

## Sport

## SPORTS TALK



**Muttiah Muralitharan**  
(Sri Lankan star leg-spinner)

"I was born with bent arm. I cannot straighten it. But in all honesty I have never thrown a ball while bowling."

**Boost sports WHIZZ KID**

**Competition-135**

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 15, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who scored the first hattrick in this year's Fed Cup football?  
Ritu Kaushan Tamra

2 Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?  
Wasim Waqar Moin

3 Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?  
Ammal Akraul Naeem

4 Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?  
Amaranta Bonan Mariners

5 Who was voted Germany's footballer of the year in 2000?  
Kahn Sammer Reutter

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

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

**Coach hails  
Hollioake**

LONDON, Sept 14 (Internet report): Surrey coach Keith Medlycott hailed the all-round contribution of Adam Hollioake to Surrey's second County Championship in as many years today and claimed he could use it as a springboard to reclaim his England place.

Hollioake has concentrated all his efforts on turning Surrey into the outstanding team in domestic cricket since being dropped by England after last summer's World Cup.

His determination was ably demonstrated by his superb catch at third slip to dismiss Saurav Ganguly Wednesday and earn Surrey the point they needed to seal the title.

Medlycott believes his demonstration was typical of a player he describes as a 'fantastic leader', and one who he is confident can reclaim the form which will return him to the international stage.

The players have had the utmost respect for him over the last three or four years," explained Medlycott.

"He leads from the front and doesn't ask anyone to do something that he wouldn't."

"You know where you stand with him and if he gives someone an earful you know that emotion has passed 10 seconds later and you can carry on again - he's a fantastic leader."

"If we get a side down he knows how to knock them out, he's not shy of that. I tried to be aggressive when I played, but some of the field-placings I've seen from him I can't believe, and only then I can't believe the other players have total belief in him, and nine times out of 10 they work."

Hollioake's last appearance for England was in the defeat by India at Edgbaston which ended their hopes of progressing beyond the first stage of the World Cup and he has since been by-passed under the Nasir Hussain-Duncan Fletcher regime.

But Medlycott is in no doubt that he has the talent and temperament to succeed at that level.

"Adam's a realist and it's fantastic he's thrown himself into Surrey cricket, but he knows if you're short of runs and wickets at whatever level then you have to be questioned," he said.

"He's been under-performing with the level of ability he's got and it's up to him to go away and give himself every chance of playing for England again."

"He needs to be getting more centuries, and big centuries, if he wants to be considered by England again, which I think he will do."

## Abahani owe Kennedy one

Sports Reporter



Abahani Krira Chakra had a lucky escape against a spirited Farashganj Sporting Club when the popular Dhammond outfit scored a 1-0 victory in their National Bank Premier Football League match at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Kennedy, the Ghanaian recruit of Abahani let his side off the hook with a header fourteen minutes away from the final whistle in a seesaw match. It was Kennedy's fifth goal of the season.

Although Kennedy made the headline, it was however the

brilliance of Abahani's national custodian Biplob that saved them from a possible debacle.

Biplob parried off three distinctive scoring chances including a point blank effort from Farashganj forward Polash in the 67th minute.

The match was also a study in striking contrast, where Farashganj buoyed by the monumental presence of their fresh Nigerian defender Abdulla, hardly allowed Abahani to have a shot at the target.

Playing his first match, the tall and muscular Nigerian not only effectively defused the attacking duo of Kennedy and Don with tough marking, but also inspired the old town outfit

to play a more attacking game. The highly impressive Abdulla also showed his dead-ball skills when he fired a superb free-kick over the Abahani wall at the stroke of the final whistle, only to be denied by an ever alert Biplob for a corner.

Abahani, well aware of the fact that Farashganj have created a stir in the league with an impressive unbeaten record, would be a tough proposition. But they found them hotter than expected and coach Analesh Sen was forced to make a defensive move by withdrawing striker Don for an additional midfielder Senu in the second half.

Senu gave Abahani more steel in the middle and they got back the impetus. Once they even got as many as five corners within the space of three minutes.

The all important goal originated with Kanchan inside the Farashganj box, which central defender Ashraf could only deflect to a lurking Kennedy near the far post. Kennedy generally nodded the ball in (1-0).

With this win Abahani joined holders Mohammedan Sporting Club at the top of the table -- both have 12 points following four straight wins.

On the other hand it was Farashganj's first defeat. They remain with their previous collection of five points.

**Yellow cards:** Abdullah, Biplob (Farashganj) and Iqbal (Abahani)

**TEAMS:**  
**Abahani:** Biplob, Titu, Nazrul, Ghansha, Dulal (Mithu), Iqbal, Zakir, Galib (Arman), Kanchan, Don (Santu) and Kennedy.

**Farashganj:** Dhamu (Abir), Jewel (Sofeh), Abdullah, Ashraf, Masud Rana, Chandan, Askar Babu, Biplob, Mithu, Polash and Jalal.

**Referee:** Golam Mostafa



A mid-pitch action during yesterday's National Bank Premier Division Football League clash between Abahani and Farashganj at the Bangabandhu Stadium. —Star Photo

## Kamal on target again

Sports Reporter



National forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal slammed his second hattrick in the Green Delta Premier Division

Hockey League to propel Usha Krira Chakra to a convincing 4-0 win over Bangladesh Sporting Club in their return leg clash played at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Saqilain, the discarded Pakistani striker, put Usha ahead in the 12th minute after being brilliantly fed by Kamal.

Four minutes later Kamal doubled the margin flicking home a Saqilain pass.

After the breather, Kamal scored his second from an Asif Bajwa pass in the 66th minute. He completed his treble from another Asif pass a minute

later.

Pakistani striker Akmal Naveed struck twice while his compatriot Aleem Raja, Zahid Biswas and Siam-e-Noor added one each. Bachchu pulled one back for Azad.

The outcome of the match, however, left both Ajax and Azad at the bottom of the nine-team league table with each having four points from 11

matches.

The winners led the first half 3-1.

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A goalmouth scramble during the Green Delta Premier Hockey League match between Usha and Bangladesh Sporting at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

The Usha captain's first hattrick was against Ajax Sporting Club in July.

Usha's eighth win in eleven matches raised their tally to 25 points. On the other hand, Bangladesh Sporting suffered their seventh defeat which kept them at 13 points.

**AJAX WIN BIG**

Earlier, Ajax Sporting Club won their first league win in style after mauling Azad Sporting Club 5-1.

The winners who led the first

half 2-0, thrashed their oppo-

nents 6-0 in the first round.

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Brescia get

**Baggio**

BRESCIA, Italy, Sept 14:

Promoted Brescia said Thurs-

day they have signed veter-

an Italian Roberto

Baggio, 33, who was out of

contract after leaving Inter Mil-

an, reports AFP.

Baggio signed a two-year

deal with a get-out clause al-

lowing him to leave next sum-

mer if the club are relegated

from Serie A.

Baggio won a host of hon-

ours in the 1990s playing for

Fiorentina, Juventus, AC Milan,

Bologna and Inter Milan.

Baggio is the Chief Executive

Malcolm Speed said the level

of revenue reflected the strength

of the game on and off the field.

"While the Australian team

was breaking records on the

field, commercial and public

support of the game grew off

the field," Speed said.

"Key indicators of cricket's

health - match attendance,