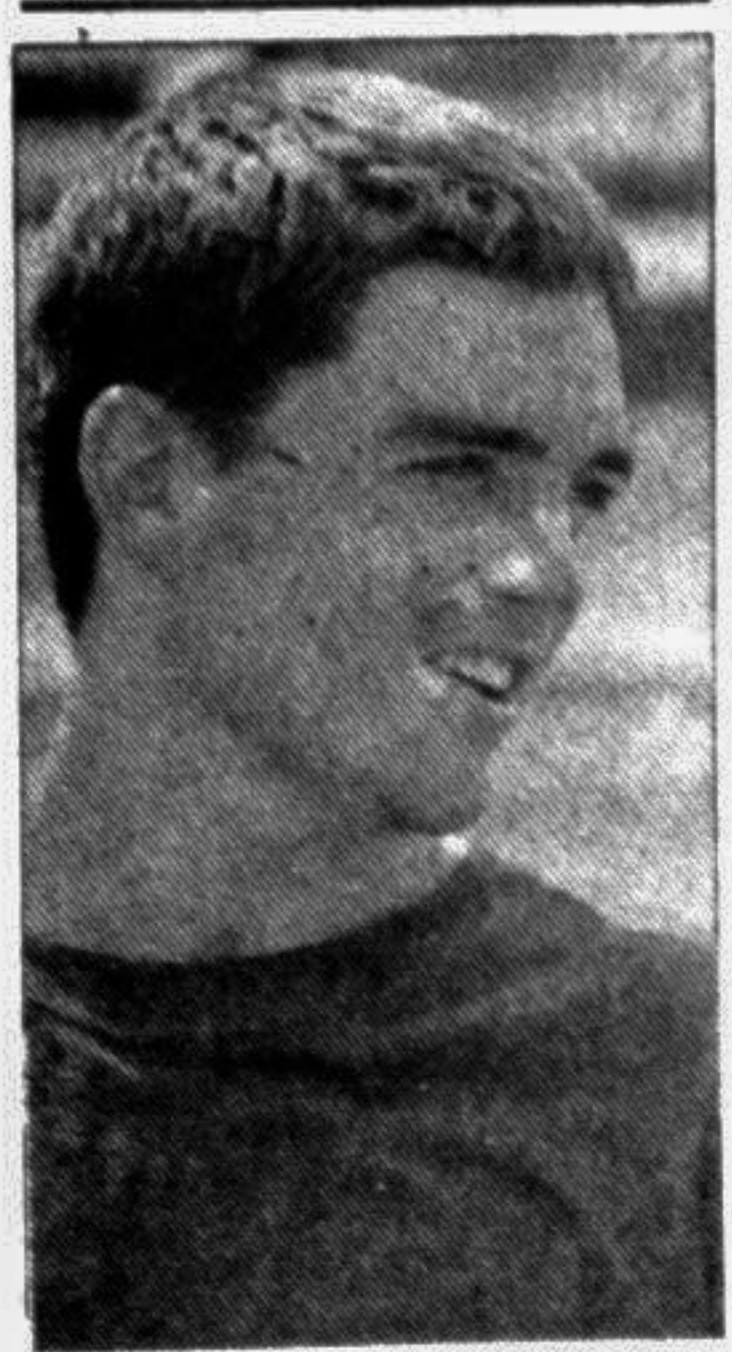


Column One SPORTS TALK



Paul Strang (Zimbabwe leg-spinner) 'What we perhaps need are Tendulkars.' (On Zimbabwe's poor show in World Cup.)

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN TK. 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-52

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice answers for the Sports Whizz Kid competition.

Form fields for Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, and Phone.

Asian Cricket Council Trophy on Star Sports

What is common to Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia, Fiji, Singapore, Nepal and Hong Kong? Believe it or not, they all play cricket!

To be played in scenic Kilat in Malaysia, the Pepsi Asian Cricket Council Trophy features teams from Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia, Fiji, Singapore, Nepal and Hong Kong.

BAF b'ball

JESSORE, Sept 11: Base Bahar defeated Base Pahar Kanchanpur 85-56 in the BAF inter-base basketball championship now being held here at Base Matur Rahman today.

BD reach ACC Trophy semis

Bangladesh stormed into the knockout stage of the Pepsi ACC Trophy cricket tournament with a flourish, winning 108-run victory over Hong Kong in their last group league match at the Kilat Kelab ground in Kuala Lumpur.

The pre-tournament favourites of the 12-nation meet, with this facile victory, their fifth consecutive win, finished top from Group A to set up a semifinal clash on Friday with the runners-up of Group B.

Meanwhile, Fiji finished runners-up in Bangladesh's group with a thumping victory against Japan yesterday. Fiji amassed 459 runs, the highest in the tournament against the Nippons.

In the days match, Bangladesh, appearing in their first serious clash with a recognised outfit following some sort of a ego nursing trip against four minnows in the fray, outplayed Hong Kong in every department.

Sent into bat in the morning by Hong Kong skipper Fordham, Bangladesh scored a fighting 224 for seven in their share of 50 overs with opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut, fresh after his brilliant century against opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut, fresh after his brilliant century against lowly Japan in the previous match, hammering a swashbuckling 67.

In reply, Hong Kong could muster only 116 before being bundled out in 40.1 overs due to some accurate bowling from national right-arm seamer Saiful Islam, who finished with two for only 15 runs in his 10 nippy overs.

Saiful was declared man-of-the-match for his brilliant showing with the cherry at a stage when Hong Kong were reeling to turn the table in their favour with openers Raiz Farsi and A Brew putting on 40 runs in the first ten overs.

Despite the inspiring start in their bid to reach an achievable asking run-rate of 4.5 runs per over, Hong Kong, who made most of three drop catches by the shaky Bangladeshi fielders early in their innings, suddenly found the going tough in the face of some accurate bowling from Saiful, the most consistent performer in the meet.

After Anisur Rahman removed dangerous Raiz for 24, Saiful, who came as a first change, inflicted a minor collapse in the opposition's batting line-up with off-spinner Saifuluddin chiming at the other end.

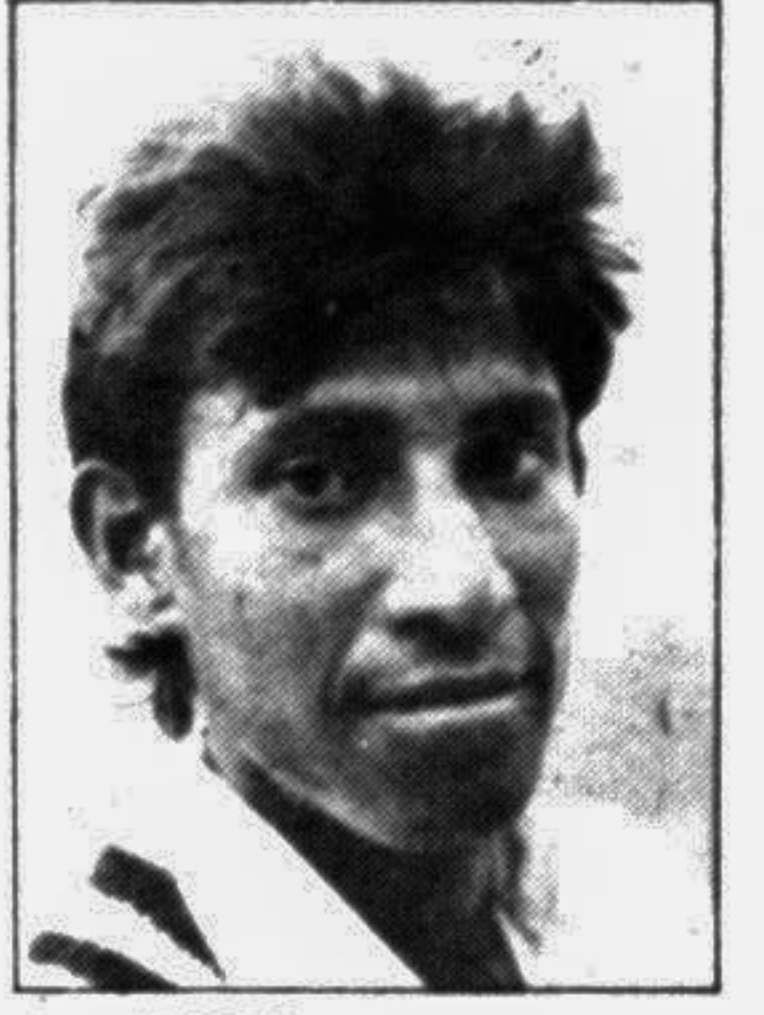
Bidyut clung to a spectacular low catch of Jones at mid-wicket, giving Saifuluddin his third wicket in the match while left-arm seamer Anis wrapped the Hong Kong innings to finish with two for 28 in eight overs.

Slow left arm Mohammed Rafique, who earlier scored 17 off only seven deliveries including a six and a couple of fours, cut the fragile Hong Kong tail claiming two wickets in successive overs.

Earlier, the Bangladesh total was built around two dazzling half centuries from Bidyut and vice-captain Bulbul and a polished 42 from one-day Habibul Bashar Sumon.

Bidyut scored 67 off 108 balls while Bulbul hammered a run-a-ball unbeaten 52. Skipper Akram Khan, who after his

surprising six-wicket haul against Japan the day before ventured to experiment with the ball against Hong Kong but quit after conceding 13 runs in two overs. He, however, lived up to his reputation as a middle-order bat with 14 off 22 deliveries.



SAIFUL...m-o-m

SCOREBOARD

Table with match details for Bangladesh vs Hong Kong, including batting and bowling statistics.

STANDINGS

Table showing group standings for Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, and Japan.

Bangladesh to claim Test status

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) will seek Test status for Bangladesh in the next ICC meeting in December. This was disclosed by the BCCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, to the press corp last night.

We are planning to bring a foreign coach by the end of October, said Saber Hossain without giving any details.

Elaborating the future plans of his newly-appointed ad-hoc committee Saber Hossain further added that they are keen to concentrate on the development of cricket at grassroot level rather than confining their activities to holding the league in the capital.

I have talked to the representatives of Dhaka-based clubs to run the league so that the Board could concentrate to developing cricket all over the country, said Saber after his meeting with representatives of the 12 Premier League outfits including Mohammedan Sporting Club, which had earlier boycotted the Saber committee.

I had a talk with the Mohammedan Sporting Club president Mosaddeq Hossain and he has assured me of their cooperation to implement our programme, said Saber who had also expressed his optimism about solving the problems with Mohammedans.

Meanwhile, the BCCB, who had earlier announced their annual domestic calendar have made some changes in the schedule.

In a revised calendar, the inter-club players transfer which was earlier scheduled for September 22-24, will now be held from October 5-8.

The Dama Smriti tournament will commence from October 15th and the league will begin from November 8. But when asked about the availability of Dhaka Stadium, Saber said that the NSC has allotted BCCB the ground from September 15.

Mohammedans face Hyundai Sept 14

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club stormed into the second round of the 7th Asian Cup Winners Cup football tournament after recording a convincing 4-1 victory over Laos Electricity in their away match at the Vientiane Stadium in Laos yesterday.

According to a faxed message received here yesterday, the first half ended in a 1-1 draw. Striker Shahidul Ahmed Rana scored twice in the 9th and 71st minute while Alfaz Ahmed, AFC footballer of the month for August, and midfielder Nurul Haque Manik netted one goal apiece for Mohammedans in the 47th and 50th minute respectively.

Bounlanh pulled back one for the hosts in the 14th minute.

With yesterday's win, Mohammedans won the two-tier first round against the Laos outfit with an aggregate of 12-1 in the first leg in Dhaka last month Mohammedans trounced Laos 8-0.

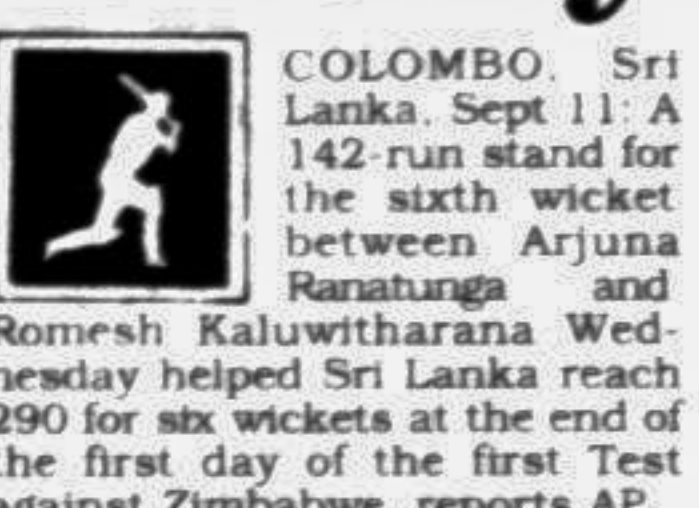
The winners will return to Bangkok from Laos today for an overnight stay and will fly to Seoul tomorrow where they are scheduled to meet South Korean outfit Hyundai Club in their second round first leg encounter on September 14. The second leg will be held in Dhaka on September 28.

Nat'l womens h'ball begins tomorrow

The Orient Bread 11th national eves handball championship will begin in the capital tomorrow under the aegis of Bangladesh Handball Federation.

A total of 15 teams will participate in the meet. They are: Defending champions Bangladesh Ansars, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Madaripur, Dinajpur, Dhaka, Pirojpur, Bogra, Rajshahi, Jessore, Jamalpur, Joypurhat, Narail, Rangpur, Barisal and Rangamati Hill Tracts.

Shaky start for Lanka



RANATUNGA... 75

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Sept 11: A 142-run stand for the sixth wicket between Arjuna Ranatunga and Ramesh Kaluwitharana Wednesday helped Sri Lanka reach 290 for six wickets at the end of the first day of the first Test against Zimbabwe, reports AP.

The two came together with Sri Lanka struggling at 128 for five wickets with all the other frontline batsmen back in the pavilion and built the partnership to thwart the Zimbabwe bowlers, before departing almost at the end of the day.

Portly skipper Ranatunga was finally trapped leg before wicket by fast bowler Heath Streak for 75, scored off 121 balls with seven boundaries.

Wicketkeeper Kaluwitharana departed in the same over.

Vice captain Aravinda de Silva was the next to go, bowled by Streak for 35, leaving Sri Lanka at 53 for three.

Asanka Gurusinghe and Hashan Tillekeratne shared a 52-run stand for the fourth wicket, before Tillekeratne was caught by wicketkeeper Andy Flower, slashing at a rising ball from Olunga.

Gurusinghe and Ranatunga took the score to 128 before the former skied a ball to Olunga at midwicket off Streak. His 52 run innings included six boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

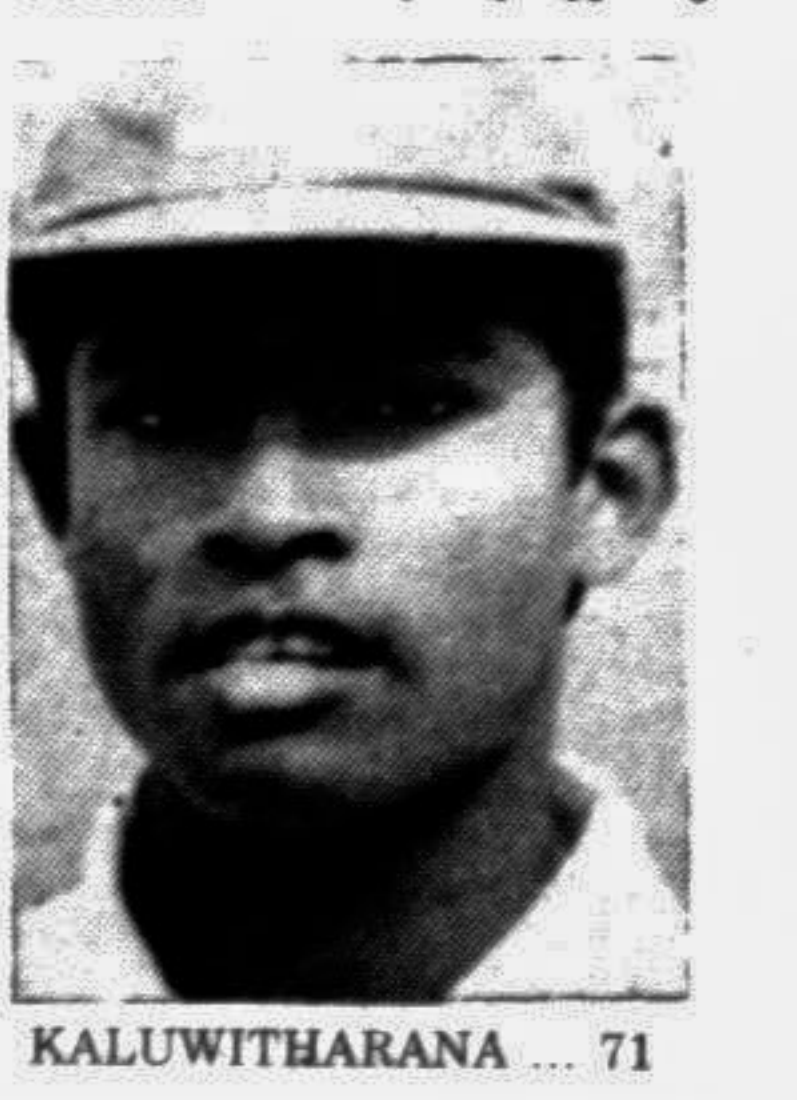
Table with match details for Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe, including batting and bowling statistics.

SEI LANKA: First innings Mahanama lbw b Streak 4, Jayasuriya c Evans b Olunga 0, Gurusingha c Olunga b Streak 52, De Silva b Streak 35, Tillekeratne c A Flower b Olunga 20, Ranatunga lbw b Streak 75, Kaluwitharana c b Streak 71, Dharmasena not out 16, Vaas not out 3, Extras (lb-6, nb-7, w-1) 14, Total (seven wickets) 290.

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-4; 3-53; 4-105; 5-128; 6-270; 7-271.

To bat: M Muralitharan, J Silva.

Bowling: O M R W, Streak 17 5 41 3, Olunga 14 2 46 2, G Whittall 9 1 31 0, Strang 29 3 88 2, A Whittall 11 3 35 0, Evans 6 0 27 0, G Flower 4 1 16 0.



KALUWITHARANA... 71

Waiting a riveting war

NEW DELHI, Sept 11: Sachin Tendulkar's India headed for Canada Wednesday to play arch rivals Pakistan in a nail-biting cricket series that promises to make fans here lose their sleep, reports AFP.

The five-match limited overs series, to be played in Toronto from Saturday, is world cricket's first official off-shore venture involving just two teams.

The series, sanctioned by the International Cricket Council, is being organised with an eye on huge television audiences in the cricket crazy sub-continent and other Asian countries.

Millions of fans, deprived of India-Pakistan series since 1989, due to political tensions, are looking forward to the contest.



TENDULKAR

tests — even if it means staying awake through the night.

"Indo-Pak series are always special," Indian cricket board secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya said.

"It's sure to excite the fans." Since 1989, when India toured Pakistan, the rivals have met only in the World Cup and other multi-national tournaments.

India, who defeated Pakistan in the World Cup quarter final at home in March before losing to eventual champions Sri Lanka in the semi-finals, will use the series to try and restore their reputation.

They were beaten in both the Test and one day series in England last summer, then failed to make the final of the recent four nation Singer World Series in Colombo.

Pakistan go into the Toronto series buoyed by a 2-0 Test in England, although Wasim Akram's men went down 1-2 in the one-dayers.

"I expect a close encounter," Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar said before the 14-man team's departure.

"These are two well-matched sides," said the 23-year-old, who lost two one-day matches and won one since replacing Mohammed Ashrafuddin as captain last month.

We may not have fared well in the Singer series, but the gains from that tournament outweigh the losses. Ours is a good team with a sound strategy, but we have not been able to

win much.

"Hopefully, the experiments which we have thought of will work against Pakistan."

The Toronto trip, which ends on September 22, is the second leg of a busy season for the Indians.

On their return, the Indians play a one-off Test against Australia in New Delhi next month, which precedes a grueling limited-overs triangular against Australia and South Africa in India.

This will then be followed by back-to-back home and away Test series against South Africa, before a five Test tour of the West Indies from February to May.

The Indians end the season with a limited-overs tournament at home in May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence.

World champions Sri Lanka and New Zealand have already confirmed their participation in the event, while invitations have been sent out to all the Test-playing nations, except England and Australia who will be involved in an Ashes Series.

Lloyd, TCCB patch things up

LONDON, Sept 11: England coach David Lloyd settled his differences with his employers by agreeing to a two-year deal with the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The former Lancashire opener was reportedly unhappy with the terms he had initially been offered, but the issue was settled during a meeting with TCCB chief executive Alan Smith.

Lloyd said: "I am delighted that it has been sorted out. There were no problems and though I have not signed a contract as yet, I expect to do so very shortly."

Lloyd was taken on in April on a special secondment from Lancashire for this summer only.

But his success in the job led to him being asked to continue for this winter's tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

Muster wins

BOGOTA, Sept 11: Top-seeded Thomas Muster beat Franco Squillari 6-4, 6-3 in the first round of the 303,000 dollar Club Colombia World Series, reports AP.

Muster ran his record on clay to 42-3 this year with Tuesday night's victory. He will face Bryan Shelton, the lone American left in tournament, in the second round of the ATP Tour tournament.

Hick—life's little irony

LONDON, Sept 11: A plea for money to allow England reject Graeme Hick to take a break from cricket this winter was rejected on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Worcestershire coach David Houghton urged England to pay for Hick's 'Sabbatical' — if they felt he still has a future at Test level.

But his request was flatly turned down by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

Houghton claims Hick, unsurprisingly left out of the England winter party for the tour of his native Zimbabwe and New Zealand on Tuesday, is in need of a rest after a virtual non-stop schedule for the past six years.

But he now fears the opportunity will be lost — Hick has already received offers from Australia and New Zealand, unless England look after him financially.

Houghton, who will play for Zimbabwe against England in addition to combining his new role as national coach, said: "He needs a rest and there comes a time when you have just got to put your feet up and spend time with the family."

"I've told him to pack his cricket kit in the cupboard and not even look at it until next pre-season. Then he'll pick the bat up and be hungry to score runs again."

"But he has a family to support and I hope the English board look after him this winter."



GRAEME HICK

HK plans to invite Fergie

HONG KONG, Sept 11: The Duchess of York may be given a special invitation to a Hong Kong tennis tournament to watch her friend, Austrian tennis ace Thomas Muster, a press report said today, reports AFP.

Organisers of Marlboro championships exhibition tournament told the Hong Kong Standard they were considering making the cheeky invitation to the fun-loving Duchess for the five-day event. Muster, with whom the Duchess has been romantically linked, is competing in the event.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Table with crossword clues for Across and Down.

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid and a key for decoding the message.