

Column One

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

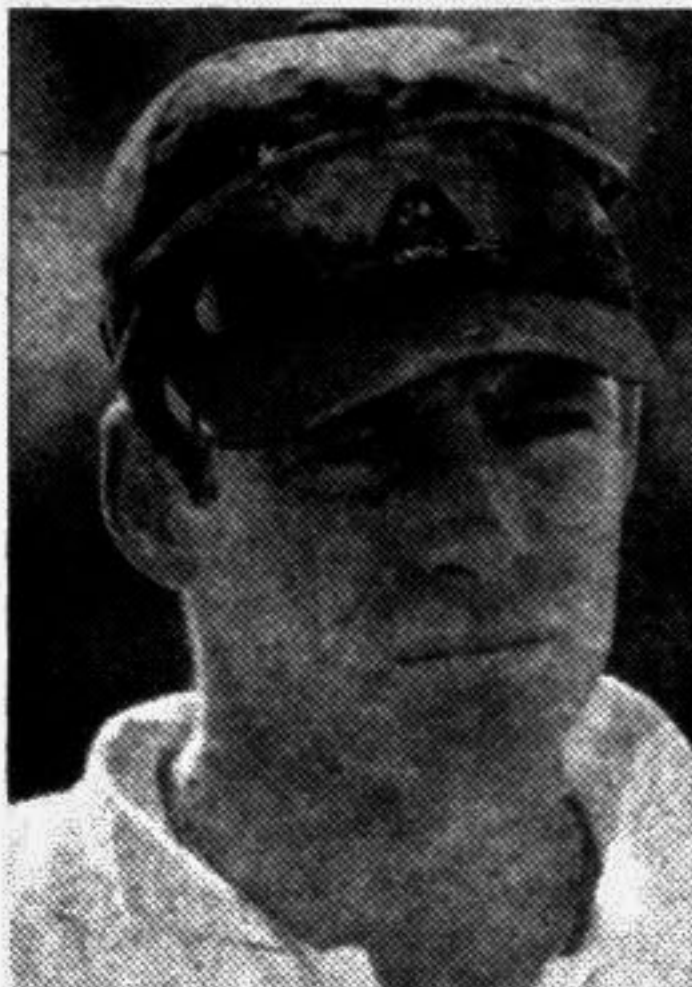
Sports WHIZZ KID competition-40

Tick the Correct Answers (Competition closes: 8 p.m. June 7, 1996)

- 1. Grand Master Gata Ramsky is a Russian American Swedish
2. Indian batting genius Sachin Tendulkar once played county cricket for Somerset Nottinghamshire Yorkshire
3. Who won 100m women's hurdles in the 24th national athletics championship? Piroza Rahman Lovely
4. In the 14th Nirman schools cricket championship final Scholastica beat Nasirabad Govt High by 23 runs 7 wickets 8 wickets
5. In the 1996 Euro football championship, Bulgaria will be coached by Pisco Alkazar Anastro

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

SPORTS TALK



Danny Morrison (New Zealand's ace fast bowler)

You got to smile. My mother always told me to control the emotions. It helps you in giving your best, makes you work hard and makes you hungry for results.

WHIZZ KID-39 winners

- 1. Faisal Islam St. Joseph High School Dhaka
2. Parvez Hossain St. Joseph High School Dhaka
3. Sara Nowreen Engineering University School, Dhaka

WHIZZ KID-39 correct answers

- 1. Young tennis star Martina Hingis is Swiss
2. Who won the men's 200m sprint gold in the 24th national athletics championship?
3. Chittagong won the national cricket championship for the
4. How many teams are participating in the final round of the Nirman schools cricket final?
5. The current Olympic men's singles tennis champion is Rosset

Schools h'ball

Bangladesh Ansars and VDP school and Ahmed Bhawani Academy won their respective matches in the school boys handball tournament yesterday, reports BSS.

Black belt test

The International Kyokushin Karate Organisation, Bangladesh Branch will organise a black belt test on June 13 at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium, says a press release.



Action from yesterday's charity football match between Mohammedan Sporting and Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Dhaka Stadium. The match was tied 1-1. —Star photo

MSC, Muktis share honour



In front of nearly 15,000 spectators at the big bowl, who saw a goalless first half, Muktiyoddha striker Rakib Hossain put his side ahead 15 minutes into the second half while ace striker Shahidul Ahmed Ranjan levelled the margin for Mohammedans, 14 minutes later.

Sports Reporter

spoiled the first opportunity in the third minute of the play when his cross from the right flank went out hitting the right side post. Sabbir, whose right knee injury cost him dearly could have easily scored from the top of the box in the 21st minute. But Muktiyoddha keeper Pannu saved his side fisting the ball away the ball for a corner. After sustaining the initial MSC thrust, Muktis gradually got into the groove in the late first half and launched some counter-attack through both the flanks. But that brought nothing positive for them due to a determined MSC custodian Pannu who thwarted all the Muktis' offensive with sheer confidence. After the goalless first half, both teams began the second half with all out game plans. And after 15 minutes Muktiyoddha got the result first through a right side move. It was substitute Gaus who originated the goal for the red colour outfit. After receiving a through from Maniun Joardar, Gaus took no time to penetrate from the right and placed a perfect cross to Mizan who passed the ball to Rakib standing in front of the post. And Rakib, seeing the ball a bit low, made a left side drive to send the ball home (1-0). The lead did not last long for the Muktis as MSC forward Ranjan equalised with an accurate placing shot from a Manik pass in the 29th minute of the second half (1-1). Earlier, Shamsul Haq, advisor for youth and sports, opened the match, organised by the Football Players Welfare Association to help the recent tornado victims of Tangail and Jamalpur districts. A total of taka 1,94,335 were earned yesterday from the ticket sale. TEAMS MOHAMMEDAN SC: Pannu, Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana, Parvez, Rupu, Manik, Arman, Sabbir (Roxy), Ranjan, Alfaz and Milan. MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD: Pannu, Shahjada (Gaus), Masood Rana, Moon, Barun, Maniun Joardar, Zakir, Tito, Rakib, Nakib and Mizan.

Pollock turns up heat

NORTHAMPTON, May 31: South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock was at the centre of stormy scenes on the opening day of county champions Warwickshire's visit to Northamptonshire on Thursday, reports AFP. Paceman Pollock was no-balled and warned by umpire Tony Clarkson for bowling two bouncers in an over at Mal Loe, and was later visibly annoyed when the same official turned down an appeal for a catch in the slips.

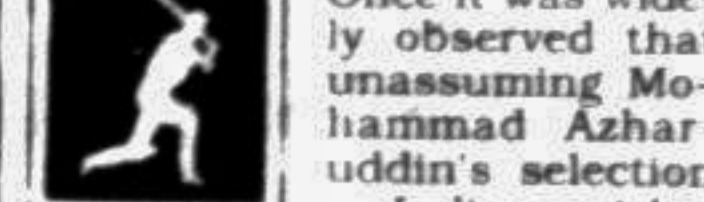
But the 22-year-old's aggression did bring him three prime wickets as Northants, put in by Warwickshire captain Dermot Reeve, were dismissed for 314 in 88 overs with the captain himself claiming five for 37. The controversy flared during Pollock's fiery and eventual post-lunch spell of seven overs in which he conceded as many boundaries, dismissed Loe (39) and top scorer Russell Warren (76) in the space of six balls, and also received his warning. And the temperature rose still further as Northants batsman David Capel, Reeve and wicketkeeper Keith Piper became embroiled in an altercation which Clarkson and his colleague Trevor Jesty stepped in to defuse. There was a bit of chat between the batsman and the fielding captain which the keeper tried to join, confirmed Jesty afterwards. "We called them together and told them to get on with the game. It was just a bit of hot air."

Nasser's timely remainder

CHELMSFORD, England, May 31: Nasser Hussain staked his claim for inclusion in England's Test squad to be announced at the weekend with a classy 85 in Essex's drawn game against India on Thursday, reports AFP. He shared the limelight with the touring team's opener Ajay Jadeja who hit nine fours and three sixes in a highly entertaining 87. Hussain, born in Madras but raised just outside London, produced his best form of the season, but it wasn't enough to give Essex the winning total of 275 required in 51 overs. India resumed at 81 for one with an overcast lead of 132, and a swashbuckling innings from Ajay Jadeja helped the tourists to a lead of 226 by lunch. Jadeja eventually went down when Peter Such took a brilliant catch off the bowling of veteran left-arm spinner John Childs. Childs, who finished with four for 99, also had Sanjay Manjrekar (48) and Sunil Joshi (0) caught out in the same over, leaving India at 175 for four at lunch. Soon after the break Rahul Dravid (6) and Sachin Tendulkar (1) fell cheaply, but Saurav Ganguly and Paras Mhambrey were unbeaten on 34 and 24 respectively before the tourists declared at 223 for 6. Tendulkar's fourth failure in three matches does not bode well for India, who play England in the First Test at Edgbaston June 6-10. Venkatesh Prasad made the early breakthrough trapping Darren Robinson lbw for two, which brought England hopeful Hussain to the crease with Robert Rollins. Together they put on 68 before Rollins was caught by Rahul Dravid off Prasad for 33. Hussain was striking the ball well and had been supported by first-innings century-maker Stuart Law, Essex would have been in with a fighting chance of making the 208 runs required off the remaining 32 overs. However, Law was caught of Sunil Joshi for 13. Roanie Irani gave Essex hope and was just looking dangerous before he too was caught off Joshi for 29. When leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani bowled Hussain for 87 and then caught and bowled Paul Prichard for 13, Essex was 186 for six, 89 runs behind and a minimum of 10 overs left. Ashley Cowan and Paul Grayson played out the remaining overs, finishing Essex's score on 207 for six.

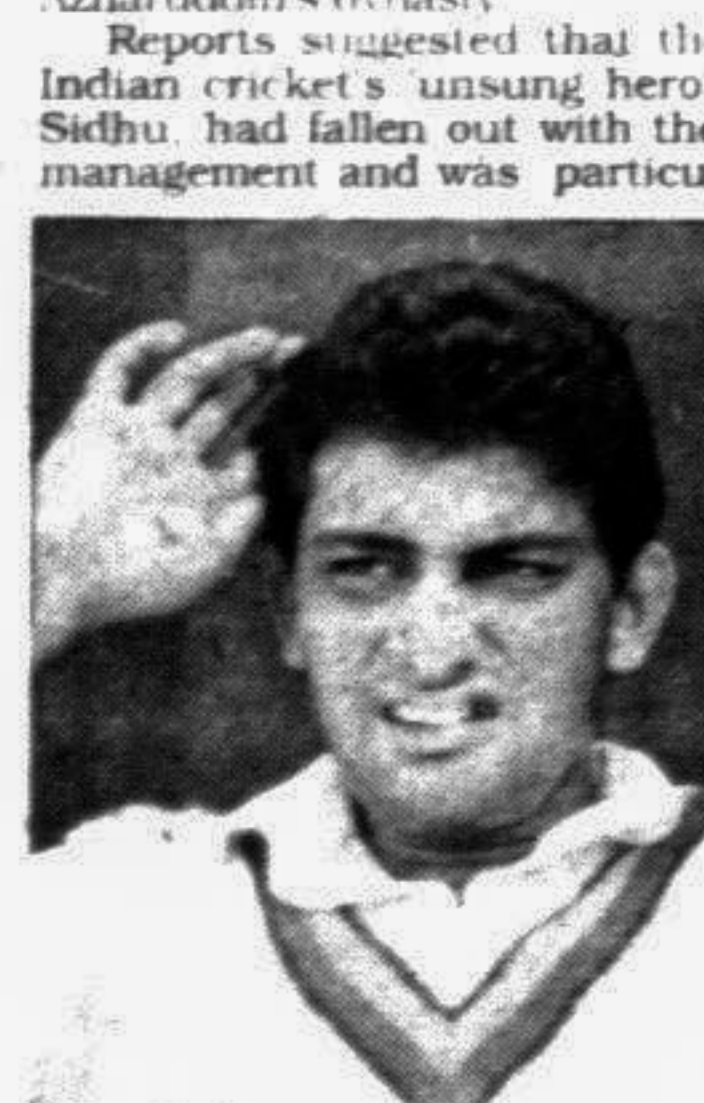
Skipper's dark odyssey

by S Ashfaul Haque Azharuddin's dynasty



MD AZHARUDDIN

Once it was widely observed that unassuming Mohammedan Azharuddin's selection as Indian cricket captain came true just because of the quality of his amiability, not for his leadership acumen. To steady the unsettled, success-lorn squad, Indian cricket bosses are believed to appoint Azharuddin as captain whose only plus point is, not his leadership qualities but the fact that compared to the others he is non-controversial and as leader of the players is no threat to the settlement, fitting in snug with cricket board's politics of compromise. But with the passage of time this apparently unimpressive Azharuddin came up with perfect riposte for the cynics by becoming India's most successful skipper. His stunning home soil successes forced his sternest critics, jilted illustrious former to take their horns back, to offer some words of appreciation instead. Azharuddin runs nothing short of handling the hot seat, may be his crooked celebration sometimes outshined his achievements with the bat. With the dismal World Cup display, poor performances in Singapore and Sharjah this year Indian media, critics, fans got the chance to pounce on Azhar censuring him ruthlessly. And recent shocking retirement of India's most consistent performer, Navjot Singh Sidhu, from the touring team in England has added enough energy to tilt



MD AZHARUDDIN

My dignity would be compromised if I carried on with this Indian team," said the 32-year-old mild-mannered Sikh, who averaged a magnificent forty plus both in Tests and one-dayers, while making public his untimely retirement decision at Old Trafford on May 27, where India lost to England by six wickets. Sidhu has always been regarded as a cosy character. What really has driven him to end up career in haste? Albeit Sidhu is yet to clear the air, none seems feel hesitate to raise his or her accusing finger towards not-so-easy-going

There were always been rumours and whispers about the other side of Azharuddin's character that he was a culprit to the core. There is a kind of eerie in Indian cricketing circle and from now on Azharuddin can no longer continue to be a nice guy. He has always been indicted, off-the-record, for accelerating the departures of some stars like Kapil Dev, Ravi Shastri and Manoj Prabhakar. Prabhakar publicly accused Azharuddin of trying to eliminate all those who could threaten his position as captain. My suspicion is that the next target will be Sanjay Manjrekar," Prabhakar said recently, adding that he was not surprised that the affable and soft-spoken Sidhu had decided to quit. Although Prabhakar's earlier resentment have incriminated cricket board, now he thinks Azharuddin is the man needs to be removed for cricket's betterment. One can easily predict what lies ahead of the Indian team unless the stickiness surrounding cricket and board's bad eggs are duly cleared off. And if Azharuddin doesn't want to be court-martialed on his return from England then, like any general in the battle, he will have to ensure the credibility of his captaincy to adapt his personality to the situation. Otherwise he will soon find out that sitting on barbed wire ain't a very pleasant experience.

Sachin knows no bounds



SACHIN TENDULKAR

SYDNEY, May 31: Sachin Tendulkar is honoured by the praise showered on him by god of cricket but would prefer Sir Donald Bradman's makes today unlike the Australian cricket legend, reports PTI. "I just don't have the words to express what I feel about it," the Indian vice-captain said reacting to Bradman's comment that Tendulkar is playing much the same as I used to. The 90-minute rare interview given by Bradman, regarded as the greatest cricketer ever, to Australia's Channel Nine TV on Wednesday in a bid to raise one million dollars for the cricket museum at Bradman's boyhood home in Bowral, New South Wales. Bradman has never seen Tendulkar in person but only on TV. In a touching disclosure, the 87-year-old genius sought the help of his wife to assess Tendulkar. "I asked my wife (Jessie) to come and have a look at him

because I said, I never saw myself playing, but I feel this fellow is playing much the same as I used to," he said. Bradman said he called his wife to be the judge because she had seen him play, adding she had a look at him (Tendulkar) on television and she said, "Yes there is a similarity between the two."

When asked what the similarity was, Bradman replied, "I can explain that in detail, just his compactness and his stroke production, his technique, it all seems to gel, as far as I was concerned that is how I felt." Australian captain Mark Taylor, also appearing in the programme, could not have agreed more and said Tendulkar was probably the closest at the moment to the perfect player. Beautiful straight bat, takes his time if he has to, can be explosive if he needs to be, a very good all-round player. Tendulkar said it was an honour to be compared with Sir Donald Bradman whom he described as 'god of cricket'. "To average 99 in Test cricket is amazing. I just don't have the words to express what I feel about it. He is a genius."

Referring to millions of dollars he is now able to make, Tendulkar said, "nowadays there is a lot more money involved in cricket because of media coverage. But if you ask me, towards the end of my career, I would prefer to average 99.96 rather than signing these contracts."

Brian Lara and Tendulkar were probably the two best batsmen in the world today," said the murderer of bowlers who retired from Test cricket at the age of 40 in March, 1949. "It is very difficult to know which one will be a better player of the two. Tendulkar, looks very, very tight, his defence is very sound indeed. Lara is probably little bit more aggressive and takes more risks than Tendulkar, and at the end of the day, probably gets just as many runs."

During the wide-ranging interview, which provided rare insight into his life and cricket career, Bradman said he today received more mail than ever before, except during the 1948 tour of England. "I still get so much... it takes me four hours per to answer them. It is absolutely tremendous. From all over the world, mainly of course Australia, but get lots from India, and lots from England as well."

Recalling some of the humorous fan mail, Bradman said one fan seeking autograph wrote, "I am sorry this request comes so late, but I would have always regretted if it came too late."

In my reply I said you wouldn't have to be regretted half as much as I would."

Thailand, Milan locked in draw

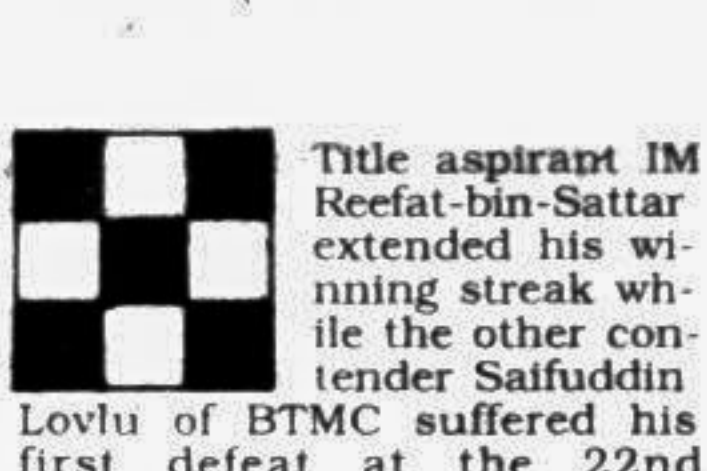


ROBERTO BAGGIO

BANGKOK, May 31: Thailand held Italian champions AC Milan to a surprise 2-2 draw here, Thursday, as the tourists completed their three-match Asian tour with a sluggish performance, reports AFP. It was a rare opportunity for an enthusiastic Thai crowd to see the European giants, but they failed to dazzle. Gianluigi opened the account for AC Milan in the 25th minute, chipping over the approaching keeper as the Italians caught Thailand on the break. Two minutes later, the darling of the Bangkok crowd Roberto Baggio - respected both for his soccer skills and his Buddhist faith - hammered home a right-foot shot from 75 yards to make it 2-0. But the expected rout never happened, with the Thais showing some attractive soccer and catching Milan unawares. Scarcely had the 35,000 crowd registered Baggio's strike when Surachai Jaturapattarapong put the home side back in it twisting and turning in the box before burying a shot past Mario Veipo. And Natipong Sritong in levelled with ten minutes remaining from close range after a well-worked move down the left flank. In their previous tour matches, AC Milan went down 3-2 to South Korea and only edged Shanghai 1-0. Meanwhile, Lazio returned from their two-week Asian tour on Wednesday delighted with their performance and the response from the crowds in China and Indonesia. After three victories in China, Lazio rounded off their tour with a 6-2 victory over Indonesia, before a crowd of 60,000 in Jakarta at the weekend. Lazio coach Zdenek Zeman said: "We managed to win all four matches and to play entertaining football - we can be really pleased with the way things went."

Lazio beat China's national side 2-1 in Beijing, before going on to beat Taishan Jinan 1-0 in Jinan and Changchun 1-0.

Reefat takes solo lead



Sports Reporter

Title aspirant IM Reefat bin-Sattar extended his winning streak while the other contender Safuddin Lovlu of BTMC suffered his first defeat at the 22nd national chess championship yesterday. In the seventh round of the 16-player competition, Reefat, the top ranked and the defending champion, edged past Aminul Islam of Genius Chess Club while Lovlu, who had been sharing the top slot jointly with Reefat, conceded his first point. Besides, Hasibul Hasan Hanif of BTMC, Enamul Hossain Rajib and Abdullah Al Rakib of Mohammedan SC, Fide Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman of Biman and Dhaka University's Sheikh Nasir Ahmed also won their respective matches yesterday. In the day's round, Hanif defeated Mizanur Rahman Labu of Chuadanga, Rajib tamed Tanima Parveen of Chittagong, Rakib beat Sawkat Hossain Pallab of Farashganj SC, Tahmid outplayed Abul Kashem Bhuyan of BTMC while Nasir defeated Biman's Fide Master Rezaul Haque. Today's matches: Nasir vs Aminul, Rafique vs Reefat, Hanif vs Zia, Tahmid vs Labu, Rakib vs Kashem, Rajib vs Pallab, Lovlu vs Tanima and Reza vs Kayes.

point losing to Kandker Kayes Hasan of Biman. Playing with white pieces against Aminul's Sicilian Defence, Reefat checkmated his opponent after 67 moves. On the other hand, Lovlu, playing with black pieces and adopting Sicilian defence, surrendered to Kayes after 37 moves. With yesterday's win, Reefat raise his tally to seven points from as many matches and earned a sole lead with eight matches to go in the 15-round Swiss league while the loss pulled Lovlu down to second place with his previous six points. IM Ziaur Rahman of Biman, whose championship hope dealt a bit blow with a draw and a defeat in the fifth and sixth round respectively, returned to the winning way from yesterday. In this round, Zia, playing with white pieces, overcame the Dutch defence of Chittagongian Rafiqul Islam after 30 moves for his fifth win of the meet. Zia is now trailing behind Lovlu with 5.5 points to his name.

For the sake of equality

SINGAPORE, May 31: The Singapore Cricket Club (SCC) is giving women the same status as men for the first time in its 144-year history, reports Reuter. The Straits Times reported today that the club this week abolished its "Lady members" category, allowed women to vote and cleared the way for them to sit on the general committee. "Nobody questioned the ladies being equal members. It was not an issue at all," SCC president Charlie Phua was quoted as saying. More than 80 per cent of 300 voting members approved the changes at a special general meeting, the paper said. The club has 200 women members. A club official confirmed the report today.

Germany run the gauntlet

BELFAST, May 31: European Championship finalists Germany missed two first half penalties in their 1-1 draw with Northern Ireland in a friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuter. Jurgen Klinsmann, normally a lethal finisher, let the Irish off the hook as early as the fourth minute when he directed a penalty wide of the post after being tripped by Steve Lomas. In the 33rd minute the Irish conceded another spot kick when skipper Nigel Worthington pulled back Mehmet Sahar after Klinsmann had released him. Andreas Moller was no more successful than Klinsmann, sending his effort high into the crowd. Substitute George O'Boyle gave the home side the lead in the 79th minute - a few minutes after he had replaced the ineffective Keith Gillespie. Michael, Hughes swung in a corner and O'Boyle reacted quickly to steer the ball past goalkeeper Oliver Kahn. But the Germans showed their character by equalising 60 seconds later. Scholl firing home a sweet right-foot shot after Moller had set up the opening.



Mohammedan's mercurial playmaker Sabbir, who made his return to the play after a two-year knee injury, having a massage after the the breather. —Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid and solutions for Across and Down words.