

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the oldest sport in the world is calculated to be Bowling. Stone Age men undoubtedly indulged in this most ubiquitous of sports using shaped rocks. Since then every civilisation has embraced some version of the art, from Egypt to the Philippines to Central Europe. Primitive man may have also held rudimentary contests with his hunting equipment and signalled the beginning of Archery. However, the first real evidence of organised Archery is found in ancient sport.

From the ritual of crop planting emerged some five thousand years ago contests involving bats. The Greek god of agriculture, Osiris, would have his image placed on a cart and this would be pushed towards the appropriate temple. A battery of priests standing outside the sacred area would try to beat back the god's bearers with sticks, and from this ceremonial splitting of heads it is postulated that all Egypt's ball games descended including a rudimentary recognisable version of hockey.

Come to think of it, we are not far behind our ancestors. We still do a lot of stone throwing. And head splitting? Well, some of us are world beaters at that.

SPORTS TALK



Graeme Pollock
(Former South African cricket great)

"South African sportsmen are always determined. The current batting side is not greatly talented but they've got useful cricketers though nobody really stands out as being a brilliant player. They're determined and are an exceptional fielding side, and fielding has been their strength - it what has a big difference."

On the secret of South Africa's success.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-35
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. April 26, 1996)

1. Who won the Pepsi Cup at Sharjah in 1996?	Pakistan	India	South Africa
2. Bayern—	Hochs	Munich	Fuss
3. Which of these is most modern?	Football	Cricket	Basketball
4. The swimming event combining all strokes is	Medley	Freestyle	Composite
5. A healthy diet means more	Ice-cream	Sweets	Fats

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

One small step for Pernel

MARIGOT, St. Martin, Apr 19: Pernel Whitaker, whom many consider the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, seas challenger Wilfredo Rivera as a "stepping stone" toward a unifying bout, but the undefeated Puerto Rican has other ideas, reports AP.

Whitaker, the World Boxing Council welterweight champion, will put his belt on the line against Rivera on Friday night in the most unlikely of stages — a makeshift 1,000-seat arena under a tarpaulin on St. Martin, which was devastated by Hurricane Luis in September.

St. Martin will be hosting its first-ever title bout, which will be fought under the same rules used in New Jersey since New Jersey Boxing Commissioner Larry Hazzard will preside the events. The fight will be aired live on Home Box Office.

Also on the card is World Boxing Association welterweight champ Ike Quartey, who takes unranked American contender Vin Phillips.

To well-versed fight experts, the card will be a preview to a unification bout between Whitaker and Quartey sometime this summer. But Rivera — the top-ranked contender in the WBC — says they are in for a big surprise.

S Africa's 'desert storm'



SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 19: South Africa swept aside India by 38 runs in the Pepsi Cup final here today to cap a momentous run in their maiden appearance at cricket's famous desert venue, reports AFP.

Continuing the form that has given them an undefeated record in the double-leg league of the three-nation event also involving Pakistan, the South Africans rode on a century by opener Gary Kirsten to pile up 287 for five.

They then put in a classy fielding display to run out four top order batsmen — including Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin and star batsman Sachin Tendulkar — to leave their rivals stranded at 249 for nine.

The South Africans earned 30,000 dollars for their effort that partially compensated for their World Cup disappointment where they were beaten in the quarter-finals by the West Indies after romping through the league phase with five straight wins.

"It's nice to win a tournament in our first appearance at Sharjah," Cronje said. "The mistake of being a bit complacent in the World Cup was learnt well."

"We came here to win after not going the full distance in the World Cup. I am delighted at the team's performance," the South African skipper said.

Azharuddin paid handsome tribute to his rivals, saying they were deserving winners.

"They (the South Africans) were the best team on view here. Both the Indian and Pakistani teams can learn a lot from their dedication towards the job at hand."

South Africa's total revolved around Kirsten's patient unbeaten 115, his second century against the Indians in six days following the 106 in the league last Sunday.

Kirsten carried his bat through the innings after South Africa, electing to bat, were reeling at 20 for two by the sixth over.

Brian McMillan smashed three sixes, two of which landed outside the Sharjah Cricket Stadium — in a spectacular 37 off 25 balls as the South Africans plundered 59 runs in the last seven overs.

Indian openers Tendulkar and Vikram Rathore gave their team a flying start by putting on 59 for the first wicket by the 13th over.

Craig Matthews, coming on after six overs from Fanie de Villiers, broke the stand in the sixth delivery when Rathore edged an outswinger to wicketkeeper Dave Richardson. The batsman made 23.

Anil Kumble, promoted to number three in a pinch-hitter's role, made 10 before he was unluckily run out as Matthews deflected a shot from Tendulkar into the non-striker's wicket with Kumble out of his crease.

The 22-year-old Tendulkar, already a veteran of 115 one-dayers, crossed the 4,000-run mark and raced to 57 off 71 balls when the South Africans earned another lucky reprieve in the 24th over to make it 112 for three.

Navjot Sidhu turned his back on a sharp single to leave Tendulkar stranded at the other end as Pollock easily broke the stumps at the non-striker's end.

Sidhu himself left four overs later, playing a lazy cut in Hansie Cronje's first over to give Matthews an easy catch at point.

Sanjay Manjrekar (41) and Azharuddin (39) put on 74 for the fifth wicket before both were run out, shattering hopes of some 15,000 vocal Indian supporters who crowded the stadium.

Earlier, South Africa lost Andrew Hudson in Javagal

previous best from 26 one-day matches was 35, slammed live boundaries and two sixes before holding out to the mid-wicket boundary against left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju.

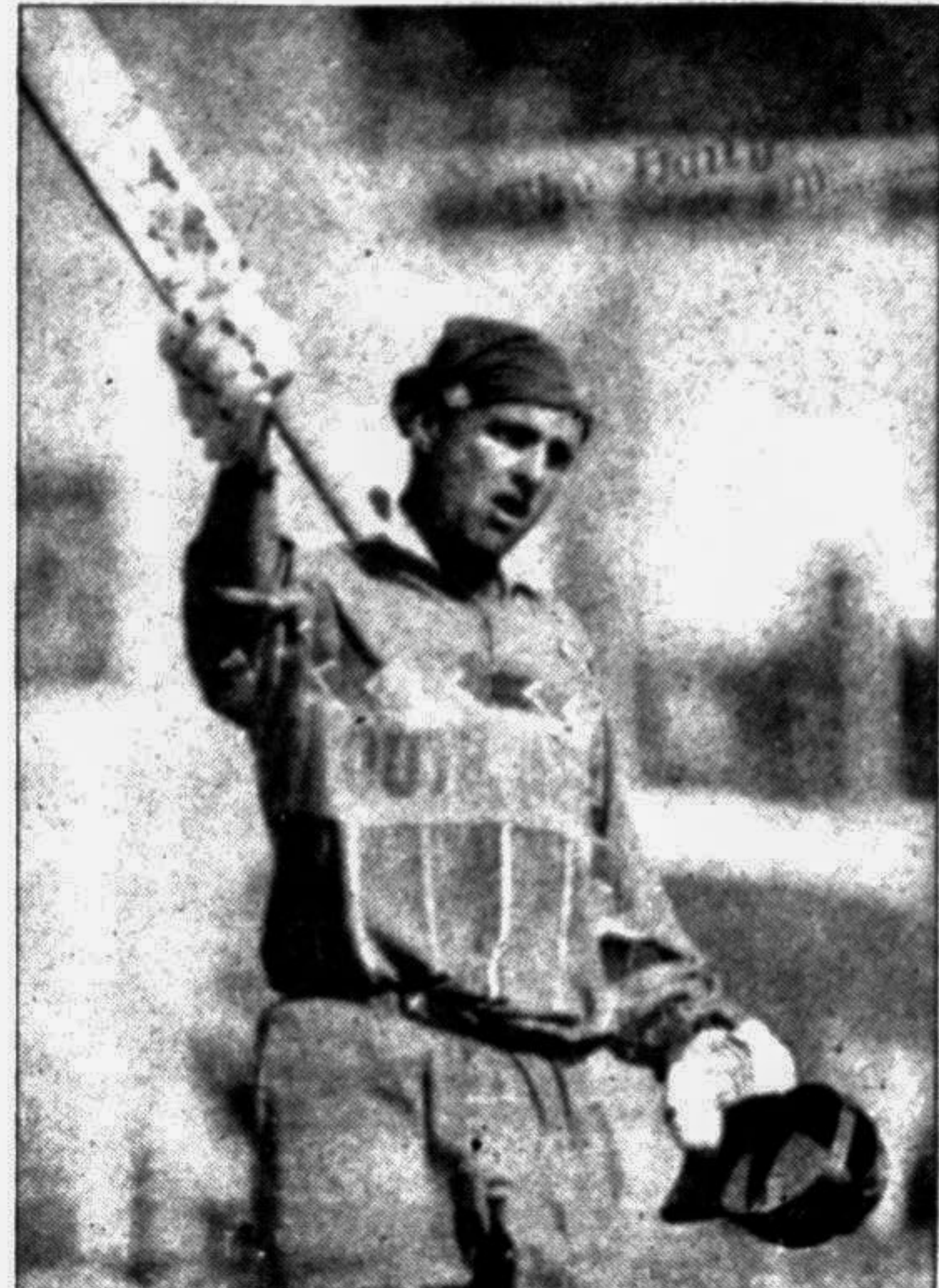
Leg-spinner Kumble removed Cronje for 25 and Derek Crookes for 26, but McMillan stepped in at that stage to smash the tiring attack.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Pepsi Cup limited overs cricket final between South Africa and India at Sharjah on Friday.

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten not out	115
A Hudson c Azharuddin b Srinath	0
D Cullinan b Prasad	2
P Symcox c Jadeja b Raju	61
H Cronje c Rathore b Kumble	25
D Crookes c Rathore b Kumble	26
B McMillan not out	37



GARY KIRSTEN... the prolific S African opener

Srinath's first over and Daryll Cullinan in the sixth off Venkatesh Prasad to slide to 20 for two.

Pinch-hitter Pat Symcox, who made a career-best 61 off 49 balls, and Kirsten launched into the Indian bowling to re-

Extras (lb-5, w-16)
Total (five wickets - 50 overs) 287
Fall of wickets: 1-5: 2-20; 3-115: 4-175: 5-227
Did not bat: S. Pollock, D. Richardson, F. de Villiers, C. Matthews

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Srinath	10	1	51	1
Prasad	10	0	50	1
Tendulkar	7	0	51	0
Kumble	10	0	42	2
Raju	9	0	70	1
Jadeja	4	0	18	0

INDIA

V Rathore c Richardson b Matthews	23
S Tendulkar run out	57
A Kumble run out	10
N Sidhu c Matthews b Cronje	26
S Manjrekar run out	41
M Azharuddin run out	39
A Jadeja c Cullinan b McMillan	2
J Srinath c Richardson b De Villiers	10
N Manjra c and b Pollock	23
V Prasad not out	5
V Raju not out	5
Extras (lb-10, w-1 nb-2)	13
Total (9 wickets)	249

Fall of wickets: 1-59: 2-78; 3-112: 4-130: 5-204: 6-208; 7-209: 8-243: 9-249

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
De Villiers	10	0	42	1
Pollock	10	0	57	1
McMillan	10	0	48	1
Matthews	10	1	46	1
Symcox	6	0	23	0
Cronje	4	0	23	1

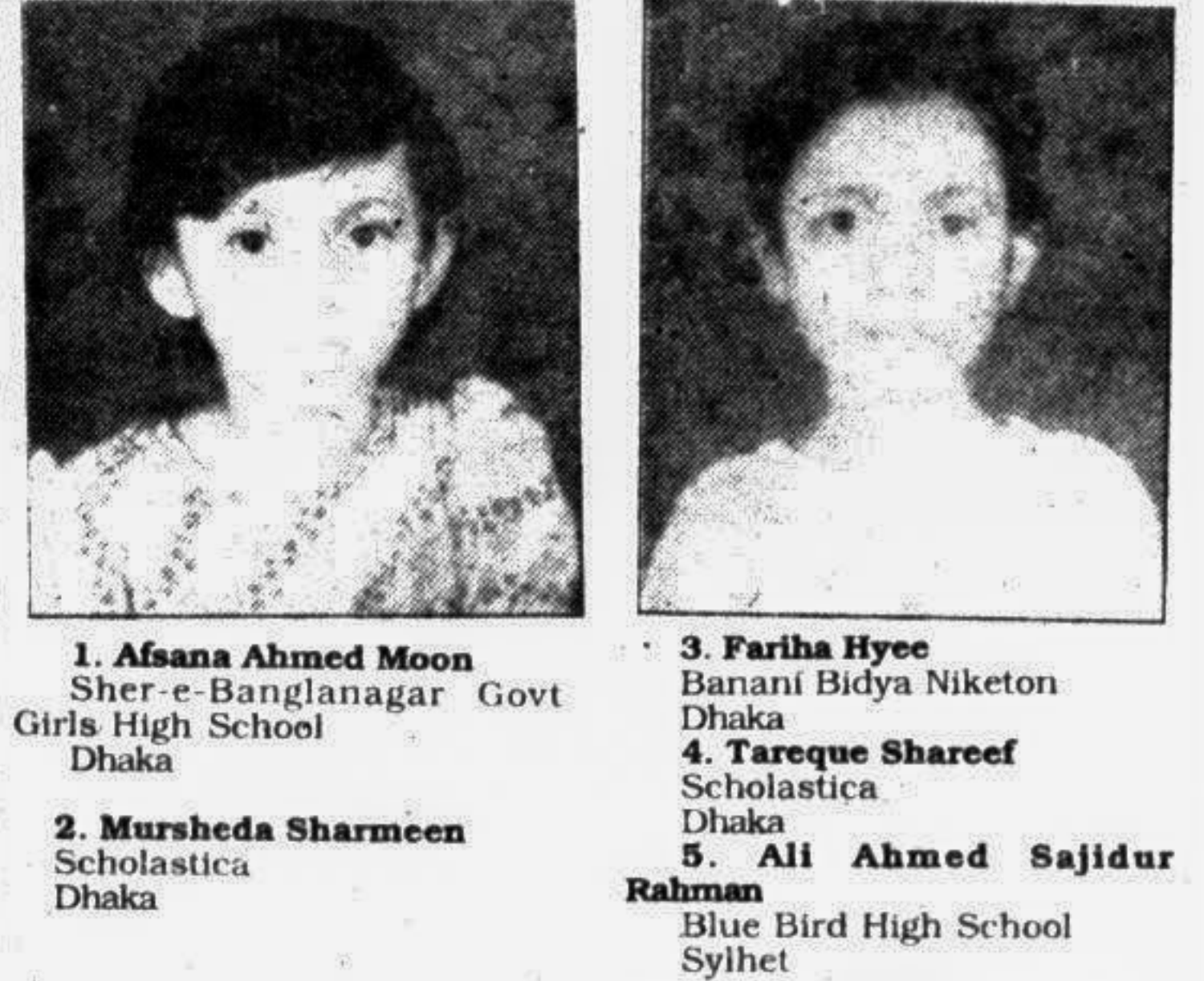
Extras: 50
Result: South Africa won by 38 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Gary Kirsten.
Man-of-the-tournament: Gary Kirsten.

TENDULKAR... 4000 ODI runs

trive the situation with a run-a-ball stand of 95 for the third wicket.

The burly Symcox, whose

WHIZZ KID-33 WINNERS



1. Afsana Ahmed Moon
Sher-e-Banglanagar Govt Girls High School
Dhaka
2. Mursheda Sharmeen
Scholastica
Dhaka
3. Fariha Hyece
Banani Bidya Niketon
Dhaka
4. Tareque Shareef
Scholastica
Dhaka
5. Ali Ahmed Sajidur Rahman
Blue Bird High School
Sylhet
6. Samira Ahmed
(Whizz Kid-32 winner)
Green Herald Int'l
Dhaka

WHIZZ KID-34 winners

1. Faisal Islam
St Joseph School
Dhaka
2. Md Shihabuddin
Dhamondhi Govt Boys' High School
Dhaka
3. Quazi Sifit Bushra
Agrani School
Dhaka
4. Razin Mostafiz Omi
South Breeze School
Dhaka
5. Arunabha Bhattacharya
Dhamondhi Tutorial
Dhaka

Nat'l youth cricket results

Sports Reporter

Chandpur DSA moved up in the Dhaka zonal qualifying round of the 16th national youth cricket championship after beating Sherpur DSA by 17 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The 50-overs match was reduced to 38 overs because of rains the previous night.

Put in to bat in a low-scoring affair, Chandpur were all out for 121 in 36.5 overs. Opener Rajan and middle-order bat Ripon each scored 16 runs for Chandpur.

Sherpur's Shahriar, Monir and Romel captured two wickets each.

In reply, Sherpur were restricted to 104 for seven in 38 overs with Sumon scoring highest 29 runs.

Protim and Mithu grabbed two wickets each for the winners.

In another match on Friday at the Dinajpur Stadium, Chapinawabganj DSA recorded a convincing nine-wicket victory over Nilphamari DSA.

Quader of Chapinawabganj took five wickets conceding only 14 runs in the morning as Nilphamari were bundled out for only 60 in 24.5 overs.

In reply the winners reached home in only 7.4 overs with nine wickets in their hand. Obaid scored highest 28 (n.o.) for Chapinawabganj.

In Jhenidah, Barisal DSA clinched a 94-run win over Rajshahi DSA.

Electing to bat first, Barisal were all out for 172 in 44 overs and dismissed their counterparts later in the afternoon for 78 in 24.1 overs.

In the days remaining match at the Barisal Stadium, Khulna DSA posted a six-wicket victory over Patuakhali DSA.

Chasing Patuakhali's 135 in 45 overs, Khulna reached the winning mark in the 27th over losing four wickets with Selim and Babu scoring 37 and 28 respectively.

Biman nat'l football

Sports Reporter

Chittagong DSA trounced Cox's Bazar DSA 9-0 at the Chandpur Stadium as the qualifying rounds of the Biman national under-14 football championship began at eight zonal venues yesterday.

Striker Hasan scored five goals while Salek added the other four goals to the Chittagong account. The winners will now meet Moulavibazar DSA tomorrow in the zonal semifinal at the same venue.

In the Manikganj zone, Madaripur DSA beat Faridpur DSA by a solitary goal. Dipak DSA scored the all-important winner in the 65th minute.

In Moulavibazar zone, Brahmanbaria DSA eliminated Comilla DSA 3-2.

Mamun, Russel and Nizamuddin scored one goal apiece for Brahmanbaria while Sohail and Shamsul reduced the margin for Comilla.

In Jessore, Jhenidah DSA recorded a 2-0 win over Chittagong DSA.

Mihir and Shanu scored once each for the winners.

In Tangail, Netrokona DSA handed Mymensingh DSA a 3-0 defeat.

Masudul Alam netted twice in the 17th and 47th minutes while Ripon added the other goal in the 33rd minute to the Netrokona account.

In the day's remaining encounter held at the Khulna Stadium, Bagerhat DSA outplayed Patuakhali DSA 2-0.

Scherbo takes a tumble

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Apr 19: Vitaly Scherbo, the 1992 Olympic all-around and pommel horse gold medalist, made an uncharacteristic slip at the individual event World Gymnastics Championships but that did not unnerve the champion from Belarus, reports Reuter.

After winning the floor exercise semifinals, Scherbo fell off the pommel horse during a relatively easy move. But Scherbo bounced back to make the finals in his three remaining events.

"I forgot about the fall. I had three more apparatus after that," he said. "I'm not the kind of gymnast to let that upset me."

Scherbo's mistake on the pommel seemed to have a domino effect. The women's meet was running simultaneously with the men's, and just seconds after Scherbo remounted the horse, highly regarded Russian Dina Korchikova fell off uneven bars on a release move. Then two more competitors fell off the pommel.

After the chaos subsided, gold medal favourite Gil Su Pae of North Korea won the pommel semifinals with 9.812, followed by Li Donghua of Switzerland, the defending world champion, with 9.787 and Russian Alexei Nemov at 9.70.

Uneven bars semifinals were taken by defending champion Svetlana Khorkina of Russia with 9.825. She was just ahead of American Dominique Dawes, who scored 9.80, and Bystrova of Russia, Elena Piskun, third at 9.762.

Men's high bar semifinals also featured several falls, one of them by the third-highest qualifier in preliminaries, Russian Alexei Voropaev.

Defending world champion Andreas Wecker of Germany might as well have fallen, as the major break in his routing cost him five-tenths of a point and a spot in finals.

Nirman schools results

Sports Reporter

Nawabpur Govt High School, Scholastica School, Motijheel Govt High School, Habibullah Adarsha High School and Govt Laboratory High School won their respective Dhaka zonal qualifying round matches of the 14th Nirman schools cricket tournament on Friday.

At the Residential Model School ground (east), Nawabpur Govt High School moved into the Group A final beating Rahmatullah Model High School by 108 runs.

Electing to bat first, Nawabpur collected 216 for eight in the stipulated 35 overs, thanks to Mr. Sundries who contributed highest 55 runs. Skipper Romel scored 41 off only 28 balls while Roni and Anit added 34 and 27 respectively to Nawabpur account.

Rahmatullah High School's Mohammad Ali grabbed four wickets conceding 41 in his allotted seven overs.

In reply, Rahmatullah High School succumbed in 23.2 overs scoring exactly half (108) of their counterparts.

Romel, who scored 41 runs in the first session, also shone with the ball as he captured four wickets for 24 runs bowling only 4.2 overs.

In another Group A encounter at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Scholastica handed Hammadia High School a humiliating 232-run defeat and moved into the group semifinal.

With two brilliant unbeaten centuries coming from the bats of opener Shaker Chowdhury (125 n.o.) and one down Riddwan Hasan (124 n.o.), Scholastica piled up a huge 326 for one in 35 overs after they won the toss.

In his 95-ball inning, Shaker fired four over-boundaries and eleven fours while Riddwan was more aggressive with his bat hitting 19 boundaries in his 86-ball stay.

In reply, Hammadia were bundled out in 24.5 overs with only 94 to their account.

Scholastica bowlers Nay-eem, Rahim, Imran and Ryan each bagged two wickets.

In Group B, Motijheel Govt High School reached the semis with a six-wicket victory over Shahid Abu Taleb High School at the Residential Model School ground (west).

Chasing a paltry 125 in 35 overs, Motijheel sailed in 23.5 overs losing four wickets.

Opener Mridul scored highest 36 for the winners.

Earlier, put in to bat, Shahid Abu Taleb School were all out for 125 in 26.5 overs with middle-order bat Ashrafur scoring highest 44 runs off 56 balls.

Motijheel's Ejaz grabbed three wickets for 21 runs while Arman and Shakil captured two wickets apiece.

At the City Club ground, Mirpur, Nawab Habibullah Adarsha High School defeated Manarat School by 84 runs to qualify for the group H semis.

Put into bat, Nawab Habibullah School scored 199 for seven in 35 overs. Opener Azad (43) and middle-order bat Jibran (35) were the leading scorers for them.

In reply, Manarat were all out in 27.2 overs having only 115 to their account.

Jibran took five Manarat wickets conceding 25 runs in seven overs while Raihan grabbed three wickets for the winners.

In the other group H match at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Govt Laboratory High School defeated Muradpur High School by three wickets for a quarter final berth.

Put in to bat, Muradpur were restricted to 147 for nine in their allotted 35 overs with Mr Sundries again contributing highest 55 runs.

In reply, Govt Laboratory boys took 30.1 overs to reach their target losing seven wickets. This time Mr Sundries added 58 runs to the Govt Laboratory account.



Scene from yesterday's qualifying round matches of the Dhaka metropolis chess league at the NSC chess room.

Illy snubs Symonds again

LONDON, Apr 19: Anglo-Aussie Andrew Symonds' bid to become an England Test star met with a frosty response from chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth on Thursday, reports AFP.

"I know how I felt last year and so far my feelings have not changed," said Illingworth.

Illingworth's feelings last year about Symonds were not expressed in the warmest of language.

In September, the England-born but Australian-raised 20-year-old rejected a change to play for England A and chose instead to return 'home' to Queensland. "There won't be any second chance for him," said Illingworth at the time.

But now Symonds has accepted a new three-year contract with Gloucestershire, with whom he scored 1,438 runs and hit a record 20 sixes against a Morgan last season and has made himself available for England.

The contract includes a stringent clause insisted upon by the Test and County Cricket Board and cricketers' association that he will be available for Test matches if selected.

Illingworth, just back from a holiday in Spain and with a new panel of selectors to meet this weekend, will want to study Symonds' statements before committing himself fully.

But his initial reaction confirmed that the youngster will need to convince English cricket about the sincerity of his motives.

The issue could cause an early split among England's selectors. David Graveney has been sympathetic in the past towards Symonds' dual qualification dilemma, while Graham Gooch was critical last year of players appearing to fly flags of convenience.

Symonds played for Queensland but failed to win a place in the Australian World Cup team and that proved a vital factor in his decision to sign the new Gloucestershire deal.

Should he end up playing for England, Symonds would join Craig White, Martin McCague and Jason Gallian as

V'ball Olympic qualifiers

TOKYO, Apr 19: South Korea coasted to a 3-1 victory over Australia on Friday and kept their hopes for the Atlanta Olympic Games alive at the men's volleyball Asian qualifying round, reports AFP.

The Koreans, who suffered a humiliating straight-sets defeat to Japan on their home ground last weekend, scored a 7-15, 15-13, 15-5, 15-5 victory to tie their record with Japan for an identical three wins against one defeat.

It was the Japanese team's turn to fall on their home ground on Friday, as they crashed to China 12-15, 10-15, 12-15, despite vociferous crowd support at the National Yoyogi Gymnasium.

The Chinese now stand with a 2-2 win-loss record in the four-team round robin, ahead of Australia at 0-4.

WHIZZ KID-34 correct answers

1. Sir Richard --
Ans: Hadlee
2. The Atlanta Olympics begin from
Ans: July 19.
3. Who has taken more Test wickets?
Ans: Kapil Dev
4. Dhaka football is controlled by
Ans: DMFA
5. Aussie Rules Football resembles
Ans: Rugby

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

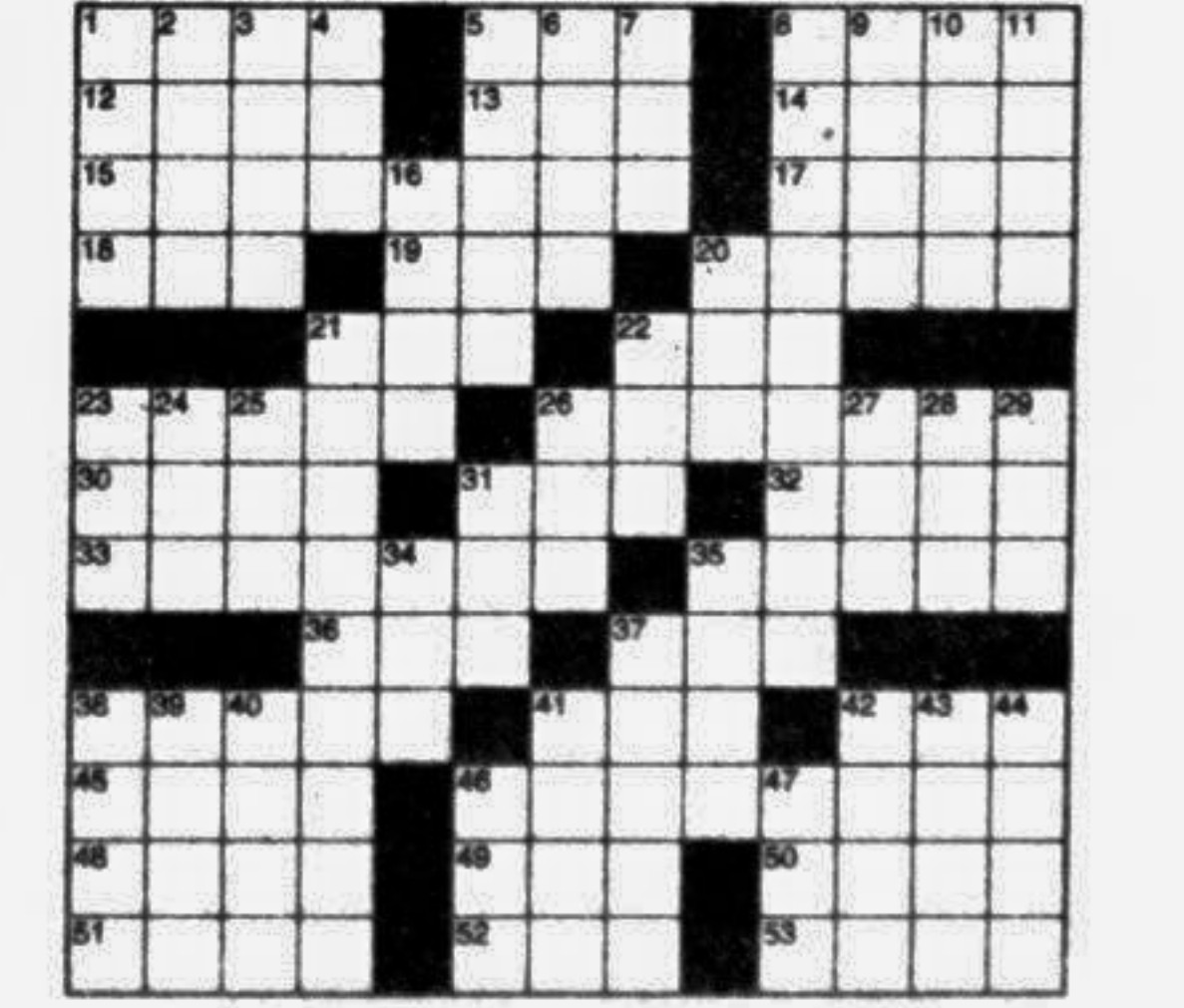
1 Paddock
5 Hoover's org.
8 Made like the pigeons
12 "East of Eden"
13 Have a bug
14 Calorie
15 Benevolence
17 Pound of verse
18 Additionally
19 Clumsy
20 Humdinger
21 Give it a whirl
22 A question of manners
23 Word before boy or cruiser
26 Pinocchio's cousin
30 Last writer?
31 Glimpse
32 Hide in the shadows
33 "Tom - Two Lovers" (song)
35 Wood-

DOWN

1 The "Forty-"
2 Free agent?
3 Cross
4 Tackle's teammate
5 With 42 down, incredible
6 Debraud
7 "say!"
8 1993
9 Judy's daughter
10 Beige
11 "Repeat that, please!"
12 Underlabbly
13 Absolute
14 Dickens
15 Caution
16 Dickens
17 Solution Time: 27 mins.

ALP HILL DOWN

ROOF ABO UNDO
MOOR YOW COED
STREW RIMY
DUG OUBASIA
MARA GED GWOE
AYON JAR DROP
RONDO MEERNE
SWEEPES DOI
TAULI ACTION
BIAIP
ACHE ERA YETI
REEL BAX MOL



CRYPTOCLIP

NTTO JDOLFXPO VG
JTVXJ ETO YPUN ETO
YVG OPGFPLVXJ YDVOUVXP.
Yesterday's Cryptoclip: TAILORS WERE KNOWN TO SLACK OFF ON OCCASION.

Today's Cryptoclip clue: I equals G

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