

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

#### Competition-135

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

Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 1, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Fed Cup football?  
Ritu Kanchan Tanveer
- Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?  
Wasim Waqar Moin
- Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?  
Amrul Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?  
Armanjola Biman Marjones
- Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?  
Kahn Summer Reuter

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone, if any) .....

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

SPORTS TALK

Hansie Cronje

(Former South African cricket captain)

"In my opinion, Herschelle should be given another chance to play."

SL-India opener in Sharjah

SHARJAH, Aug 26 (Internet report): India will play Sri Lanka in the opening match of the Sharjah tournament this autumn.

The tournament, sponsored by Coca-Cola, begins on October 20. Zimbabwe make up the three teams competing who will play each other twice in a round-robin before the two leading sides go on to play in a one-match final. All the matches are due to be played under lights.

**FIXTURE**

Oct 20: India v SL

Oct 21: Zimbabwe v SL

Oct 22: Zimbabwe v India

Oct 25: SL v Zimbabwe

Oct 26: India v Zimbabwe

Oct 27: India v SL

Oct 29: Final

Athletics team off to Jakarta

Sports Reporter

A six-member Bangladesh athletics team has left for Indonesia yesterday morning to take part in the 13th Asian Championship.

The four-day meet is to be held in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta from August 28.

The team, headed by coach Uddin Bhuiyan (200 and 400), Kaniz Farhana (100m sprint and 100m hurdles), Nazmun Nahar (400m sprint).

Coach: Mehbuba Hossain, manager: Nuruddin Chowdhury.

**Venus, Seles enter final**

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, Aug 26: Wimbledon champion Venus Williams won her 18th consecutive match and moved within a victory of her fourth tournament title in a row with a semifinal triumph here Friday after losing the first four games to beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 2-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Top seed Williams beat South Africa's Amanda Coetzer 6-3, 6-4 to win a berth in Saturday's final opposite second seed Monica Seles, who fought back after losing the first four games to beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 2-6, 6-2, 6-1.

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## Stage set for Abahani-MSC finale

# Aminul lets Muktis down

Sports Reporter



Abahani Krira Chakra survived a second half onslaught from Muktiyoddha Sangsada Krira.

Chakra to eke out a 2-1 win in the second semifinal of the 16th Federation Cup football tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The victory set the holders up for a blood and thunder final clash with bitter foes Mohammedan Sporting Club on Monday. Incidentally, it will be the first meeting in the final of the traditional curtain-raiser between the two crowd pulling sides since their last encounter in 1995.

The victory against Muktiyoddha was fashioned by their striking duo of Don and Kanchan, who shared both goals for the popular Dhamondhi outfit in the first half. Farhad scored the only goal for Muktiyoddha, also in the first half.

Although the meeting of the two combative sides promised a battle within a battle especially after their war of words during the inter-club booters' transfer, but eventually it was Abahani who stole the show.

Abahani were dealt a severe blow when national custodian Aminul was hijacked by Muktiyoddha at the Zia International Airport when the Bangladesh team returned from England.

But the Aminul episode was forgotten after a stunning performance from Biplob, whose flamboyant presence under the bar kept Muktiyoddha at bay. While Biplob excelled, nervous Aminul had a nightmare of a match. He was responsible for both the goals Muktiyoddha conceded.

It was a terrible lapse from Aminul that gave Abahani a fifth minute lead.

Partho floated a rather innocuous from the left, which the custodian let loose only to allow a lurking Kanchan to stab the ball home from close 1-0.

But Abahani's joy lasted only a couple of minutes before Farhad stunned their passion-ate supporters with a powerful header that hit the roof of the net like a rocket.

The equaliser gave Muktiyoddha some respite before Abahani, buoyed by their

Ghanatan duo of Charles Ghanasha and Kennedy, lift back with a series of offensives. While a lanky Ghanasha stood like a rock in the rear, Kennedy provided the firepower up front in combination with midfield playmaker Sentu.



THE STRIKING DUO: Abahani's scorers Kanchan (L) and Don. —Star photo

Playing his first match of the season Kennedy looked a more seasoned campaigner than he was last year. He set up the match-winner for Don in the 32nd with a powerful low cross from the right, which the latter flicked into the net past a stranded Aminul.

Abahani could have increased their lead in the first half, which they dominated. Had not Don, Zakir and Kanchan and Iqbal squandered those chances.

Don cracked the ball against the post in the 24th minute and then drove the rebound miles over the bar. Five minutes later Iqbal had only Aminul to beat but missed the mark by an inch.

On the other hand Muktiyoddha saw a beefy attempt from their star Indian forward IM Vijayan spectacularly lashed away by Biplob for a corner.

The second half saw the momentum swing the other way with Muktiyoddha firing on all cylinders. But most of their attacks were thwarted by industrious Abahani full back Ghanasha. And if any did get past the Ghanaian then Biplob

was ever ready. Playing probably his second best match after the heroics during the SAF Games semifinal against India last year, Biplob's acrobatics proved a thorn in Muktiyoddha's concerted effort to take the match into the sudden-death extra

time. He fisted away a scorching right-footer from Masud Rana in the 69th minute and saved an absolute blinder from Rajani nine minutes before from the final whistle. Muktiyoddha had to walk away with a heavy heart knowing it was not going to be their day when another Rajani header was cleared off the line by Partho minutes from the end.

Earlier, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the mother of BFF general secretary Harun-ur Rashid who died yesterday.

Yellow cards: Partho and Kanchan (Abahani), Joy and Mintu (Muktiyoddha)

**TEAMS**

**ABAHANI KC:** Biplob, Titu, Nazrul, Ghanasha (Dulal), Partho, Zakir, Iqbal, Sentu, Don (Pavel), Kanchan and Kennedy.

**MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD:** Aminul, Hasan-al-Mamun, Prodip, Rajani, Masud Rana, Joy, Tushar, Asif, Mintu (Saurav Raju), Farhad (Liton) and Vijayan.

Referee: Ram Krishna Ghosh

# Richie ready to return



SYDNEY, Aug 26 (Internet report): Former West Indies captain Richie Richardson says he is prepared to make a comeback to Test cricket against Australia this summer to help drag the Caribbean side out of its slump.

Richardson, 38, quit international cricket in 1995 but conceded recent results, including the humiliating Test loss inside two days to England last week, were deeply disturbing and had rekindled his desire to play.

Richardson, who scored 5949 Test runs, is playing his trade with English league club Lashings.

"I have told the selectors that if they want me, I would come back," the 86-Test veteran said yesterday.

"I still see the ball well, and

am capable of scoring runs. I have left the door open. The board know I would be more than happy to do it."

After recent miserable Test totals of 61, 54 and 51, Richardson conceded his "beloved" Windies have reached their lowest ebb. And they'll be here soon, for a five-Test series against Australia.

Richardson said he had never felt less confident of the West Indies' prospects in a series against Australia, a contrast to Australian skipper Steve Waugh, who has never felt more confident against the Windies.

"Probably not," replied Waugh, when asked if he had ever held such a mental edge over a West Indian XI. "Most times you play the West Indies, you are the underdogs but I guess this time we will enter as overwhelming favourites."

"That, in itself, presents a

few dangers, although we have got enough to play for to keep our feet on the ground."

"I would expect them to lift more against us, they normally do, than they have against England."

"But you'd have to say their batting looks a bit flimsy. Still, (Brian) Lara will no doubt rise to the challenge against us and their bowling can be dangerous, especially if (Courtney) Walsh and (Curtly) Ambrose make the trip."

According to Richardson, only Walsh is likely to come to Australia this summer.

Not that Richardson thinks such a development will alter the outcome of the series. That, he says, is a foregone conclusion.

"To be honest, I can't see the Australians losing even if Curtly came," he said. "I have never seen a West Indies team as consistently bad as this."

## Pak, SA fight for S'pore title today

SINGAPORE, Aug 26: Pakistan's grit and South Africa's versatility will be on show when the two sides clash Sunday in the final of the Singapore Challenge 2000 triangular cricket series at Kallang ground, reports AP.

The South Africans bounced back nicely on Friday with a resounding eight-wicket win over New Zealand after having lost to Pakistan in their opening game.

Pakistan, with an all-win record in the league games, have displayed an admirable temperament while defending moderate totals on a flat wicket and a small ground.

South Africa's strengths are its all-round skills. The presence of four genuine all-rounders — Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Jacques Kallis and Nicky Boje — not only means that they bat deep down the order, but it also gives their attack plenty of depth and variety.

Pakistan, hit by injuries, will miss the dynamic Shahid Afridi, who hurt his left hand while fielding in the last match.

Apart from his ability to score quickly, Afridi is an outstanding fielder and bowls fast leg-breaks with deadly accuracy, making him a handy man to have in the line-up.

## Tampered claim

SINGAPORE, Aug 26 (Internet report): Stand-in Pakistan skipper Waqar Younis has been involved in another ball-tampering controversy amid rumours that the paceman had been allegedly scratching the ball on a metal zipper on his back pocket.

Match referee Ahmed Ebrahim moved swiftly to defuse a potentially nasty situation when former South African off-spinner Pat Symcox, commenting on the Pakistan versus South Africa match in the Singapore Challenge, raised questions as to why the Pakistan captain

was rubbing one side of the ball on his back pocket. His comments were heard by Pakistan coach Javed Miandad, who confronted Symcox after the match, in which Pakistan beat South Africa by 28 runs.

Ebrahim said: "At the conclusion of the match it came to my attention that certain individuals were muttering that there had been interference with the match ball during the course of the game when Pakistan was bowling."

"I checked with the two field umpires and asked them whether they had noticed any damage or scuff marks on the ball. They advised me that they were conscious of their duty in monitoring such events and they were satisfied that there was no damage to the ball."

Mohammedan drew level

Reza, the leading marksman of the league, now has 13 goals.

Mohammedan are topping the nine-team table with maximum 14 points, one ahead of eternal foes Abahani. Usha's second successive defeat means

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# India accept Test invite

Question mark over venue, date

Sports Reporter



India have agreed on Friday to Bangladesh's first-ever opponents in Test match cricket.

The dates for the one-off Test in Dhaka will be finalised shortly, Indian Board (BCCI) chief AC Muthiah was quoted as saying by Internet reports including the AFP.

But