

Column One SPORTS TALK



Gary Lineker (Former England striker) 'Journalists have the ability to put players under so much of pressure. We can never please. If we play poorly we are blasted and if we win we played against bad opposition.'

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT Kenya has been producing world-beaters in middle and long-distance running for the past twenty years. So what's their secret? Money? Well, I am not so sure. Ben Jipcho, steeple-chase Olympic silver medalist, explains thus: 'Running for money doesn't make you run fast, it makes you run first.'

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN (The rules are published every Saturday.)

Table with 5 questions about sports events and winners. Includes questions about the highest run accumulator in Test cricket, the current French Open singles champion, and the 1997 ICC Trophy cricket tournament.

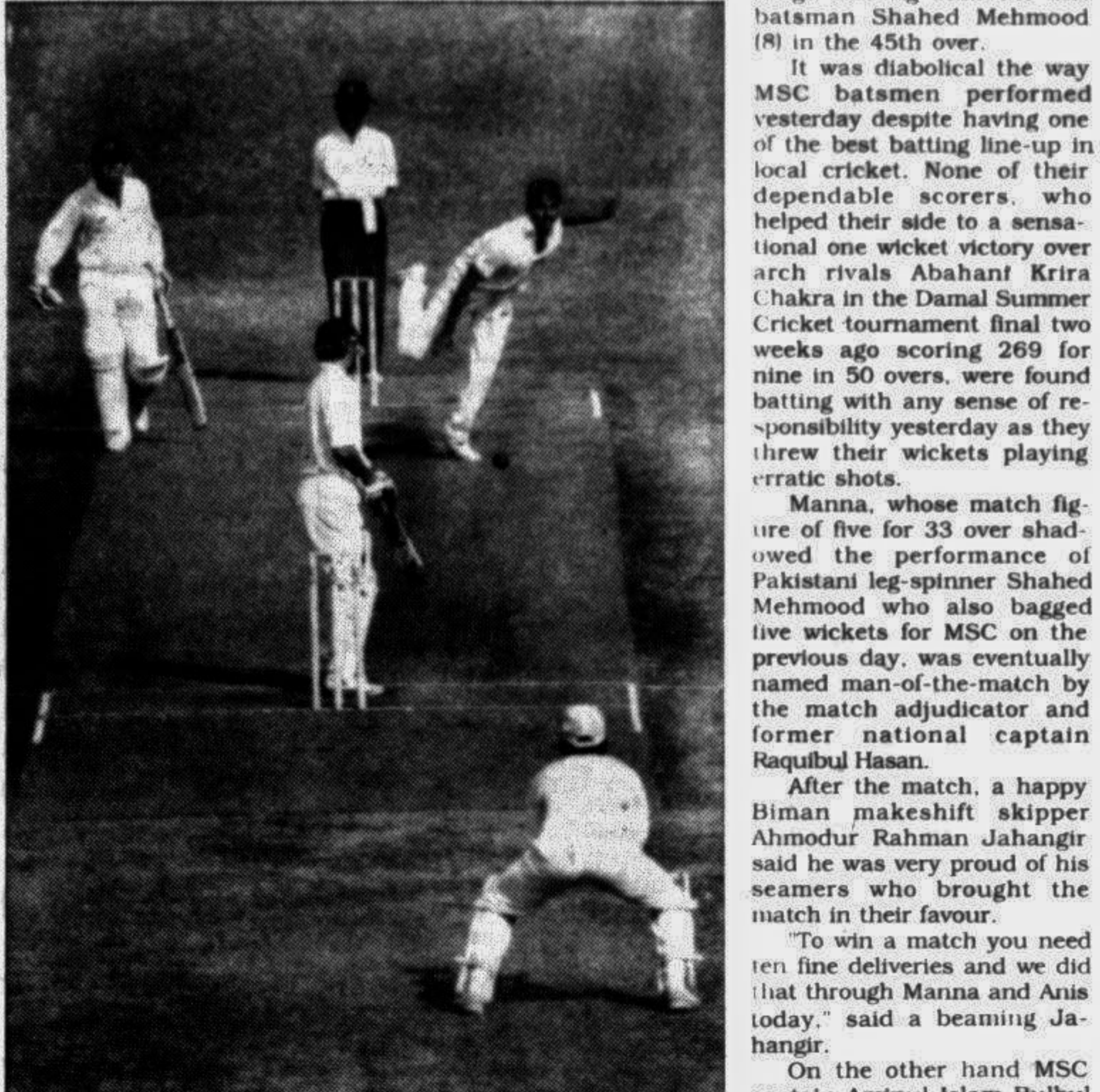
Registration form for the Sports Whizz Kid competition, including fields for Name, Class, Roll No, School Address, and Phone.

Rohan qualifies for ITF East Asian U-14 meet

Nadim Kamran Khan Rohan of Bangladesh has qualified for the Central Asian Tennis team to play in the fifth East Asian junior under-14 tennis circuit, reports BSS. The first of the three-leg circuit will be held in the Indonesian capital Jakarta from December 21 to 24, the second leg in Singapore from December 26 to 29 and the last leg in Brunei from December 31 to January 3.

Biman clinch Bijoy Dibash Trophy Manna makes his mark

Sports Reporter hours on the second day to send their gigantic counterparts packing for only 102 runs in 44.2 overs. Manna, who got the wickets of MSC opens Nadeem Younus (5) and Mustadr Litu (14) in the last session of the opening day yesterday which restricted the Damal Summer cricket tournament champions to 50 for 2 in 25 overs at stumps, struck off three other star batsmen of MSC yesterday. With the overnight score of 50 for 2, Mohammedans, needing a further 118 to win in 55 overs with eight wickets in hand, suffered their first blow of the day in the



Mohammedans batsman Nannu lets go an out-swing from Biman's fiery pacer Manna during yesterday's Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament final at the Dhaka Stadium. Manna finished with 5/33.

with an unexpected 65-run victory against favourites Mohammedans Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. With the help of Manna's lethal pace bowling he denied all the top five MSC batsmen sending them back to the dressing room with poor scores, Biman, defending a paltry 167 they scored on Tuesday, needed only two

Hosts dominate SEA Games

CHIANG MAI, Thailand, Dec 13: The crowd roared as Thailand's three-man team high-kicked their way to victory 2-1 against rival Malaysia in the sepak takraw team final at the Southeast Asian Games today, reports Reuter. The cheering crowd, banging drums and waving flags helped inspire the Thai side to overwhelm the Malaysians, who had hoped to win the hotly-contested competition. The game, played on an indoor court with a net, requires agility and speed. Similar in concept to volleyball, the three players a side have only three touches of the ball before it must go over the net. They must only touch the ball with their feet or head - no hands allowed. The sepak takraw team victory helped Thailand continue its strong showing in the 18th SEA Games. Almost halfway through the nine-day event, Thailand had 148 medals including 69 golds, Indonesia, the winners of the 1993 SEA Games, were a distant second with 89 medals. More than 3,000 athletes from 10 countries are partic-



State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain gives away the Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament trophy to Biman's captain Jahangir after the final against Mohammedans at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



The joyous Bangladesh Biman players and officials pose with the Bijoy Dibash cricket trophy.

GMCC move into semis

Sports Reporter ESKATON 88: 220/6 (Majed Hanif 81, Manwar Hossain 56) GMCC: 222/5 in 45.5 overs (Zakaria 58, Golla 45, Rafiqul 45, Rais 43 n.o.) The Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) powered their way to the semifinals of the Shahid Jewel-Mushtaq Memorial cricket tournament with a commanding five-wicket victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Chasing an impressive Eskaton total of 220 for six in the allotted 50 overs, the Mymensingh outfit sauntered past their target scoring 222 for five with 4.1 overs to spare. Chubby national middle-order bat Zakaria Intiaz top-scored with a quick 58 (55 balls, 4x8) while his Bangladesh teammate Javed Omar Belim Golla (45 runs, 4x6), ex-national star Rafiqul Alam (45 runs, 4x3, 6x1) and Pakistani Rais Ahmed (43 not out, 4x5, 6x1) contributed significantly. Earlier, Eskaton managed to pile up their laudable total with the help of two half-centuries from their Pak duo. Middle order Majed Hanif amassed 81 runs (102 balls, 4x8) while opener Manwar Hossain showed more patience to score 56 runs (116 balls, 4x2).

Acme Div II cricket begins today

Sports Reporter The Acme Second Division cricket league will begin in the capital this morning under the auspices of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board.

In the opening match, Azad Sporting Club will take on Public Works Department Sports Club at the western ground of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

A total of 32 teams will compete in the first round group league divided into four groups. The top three teams of each group will qualify for the super league while the remaining clubs will play in the relegation league.

Following are the 32 teams taking part in the league as per the groups: Group A: Western SC, Uttara SC, Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha, Millbarrack CC, Amarjoti Club, Lalbagh Anwar SC, Kathalbagan GCC and Ganderia Cricketers.

Group B: Azad SC, Orient SC, Shantinagar 'B' Spread Eagles, Mirpur SKC, DOHS CC, Lancashire CA and PWD SC.

Group C: Uditi Club, Young Pegasus 'A' Rupali Bank CC, Nabin Sangha, Lalbagh USC, Udayachal Club, Rainbow SC and East End Club.

Group D: Evergreen SC, Shantinagar 'A' Nirman Eleven, Young Pegasus 'B' Nawabganj Evergreen CC, Azad Boys Club, Kakrail Boys Club and Rayer Bazar SC.

Jayalalitha opens SAF village

MADRAS, Dec 13: The imposing village which will house the athletes and officials of the South Asian Federation Games (SAF) beginning here on Dec 18, was inaugurated by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Miss Jayalalitha this morning, reports PTI. The village, built on a sprawling 35-acre area, contains 33 self-contained blocks which can accommodate over 2,500 persons. Declaring open the village, Miss Jayalalitha said, 'Our sole aim is to make Tamil Nadu the best destination for sports in India and we have achieved our goal to a great extent.' The village would serve as a landmark in Madras, she added.

Savagery on umpire Dipu

Sports Reporter Control Board (BCCB) vehemently condemned the brutal attack and expressed their sympathies for the esteemed cricketer. In a written statement issued last night, the BCCB said that they will take necessary measures to ensure no such incident occurs again while taking disciplinary measures against all concerned. The Bangladesh Cricket

DU cricket

Sports Reporter Department of Statistics recorded a win in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket tournament defeating Department of Microbiology by three wickets at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday. Batting first, the Microbiology students were booked in only 29.2 overs with Iqbal Hasan scoring the highest 35 runs. Kiron and Rintu of Statistics bagged three wickets apiece conceding 14 and 17 runs respectively. In reply, the winners sailed home in the 24th over losing five wickets. Partha (21) and Kiron (18) were the notable scorers among the Statistics boys.

Olympics on the make

LONDON, Dec 13: Once, the IOC said it could live without television. On Tuesday, it gladly took 2.3 billion dollars for TV rights to three Olympics, reports AP. The NBC television network acquired the exclusive US broadcast rights to the 2004 (summer), 2006 (winter) and 2008 (summer) Olympics for the sum, a record. It was the first time a network secured the rights to three Olympics at once, and the first time the rights were sold before the site had been decided. Not exactly what Avery Brundage, then president of the International Olympic Committee, expected in 1956 at the Winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy. Brundage claimed, 'We in the IOC have done well without TV for 60 years and will do so certainly for the next 60.'

Kenya win

NAIROBI, Dec 13: Kenya beat the Netherlands by five wickets in a one-day (50 overs) cricket match on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Scores: Netherlands 154 for seven innings closed (Asif Karim 3-7), Kenya 155 for five in 44 overs (Maurice Odumbe 46).

Nicol stuns Walker

BOMBAY, Dec 13: Peter Nicol of Scotland demolished Chris Walker in the final to win his first super series title in straight games in the Mahindra Challenge squash tournament on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Nicol, 22, took only 49 minutes to record 15-8, 15-11, 15-10 win over Walker, seeded fifth, just one rank above him.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP. Includes a crossword puzzle grid and a cryptogram puzzle with a key: DKHS RD KUJ YWYYCUM YDUM RNU MDK W HJWSM MNCUKI. Yesterday's Cryptogram: IT'S BEST THAT YOU BUY THERMOMETERS IN WINTERTIME, THEY'RE A LOT LOWER THEN.