

SPORTS TALK



Craig White
(England fast bowler)

"It's a great feeling to see the back of Brian Lara. It's definitely my best moment in Test cricket - I haven't had many really."

After getting the wicket of Lara for a golden duck.

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

- 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?
Aminul Islam
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armantrala Biman Mariners
- Who was voted Germany's footballer of the year in 2000?
Kahn Sommer Reuter

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____



Change in Premier Div hockey 2nd round fixture

The return leg of Green Delta Premier Division hockey league did not begin yesterday following last minute adjustments in the fixture made on Sunday evening.

According to the fixture provided by the league committee last week, two last placed sides from the first round - Ajax Sporting Club and Azad Sporting Club - were supposed to meet in the inaugural match yesterday. But the league decided to amend the fixture and went for the conventional rule where the first round fixture will be repeated.

According to the new decision, holders Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on promoters Sonali Bank in the first match tomorrow at 4 pm. Mohammedan finished the first round with an impressive all-win record having earned 24 points from eight matches while Sonali Bank finished seventh in the nine-team league with seven points.

Meanwhile, the return leg of First Division hockey league began yesterday.

In the lone match, Victoria Sporting Club and Bachelors Club shared the honours with a 4-4 draw.

Ramzan scored two goals for Victoria while Nannu and Mozammel added one apiece. On the other hand, Atiq struck twice while Amir and Aqi scored a goal each for Bachelors Club.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bina v Railway (2:15 pm)
Wari Club v Dhaka Wanderers (4 pm)

DRU sports

MM Kaiser (Manabjani) emerged singles champion in the Dhaka Reporters Unity annual badminton competition beating Khokon (Provat) by 15-0, 15-8 in the final at the Wooden Floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the doubles, Akhtaruzzaman Lavlu (BNS)-Abdullah Al Faruque (Jugantor) pair became champions beating Zakaria Hossain-Farhad (Banglar Bani) pair by 11-15, 15-10, 15-6 at the same venue.

Aminul joins camp. Mehrab, Hasibul struggling

Nat'l team to be announced today

Sports Reporter



The national cricket selectors met yesterday to finalise the squad for the forthcoming ICC knock-out tournament to be held in Nairobi, Kenya next month.

Bangladesh meet England on October 5 in their scheduled fixture of the competition.

Bangladesh is also going on their maiden tour of South Africa after the knock out competition where they will play a four-day match against a provincial team and three limited over matches against South Africa A.

Chairman of selectors Tanveer Haider, member Tanjeer Ahsan Saad, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director of development Eddie Barlow, physio Gavin Benjafield and newly appointed captain Naimur Rahman were present in the selection meeting.

But former Bangladesh captain and selection committee member Roushiquil Hasan was absent.

It was learnt that the selectors have finalised the list of 18 cricketers including four stand-bys, which will be officially announced today after a board meeting in the evening.

The conditioning camp with 25 cricketers began at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) two weeks ago. The camp was shifted to Cox's Bazar for a week from August 20 to 27.

Former national captain Aminul Islam, who was playing minor-league cricket in England, joined the camp only yesterday. But his last minute appearance raised a few eyebrows.

"He should have joined the camp earlier instead of playing 'holiday cricket' in the UK. His late turn up creates confusion regarding his fitness," said Tanveer Haider.

Meanwhile there are injury concerns about opener Mehrab

Hossain and paceman Hasibul Hossain.

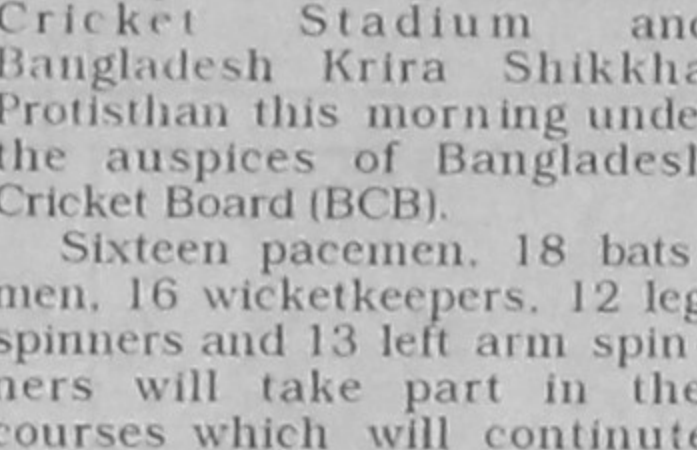
Both are struggling to recover from prolonged injuries. Mehrab has had a successful operation on his troubled left knee in July. He has missed the Pepsi Asia Cup in Dhaka and also looks an unlikely candidate for making the African trip.

Hasibul too sustained a knee injury in the most unfortunate of circumstances when he was hit by a bat thrown at him by Pakistani Test discard Zahoor Elahi during a Premier Division league match in March.

Physio Benjafield preferred to keep the media guessing by refusing to comment on the fitness level of the men in question.

ICC courses start today

Sports Reporter



The second phase of the International Cricket Council (ICC) specialised training courses start simultaneously at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan this morning under the auspices of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Sixteen pacemen, 18 batsmen, 16 wicketkeepers, 12 leg spinners and 13 left arm spinners will take part in the courses which will continue upto September 14.

The instructors who are all in the city are household names. They are: Former Indian left-arm spinner Bishen Singh Bedi and wicketkeeper Kiran More, fast bowler Saifaz Nawaz and all-rounder Mushaq Muhammad of Pakistan, and Sri Lankan batsman Roshan Mahanama.

Saifaz, Bedi and More will conduct their respective courses on fast bowling, left-arm spin and wicketkeeping up to September 9. Mushaq's course on batting and leg-spin and Mahanama, who will supervise courses on batting and fielding, continue up to September 14.

The BCB has called up the following cricketers:

Pace bowlers: Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Shaifuddin Ahmed, Anisur

Rahman, Morshed Ali Khan, Ahmed Kamal, Aminul Islam junior, Bikash Ranjan Das, Mohammad Monir, Tarikul, Nahim, Talha Jubayer, Mohammad Sharif, Sajid Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahman and Rahat Khan.

Batsmen: Hasanuzzaman, Rashedul Haque, Imran Ahmed, Azam Iqbal, Parvez Ahmed, Khan Sadiq Hasan, Shahriar Hossain, Rajin Saleh Alam, Nahidul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahman, Nayeemur Rashid, Hannan Sarkar, Sauid Hasan, Elsanul Haque, Yasir Obayed, Al-Shahriar, Naimur Rahman and Nasirul Islam.

Leg spinners: Ali Irteza, Aslim Chowdhury, Ishiaq Manik, Ibrahim Rony, Ayubullah, Ishak Sajal, Arafat Jahan Khan, Ahsanullah, Sajjad Kadir, Ashraf, Mosaddeq Hossain and Zahuruddin.

Wicketkeepers: Lipon Kumar Dey, Shahin Hossain, Al-Kasheem Nayeem, Nadeem Hossain, Ziaur Rahman, Anwar Hossain, Sajjad Kadir, Lovkur Rahman, Md Selim, Golam Murtuza, Naim Islam, Gazi Sagor, Dinan Ghosh, Yasir Khan and Mukhtar Siddique.

Left-arm spinners: Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Rafique, Rana, Arafat Sunny, Russel Khan, M Kamal, Imran Rahim, Milan, Shahin, M Lal, Mustadir Litu, Enamul and Lovel.

Franklyn Rose - hold all the menace of a rubber chicken, and that the only people they have jumping around are third man and line leg. Obviously, you say, Walsh and Ambrose have soldiered on, because they've had to.

But a look at the statistics tells another story. Taking their performances from their 33rd birthdays we see that, like fine wine, they have simply got better with age.

Dennis Lillee played seven Tests after his 33rd birthday. In those matches he took 27 wickets at 34.25 at the dismal strike rate of 73.6. Ambrose claimed 139 wickets at an amazing 20.45 after he hit the big Three Three, 0.51 below his career average of 20.96.

Walsh has done even better. In 39 Tests since his 33rd birthday, the Jamaican war-horse has taken 182 wickets at a world-class average of 22.95, almost two runs less than his career average of 24.30.

Their economy rates have also improved. Ambrose going for under 2.2 runs an over in his twilight years. And before any critics chime in with the suggestion that both bowlers lowered their averages and run-rates by bowling wide outside off stump to tailenders, the most important statistic must be considered: Who they have been knocking over.

Taking out recognised batsmen is obviously far more difficult than skittling rabbits down the order.

Therefore some estimate of a bowler's prowess can be gathered from seeing what proportion of top-six batsmen feature in his wickets tally. A yardstick is provided by Lillee and modern ace strike bowler Allan Donald: 63.66 per cent of Lillee wickets were top-six batsmen, while Donald averages 61.2 per cent top-six batsmen.

Since 1996, Ambrose has lifted his top-six ratio from a career average of 60 per cent to a superb 65 per cent, while Walsh has once more performed miracles, over his career 57.77 per cent of his wickets are recognised batsmen, not too stellar a performance, but understandable since for much of his career he bowled with the old ball. But since his 33rd birthday, 69.2 per cent of his victims have been top-six batsmen, a ratio not even approached by the likes of Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram or any of the other recognised fast-bowling titans.

Why the improvement with age? There are various possible factors. All bowlers, if they have what it takes to excel at Test level, get more cunning later in their careers: Walsh's two slower balls, trapping a flinching Graham Thorpe in front in the most embarrassing dismissals in recent memory, bear testimony to this. Add to this the new ball - entrusted to Walsh after the retirement of Malcolm Marshall and Patrick Patterson - and you have a lethal combination. Going on the stats above, it is fair to suggest that Walsh and Ambrose have been the best bowlers in the world for the last three years.

Agrani scrape through

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank came from behind to record a 2-1 win over Shantinagar Club in the lone National Bank First Division Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Trailing the first half 0-1, the bankers scored twice in the next 45 minutes to earn three points.

Agrani Bank's new recruit Solag gave his side the match needed equaliser in the opening first minute of the second half.

The young forward, after receiving a long pass from Kamal at the top of the box, lobbed the ball over Shantinagar custodian Shakil into the right corner of the net.

And skipper Litu grabbed the winner with a power-packed right-footer after superb pass by Arif in the 86th minute.

Earlier, Munna put Shantinagar ahead heading home a farouque cross from the left in the 29th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division
Mohammedan SC v Victoria (5:30 pm)
YMC Fakirpool v PWD (3:30 pm)

Nat'l youth v'ball final today

Comilla and Dinajpur moved into the final of the Shaco National Youth Volleyball Championship eliminating their respective rivals in the semifinals at the Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Dinajpur outplayed Jhenidah 25-14, 25-22, 25-12. In the first semi while Comilla defeated Rajshahi 25-11, 25-17 and 25-12 in the other semi-final.

The final will be held today at 4:30 pm at the same venue. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will be the chief guest in the final while Managing Director of the meet's sponsor Shaco International Syed Abul Hossain MP will be present as special guest.

Women's b'ball

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club will take on Scholastica School in the final of the Rabban Women's basketball tournament at the Dhanmondi basketball gymnasium on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Mariners and Scholastica confirmed their final berth beating their respective rivals yesterday.

Mariners defeated Panthers Club 42-22 after leading the first half 16-15. Shilpi and Farzana scored 10 each for the winners while Rifat caged nine for the losers.

Scholastica beat Sunbeams School 28-21 after leading the first half 18-8. Ronia caged 10 and Sharmin 8 for the winners while Kashif scored 10 for the losers.

PCB suspends, fines them

KARACHI, Sept 4: Three Pakistani players have been fined and suspended for one tournament after women were found in their hotel room during a recent training camp, the cricket board said Monday, reports AFP.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) conducted an inquiry into the misconduct and PCB chairman General Tauqir Zia decided to fine them 50,000 rupees (900 dollars) each and suspended them for the ICC Knock-out tournament next month," board Director Yawar Saad said.

Popular all-rounder Shahid Afridi, batsman Hasan Raza and wicketkeeper Atiquzzaman reportedly invited the women to their room on August 15, a day before the team left for Singapore to play a tournament there.

The attention of the PCB was drawn to the alleged misconduct of some of the players and the chairman ordered an inquiry," he said.

Unique feat!

LONDON, Sept 4 (Internet report): In their last match together, Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose both joined the exclusive 1000-maiden club on Sunday as they attempted to bowl England out in the fifth Test at The Oval.

Walsh, who is considering retirement after this series, began the day with 999 career overs bowled without a run being conceded. Ambrose, in his final Test, needed a 10th, in his second spell of the day, to become the seventh member of a club which also includes spinners Derek Underwood (1239), Shane Warne (1193) and Bishen Singh Bedi (1096). The only other pace bowler in the line-up is India's Kapil Dev (1060), whose Test wicket record of 434 Walsh passed in April. Leading the band, with 1315 maidens is West Indian off-spinner Lance Gibbs.



A goalmouth action from Premier Division football league match between Farashganj and Badda Jagorani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

Badda taken aback

Sports Reporter



Farashganj Sporting Club upset the season's form-book when the old town outfit handed Badda

Jagorani Saugad a lone goal defeat in their opening National Bank Premier Football League match at the Floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Mithu struck the all-important goal for Farashganj in the 57th minute.

It was disappointing start for Badda, who created sensation last year by finishing fifth in the title race. On their debut in Premier League, the boys of former national custodian Sayed Hasan Kanon enthralled the Dhaka crowd by displaying enterprising football last season.

Although they retained almost the same side that included star national midfielder Monwar, Badda were totally out of sorts against a spirited Farashganj yesterday.

The most affected side in this year's inter-club booters' transfer, Farashganj however have formed a strikingly good

team, roping in some young and energetic players. Their defence appeared rock solid, and that awesome defence wall of Masud Rana, Ashraf, Sohel Arman eventually won yesterday's up and down battle.

Rana not only held the fort but also set Mithu up to clinch the match-winner with a lob over the Badda wall. Mithu beat the off-side trap taking his run near to perfection and then smartly went round an advancing Badda custodian Titumir.

Titumir however saved his side earlier when he spectacularly parried off a terrific right-footer from Jalal in the fourth minute of the match.

Badda retaliated immediately with Monwar sending a nice cross from the right, which forward Walid headed off the target from close.

Badda got another chance in the first half with Tanvir hammering a powerful right-footer from the edge of the box, but only to be fisted away for corner by an acrobatic former national custodian Dulal Hossain Dhanu.

The second half saw Badda

trying hard to pierce through the Farashganj defence, but all their efforts faded away against the wall.

Farashganj, who resorted to long passes to prevail over Badda's tactics of short passes, could have won by a bigger margin had not Palash missed a sitter from handshaking distance in the last quarter of the match.

The defeat compounded Badda's misery, who missed a berth in the Federation Cup semifinals losing 2-0 to eventual winners Abahani.

Yellow cards: Sayed, Walid (Badda) and Jalal (Farashganj).

TEAMS
Farashganj SC: Dhanu, Masud Rana, Ashraf, Sohel (Jaglu), Arman, Chandan, Mithu (Askar Babu), Bidut, Saiful (Mizanur), Polash and Jalal.

Badda Jagorani: Titumir, Fatah, Papel, Lajuk, Mahomudul, Monwar, Haider (Bulbul), Tanvir, Sayed, Walid (Asad) and Noor-e-Alam (Nurul Islam).

Referee: R-Alam

England break WI jinx



LONDON, Sept 4: England beat the West Indies by 158 runs in the fifth and final Test here at The Oval

on Monday, the tourists all out for 215, chasing 374, reports AFP.

The victory gave England a 3-1 win, their first Test series victory over the West Indies since 1969.

Magnificent resistance by Curtly Ambrose, given a guard of honour by the England players as he walked out to bat in his final Test, was eventually ended when he was caught at slip by Michael Atherton for 28, that featured three textbook boundaries.

Courtney Walsh, in his last Test in England, also got the same reception from his opponents but two balls later he was lbw to Cork for 10.

Twelve months after they were booted off here after losing to New Zealand, England had to run off the ground to avoid a pitch invasion from delighted home fans.

The tourists started the second session on 89 for three and would have wanted a big partnership between Brian Lara and

captain Jimmy Adams, their best batsmen.

Instead, they put on 36. To the fourth ball of the second over after lunch, Adams turned Andy Caddick off his legs only to be well-caught by Craig White at square leg for 15, West Indies 94 for four.

Somerset paceman Caddick had then taken three wickets for five runs in 34 balls.

Lara, meanwhile, was still playing some magnificently elegant yet forceful shots. Before lunch he had pulled both White and Dominic Cork for rasping fours.

In the first over of the second session he stood his ground and dismissively pulled to the boundary a White delivery that was merely fractionally short.

He square cut the Yorkshire all-rounder for four and then produced two class shots against Darren Gough in the 47th over, the fifth of the session.

First he late cut a boundary and next ball, with his usual high backlift cover-drove a four that left the fielders standing. Gough's over cost 10 runs in all and he was immediately replaced by Cork at the Vauxhall End.

Lara had then made 37 out of 112 and it started to look as if the 31-year-old left-hander might be about to have one of those days where no attack in the world can contain him.

New batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan was not just blocking one end up either. The 20-year-old right-hander cover-drove Caddick for a four that was every bit as stylishly authoritative as any of Lara's shots.

His straight driving was immaculate, although there was nasty scare for the tourists when from one of these shots bowler Cork deflected the ball onto the stumps at the non-striker's end. The television replay showed that Lara, still on 37, had made his ground and he was correctly given not out.

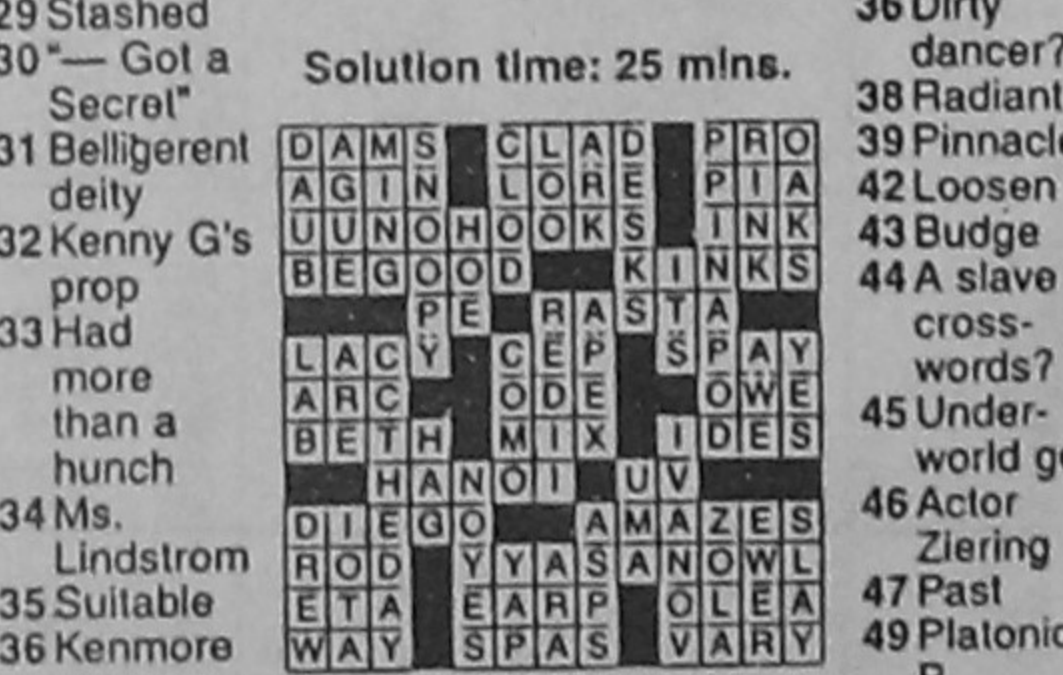
With England's bowlers on the backfoot the last thing the tourists needed was a run out but that is exactly what they then got.

Lara lured Sarwan down the pitch but then sent him back. Graham Thorpe came charging in from cover, his underarm throw hitting the stumps while his boot inadvertently connected with the diving Sarwan's

See page 9

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Blue
 - Failed to get return?
 - Slopper
 - Sapporo
 - Jerry Herman show
 - 1450 percent (Prefix)
 - Almost black
 - Prunes
 - Rock duo
 - Dan
 - 19 Favoring
 - 21 Super-
 - 22 Church officer
 - 26 Bivouacs
 - 29 Slashed
 - 30 — Got a
 - 31 Belligent
 - 32 Kenny G's prop
 - 33 Had more than a hunch
 - 34 Ms. Lindstrom
 - 35 Suitable
 - 36 Kenmore company
- DOWN**
- 1 Millor's
 - "All My —"
 - 2 Blind as
 - 3 Low-down joint
 - 4 Moseys
 - 5 Group of sepals
 - 6 Ostrich's kin
 - 7 Scrap
 - 8 Flower whose name means "lame"
 - 9 MGM foarer
 - 10 Diamond expert?
 - 11 USO audience
 - 16 Kennel cries
 - 20 Embarrassed
 - 23 Like's ex
 - 24 Trushed
 - 25 Information
 - 26 Upper-case, for short
 - 27 Andrea Bocelli
 - 28 Ground grain
 - 29 Topper
 - 32 Popeye's energy source
 - 33 Nairobi's land
 - 35 Parisian pal
 - 36 Dirty dancer?
 - 38 Radiant
 - 39 Pinnacles
 - 42 Loosen
 - 43 Budge
 - 44 A slave to cross-words?
 - 45 Under-world god
 - 46 Actor Ziering
 - 47 Past
 - 49 Platonic



CRYPTOQUIP

J C S W D E E V R Z V
J B Z K V J P W Q Z V D
M W C S D E M W E V E Q W K
V R D J K E D B V D B P D E
Yesterday's Cryptogram: PERHAPS ONE CAN REFER TO THE TRUE TOP BANANA AS THE BEST OF THE BUNCH.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: J equals I

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