



SPORTS TALK



Mia Hamm

(US star female footballer)
 "There's always another level to reach. I'm not bored with this. I'm going to play as long as I can."

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-135

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

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

- 1 Who scored the first hattrick in this year's Fed Cup football?
 Ritu Kanchan Tanveer
- 2 Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?
 Wasim Waqar Moin
- 3 Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?
 Aminul Akram Naimur
- 4 Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
 Arunamita Biman Marites
- 5 Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
 Kahn Sammer Reuter

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
 ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Ticket sales worry SOCOG

SYDNEY, Sept 3: Michael Knight said Sunday that Olympic organisers are 60 million US dollar short on ticket sales and that Sydney's rail system remains their biggest concern less than two weeks from the start of the Games, reports AP.

But the Olympics minister and organising committee head said a surge in ticket sales in recent days had convinced him the target would be met.

"I'm pretty confident," Knight told the seven television network's Sunday Sunrise programme. "Ticket sales have really ignited since the (Olympic) torch got into New South Wales."

Knight said there were many alternative forms of transport, including buses and ferries, but rail would carry the majority of the 500,000 people expected to visit Olympic Park each day during the Sept. 15 to Oct. 1 Games.

"There's obviously a worry about the rail system," Knight said.

But he said the government was confident newly appointed rail head Ron Christie would be able to keep the trains moving.

"We put Ron in to try and hold that system together. If anyone can it's Ron Christie," he said.

"But I should tell you, no matter how well the transport system works — even if there's no derailments, no holdups, every train runs on time — it will still be a very difficult experience. There will be big queues, there will be crowded trains."

Knight said transport was clearly the biggest challenge for any Olympic city, but he said he had complete faith in those responsible for security at the Games.

"I'm pretty confident they'll do things that give us a good atmosphere but a lot of safety," he said.

"Of course," generally in the period of the Games, we have to do things that are different to how the city functions normally."

"There's more security, it's harder to move around, there are a whole range of inconveniences, but you've got to set that off against this once in a lifetime opportunity."

Vijayan strikes for Mukti

Sports Reporter

IM Vijayan scored a superb hattrick to propel title aspirants Mukti Joddha Sangsad Krira Chakra to a 3-0 win against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in their opening National Bank Premier Division football league engagement at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first half, Vijayan, playing his second match for the all-reds, scored all the goals within a span of 32 minutes as the 1997 champions got off to a solid start after their failure in the recently concluded Federation Cup.

The star India national forward, who failed to live up to his reputation in his first appearance for Mukti Joddha where they lost to Abahani 1-2 in the semifinal, got into his usual stride at the right moment. Throughout the first session, the spirited guys of Rahmatganj fought neck and neck with their much illustri-

ous counterparts, raising some realistic chances of an upset.

Fielding as many as four pool players, the old towners played like a cohesive force and created couple of easy chances to go ahead in the first 45 minutes.

National midfielder Anwar, operating through the right wing, frequently tormented the Mukti Joddha defence and also sent in as many as three ominous crosses inside the danger area. But everything went in vain because of poor marksmanship.

On the other hand, Mukti could create only one chance in the first session when Asif set Vijayan up at the right corner of the box. But his blistering shot ricocheted off the crosspiece.

The lethal Indian striker however eventually broke the evening's duck three minutes into the second half, heading home a Hasan Al-Mamun cross from the right side. He then doubled the margin three minutes later with yet another header from a goal mouth scramble.

Vijayan completed his treble in the 80th minute with placing shot into the net after national winger Sourav Raju (substitute) fed him a brilliant cross from right side.

Yellow cards: Mansoor Ali and Jalaluddin (Rahmatganj)

TEAMS

Mukti Joddha Sangsad: Aminul, Hasan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Prodeep, Masood Rana, Tushar, Shamsheer (Mintu), Asif, Vijayan, Farhad (Sourav Raju) and Johny (Liton).

Rahmatganj MFS: Milan, Mansoor Ali, Din Mohammad, Kingshuk, Apu, Anwar, Shaimim, Iqbal, Jalaluddin (Azim), Tipu (Rajjan) and Moni.

Referee: Sheikh Badruddin Brothers Union-1

Arambagh -0

In the day's first match, a first half strike by Nepalese midfielder Balgopal Mahajan helped Brothers Union Club post a solitary goal win over Federation Cup semifinalists Arambagh Krira Sangha.

Balgopal, one of the three Nepalese national team footballers playing for the Gopibagh outfit, scored the all important goal four minutes into the first half. His powerful left-footer from the top of the box deflected into the net after kissing the inner side of the far post. Forwards Hari Khadka and Basanta Thapa are the other Nepalese booters of Brothers.

Apart from the goal, Brothers, who had to play relegation play-offs last year and finished seventh, had been on the receiving end most of the times.

Arambagh played far better football and created as many as four good chances.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division
 Badda Jagarani v Farashganj SC (6 pm)

First Division
 Shantinagar Club v Agrani Bank (4 pm)
 (Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Action from the Premier Division Football League match between Brothers Union and Arambagh at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo

WI have to scale a mountain

LONDON, Sept 3 (Internet report): Mike Atherton hit a century to almost guarantee England a series win over the West Indies as the home side set the visitors 373 to win the fifth Test.

Only two sides in history have scored more in the fourth innings to win a Test match.

The obdurate opener was the last wicket to fall to Courtney Walsh as 108 for England were dismissed for 217.

The Oval crowd rose to honour Atherton's 15th Test century but not long after Walsh had him caught behind chasing a wide ball outside off stump.

It was a typically stubborn innings from the Lancashire opener and it was fitting that Walsh, who had posed problems all day, finally claimed the former England captain's wicket.

As Walsh, who finished with four wickets, and Curtly Ambrose left the field The Oval

crowd rose as one to salute the champion fast bowlers.

It was the final time either would play in a Test match in England and the last ever Test for Ambrose. Walsh has yet to decide his future.

Walsh had offered West Indies a small glimmer of hope to remove two England batsmen in the space of three balls in the afternoon session.

Walsh snared Michael Vaughan and Graeme Hick in the space of three balls to reduce the score to 139 for six.

But Craig White and Atherton stopped the slide before White was run out for 18 just before tea.

Dominic Cork came in to take England to 207 before the Derbyshire all-rounder fell lbw to Nixon McLean for the second time in the match.

McLean then had Andy Caddick caught behind as West Indies claimed two wickets in the same over.

Walsh had earlier done the same when he got one to seam

back into Vaughan's pads to have him lbw.

Then they got a delivery to move away and take the edge of Hick's bat who guided it to Sherwin Campbell at second slip.

It was Walsh who claimed the first wicket to fall when he enticed Graham Thorpe to attempt a hook but he only succeeded in paddling the ball around the corner to Griffith at backward square leg.

The left-hander went for 10 without England adding to their overnight score.

Walsh was a constant threat and in one over had a confident shout for lbw against Atherton and then went on to beat him outside off stump with the next three balls.

Atherton lost partner Alec Stewart after lunch to a ball that bounced more than expected from Mahendra Nagamootoo.

The leg-spinner drew

See page 9

—Star photo

A historic wicket

LONDON, Sept 3 (Internet report): Craig White admitted that becoming the first bowler in Test history to remove Brian Lara for a golden duck had left him feeling "awesome".

The Yorkshire paceman claimed his best Test figures of 5 for 32 as England skittled out the West Indies for a modest 125, but it was the scalp of Lara which left White glowing with pride.

As Walsh, who finished with four wickets, and Curtly Ambrose left the field The Oval

planned attack by England which ended that proud record.

"I knew he was going to get a long way across — he had been out a number of times leaving the ball this summer," White said.

He added: "I thought if I could one up there straightish, I might knock his leg stump out."

"I didn't quite knock it out, but I knocked it back a bit. It was a good plan and it came together."

"I was ecstatic, actually, I could not believe it when it happened," admitted White, who only took up fast bowling in his 20s — previously bowling off-spin.

"I hope people will realise I am a fast bowler. I have always bowled at that speed and people are beginning to realise that," he said.

Lara had never walked first ball in 70 previous Test appearances, but White claimed it was

the back of Brian Lara's defences on the third day of The Oval Test on September 2.

said White, whose fastest delivery was clocked at 89.3mph on the speedgun.

"I knew I could bowl fast — as fast as anyone in the world on my day. Taking wickets makes your confidence rise and you start bowling quicker and quicker."

"I only started bowling fast when I was 22 or 23 — I bowled off-spin before — and it has taken a time for the body to get used to it. Now my body knows what it can and can't do."

White's second five-wicket haul of the series helped England into a commanding position, but West Indies coach Roger Harper refuses to accept the game — or the series — is over.

"Where there is life there is hope. England are 212 ahead and there are still two days left."

With ample time, we will have to look at something like (a target of) 300-320. It's the same players who made over 400 in the second innings at Old Trafford, so I have to think we are capable of doing it."

The West Indies' first innings would suggest otherwise however, and Harper admitted: "I think we have forgotten how to put a score together."

"I think most of it is mental more than anything, but this is our last chance — the time when we have to throw all our inhibitions away and go out there and simply get the job done."

LARA'S FIVE DUCKS
 1992 v Australia — 12 balls
 1994 v India — 4 balls
 1995 v Australia — 6 balls
 1997 v Sri Lanka — 6 balls
 2000 v England — 1 ball

England pace bowler Craig White (C) exults after getting through Brian Lara's (L) defences on the third day of The Oval Test on September 2.

—Internet photo



A diving IM Vijayan (C), Mukti Joddha Sangsad's Indian striker, heading home his second of three goals against Rahmatganj in their National Bank Premier Division Football League fixture at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo

Muslim Inst clinch first tie-breaker

Sports Reporter

Muslim Institute became the first team to win through tie-breaker system in the National Bank First Division football

league yesterday.

Their regulation 90-minute encounter against BRTC ended in a 1-1 draw at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

The winners converted four spot kicks while the transport side managed to beat the keeper three times.

Earlier, Prantik Krira Chakra defeated Wari Club 1-0. Shiron scored the decider in the 25th minute.

The old-town club earned a penalty in the eighth minute, but Harun sent the ball over the cross piece.

Delta hockey resumes today

Sports Reporter

The return leg of the Green Delta Senior Division hockey league begins at the Maulana Bhashani Stadium at 2:15 pm today with Bachelors Club (taking on Victoria Sporting Club in a First Division match).

In the Premier Division fixture, relegation threatened Azad Sporting Club will face Azad Sporting Club at 4 pm.

In the first round, Azad have earned only one point from their eight matches while Azad four points from as many matches.

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club, who will face Soni Bank in their first match on Wednesday, have finished the first round with an all-win record, having earned highest 24 points. Their arch-rivals Abahani trailing them with 17 points.

Women's b'ball

Sports Reporter

Mariner Young's Club recorded a 31-17 win over Scholastica in one of the two Rabbani Sports Women's Basketball Tournament matches played at the Dhamondi gymnasium yesterday.