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Star Sport

DHAKA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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NSC in Test dilemma

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council (NSC) might reconsider football's allotment on Bangladesh National Stadium (BNS) in the wake of India's acceptance to be the opponents in Bangladesh's maiden Test match in early November, according to reliable sources.

The NSC, who has granted BNS to football up to October 31, might reduce the tenure by fifteen days in order to allow the groundsmen to prepare the outfield within a minimum possible time.

"It's too early to comment on that," said State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader when contacted last night.

He however said that it was a new situation where Bangladesh would have to play their first Test match in November.

"We have already allotted the stadium to football up to October 31. As it is a different situation now, I shall have to seek help from my higher authority if the first Test has to be played at the BNS in November," Quader added.

"We will have to sit together to solve the matter," he said.

The president of Board of Control for Cricket in India, AC Muttiah, announced on Saturday that they have agreed to play a one-off Test match against Bangladesh in first week of November, before their Test and One-Day series against touring Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe will arrive in India on November 5 and will play the first Test against the hosts at the Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi on November 18.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Asraf Hossain said that it would not be possible for them to prepare the ground if they get back the BNS on November 1.

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?
Annuul Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armanibola Biman Marjures
- Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
Kahn Sammer Renter

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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

SPORTS TALK



Pat Rafter

(Australian tennis star)

"I've done a lot of fitness work and I've got no worries about being fit and strong enough to play a lot of matches."

On his preparation for the US Open.

Sydney security chief not convinced

WASHINGTON, Aug 28: The head of security for the Sydney Olympics said today a reported plot to blow up Australia's only nuclear reactor during the Games had been exaggerated and he did not think there was any threat, reports Reuters.



OVER THE MOON! Ecstatic Abahani players and officials after their victory in the Federation Cup final.

Booters fly to Bangkok today

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Under-16 football team leaves for Thailand today to play a couple of warm-up matches ahead of their 9th Asian Youth Championship campaign.

The final round of the Asian Youth Championship involving ten teams begins in the Danang City of Vietnam from September 3.

Placed in the Group B, Bangladesh will play their first match against Kuwait on September 6.

As a build-up to main event, Bangladesh will play two exhibition matches during their four-day stopover in Bangkok.

Although their opponents in Bangkok are yet to be known, the generous gesture of Thai Football Federation president Worawit Makudi would do a world of good to the boys of Pronob Kumar Dey.

Former national player Golam Sarwar Tipu will manage the 25-member team that includes 20 booters. Ironically, Al-Amin, who led Bangladesh in the Group 4 qualifiers in Jamshedpur, India, has not been included in the team.

Bangladesh beat hosts India in the final group league match in June to advance into the final round for the fourth time in a row. In all, it is their fifth time qualification.

Bangladesh however had a very little success in the final round. This time around they have been pencilled in to a tougher group along with holders Thailand, Kuwait, Oman and Iran.

The rank-outsiders will take on Oman on September 8 in their second league match. They will be up against former Iran on September 10 before facing defending champions Thailand in

the last preliminary round match on September 12.

Top two teams from each group will feature in the criss-cross semifinals to be held on September 15 while the grand final is billed for September 17.

Hosts Vietnam lead the other group that included Japan, China, Nepal and Myanmar.

SQUAD: Mostafizur Rahman, Tariqul Islam, Zia Nafizur Rahman, Roquibul Islam, Rafiquzzaman, Moshir Rahman, Mahbub Alam, Aminul Islam, Tariq, Hadi, Maumun, Masud Parvez, Sumon, Rizvi, Tutul, Uzzal, Masudul Islam Dalim and Hossain.

Officials: Anwarul Islam (team leader), Mainul Islam (deputy team leader), Golam Sarwar Tipu (manager), Pronob Kumar Dey (coach) and Mahfuzullah Chisti (doctor).

Missions in Pakistan, SL & Kenya

England name squads

LONDON, Aug 28: Surrey leg-spinner Ian Salisbury was recalled today to the England Test squad to tour Pakistan and Sri Lanka after a two-year absence, reports Reuters.

Kent wicketkeeper Paul Nixon is the only uncapped player in the 16-man party which also features Yorkshire seamer Matthew Hoggard who made his England debut in the second Test against the West Indies in June.

A 14-man one-day squad, which will also play in the ICC Knock-out tournament in

Eng A may play in Busta Cup

LONDON, Aug 28: England are considering an invitation from the West Indies Cricket Board for their 'A' team to play in the Busta Cup competition starting in January, reports Reuters.

"We believe that if the England 'A' team's proposed participation in the Busta Cup goes ahead, this will provide a superb opportunity for our leading young cricketers to test themselves against high-class opposition in the Caribbean," said England's chairman of selectors David Graveney today.

The Busta Cup is a four-day first class competition.

DRU meet gets underway

Sports Reporter

The Annual Sports Competition 2000 of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) began at its Shegun Bagicha office yesterday.

On the opening day of the nearly two-month long competition, the bridge and table tennis matches were held.

There will be eleven events in the competition.

Masud Ahmed Rumi of BSS won the opening match of table tennis against Mahmudur Rahman Khokon 21-7, 21-12. Rumi also defeated Mujtaba Danish of Mukhtakantha on his way to reach the semifinal from Group A.

Earlier, DRU president M Anwarul Haq declared the competition open.

Kenya, contained no surprises. "Our decision to announce the touring parties ahead of the last Test match reflects the fact that we have played good cricket this summer and are developing a settled side," chairman of selectors David Graveney said.

"We were also keen to ensure that players chosen for the final Test at the Oval did not have to play with the added pressure of worrying about their tour place."

England play the fifth Test against West Indies this week, leading the series 2-1, and chose left-arm spinner Ashley Giles instead of veteran Phil Tufnell for the game at The Oval.

The choice of spinners for the (tour) Test squad was a difficult one and involved the most discussion between the selectors," said Graveney.

"We have opted for Ian Salisbury and Ashley Giles because they are multi-dimensional cricketers who can contribute with the bat and in the field as well as with the ball."

Additional spinners may be asked to Sri Lanka, he added.

"Paul Nixon will be a great asset to the tour party as, in addition to being a fine wicket-keeper, he is a vibrant character."

"He will understand Alec Stewart with the Test squad while Mark Alleyne will act as reserve wicketkeeper with the one-day squad."

Andrew Flintoff has been chosen as an all-rounder and will be expected to prove his fitness to bowl in Kenya.

"If he is not able to do so, he will be replaced by (paceman) Alex Tudor for the Test series in Pakistan," Graveney said.

Nick Knight is due to undergo keyhole surgery on a knee injury this week but is expected to be fully fit by the time the squad departs for Kenya.

"We did not consider Stephen Harmison for the Test squad as he has been advised to rest this winter in order to recover from injury."

The one-day squad leave for Kenya on September 28 to compete in the Kenya tournament. Test players not included in the one-day squad are scheduled to fly out to Pakistan on October 22.

England will play three one-day internationals and three Tests against Pakistan before returning home for a six-week break over New Year.

They are scheduled to depart for Sri Lanka on January 30 where they will play three Tests followed by three one-dayers.

TEST SQUAD: Nasser Hussain (captain), Michael Atherton, Andrew Caddick, Dominic Cork, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Graeme Hick, Matthew Hoggard, Paul Nixon, Ian Salisbury, Alec Stewart, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe, Michael Vaughan, Craig White.

ONE-DAY SQUAD: Hussain (captain), Mark Alleyne, Caddick, Mark Ealham, Flintoff, Giles, Gough, Hick, Nick Knight, Alan Mullally, Stewart, Trescothick, Thorpe, White.



Sonali Bank's Hasan (bottom) and Habibullah of Bangladesh Sporting taking a tumble after a collision during their Premier Division Hockey League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

- Star photo

Three cheers for Abahani

Sports Reporter

In the 13th minute Rakib header off a Mattur Munna corner just sailed over the cross piece.

Alfaz muffed a great chance when he shot straight into the hands of Abahani custodian Biplab in the 22nd minute.

Seconds later, former national striker Intiaz Ahmed Naqib saw his header going out of play after kissing the top of

the bar. Mohammedan soon paid the price for their failure to find the mark as Abahani went in front with their first genuine attempt of the match. But Abahani should also consider themselves lucky as a horrendous piece of goalkeeping from Mohammedan's Nizam handed them the lead in the 25th minute.

Nizam was in two minds

for the Dhanmondi based powerhouse while ace striker Alfaz pulled one back for Mohammedan.

The victory also marked an unique achievement for Abahani who equalled Mohammedan's hat-trick of championships.

Mohammedan took the first four Federation Cup titles since the tournament's inception in 1980. The two giants of local football both have now won the Cup seven times.

Abahani started the game with more enterprise but the first opportunities came Mohammedan's way.

Abahani prevailed in the battle of the titans as they edged arch foes Mohammedan Sporting Club 2-1 to lift the 16th Federation Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In an entertaining final, skipper Iqbal Hossain and veteran midfielder Zakir Hossain scored.

Abahani started the game with more enterprise but the first opportunities came Mohammedan's way.

The DMFLC is yet to strike the deal.

Green Delta hockey

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Sporting Club ended their first phase campaign to the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League on a winning note, defeating Sonali Bank by the odd goal in three.

With this win, the promotes stayed away from the dreaded relegation zone with eight points ahead of their yesterday's vanquished, Azad and Ajax who holds the last place in the nine-team league with only one point.

The winners led the first half 1-0.

Thomas opened the account for Bangladesh Sporting in the tenth minute before Rubel doubling the margin twenty minutes into the second session.

Sonali Bank pulled one goal back four minutes later through Farid.

The defeat left the bankers glued to their previous collection of four points on completion of their eight first leg games.

Meanwhile, in the First Division League, Bangladesh Railway came from behind to hand Dhaka Wanderers a 2-1 defeat.

Imran gave Wanderers a 13th minute lead before a double strike from Gregory turned the table on the old towners.

Bindra blames cricket board

MOHALI, Aug 28: Former cricket board chief I S Bindra yesterday said it would be wrong on the part of the board to gun for coach Kapil Dev and blamed the board for the current situation, reports PTI.

"It is wrong on the part of the board to train guns at team coach Kapil Dev through the board had earlier promised all help to him," Bindra told reporters here.

Kapil Dev had recently criticised the board's functioning. Bindra and Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) secretary MP Pandove, at a joint press conference here, also lashed out at the parent body's policy in disbursing funds for cricketers in need.

"The board has no clear policy in the issue," Bindra said. He said, when wicketkeeper Saba Karim got badly injured in Dhaka while doing duty at the Asia Cup earlier this year, board refused to come up with necessary funds to help the Bengal player.

"The board lacked vision in Saba's case. He got his eye injured while keeping wickets for the country and when the sought financial help, no such step was taken by the body," he said.

Mohammedan soon paid the price for their failure to find the mark as Abahani went in front with their first genuine attempt of the match. But Abahani should also consider themselves lucky as a horrendous piece of goalkeeping from Mohammedan's Nizam handed them the lead in the 25th minute.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1980	Mohammedan/Brothers Union (Joint champions)	
1981	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1982	Mohammedan SC/Abahani KC (Joint champions)	
1983	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1984	Final abandoned	
1985	Abahani KC	Brothers Union
1986	Abahani KC	Brothers Union
1987	Mohammedan SC	Dhaka Wanderers
1988	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC
1989	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1990	Not held	
1991	Brothers Union	Mohammedan SC
1992	Not held	
1993	Not held	
1994	Muktijoddha Sangsad	Abahani KC
1995	Mohammedan SC	Abahani KC
1996	Not held	
1997	Abahani KC	Arambagh KS
1998	Not held	
1999	Abahani KC	Muktijoddha Sangsad
2000	Abahani KC	Mohammedan SC



LEADING FROM THE FRONT: Abahani captain Iqbal jumps on teammate Kennedy after the former gave his side the lead against Mohammedan in the Federation Cup final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

- Star photo

Gloucs' fabulous fourth

LONDON, Aug 28: Gloucestershire made cricket history when they won a fourth successive Lord's final.

Gloucestershire were well ahead of the required scoring rate when play was called off and a total of 101 under the D-L system would have been sufficient.

After Alleyne had won the toss, Michael Smith struck two early blows for Gloucestershire to dismiss Nick Knight (1) and Anurag Singh (10).

The rest of the front-line bowling did not make the most of the conditions and Warwickshire spinner Ashley Giles cashed in as he celebrated his England Test recall with his side's top score of 60.

Giles hit five fours in his

in his fifth Lord's final on the trot after appearing in the 1998 NatWest with Derbyshire — and Ian Harvey carried Gloucestershire to 122 for three before the heavens opened.

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The rest of the front-line bowling did not make the most of the conditions and Warwickshire spinner Ashley Giles cashed in as he celebrated his England Test recall with his side's top score of 60.

Giles hit five fours in his

104-ball innings and he was given useful support in stands of 49 with Dominic Ostler (19) and 48 with Trevor Penney (20).

But after reaching 121 for three from 30 overs the Gloucestershire bowlers established a stranglehold via Smith's second spell and occasional medium pacer Tim Hancock (two for 34).

Only 21 runs came between the 30th and 40th overs with Michael Smith finishing with three for 18 from 10 overs.

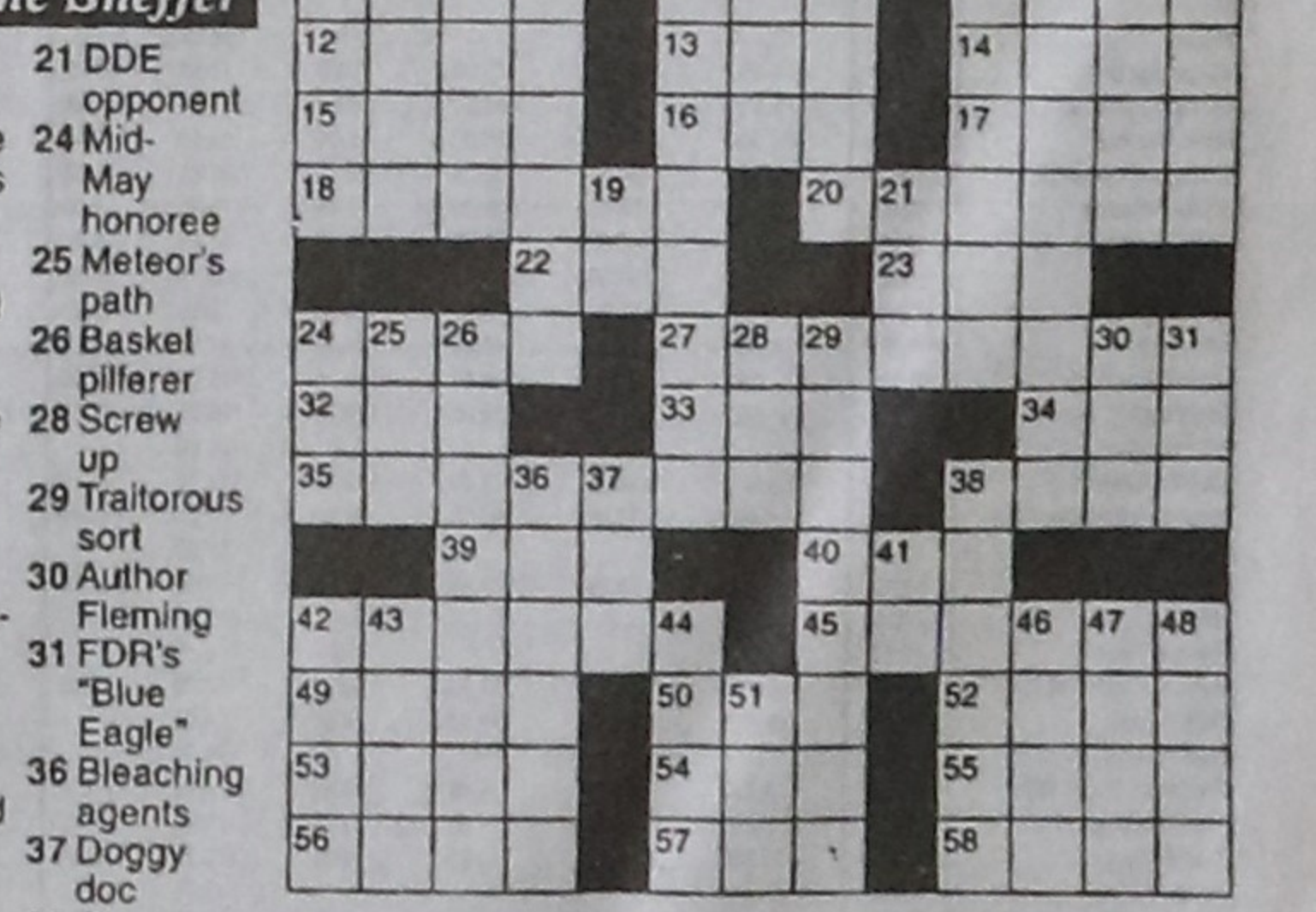
BRIEF RESULT

NatWest Trophy cricket final score at Lord's on Sunday: Gloucestershire 122-3 (29.4 overs) beat Warwickshire 205-7 (50 overs) by 22 runs (D/L system)

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 "Son of," in some names	5 Pair	8 Mop	12 Sore	13 Mischief-maker	14 Chaplin prop	15 Patronize the library	16 Mimic	17 Word after "merrie"	18 "1984" author	20 Comic known for a word list	22 Pigeon's call	23 "Misreading" author	24 BLT spread	27 "Rhapsody in Blue" man	32 Plata's partner	33 End for past or post	34 Undivided attention	35 1972 candidate	38 — St. Vincent	39 Noun-to-verb suffix	40 Shade provider	42 Centenarian	43 Broadway producer	45 Any one of the gentils	46 "Fargo" director	49 "50 Ms. Thurman	52 Hit the horn	53 Bridges offer	54 Divisible by 2	55 "Behold!"	56 Actress Diana	57 Downside	58 Antitoxins	59 Noun-to-verb suffix	1 Gambling game	2 Bakery employee	3 Melt	4 Bluesy sort	5 Conversation	6 Ref	7 Oil grp.	8 Burn	9 Luxuriated (in)	10 "The King —"	11 — there, done that"	12 Sch.	13 Large knife	14 Brass instrument	15 Wander the countryside	16 Active one	17 Sicilian spouter	18 Blend
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CRYPTOQUIP

K P B E J U H E C W
I B M B C W J I H R K J Q K B M
L B Q B L B X K J P H U R B W Q
C R C E W C M X H I B L

Yesterday's Cryptogram: PARROTS ARE TALENTED BIRDS THAT ONLY KNOW HOW TO SPEAK IN POLLY-SYLLABLES.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: I equals G

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.