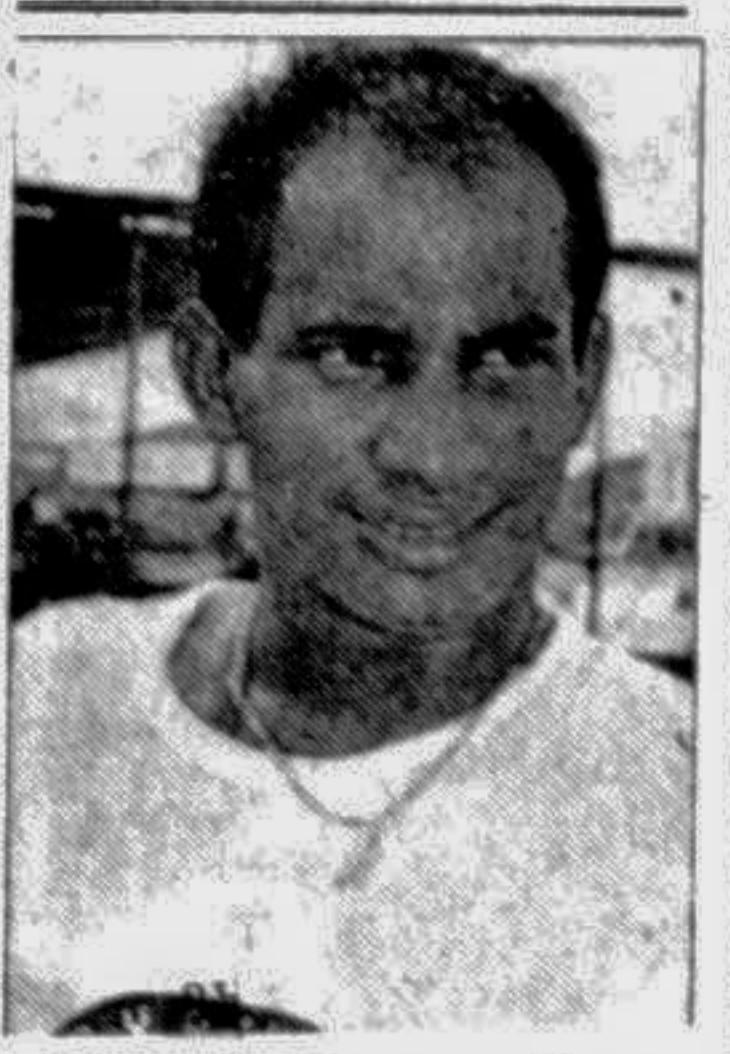


Sport

Column One

SPORTS TALK

**Sanath Jayasuriya**
(Sri Lanka's dashing opening batsman)

"I never knew of all the records until I passed them. I was timing the ball well. It was my best inning in one-dayers."

After his world record 48-ball 100 against Pakistan in the Singer Cup in Singapore.

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT for the last almost 440 years a diving competition has been held every summer at the Stari Most. This is the "old bridge" spanning Neretva River in Mostar. That's right! It is Stari Most which has bestowed upon this Southwestern town of Herzegovina its name.

Mostar has endured more than its share of war casualties. Among them Stari Most, a splendid stone structure which was destroyed by Croat shelling in November, 1993.

From 1556 to 1992, the annual diving meet went uninterrupted. Diving from atop the 65 feet high bridge onto Neretva's cool olive water has been a "test of courage" with young boys beginning training at age seven. The bitter was put an end to all that. Now, you know why most Professors hate wars.

However, old habits die hard. On July 30, 1994, during cease-fire in the divided city, Muslims in East Mostar set up a diving platform near the remains of the old bridge. And, they held a competition. Fifteen thousand spectators turned up but the Croats stayed away.

Renewed bombing wiped out the event and attempts to resurrect the rite of passage to manhood has since been discontinued.

Sports**WHIZZ KID**

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition - 36
✓ Tick the Correct Answer(Competition closes 8 p.m.
May 10, 1996)

1	The 2002 World Cup football will be held in
	South Korea Japan Not yet decided
2	If FIDE is for chess, FINA is for
	Billiards Snooker Swimming
3	Teen star Jennifer Capriati is
	Swedish American Dutch
4	The fastest one-day hundred by Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya is
	46 balls 47 balls 48 balls
5	The man of the series in Pepsi Cup was
	Cullinan Kirsten Symcox

Name: _____

Class: _____ Roll No: _____

School Address: _____

Phone: (if any) _____

Four-nation ODI tourney in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 7: Pakistan will stage a four-nation one-day cricket competition featuring world champions Sri Lanka, South Africa and West Indies next year to celebrate its golden jubilee celebrations, a government spokesman said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Aussie coach in an abyss

SYDNEY, May 7: Australian swim coach Forbes Carlile, a trenchant critic of China's drug-tainted swim programme, says the Chinese will be "rubbing their hands in glee" over news that Australian world record holder Samantha Riley had tested positive to a banned drug, reports AFP.

M'singh crush Meherpur

Sports Reporter

Mymensingh, Kushtia, BUET and Faridpur moved into the next round of the 22nd national cricket championship after winning their respective zonal opening matches in different venues across the country yesterday.

On the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Mymensingh recorded a six-wicket win over Meherpur in Zone F. Put into bat first, Meherpur were all out for 149 in 43.5 overs with middle orders Khasru and Milan scoring 41 and 40 respectively.

In reply, Mymensingh reached their target in 36.2 overs losing four wickets. Middle-order Nasim Ahmed scored highest 44 not out while Moniruzzaman and Harun Rashid Litor added 26 and 21 respectively for the winners, who will take on Gazipur in the zonal semifinal at the same venue on May 10.

Away in Barisal, Kushtia defeated Jhenidah by the barest of margins — one wicket in

Zone E engagement. Sent into bat, Jhenidah were restricted to 200 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs with Robin scoring highest 43. Khokon and Natun with 26 and 25 respectively were the other notable run-getters for the eventual losers.

In reply, Kushtia took exactly 45 overs to post the victory 214 with only one wicket in hand. Tito hammered 45 followed by Jewel and Cornel, who contributed 42 and 35 respectively.

Jhenidah's Robin captured four wickets while Natun and Ujjal took two wickets apiece.

Kushtia will play in the first semifinal tomorrow against Narail who earned a first round bye against Madaripur on Monday.

In Zone C encounter, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) posted a 22-run win over Moulvibazar at the Comilla Stadium.

Electing to bat first, BUET could muster 172 for six before they exhausted their quota of 45 overs. Noman scored

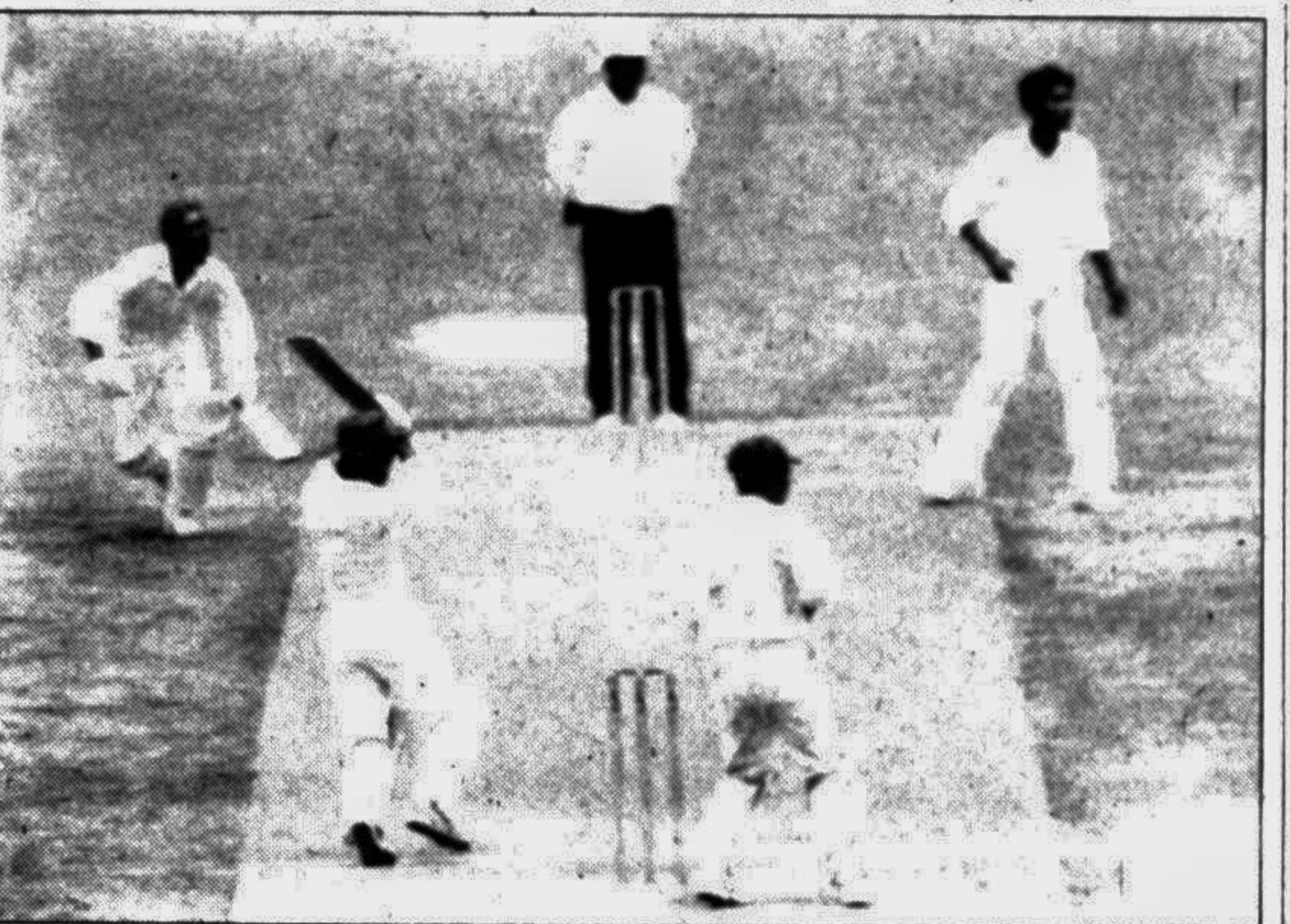
highest 46 followed by Rahis (42) and Sanwar (23).

In reply, Moulvibazar were booked for 150 in 33 overs with Zim hammering highest 44.

Noman captured two wickets for BUET, who in reply reached home losing four wickets and more than 15 overs to spare with Biplob hammering highest 77 for the winners.

Faridpur will now face Comilla in the semifinal of Zone D tomorrow at the same venue. Earlier on Monday, Comilla handed Gopalganj a crushing nine-wicket defeat in their opening match.

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Narayanganj's Shyamol square drives during a national youth championship encounter against Mymensingh at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Azharuddin finds his feet

LONDON, May 7: Mohammad Azharuddin picked himself off the floor to score a sparkling century as India cruised to their second easy victory in as many days at the start of their England tour on Monday, reports AFP.

"It was very painful, the worst pain I've known," said Azharuddin, who damaged his shoulder, chest and leg when clattering into team-mate Arnold.

Perhaps most pleasing for India, though, was the equally encouraging form of new opener Virender Rathore, who played a handful of one-day internationals during the recent Sharjah tournament.

The tourists have high hopes for him this summer and his confident run-a-ball innings of 103 here was studious with 10 fours and a six.

Even without the resting Sachin Tendulkar, who score a brilliant century at Arundel, India were able to total a mighty 290 for four from their 50 overs — a target that proved too tall for the amateurs.

The winners will now meet Kuluna DSA, who ousted defending champions BKSP in the first semifinal on Monday, in the final showdown at the same venue tomorrow.

Electing to use the wicket in the morning, Narayanganj scored a fighting 198 (all out) in the stipulated 45 overs with middle-order Sajjad Hossain Munna hammering highest 51 runs off 74 balls. Shahabuddin (27), Sajal (22) and Mridul (20) were the other leading scorers for Narayanganj.

Mymensingh's Masud Rana captured three wickets for 41 runs while Imran Ahmed took two for 18 runs.

In reply, Mymensingh made a shaky start losing both openers for 14 runs. They were finally booked for 149 in 39.1 overs with Afroz Khan scoring highest 22.

Sohel Hossain Pappu was the most successful Narayanganj bowler with three for 37. He was ably supported by Topu and Mehbuba who captured two wickets each.

The thought of playing England, against whom he has scored six of his 14 Test centuries, is one he is relishing.

"I'm really looking forward to this tour," he said.

His innings started with a



MD AZHARUDDIN ... 119

Venkatesh Prasad during catching practice on Saturday.

Azharuddin was forced to sit out India's opening match at Arundel, which ended in a thumping nine-wicket victory over Aqua Marine in their official cricket league Group B opener at the City Club ground yesterday.

The portly left-hander in his whirlwind inning clouted four massive sixes and seven savage hits across the rope as Biman, chasing only 93 in 45 overs, reached home in only 14.1 overs for the loss of three wickets.

Earlier, put into bat, Aqua Marine were skittled out for a paltry 92 in 32.1 overs with Moni scoring highest 29.

Biman's national left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman was the most successful bowler capturing three wickets for 23 runs from his 8 overs while Babu, off-spinner Mona and Shaheen grabbed two wickets apiece.

"It's still painful but I'm happy with the way I batted," said the skipper, who faced only 113 deliveries.

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After his world record 48-ball 100 against Pakistan in the Singer Cup in Singapore.

Abdul Hamid's egg first, or the hen?

Sports Reporter

Long-standing Radio sports commentator, Abdul Hamid, has embarked on trying to confuse the nation.

Signing a press release yesterday as secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), Abdul Hamid announced that "In the absence of any definite date regarding elections (BOA and sports bodies), it will not be possible for me to carry out my responsibility."

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