

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

**T**HAT soccer in the USA has progressed by leaps and bounds over the past decades, thanks to some ardent lovers of the sport. Phil Woosman, Commissioner of the North American Soccer Association, explaining the simplicity of soccer to puzzled Americans in 1974, ventured to make the following advice: "The rules are basically very simple; if it moves kick it. If it does not move, kick it till it does." The American soccer league was instituted in 1966. Since then some of the world's finest footballers have played for US teams — Pele, Beckenbauer and Cruyff for the New York Cosmos, George Best for the Tampa Bay Rowdies. But, now home-grown talent has begun to emerge so much so that USA today are World Cup finalists.

SPORTS TALK



**Kim Hughes**  
(Former Australian cricket captain)  
"If people had all the talent and all the mental strength then they might as well not play because you wouldn't get them out. That's the beauty about sport. Some people have all the talent and their mental side isn't as good and other people are very strong mentally but they haven't got as much talent."

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-23

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 26, 1996)

- Shaquille O'Neil is famous for playing 

Football	Cricket	Basketball
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- Chetan Sharma plays local cricket for 

MSC	AKC	Victoria
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- Sprinter Mahabud Alam won SAF gold in 

100m	200m	400m
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- The first century in cricket this season was by 

Sumit	Ope	Durjoy
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- City Club ground for cricket is located in 

Mirpur	Dhanmondi	Badda
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

**DHANMONDI CLUB:** 245 for seven in 45 overs (Sabbir 49, Naqi 40, Hira 40)  
**LALMATIA CLUB:** 225 in 43.4 overs (Riaz 47, Babu 46, Alam 35, Bipul 3/35)

Dhanmondi Club earned victory in the Yamaha First Division cricket league defeating Lalmatia Club by 20 runs at the City Club ground yesterday.  
Put in to bat, Dhanmondi piled up a huge 247 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs. Sabbir Khan scored highest 49 runs off 72 balls inclusive of five boundaries while Hira and Naqi added 40 runs each to Dhanmondi account.  
In reply, Lalmatia were all out in 43.3 overs.  
Opener Riaz (47) and Jamaluddin Babu (46) were the leading Lalmatia batsmen.  
Dhanmondi's new ball bowler Bipul took three wickets conceding 35 runs in 8 overs.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Prantik Krira Chakra posted win in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league beating Kadamtala Sangsad 2-0 at the Rajuk ground yesterday.  
Aminur Rahman and Mustafizur Rahman netted one goal apiece for Prantik in the 21st and 56th minute respectively.  
The other match of the day between Mirpur Eleven and Maghbaraz Kisholoy ended in a goalless draw.

Brothers flatter Biman

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

**BROTHERS UNION:** 156/8 50 overs (Sanwar 38, Billu 24 n.o., Sajal 21 n.o.)  
**BANGLADESH BIMAN:** 157/2 in 39.1 overs (Rupom 52, Sumon 58 n.o.)

**AGRANI BANK:** 198 in 49 overs (Azam 76, Suru 29, Amir Wasim 4/25)  
**WARI CLUB:** 199 for four in 43.4 overs (Hasanuzzaman 71, Bipul 37, Sahne Pieters 32)



Title contenders Bangladesh Biman transformed the agony of a close defeat in their previous match into inspiration when the national airline outfit catapulted to inflict a crushing eight-wicket defeat on high-flying Brothers Union in a Premier cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Biman, who lost to joint-holders Mohammedan Sporting Club in a tie-match on Tuesday at the same venue, showed no emotions and rolled up a helpless Brothers for a paltry 156 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs and then raced on to collect the required runs for the loss of only two wickets and with more than 11 overs to spare for a resounding victory.

After winning the toss and electing to use the cherry in the morning, Biman took full advantage of the moisture with national left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman and young Nazimuddin Manna ripping through the Brothers top order reducing them to 49 for four from where a beleaguered Gopibagh outfit never recovered.

Anis, who bowled with venom, saw the back of both Brothers openers Shahriar Hossain Bidyut (1) and Pakistani Abid Hanif (12) reducing them 22/2 in 10.4 overs.

Manna, the young sensation from Chittagong, then removed danger man Amir Hanif, who edged a catch behind the wicket after scoring only four runs, to herald the Brothers' rot.

Halim Shah, who had earlier played an important role in his side's victory against joint-holders Abahani Krira Chakra, shortly followed Amir Hanif when Zafar Iqbal, the Pakistani right-arm seamer, had him caught by wicket-keeper Tomal for a sedate 9.

With Brothers reeling at 49/4 in 22 overs, Sanwar Hossain and Sajjad Anmeed Monsur Shipon tried to mend the damage putting on 38 runs for the fifth.

But once Ziaur Rashid Rupom, the Biman skipper, dismissed Shipon (20) Brothers suddenly dropped to 109 for eight in 40.4 overs with Asif Mujtaba, the former Pakistan vice-captain, claiming two wickets in successive overs.

A doughty Sajal Chowdhury along with fellow tail-enders Biplob Sarkar and Billu then gave the slim Brothers total some respectability sharing 47 runs for the undefeated ninth wicket which fielded a flattering 19 runs from the last over bowled by national left-arm spinner Mohammed Rafique.

In reply, Biman made a jumpy start when they lost their in-form opener Athar Ali Khan (13) with the scoreboard reading at 20/1 in 5.5 overs.

But a cool composed Rupom, who found an agile partner in Habibul Bashar Sumon, took Biman close to victory sharing 91 runs for the second wicket.

The Biman skipper, after surviving a close call when he was on 45, went on to complete his fourth half century in the league with a pull over mid-wicket off seamer Salahuddin.

Rupom, who was undone by a full length ball from Sajal

that kept very low, clubbed four fours in his patient 100-ball 52.

Sumon, the stylish right-handed middle order batsman, steered his side home without further damage sharing 46 runs for the undefeated third wicket with Asif Mujtaba.

Sumon, who fittingly ended the chase with a straight drive for a four off Sajal in the 40th over, remained unbeaten on a polished 58 off 88 deliveries inclusive of four sweetly timed hits across the rope.

On the other hand, Asif Mujtaba clubbed three fours including a brilliant hook of a 33-ball snooter for a 33-ball 13.

Among the Brothers bowlers Salahuddin who replaced a balding Iqbal, finished most expensive with one for 50 in his 10 overs.

It was Biman's seventh win from nine matches in the league. They are now sharing the top slot with their yesterday's victim Brothers Union and Mohammedan Sporting Club, all with 14 points each.

However, Mohammedans have played one match less than Biman while it was Brothers' third defeat from ten league engagements.

WARI WIN

Wari Club kept alive their hopes of reaching the super league when they defeated Agrani Bank by 6 wickets.

Playing in the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Wari put the Bankers into bat and restricted them to 198 all out in 49 overs. Azam Iqbal was the most successful Bank batsman scoring 76 (4x5, 6x2). Amir Wasim took four wickets for 25 off his ten overs.

In reply, Wari eclipsed the opponents' score in 43.4 overs with six wickets in hand. Hasanuzzaman made 71 off 96 balls (4x8).

Miss between cup and lip

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

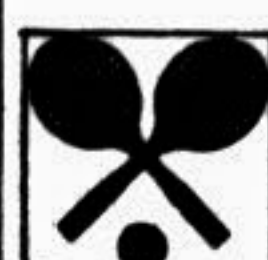
It was a miss between cup and lip for Chanda Rubin. The American teenager who has very quickly established herself as marathon queen in the professional circuit almost accounted for the number one seed Monica Seles in the semifinal of Australian Open Thursday afternoon. Once again it was a war of attrition for the 19-year-old, ranked 15 in the world. Coming on the heels of her long match against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario Tuesday, she should have been tired of the two. But Rubin showed amazing power of recovery and went on to take the first set 7-6. The tie-break was a cakewalk for her (7-2).

But she was soon whipped into her senses by the determined Seles. With customary zeal the number one seed ran through the defence of her younger opponent aided by, as usual, frustrating line calls which forced Rubin to lose her temper. Seles, who is a fine athlete, not fully fit yet, took the ball by the horn and won easily at 6-1.

Rain interrupted the match for 35 minutes after one game in the final set. Both players relished the break. Rubin worked up a fantastic lead breaking Seles in her service game. At one stage she was leading 4-1, and at 5-2 she double-faulted and was errant.

A fighter of the highest class as she is, Monica seized upon the opportunity and served out 7-5 to set up her fourth final at Melbourne in as many times she has taken part. It's her favourite surface. She had won here in 1991, 1992 and 1993 in a row. She has also won three French Opens in a row in 1990, '91 and '92 (did not play in '93, '94 and '95), won the US Open in 1991 and 1992 and was runner-up to Steffi Graf last year. But she has yet to win a title at Wimbledon. Her best was an appearance in the final in 1992 and lost to Graf.

Seles survives a scare



MELBOURNE, Jan 25: Joint world number one Monica Seles narrowly avoided her first ever Australian Open defeat today staging an amazing final-set comeback to beat inspired teenager Chanda Rubin in the semifinal, reports Reuter.

The number one seed, down 5-2 in the third set and facing her first defeat at Flinders Park after three successful campaigns here, dug deep to produce a heart-thumping fightback, forcing a string of errors to take the match 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 in one hour, 57 minutes.

Seles, whose return to tennis after an April 1993 stabbing has revitalised the women's game, faces eighth seed Anke Huber after the German reached her first Grand Slam final with a sea-saw three-set win over South Africa's Amanda Coetzer.

The 22-year-old Seles, hot favourite to win her ninth Grand Slam title in the absence of the injured Steffi Graf, came back from 5-2 down in the third set to win an epic semifinal encounter.

Huber's first-ever match against Coetzer, though without the drama of the Seles encounter, gave the tournament a new twist with the 21-year-old German making it into a Grand Slam final at the 24th attempt.

"It's a big surprise, I didn't expect it... It's difficult to explain (how I feel)," an overwhelmed Huber told reporters after her 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Seles, the joint world number one who has battled

niggling injuries throughout the tournament, had to dig deep to level the match in the second set against an inspired Rubin after losing the first on a tie-break.

The young American, who had beaten world number three Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in a three-and-a-half

fore her stabbing by a crazed Graf fan, said she felt lucky to have survived to the final.

In men's semifinals Friday, Andre Agassi's not enamoured with Michael Chang and Boris Becker takes on local hero Mark Woodford, sprinkled with a bit of ginger.

Agassi, seeking to defend his Australian title, is up against the earnest Chang, who is looking to go one better than last year's losing semifinal against Pete Sampras and view for his second Grand Slam crown.

Then there's 'boom boom' Boris, thriving in the autumn of his fabulous tennis career, facing the tournament's fairytale, the unseeded Woodford, carrying his country's hopes on Australia Day (January 26).



MONICA SELES

hour quarterfinal, followed the same do-or-die approach and at 5-2 in the deciding set the Centre Court crowd scented an historic victory.

As so often with champions, Seles — never beaten in Australia in 31 outings, 27 of them at the Australian Open — had other ideas.

Seles held serve and at 5-3 with Rubin poised for an upset, she finally cracked her pounding serve for the first time in the set and then broke again to set up a remarkable victory and bring the crowd to its feet.

Seles, who won the Open for three straight years be-

Nat'l bridge from Feb 29

The National bridge championship 1996 for teams will begin on February 29 at the Sheraton Hotel here, according to a press release of the Bangladesh Bridge Federation (BBF), reports BSS.

The preliminary rounds of the tournament will be held at the hotel on February 29 and March 1. The subsequent rounds will be held at the Officers' Club from March 2 to 6 and the final is slated for March 7 and 8 at the same venue.

The BBF has requested interested teams to send their entries to Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, Kazi Abdul Halim or Mahfuzur Rashid.

A Caribbean charmer & his one-act comedy



ISLAMABAD, Jan 27 (AFP): The World Cup without Brian Lara would be like a corona

without a king. Yet the tournament nearly lost Lara — undisputedly the greatest batsman in the world and already an all-time great at the tender age of 26 — after a West Indian civil war last summer.

Suddenly, the man made legendary for scoring a world record 375 runs in a Test innings the previous year (followed immediately by 501 not out in a first class match) had turned rebel.

What was still, it was reported the man who regularly made fielders go round the bend now needed psychiatric treatment himself, driven to distraction by his own teammates.

Former West Indies pace star Michael Holding warned that Lara was cracking up after he refused to take part in the World Series Cup in Australia. "I think Brian Lara needs psychiatric help. I'd put it as simply as that," he said. He needs someone to sit down with him and let him realise what life is about."

West Indies manager Wes Hall added: "Pressure is what turns a rock into diamond but can turn it into dust." Nonsense.

If Lara is going cooky, then the United Arab Emirates are the World Cup favourites.

If the Trinidadian has a weakness off the pitch, it is rather excessive pride and the apparent conviction that he always knows best.

Those character traits had begun to emerge during his remarkable 1994.

He was everybody's

darling at the Antigua recreation ground in April — bar, that is, the English bowlers — after beating Sir Gary Sobers' 37-year-old record Test record. "I don't think a better batsman could have broken the record," Sobers said that day.

Yet, despite the unprecedented 501 against Durham in June and the 2,000 runs he made to take English county Warwickshire to three out of four titles, the gloss was beginning to wear off.

He reportedly turned up late for matches and for training. He told county skipper Dermot Reeve that

he was still, it was reported the man who regularly made fielders go round the bend now needed psychiatric treatment himself, driven to distraction by his own teammates.

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England. Coaxed back into the fold, Lara bit his tongue and scored 145 in the 4th Test, 152 in his next innings in the fifth and 179 in the final.

But when the West Indian Cricket Board of Control later fined him for his walk-out, he lost patience and refused to play in Australia, sparking first demands that he be axed, then blind panic that he might not return for the World Cup.

Yet Lara's tactics were not those of a man needing help from men in white coats (psychiatrists, that is, not umpires). He had simply decided to challenge the board of put the team in order.

Predictably, the board backed down. For only with Lara in their ranks have the West Indies got any chance of winning the tournament for a third time.

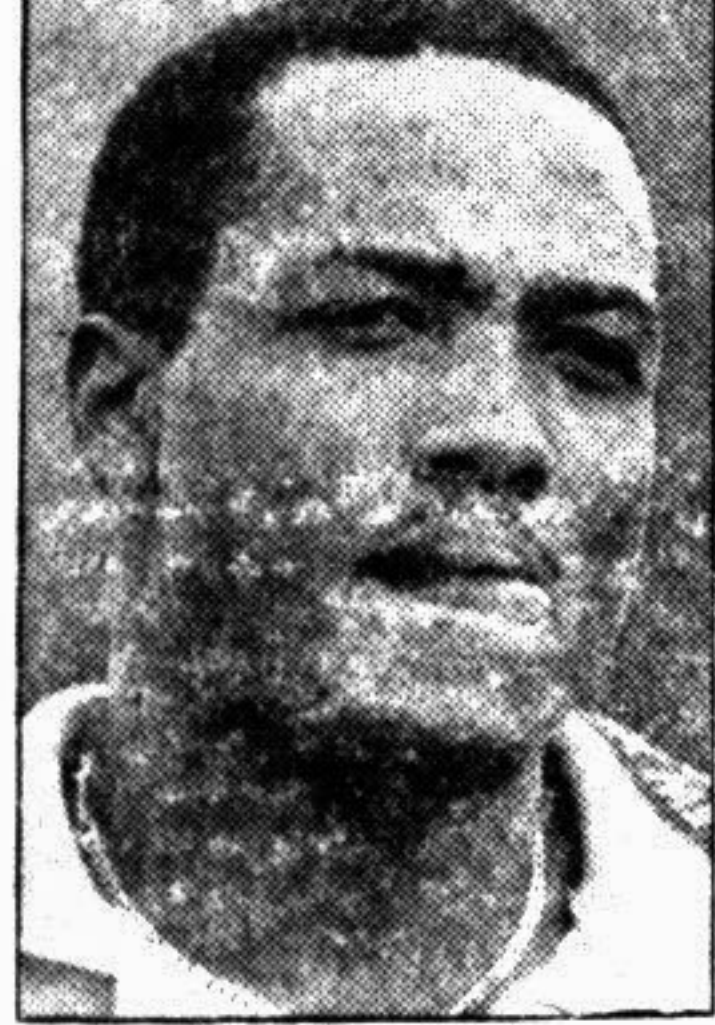
His strength is not just that he scores runs, but that he does so at such a phenomenal rate, a priceless quality in one-day cricket.

When he threatened Viv Richards' one-day world record in Sharjah in October, it wasn't just that he scored 169 runs that mattered, but that he smashed them off a mere 129 balls.

England skipper Michael Atherton — who argues he is the best batsman he has ever seen by a distance — says the key is his high backlift. Others suggest it is all to do with footwork.

Woolmer believes it is the Lara brain that matters: "He's thorough, analytical type — he has a game plan against each bowler — and he's the destroyer."

Whatever, in February and March it should be the fielders' again who are losing their heads.



BRIAN LARA

he wasn't good enough to be in the team. "His overall behaviour and daily views were very set. He wasn't flexible within a team framework," coach Bob Woolmer admitted later.

That inflexibility caused Lara to walk out on the West Indies last year when his teammates began to degenerate into a bickering, ill-disciplined rabble on the tour of

Onus on the Akram elan



NEW DELHI, Jan 25 (AFP): Wasim Akram must be a glut for punishment.

To accept the most unforgiving job in cricket is one thing. To accept the captaincy of Pakistan for a second time seems bordering on the reckless.

The World Cup, Wasim will become a legend if it falls, he could well swell the statistics of Pakistani ex-captains — seven in four years, at the last count — without a team to lead.

Yet the 29-year-old all-rounder may just be the perfect man for the mission impossible. If he needs inspiration, he needs only leap back four years in his own scrapbook.

It was Wasim who capped Pakistan's extraordinary World Cup campaign at Melbourne on March 25, 1992, smashing 33 off 19 balls and uprooting Allan Lamb and Chris Lewis with successive deliveries to win the man-of-the-match award in the final against England.

He's clearly not daunted by the need for an encore. "I am looking forward to the challenge," he said. "It's my dream to win the World Cup in front of my home crowd."

"Personal milestones are important, but they become meaningless if your team loses. I'll always remember the last World Cup final, because I helped Pakistan win. I want to do it again."

Stirring stuff. Captain's talk, and an echo of his great mentor Imran Khan.

Wasim, however, has a problem. Not only will he have the long shadows of former captains Salim Malik, Ramiz Raja and Javed Miandad peering over his shoulder and scrutinising his every move, but he will also have to transform a team that has got into the worst habit of all. Losing.



WASIM AKRAM

Wisely, Wasim points to the third Test won in Australia and the recent one-off victory against New Zealand as welcome signs of a return to form.

"We are getting our act together in time for the World Cup," he argues. "Hopefully, we'll succeed, because that's the big one every one at home wants us to win."

Just as wisely, mentions of the first and second Tests against Mark Taylor's men, the historic double defeat against Sri Lanka earlier in the year and the unthinkable debacle at the hands of Zimbabwe — let alone the Salim Malik affair — are kept at a minimum.

They weren't, after all, the Lancashire star's direct responsibility.

The World Cup will be. Last time Wasim tried his hand at captaincy, he was removed after a players' revolt. The Pakistan Cricket Board, however, claims he has learned from that lesson.

If nothing else, the whippy left-arm pace bowler, with his well-disguised change of pace and late swing, and explosive lower order batsman will be hoping to lead by example.

On the verge of 300 Test wickets, Wasim is also the world's most successful one-day bowler with 282.

His 1,726 runs place him in a select band of 12 who have achieved the grand double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in limited-overs internationals.

West Indian Carl Hooper, India's Manoj Prabhakar and Steve Waugh of Australia are the only others still playing competitive cricket to achieve the feat.

In 1992, he took 18 wickets to become the tournament's most successful bowler. Pakistan will be praying for a repeat in Wasim's birthplace of Lahore on March 17.

Waugh's dig Aussies out



ADELAIDE, Jan 25: David Boon played a familiar rescue role in his last appearance for Australia which set up twins Mark and Steve Waugh for an assault on Sri Lanka in the third and final Test on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Boon, who has decided to part his ways with the international cricket at the end of this match at the Adelaide Oval, staged the innings with a typically resolute 43 after Australia lost a wicket in the first over of the game.

Mark Waugh, who hit 71, and brother Steve, with an unbeaten 70, subsequently lifted Australia to 239 for five at the close on the opening day after they won the toss.

Australia, who have a winning 2-0 lead in the series, took advantage of Sri Lanka dropping three relatively simple catches on a day seemingly lacking the intensity of their earlier tour games.

After ball-tampering and "chucking" controversies for Sri Lanka and heated exchanges between some of their players and a number of Australians in a World Series Cup match, there was a sedate air to proceedings.

Boon walked to the wicket in the opening over to a rousing reception from a small crowd after Michael Slater was dismissed by his first ball.

balls. He has struggled for form this season but appeared more agile and decisive in his footwork before being bowled off an inside edge by paceman Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Fast bowler Chaminda Vaas, who inflicted the early damage by removing Slater with the second ball of the match, also sent back captain



S WAUGH ... 70 n.o.

Mark Taylor for 21 before returning late in the day to dismiss Ricky Ponting for six.

The left-arm Vaas, who struggled at first to adapt to Australian conditions, bowled superbly to finish with figures of three for 56 from 26 overs.

Mark and Steve Waugh, who was dropped on 37, put on 85 for the fourth wicket.

Wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana was the chief culprit for the missed chances, twice failing to hold his side's glances. Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, no-balled for throwing in two previous tour games, was again omitted by Sri Lanka.

Scoreboard on the first day of the third and final Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings Taylor c Kaluwitharana b Vaas 21 Slater c Kaluwitharana b Vaas 0 Boon b Pushpakumara 43 M Waugh c Pushpakumara b Wickremasinghe 71 S Waugh not out Ponting c Kaluwitharana b Vaas 6 Healy not out 21 Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-1, nb-1) 7 Total: (five wickets) 239

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-36; 3-96; 4-181; 5-196.

To bat: Reiffel, Warne, McDermott, McGrath.

**Bowling:** (to date): O M R W Vaas 26 8 56 3 Pushpakumara 21 4 72 1 Wickremasinghe 23 4 57 1 Dharmasena 10 1 31 0 Jayasuriya 4 1 11 0 Hathurusinghe 2 0 7 0

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Azad Boys Club, Nirman Eleven and Nawabganj Sporting Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches on Thursday.

Azad Boys earned a 54-run victory over Young Pegasus 'B' at the Dhanmondi Club ground while Nirman Eleven defeated Kakrail Boys Club by 41 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

In the day's other match at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Nawabganj beat Rayer Bazar Sporting Club by 23 runs.

BRIEF SCORE

**AZAD BOYS CLUB**