-12, the Japanese girls made a fantastic fight back in the second session and scored 17 goals to stun the Chinese. The win was also sweet revenge for Japan who had lost to China 18-19 in a group match last week.

Tanaka bagged the highest six goals for the winners followed by her compatriot Ota Yavori and Nitta Sumiko who added five each.

Japan custodian Toshiro Hiromi was named as the player-of-the-match.

Although, it was earlier announced by the organisers that the top three finishers of the tournament will qualify for next year's World Women Juniors Championship, the Executive Director of Asian Handball Federation Dr. Abu Al-Lail yesterday declared that all the four semifinalists have earned qualification for the world meet.

The 20-nation competition will be held in the Hungarian capital of Budapest from July 29 to August 12 next year.

Both players began their last round clash with five-and-a-half points, in the nine-round Swiss League competition.

Elvest became joint-champion with Czech Grand Master Pavel Blanty. They both finished with six-and-a-half points respectively.

Had Zia won he would have collected the second of three norms required to reach the pinnacle.

The highest-rated player of the country was placed eighth in the meet after progressive scoring. He received 500 dollars.

Bangladesh's other IMs — Reefat-bin-Sattar and Abdullah Al-Rakib — and Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib all ended up with four-and-a-half points.

Zia and Rakib have already returned home. Reefat is taking part in a tournament in Los Angeles. Rajib is also scheduled take part in a tournament in Germany before returning.

Wounded Windies' vow

LONDON, July 31: England will assemble at Old Trafford this week to face a West Indies side now united to shrug off their recent troubles and protect their proud record in the Wisden Trophy, reports AFP.

Since losing the Lord's Test in dramatic circumstances a month ago to level the five-match series at 1-1, West Indies' fortunes have slumped with Courtney Walsh and Shivnarine Chanderpaul both being ruled out of the triangular one-day tournament through injury.

Their absence contributed to them failing to win any of their opening five matches as the entered their final fixture against England at Trent Bridge when another defeat could have had a lasting effect on their morale for the remainder of the Test series.

The opportunity was there for England to humble the West Indies and cause a serious crisis of confidence within their dressing room ahead of this week's third Test at Old Trafford, but instead the tourists completed an unlikely and dramatic victory to lift their spirits.

That triumph, the return of Curtly Ambrose from a month's holiday back home in Antigua and another timely 10-wicket victory over Yorkshire, albeit against a line-up featuring only three capped players, has left the tourists quietly confident for the resumption of the Test series.

Even the loss of Chanderpaul, ruled out at Old Trafford with an arm injury, has not dampened their quiet determination to set right what they believe is an injustice having dominated the majority of the opening two Tests.

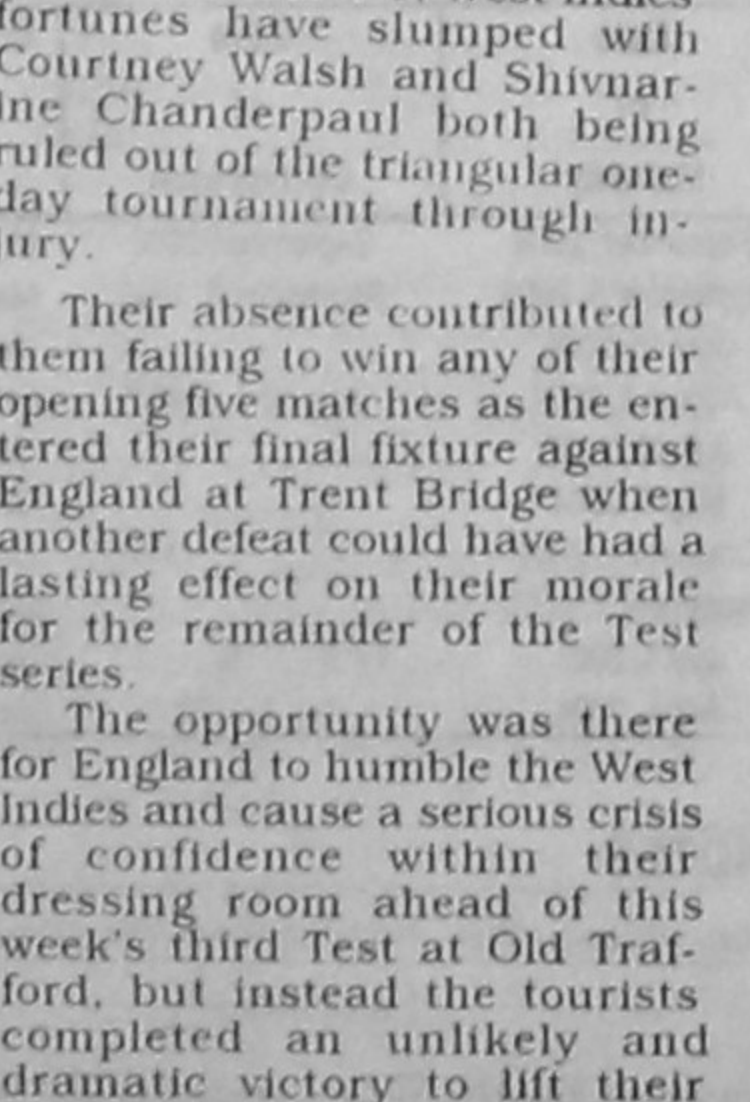
"I am still confident we can win the series and so are the boys," claimed star batsman Brian Lara. "We've played six days of Test cricket over two matches and I would say we have come out on top in five of those."

"Unfortunately England had that one day at Lord's where they played very well, but you have got to say that we have played some excellent cricket in the Test series."

"The guys have bowled well throughout and all we have had basically is one hiccup with the batting in the second innings at Lord's and we'll be trying to make sure that won't happen again."

Lara, who is expected to overcome a hamstring strain to take his place in the Manchester Test despite being withdrawn from West Indies' current match with Leicestershire, believes their improved spirits can all be traced back to that one-day international victory over England at Trent Bridge.

"It was nice to end the one-day series on a winning note."



BRIAN LARA

Clubs, media ready for action

The national football team should expect rather a rude reception when it returns home today on completion of their historic tour to England.

While the club officials, in the wake of inter-club transfer (from tomorrow), will be busy in whisking away players of their choice, the team management is for sure going to face the music from media, who were kept in the dark throughout Bangladesh's weeklong tour.

Bangladesh lost both their matches against India (0-1) and Huddersfield Town (0-5), team manager Shah Alam Chowdhury did not bother to inform the BFF about the result of Bangladesh's first match against Huddersfield, for reasons best known to him.

When Shah Alam would try hard to disprove the claim that it was a 'picnic party' for the five officials, the Dhaka club officials might go to great lengths to woo their selected ones from fourteen players.

Among the players national custodian Aminul is going to be the main target of the two leading Premier League teams — Abahani and Muktijoddha.

It was gathered that officials of both teams have drawn up secret plans to get hold of their target players as soon as the plane touches down at the Zia International Airport at 8 am.

Fourteen out of 18 players are returning with a strong band of officials. Four players stayed back to join Mohammedan, who are scheduled to play a couple of matches in England later this month.

Zia misses GM norm

International Master Ziaur Rahman was denied his second norm for Grand Master in the continental Grand Masters' Tournament, when he lost his last round encounter to Estonian GM John Elvest in Vermont, Washington DC on July 16, according to an e-mail sent by Bangladesh Chess Federation yesterday.

Both players began their last round clash with five-and-a-half points, in the nine-round Swiss League competition.

Elvest became joint-champion with Czech Grand Master Pavel Blanty. They both finished with six-and-a-half points respectively.

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Biman off to England

A 15-member Bangladesh Biman cricket team left for England yesterday to play half a dozen exhibition matches there.

All Ahsan Babu, who has recently been appointed as the General Manager of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), will manage the national airline outfit.

Biman, who finished third in the Premier League last year, have been invited to play matches in England and Wales by the Albany Cricket Association — a club of Bangladesh community in London.

Led by Faruque Ahmed, a former national captain, Biman will play their first match against Abahani Cricket Club. National captain Aminul Islam, who is now in England, will also join his Biman mates.

Scottish Premiership Celtic owe Sutton one

GLASGOW, July 31: Chris Sutton went some way to repaying the six million pound (nine million dollars) transfer fee dished out by Celtic as he scored the winning goal in a 2-1 win against Dundee United on Sunday to give both himself and new manager Martin O'Neill a dream start at their new club, reports AFP.

England striker Sutton was O'Neill's first recruit after signing him earlier this month from Chelsea.

He was doubtful for his new club's Scottish Premier League opener with an ankle injury and only returned to training on Friday.

But O'Neill took a gamble and decided to hand him his debut along with 3.8million (5.7m dollars) Belgian defender Joos Valgaeren — and the pair did not disappoint the former Leicester boss.

Atapattu at it again

KANDY, Sri Lanka, July 31: Vice-captain Marvan Atapattu hit a characteristic century, his fifth in Test cricket to put Sri Lanka in command of the second cricket Test against South Africa here Monday, reports AFP.

Atapattu was unbeaten on 107 as Sri Lanka finished the second day strongly placed at 260 for four wickets in reply to South Africa's 253. Play ended 48 minutes ahead of schedule because of bad light.

The final session was dominated by Atapattu who completed his century by pulling a short delivery from Nantie Hayward through mid-wicket for his 12th boundary. The century came up in 327 minutes and he faced 264 balls.

It was Atapattu's third hundred on this ground following a career-best 223 against Zimbabwe in 1997-98 and an unbeaten 207 against Pakistan last month.

With Arjuna Ranatunga who is making his final appearance at this venue, Atapattu has so far added 78 in an unfinished fifth-wicket partnership. Ranatunga was undefeated on 34 scored off 52 balls with the aid of a six and five fours.

Sri Lanka lost three wickets in the afternoon session, two of them to run outs that were totally unnecessary.

Russel Arnold sacrificed his wicket at 28 after a misunderstanding with Atapattu over a run, and Kumar Sangakkara was run out for 24, when he backed up too far and failed to beat Neil McKenzie's throw from cover point.

The third wicket to fall was that of Mahela Jayawardene for 18 when edged a catch to Darryl Cullinan at slip off Nicky Boje.

The only other wicket captured by a bowler was Sanath Jayasuriya's at 28 when the Sri Lanka captain edged Hayward to Jacques Kallis at second slip.

Sri Lanka lead 1-0 in the three-match series.



Sri Lankan opener Marvan Atapattu plays one off his pads during the second day of the Test against South Africa at Kandy yesterday. — AFP photo

Wasim backs Asia Tests

LONDON, July 31: (Internet report): Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram would like to see the Asia v Rest of World match, which was so successful (and, more importantly, incident-free) at the Oval, become a regular fixture in world cricket, even to extent of staging a Test series between the two sides.

Wasim's comments came after a drum-beating and horn-blowing capacity 18,500 crowd — three-quarters of Asian descent — had packed into The Oval to watch the Rest of the World XI, captained by Alec Stewart, beat Asia by 15 runs.

The first real glimpse of the potential for Asian support in England came during the World Cup last year where demand for tickets far outstripped supply for all matches involving sides from the sub-continent.

For Stewart, the experience would have been a surreal one — captaining a team on his home ground in front of an away crowd.

"It was like playing India in the World Cup last year at Edgbaston," he joked.

"But that's really the main reason why it was sold out. I would suggest it was 80 per cent Asian supporters and it was great to bring them down to Surrey."

Wasim, who took over as Asia's captain when Sachin Tendulkar pulled out with chicken pox, wants to spread the gospel further afield than Kensington.

This was the third such conversation after the Princess Diana Memorial match at Lord's and, recently, in Dhaka — and all have been sell-outs.

"I felt very nice playing with the Indian players and getting the support of the Indian public," said Wasim.

"We really mixed in well. You would see the Pakistani and Indians waving flags next to each other, and joking with each other. These games will definitely get the relationships internationalised between India and Pakistan in September, but cancelled after logistical problems proved insurmountable."

However, this match was a Surrey initiative — almost legalised Packer seeing the number of international stars who had accepted John Major's personal invitation to attend — but the club's chief executive Paul Sheldon had a word of warning to other clubs thinking of trying to match their profits of 500,000 pounds raised for the redevelopment of The Oval.

"I think it would be extremely difficult for anyone to do this without a combination of the charitable element, the ex-Prime Minister and a great Test match ground that needs rebuilding," said Sheldon. "The players are being paid but only modestly."

Then there are the extra costs and concerns involved in grouping Indian and Pakistani supporters together.

There is not always harmony between India and Pakistan but they were very happy to play on the same side whatever the political situation," he said.

"Clearly here we have produced a cultural harmony. That's marvellous because they are in a state of war, then let's just say they have not always loved each other."

Food for thought, but the England v Rest of the World series in 1970 provided a feast of cricket. There is no reason why an Asia v Rest of the World series should not be an even bigger draw.

BCCI, Ministry on collision

NEW DELHI, July 31: India's cricket chiefs were set for a confrontation with the sports ministry on Tuesday amid growing differences over retaining those players in the national team who were embroiled in the match-fixing scandal, reports AFP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has flatly turned down sports minister Sukhdev Dhindsa's suggestion that tainted stars like present coach Kapil Dev, former captain Mohammad Azharuddin and key player Ajay Jadeja should be dropped till their names were cleared.

"We will not axe players unless they are proved guilty," BCCI president A.C. Mittal said on Monday, setting the stage for a heated debate with the sports minister.

The Board is expected to give Dhindsa a "vision report" detailing a five-year plan for cricket in the country, but will hold back a draft of the proposed code of conduct which the minister had also asked for.

"We have a draft in hand, but it has to be ratified by the Board's working committee before it can be passed on to the ministry," Mittal said.

The working committee, the top decision-making body of the board, is scheduled to meet in Bangalore on August 19 — almost three weeks after the ministry's deadline to submit the code of conduct.

The Indian team for the Sahara Cup series against arch-rivals Pakistan in Toronto, Canada in September will be picked by the selectors on August 10.

Kapil, Test cricket's leading wicket-taker till West Indian Courtney Walsh overtook him in March, completes half of his two-year term as coach in September.

Azharuddin, one-day cricket's leading scorer, and Jadeja are senior members of the team and played in India's last international outing — the Asia Cup in Bangladesh in May.

The three stars are key figures in a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into allegations of match-fixing in Indian cricket.

The homes and offices of these players and a few others were raided by income-tax officials earlier this month as part of the investigation.

Former president of the International Cricket Council Jagmohan Daluwya was also raided, as were former players Navjot Singh Sidhu and Ajay Sharma.

Soon after the raids, junior finance Minister V. Dhanraj Kumar told reporters that large sums of unaccounted cash and other evidence of undeclared wealth were discovered during the raids.

"We have gathered substantial and tangible evidence to prove concealment of wealth and also to prove escaping of tax ... and also to prove some kind of nexus in match-fixing for assuming this kind of concealed wealth," Kumar said.

The minister said prosecution on various tax evasion charges could entail varied jail terms ranging from three to seven years.

Investigations are set to resume this week when the concerned players return from London where they took part in a benefit match last Saturday.