

Column One

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Competition-134

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 Aug 11, 2000 and draw
 shortly afterwards

1	Who is the world's most expensive football player?	Crespo	Zidane	Figo
2	Who won the ICC Under-17 Asia Cup?	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	India
3	Baghdesh'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

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SPORTS TALK



Marvan Atapattu

(Sri Lankan batsman)
 People do not appreciate defensive players who build an innings. They only want to see entertaining cricket. I certainly can be innovative and adventurous if the situation calls for it. However, if the runs are coming for me, no matter how, I will not change a thing in my batting.

The departure of Prodip and Rana has served as a fatal blow



A group of angry Abahani supporters protest against goalkeeping Aminul Haque's move to Mukti Joddha Sangsads in front of the Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee office.

—Star photo

Transfer market opens

Abahani chase shadows

Sports Reporter

The fire that generated at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Tuesday sparked again at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday when wild Abahani supporters chased Mukti Joddha Sangsads official Jahangir Alam on the opening day of the inter-club footballers' transfer.

Jahangir, who successfully led the 'hijack' episode on arrival of the national team from England, came under the wrath of a strong band of Abahani at the Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) office for snatching away national custodian Aminul.

Aminul, the most talked-about player in this year's transfer, has been the subject of a prolonged dispute between Abahani and Mukti Joddha. Mukti Joddha, who captured Aminul at the airport, rubbed more salt on the popular Dhamondi outfit's wound when they sought Aminul's transfer on commission along with two more major Abahani booters—central defender Prodip Kumar Podar and striker Maksudul Amin Rana.

A commission transfer means that the player concerned needs not to appear for signing at the common venue. Under the provisions, the transfer formalities are completed at a location chosen by the player or club officials.

The departure of Prodip and Rana has served as a fatal blow

for Abahani, who tried to find some sort of solace in disguise by roping in national striker Kanchan, their Tuesday's catch at the airport.

We have lodged a protest to the Bangladesh Football Federation regarding Aminul', said Abahani official Ashrafuddin Chunnu who claimed that Aminul had taken an advance payment of Taka three lakhs from the club.

Abahani also termed the moves of Prodip and Rana as illegal. He however did not elaborate.

Abahani somewhat compensated the departure of Aminul with Biplob, the number two custodian of the country. They have also signed up Mohammedan striker Mizanur Rahman Don, Farashganj defender Nazrul and Arambagh's right-back Firoz Mahmud Titu.

Abahani officials are still fighting with the DMFLC's secretary Swastak AH Khan Jahangir on the issue of two suspended players—Arambagh's left-back Mithu and Rahmatganj goalie

Apple.

The existing law forbids a player who is suspended by his club from taking part in the transfers.

While Abahani were struggling to rebuild a team after being thumped by Mukti Joddha, arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club gave only a courtesy visit last evening.

The holders, who have already fortified their ranks, completed the signings of former national captain Jewel Rana and veteran striker Imtiaz Ahmed Naqib. Both are already in training with the club preparing for their tour to England.

Brothers' Union were the first among the top teams to enter the market. Parvez Babu was the lone notable signing of the Gopibagh outfit. But the once prosperous team from Gopibagh maintained a low profile, concentrating only on under-16 players.

The move of Parvez however upsets the balance of Badda Jagorani, who created a sensation last year.

The list of the pool players who took part in yesterday's transfer:

Name	From	To
Parvez Babu	Badda	Brothers
Kanchan	Farashganj	Abahani
Titu	Arambagh	Abahani
Don	Mohammedan	Abahani
Saurav Raja	Rahmatganj	Mukti Joddha
Mintu	Abahani	Mukti Joddha
Ritu	Rahmatganj	Arambagh
Jewel Rana	Mukti Joddha	Mohammedan
Kingshuk	Abahani	Rahmatganj
Anwar	Mohammedan	Rahmatganj

Eng, WI get back to Test



MANCHESTER, England, Aug 2 (Reuters): England and West Indies swap cricket 'pyjamas' for traditional whites on Thursday to resume their five-Test battle that was left intriguingly poised at 1-1 a month ago.

The break in the series was to allow the two teams and Zimbabwe to play a 10-match limited-overs tournament, but the coloured clothing, white balls and black sightscreens now give way to the authentic version of the game.

England, having won the triangular one-day series in style, may feel that they start the third Test at Old Trafford with a psychological edge.

West Indies, however, who recorded just one win in six matches during the one-dayers, would argue that the return of fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose completely changes the equation.

Walsh, with 18 wickets in the first two Tests, is fit again after a foot problem and will be keen to add to his world record haul of 467 Test wickets.

Ambrose, rested during the triangular tournament and fast

approaching the end of his career, is just six wickets short of his 400.

They will relish the chance to run at England's top order again, with left-handed opener Marcus Trescothick, selected for his Test debut in Manchester after an impressive one-day series, an inviting target.

The 37-year-old Walsh, in particular, has barely missed anything that he has aimed at so far on tour, taking five for 36 and three for 22 to help win the first Test, then following that up with four for 43 and six for 74 in the second.

England, however, contrived to win the first two Tests, it is fit again after a foot problem and will be keen to add to his world record haul of 467 Test wickets.

Ambrose, rested during the triangular tournament and fast

If England opt for six batsmen, the selectors are likely to decide between Thorpe and Graeme Hick while recalling off-spinner Robert Croft.

West Indies, meanwhile, have as many batting concerns. The dependable Shivnarine Chanderpaul is ruled out with a torn tendon in his right hand, while Brian Lara, sidelined by a sore hamstring, is short of practice since his last appearance on July 16.

Ramnaresh Sarwan, with two Tests to Chanderpaul's 44, looks set to be selected for the first time in this series, and leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo could make his debut.

Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart, in contrast, are in the twilight of their careers. Thursday will see both earn their 100th Test caps, emulating Graham Gooch, David Gower, Colin Cowdrey, Geoff Boycott and Ian Botham.

Atherton and Stewart would relish a series victory over West Indies, a feat England have failed to complete in 12 attempts, either home or away, since 1969.

Recent West Indian away
 See page 15

AB Bank TT reach Super League stage

Sports Reporter

The Super Leagues of the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis starts at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium today.

Binam, Armanitola, Jubo Sangha, Wari Club, Engineers Club and Inter Sports will take part in the Premier Division Super League while Mariner Young's Club, Dilukshu Sporting Club, Uttara Club, Barina Table Tennis Club, Angels Club and Arka will feature in the First Division Super League.



A combo picture showing (L) Jewel Rana and Nakib, who returned to Mohammedan after five years, along with club officials. (M) Zulfiqar Mahmud Don on the opening day of inter-club footballers' transfer yesterday.

Federation Cup starts Aug. 12

Sports Reporter

The Federation Cup football tournament will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from August 12 to 23, according to a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) press release yesterday.

Sixteen teams from the Senior Division will be joined by the Bangladesh Army in the competition. The teams will be split into two groups for the knock-out first round.

The two group champions will join last year's semi-finalists Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra, Mukti Joddha Sangsads Krira Chakra and Badda Jagorani Sangsads in the second round robin league which will also be held in two groups.

BFF has already formed a tournament committee for the season's curtain raiser with Monwar Hossain Chowdhury and Moazzem Hossain as chairman and secretary.

Undoubtedly, cricket has emerged as the new number one sport in our country. Impact of cricket's success is simply tremendous. Millions of youths are now dreaming on becoming country's ambassadors in future. Attainment of Test status in June this year has also taken Bangladesh to a new height. Yet cricket did not get the BNS permanently. Rather it was driven out of the stadium to resume footballing activity.

The confused National Sports Council once again caved in to the political clout of football as the governing body of local sports stuck to their petty policy of sharing the BNS between football and cricket.

But one must not forget that Bangladesh is now a Test-playing nation and it needs a lot more care and investment to sustain at the top level of the game. They need a lot more venues including the BNS.

Personally, NSC chairman and State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader also thinks that the BNS should belong to cricket only. But in the world of reality, the sports boss does not have the courage to ignore the strength of football organisers. They are very powerful and he has no option but to give the BNS to football, admits Flynn.

The State Minister sought Australia's help in developing cricket, swimming, hockey and sports medicine.

The Australian High Commissioner assured the minister of taking necessary steps after the completion of the Sydney Olympic Games.

Flynn also gifted Quader with some Sydney Olympics souvenirs.

The State Minister took the opportunity to convey his thanks to the Australian Government for supporting Bangladesh's plea for Test status.

Quader explained his hapless position as a political administrator in a marathon interview with The Daily Star Staff Correspondent Hasan Masood at his Secretariat.

The BNS has become a matter of prestige to football organisers.

office on Tuesday. Following is the excerpts of that exclusive interview:

DSS: You have already passed four years in the chair. Which game has made you feel proud?

OQ: Obviously it's cricket. They won the ICC trophy -- played in the World Cup and won two matches. Finally, they have earned the Test status, which is

after we got the Test status.

Besides that so far the developments have been made at the BNSP are designed to serve only cricket.

DSS: But you have not given the BNS to cricket permanently. Don't you think cricket deserves that?

OQ: I don't understand why everybody talks about BNS. Why there will always be a row between football and cricket over one stadium. There are a lot of stadiums in the country. I haven't heard of such a problem in anywhere in the world. It has become a psychological problem.

But yes, I personally think that BNS should belong to cricket only. But the reality is different where you can not do exactly what you wanted.

DSS: Why did you extend the allotment of BNS to football for an extra month only a day after ruling out any extension?

OQ: I had to do so. I don't want to say anything more about this.

DSS: Why Bangladesh Football Federation doesn't want to play in Mirpur?

OQ: That's my question too.

DSS: Then why are you not asking them to go back to Mirpur Stadium which was built specially for football?

OQ: It's a reality that I can't take them to Mirpur. Football is also a very popular game in Bangladesh. And the football organisers are very powerful. I can't make them hostile against me. I have to manage everything. Moreover, the football officials don't agree with me that Mirpur Stadium is a football stadium. They don't even want to listen to my words. They say there is no crowd.

I want to add another point in this regard. I respect our press very much. But they also did not come out yet with any concrete solution to BNS stalemate. Nobody has written straight forwardly that BNS should be given to cricket only.

DSS: Many believe what clubs and BFF citing as an excuse for not playing at the Mirpur Stadium is not at all con-

tinued. From page 14

Quader sounds helpless

Football's political muscle stronger than cricket's

The age-old row over the right of the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) between football and cricket has produced a nasty cancer in our sports. Although the stadium was exclusively designed and built for cricket in fifties, rival organisers are of the Herculean opinion that the game would certainly embrace death if football is not kicked around the BNS.

Some observers on the liberal front even opine there should be a referendum on the ownership of the poor BNS, which is known well to the world as a Test venue.

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