

# Bangladesh outplay Shri Lanka

Sports Reporter

Bangladeshi cricketers widened the imaginative horizon of cricket lovers in the country with a thumping seven-wicket victory against Sri Lanka 'B' in the opening tie of the first SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The fact that the thoroughly convincing victory was achieved against a second string team from a Test playing nation could in no detract from the achievement simply because the local lads dominated the proceedings right from the word go.

Lankan with the experience of the club cricket in Bangladesh was drawn out by an away going floater from Nannu and Barooah picked up his second catch behind the stumps, making Sri Lanka reel at 82 for six.

Barooah more than redeemed himself for his earlier

Although his elder brother Nurul Abedin Nobel struggled against Moonasinghe, the lithe new ball bowler operating from the pavilion end. Nannu eased off the pressure with a glorious punch through the covers for four.

There was no stopping of Nannu after that while Nobel continued to ride his luck, being dropped by Moonasinghe at deep square-leg off left-arm spinner Ajith Ekanayake. The brothers added 61 runs for the third wicket before Nannu left for 32. He was foxed by a slower ball from Labrooy and Ekanayake ran round to his right from his position at mid-off to hold a good catch off the leading edge off Nannu's bat. The eventual man-of-the-match played 42 balls with five crisp hits to the fence. The award brought Nannu Taka 5,000 in cash.

Aminul Islam Bulbul survived some close calls, caused by the clever variation of pace by the impressive Labrooy, to remain unbeaten with Nobel when Bangladesh posted 87 for three wickets in 19.3 overs.

Nobel was at the kill with 38, made off 59 balls and four boundaries while Bulbul, who hit the winning stroke, had the time to score just seven.

Wendall Labrooy was by far the best Sri Lankan bowler with figures of three for 35. With such a meagre total to defend the young paceman could not afford to be mean and he went all out, risking the chance to end up either as a pauper or a king.

Lalith Kaluperuma, the assistant manager of the Sri Lankan team, said after the match "We were thoroughly outplayed by Bangladesh."

"They bowled well within their limitations. Our batsmen batted badly."

Sri Lankan captain Karnain, however, said "The result would have been the other way round had we won the toss in the morning." An ecstatic Nannu spelled out "I am really happy. Barooah has done a very good job as a debutant."

The win has put our tail right up and we are looking forward to the matches against our more fancied opponents."

Earlier in the morning State Minister for youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain declared the meet open.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first SAARC cricket tournament's opening match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Eleven played at the Dhaka National Stadium yesterday:

**SRI LANKA:**

C Mendis ct Barooah b Saiful	4
J Kumudu b Prince	1
P Perera b Prince	12
Nishal Fernando ct Masum b Dulu	12
N Ranatunga b Dulu	12
N Devarajan ct Barooah b Nannu	6
P Dassanayake ct Barooah b Dulu	0
S H U Karnain b Saiful	12
M Moonasinghe run out	7
A Ekanayake not out	2
W Labrooy ct Barooah b Saiful	0
Extras: (lb-3, wb-12, nb-2)	17
Total: (all out in 35.4 overs)	85
Fall of wickets: 1/10; 2/10; 3/24; 4/49; 5/60; 6/62; 7/66; 8/78; 9/82; 10/85.	

**Bowling:**

O	M	R	W	
Prince	6	2	16	2
Saiful	8.4	0	23	3
Dulu	9	2	19	3
Nannu	9	1	23	1
Athar Ali	3	2	1	0

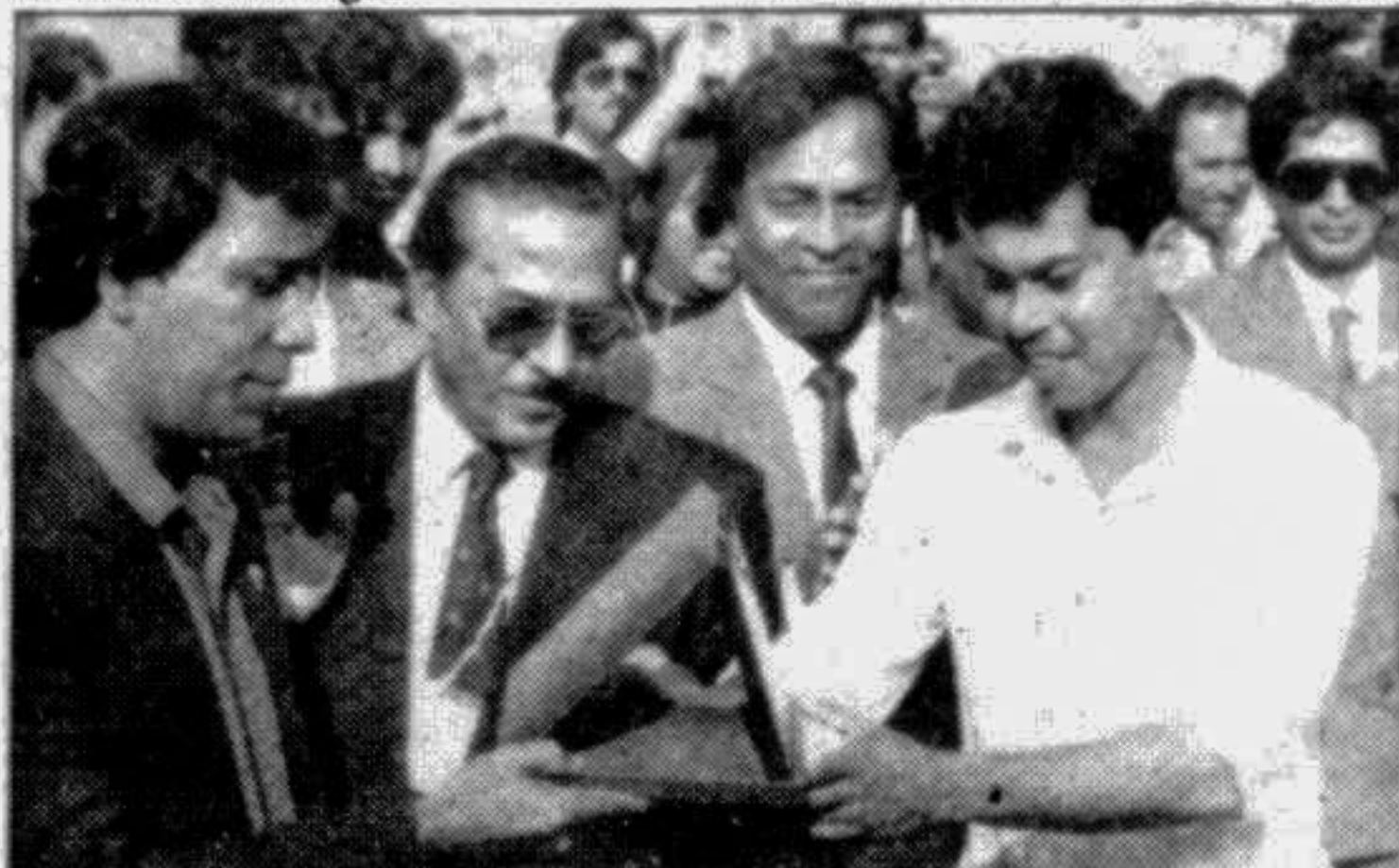
**BANGLADESH:**

Masum lbw Labrooy	4
Nobel not out	38
Athar Ali ct Dassanayake b Labrooy	0
Nannu ct Ekanayake b Labrooy	32
Bulbul not out	7
Extras: (lb-1, wb-1, nb-4)	6
Total: (For three wks in 19.3 overs)	87
Fall of wickets: 1/4; 2/4; 3/65.	

**Bowling:**

O	M	R	W	
Labrooy	8	1	35	3
M Moonasinghe	3	0	12	0
N Ranatunga	6.3	1	20	0
A Ekanayake	2	0	19	0

**Result: Bangladesh won by seven wickets.**



Bangladesh skipper Minhajul Abedin Nannu, who had a wonderful time with the willow as well as the leather in the opening match of the first SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, receiving the man-of-the-match award from match adjudicator Omar Khaled Rumi. Nannu claimed one wicket for 23 and scored 32 runs. — Star photo

Minhajul Abedin Nannu won the toss and gave his pacers a fine chance to prove their mettle on a wicket destined to offer considerable encouragement to the quick bowlers in the early hours.

Young Saiful Islam, Jahangir Talukdar Dulu and Golam Nowsheer Prince did not let their skipper down for sure as the scoreboard would suggest. A team buoyed by recent successes in one-day matches against New Zealand with a couple of Test probabilities in their ranks were shut out for 85 in 35.4 overs, nearly ten short of their quota of 45 overs.

Both the Sri Lankan openers — left-handed Janaka Kumudu de Silva and in-form right-hander Chaminda Mendis — began circumspectly against Golam Nowsheer Prince, the tall left-arm newball bowler who initiated the Bangladesh attack from the pavilion end.

There was some movement in the air for Prince who took some time to find his line to make the batsmen play. Most of his deliveries were angled away too far from the right-hander and Chaminda Mendis finally got off the mark with a push to midoff, without giving any tip-off about the impending disaster.

However, it befell soon with Chaminda getting a tinkle, having pushed tentatively at a Saiful delivery he could have left alone with the score on ten in the fourth over of the innings. Umpire Ikram Rabbani of Pakistan had to consult with square-leg umpire Shyam Kumar Bansal of India to confirm that debutant wicketkeeper Debashis Barooah of Bangladesh had taken the catch cleanly and not on the half-volley, which saw the back of Mendis for four.

Perhaps smarting under the salubrious insult of being overshadowed by his junior partner, Prince struck in the next over, clean bowling Kumudu, the southpaw, for one.

Duminda Pereira, the tall burly left-hander, exuded confidence originating from familiarity with local bowlers and conditions with two lovely shots past the Prince. The paceman had the last laugh though when Duminda played all over a swinging half volley to lose his middle stump for one of the four knocks of 12 by the harassed Sri Lankan batsmen.

Nisal Fernando and Nishant Ranatunga took the score to 49 from 24 before Jahangir Talukdar Dulu, another left-arm medium-pace, joined the demolition act. Fernando, who was let off by Barooah of Nannu on eleven with the total on 47, slammed an intended pull straight into Zahid Razaque Masum's tummy for 12.

Ranatunga, perhaps driven to frustration by the stranglehold of the Bangladeshi bowlers, aimed an ambitious drive with his head high up and Dulu's delivery was straight enough to dislodge his balls.

Devarajan, another Sri

lapse when he took a spectacular diving, low catch to see the back of his counterpart Pubudu Dissanayake, for nought.

Manjoola Moonasinghe was run out by a neat throw from the covers by skipper Nannu for seven to make Sri Lanka slide further, 78 for eight. Four runs later skipper Karnain, af-



ter a few grim overs of defiance, was irreparably surprised by a ball from Saiful having shaped for a cut. Saiful, the scrappy and rather short-statured pacer of the Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club produced another delivery characteristic of the nip he gets off the wicket to soothe the Sri Lankan innings. The ball reared off a length like a venomous cobra and before Wendall Labrooy realised it was too late and a regulation catch went to Barooah kissing the edge of the left-hander's bat.

Statistically, Dulu was the pick of the Bangladeshi bowlers, claiming three for 19 off his quota of nine overs. Saiful Islam, the nippy, young seamer took three for 23. Prince, looking short of breath after having bowled six overs was nevertheless good enough to finish with figures of two-for 16.

A ten-wicket victory was not too preposterous a hope for the partisan crowd when Zahid Razaque Masum and Nurul Abedin Nobel strolled out to collect 86 runs for the win. Masum flicked the first ball of the innings from Wendall Labrooy, younger brother of Test paceman Graeme, in the air. The casually played shot found its way through the outstretched hands of Ranatunga at square leg for a four, much to the relief of the patriotic spectators.

Yet, few present in the field had the hunch about the pace and lift this good-looking young man is able to generate after that innocuous first ball. Masum realised it at the cost of his wicket, adjudged leg before after being beaten by pace in the very second ball and Athar Ali, the one-drop batsman, had a blind man's swish at the first ball he faced to vindicate Labrooy was working up fair amount of pace from the wicket.

Athar, who has not been among the runs this season, was over the hump the very next ball when another waving outside the off-stump from anticipation rather than discretion resulted in a straight-forward catch behind the wicket and Bangladesh were two down for four in no time.

Skipper Minhajul Abedin Nannu was greeted by another vicious lifter which the batsman did well to keep down.

## Azhar, Shastri become India's headache

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 3: The touring Indian team management will hold a brain-storming session in the jungles of northern Natal on Wednesday to discuss the poor form of its two key members, captain Mohammad Azharuddin and his deputy Ravi Shastri, re-ports AFP.

Team manager Amrit Mathur said he has called a meeting with cricket manager Ajit Wadekar, Azharuddin, Shastri and senior pro Kapil Dev to debate India's moderate performance of the South African tour so far.

"More than the drawn first two Tests, we are very concerned about the form of Azhar and Shastri," Mathur said from his chalet at the Itala game reserve in Natal where the Indians are holidaying for three days.

"We are taking about two important members of our team and cannot afford to see them go through such a lean spell. I know they are trying their best but their game isn't coming right."

"We need to talk about it. We will definitely have a meeting sometime today and hopefully by talking we could help the players along,"

Mathur said.

Wristy strokeplayer Azharuddin has scored just 128 runs in 12 of his last 14 Test innings, and opener Shastri only 149 in eight of his last 10.

Nightmarish memories of a 4-0 Test rout in Australia and the World Cup debacle earlier this year, were revived when the tourists slumped to 38 for four in the first Test against South Africa in Durban and 44 for three in the second Test at the Wanderers here.

The remaining two Tests will be played in Port Elizabeth from December 26 and Cape Town from January 2 after the conclusion of the one-day series.



TIMBER! Young Bangladeshi quickie Saiful Islam shatters the stumps of Sri Lankan skipper Uvaisul Karnain in the First SAARC cricket tournament opener at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh started their campaign in style with a convincing seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka. — Star photo

## Crowe content

COLOMBO, Dec 3: New Zealand captain Martin Crowe, his team unsettled by a bomb blast outside their hotel at the start of the tour, said he was happy with a draw in the first cricket Test against Sri Lanka, reports Reuter.

"The result has given us the opportunity to find the balance of our team and also get to know the strengths and weakness of the Sri Lankans," Crowe said in an interview after the match which ended on Wednesday.

"Having come to know what we've got, we can adopt a more positive approach for the rest of the series."

The two sides meet in the first one-day international on Friday before the second Test, which starts on Sunday.

Crowe had little idea of the capabilities of some of his players going into the first of two Test on the tour, which had to be rescheduled after five team members returned to New Zealand following the bomb blast.

Replacements were flown in, especially for an attack left unbalanced with the departure of three front line bowlers, Willie Watson, Dipak Patel and Gavin Larsen.

Crowe was unhappy with his new attack, describing them as young kids with about 17 to 18 Test wickets between them.

But he was pleased with Canterbury's 23-year-old fast bowler Michael Owens who showed good pace, firing off left-handers Hashan Tilakaratne and Arjuna Ranatunga in successive overs. Ken Rutherford stood out among the batsmen with a century and a fifty.

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga said his team would have beaten New Zealand despite the weather — which looped 115 overs of the match — if his fielders had held their catches. They dropped a possible five during New Zealand's second innings.

## Indians irked over sponsorship logo

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 3: India's friendship tour of South Africa was embroiled in controversy on Wednesday after the tourists refused to wear the sponsors' logo for the upcoming seven-match one-day series, reports Reuter.

## Biman stay top

Sports Reporter

After thirteen rounds of the First Division league at the NSC chess room yesterday the top of the table equation remained as it was the day before with defending champions Biman leading with Brothers Union close on their heels.

Biman registered a 3-1 victory over Konika SS yesterday to take their tally to 38.5 points, two clear from nearest rivals Brothers Union who outplayed Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) in their thirteenth round encounter.

Bangladesh Ansars had it 3.5-5 in their favour against Genius Chess Club. Ansars, trailing Brothers by only one point, now have 35.5 points.

In other thirteenth round affairs, Dhaka University had things going their way with a 2.5-1.5 victory over Pony Electronics; Parijat Chess Club beat Farashganj SC 3.5-0.5; Noor-e-Alam DS and Mohakhali PS drew with Tilak Chess Club and Chalantika KC respectively.

## Mosharrarf's feat

Bangladesh swimmer Mosharrarf Hossain Khan has completed a training course in lifeguard and first aid and basic aquatic leadership in the United States, according to a message received yesterday, reports UNB.

Mosharrarf reportedly topped the list of all successful candidates in the training course, it added.

## Aaqib to miss World Series opener

PERTH, Dec 3: Pakistan's plans for their opening World Series one-day game against the West Indies here on Friday have been thrown into confusion by a back injury to fast bowler Aaqib Javed, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old right-arm firebrand will miss the day-night clash with the West Indies at the WACA ground because of a stress fracture in the lower back.

The trouble was revealed on Wednesday when Aaqib had a scan at a Perth clinic.

But the surgeon who studied the results of the scan, Dr Phil Hardcastle, also had some good news for the team, saying the trouble was not serious and Aaqib could be back in action in a few days, team manager Colonel Naushad Ali said.

Hardcastle has an outstanding reputation with top sports people. He performed the intricate back surgery which en-

abled fast bowler Bruce Reid to return to Test ranks, and also advised West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop after he broke

drawn first Test against Australia in Brisbane.

"We are greatly relieved that the injury is minor," Naushad said. "Aaqib is naturally very happy."

He said Aaqib had received an injection in the side of the spine to help relieve the pain and had been told to undertake an exercise programme.

The specialist says that, if the injection is successful, Aaqib will be able to play in a matter of days.

"This means we will definitely not be sending him home and seeking a replacement from Pakistan, though a fast bowler is on standby."

Aaqib was able to take part in light training with Pakistan players on Wednesday night when the floodlights were switched on at the WACA ground to allow the team to familiarise themselves with the illuminated conditions.

Aaqib was first troubled by back problems in Pakistan a year ago, but recovered well and was unbothered during the World Cup in Australia early this year and in England in the last northern summer.

His unavailability for Friday makes it almost certain that 17-year-old Ataur Rehman will make his one-day international debut, joining an attack led by Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, the most feared opening pair in the world.

He has bowled with fire in two warm-up matches, and looked extremely promising in the game against Western Australia on Tuesday night when he captured three for 58 from 10 overs on a doctored pitch.

Waqar and Akram have spoken enthusiastically of his potential, and believe he can be especially effective on bouncy Australian wickets.

Rehman made an auspicious Test debut in England last June, snapping up three for 69 at Edgbaston in the England first innings of the drawn opening Test.

Pakistan placed much emphasis on fielding at Wednesday's practice session.

"We were very happy with our batting and bowling in the Western Australia game, but far from pleased with our fielding," Naushad said.

"This is such an important part of one-day cricket that we are very keen to sharpen up. You cannot afford lapses in the field against top sides."

The West Indies arrived here on Wednesday and were to practice early today.

## Akram, Waqar not 'fast'?

PERTH, Dec 3: West Indies cricket captain Richie Richardson upset Pakistan officials here Thursday by denying the side's much-feared pace pair, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, were genuinely fast, reports AFP.

Richardson said the pair were not really fast as the teams limbered up for Friday's opening clash here in the World Series triangular contest.

Akram and Waqar have become recognised as probably the most lethal opening combination in the world after consistently proving too good for England's batsmen in a 2-1 Test series victory in the past northern summer.

Asked to offer his opinion on them Richardson said, "They are not really fast, but they have great control, they move the ball and they are great thinkers, they are two great fast bowlers."

Neither side have chosen their team, preferring to wait until just before the game.

Colonel Naushad said Pakistan would play their best possible team.

All players are available, except fast bowler Aaqib Javed,

who has a stress fracture in the lower back.

In Aaqib's absence, 17-year-old Ataur Rehman will step in for his first one-day international.

He has already appeared in one Test, the first of the series against England earlier this year when he captured three first innings wickets.

Richardson said the West Indies wanted to improve greatly on their performances in the World Cup, when they finished sixth out of nine teams.

"It will be a very keen competition, with three strong sides taking part. To win, a team will have to play consistently well in all departments."

"In one-day cricket, it doesn't matter how good you are. If you have a couple of bad matches that's it," Colonel Naushad said.

When the teams met in a World Cup qualifying game in Melbourne in February the West Indies won overwhelmingly by 10 wickets, racing to 221 without loss off 46.5 overs after Pakistan had made 2-220 off their 50 overs.

West Indies opening batsman Brian Lara was the man-of-the-match, even though he was forced to retire hurt after making an unbeaten 88 off only 101 balls. Pakistan recovered from that mauling to win the World Cup just over a month later with victory over England in the final.

## Row over Gower's exclusion

## English selectors remain unmoved

LONDON, Dec 3: England's cricket selectors are sticking by their decision not to include David Gower in this winter's tour of India, despite the prospect of a vote of no-confidence by MCC members, reports AFP.

A group of Gower supporters in the MCC forced a special meeting about the tour selection during a vote here on Tuesday night. The "rebels" are confident of getting a majority of the MCC's 17,500 members to condemn the selectors.

But their manoeuvres failed to impress Ted Dexter, chairman of the selectors, and himself an honorary life member of the club.

"We had all the information and took everything into account when we picked the party in September," he said on Wednesday.

"I don't think those people mentioning David Gower's name necessarily know how we came to our decision."

Dexter added: "The nature of the job is making unpopular decisions, although whether this one is unpopular remains to be seen."

"They assume there is a lot of public support but we don't know that. I haven't received many letters on the subject."

Team manager Keith Fletcher, another of those responsible for dropping Gower, added: "I respect everyone's right to an opinion but I think these people are taking this issue a bit far."

"If it is right the special meeting will cost 17,000 pounds to organise, then I just think that money could be better spent."

"We took a long time discussing our selections. We thought then we had the best squad and we still think it is the best squad."

"You have to think a bit about the future and look at players like Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick and Neil Fairbrother."

"I still believe David is a high-quality player and, as I've said before, this does not mean the end of his England career."

However, by the time the MCC holds its special meeting, probably in late January, England will already be a month into their tour-making the no-confidence vote a purely academic one.

Gower himself has already accepted that he will not be going to India.

The 35-year-old batsman told BBC radio from Australia, where he is doing cricket commentary, that he was "very flattered" by the protest.

But he added: "I was hoping the MCC members would drop the matter before it got to a special meeting."

"I have got over the fact that I am not going to India to play cricket this winter. Still, the people who have called the meeting regard it as a matter of principle and I really should not stand in their way."

"The depth of feeling they are showing is extraordinary. But whatever voice of protest is raised, it is not going to make any difference to the Test and County Cricket Board."

## Sarfraz arraigned

LONDON, Dec 3: Magistrates on Wednesday committed former Pakistan fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz for trial on charges of imprisoning and assaulting a dancer, reports Reuter.

The case was adjourned until January 19th.