

Cricketers, you have done Bangladesh proud!

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

WIN
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Sports WHIZZ KID competition-53

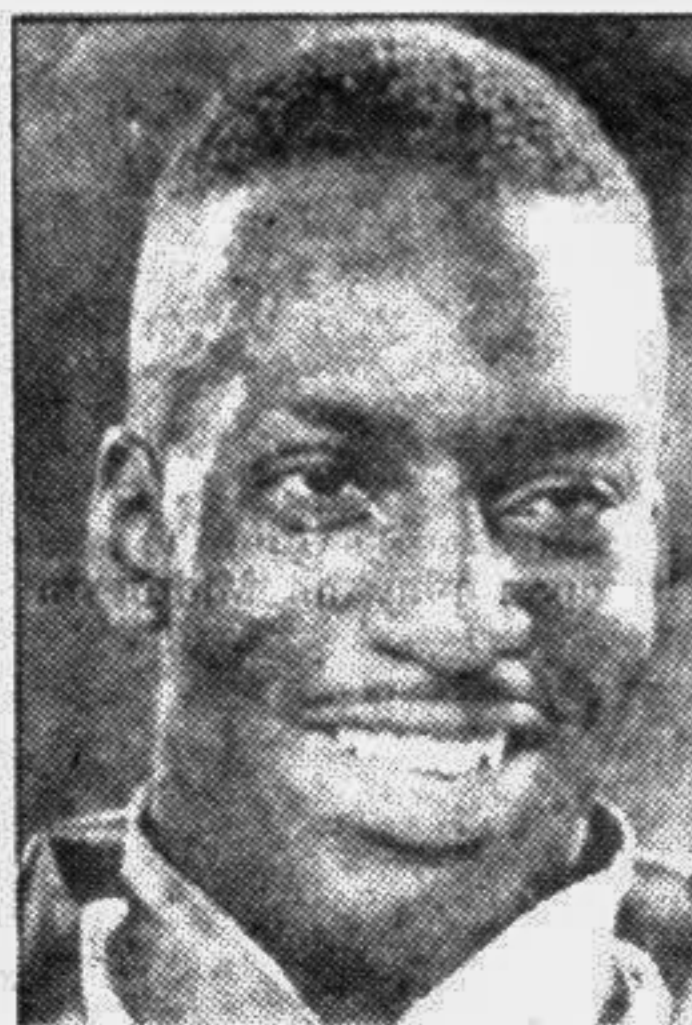
✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm
September 27, 1996

- The winner of the man-of-the-series award in the Singer World Series is
De Silva Jayasuriya Ranatunga
- The number of participating nations in the Pepsi ACC Trophy are
15 12 10
- The winner of the US Open 1996 women's title is
Graf Seles Hings
- The Bangladeshi who scored a century in the first round of the Pepsi ACC Trophy is
Akram Bulbul Bidyut
- The new England Test vice-captain is
Hussain Stewart Russell

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

SPORTS TALK



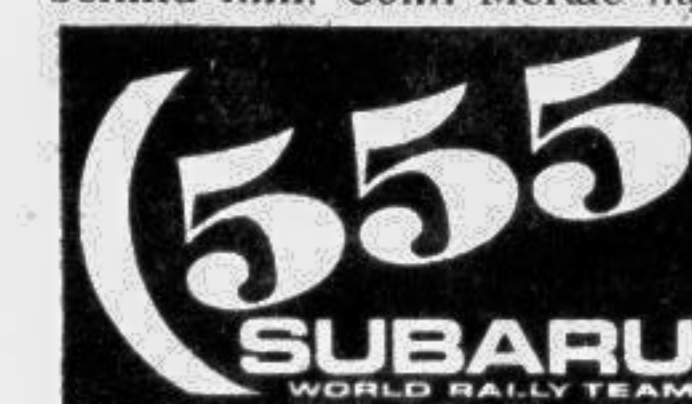
Michael Johnson
(American ace sprinter)
"I don't win, then it's a headline."

Eriksson ready to pounce

555 Subaru World Rally Team driver and current Asia-Pacific champion, Kenneth Eriksson, is perfectly poised in third position, with only 3 seconds between himself and second placed Carlos Sainz, after 11 special stages and 185 competitive kilometres on the opening leg of the 1996 Rally Australia. Teammate and reigning world champion, Colin McRae, is currently lying fourth with Piero Liati in the third Subaru Impreza 555 lying seventh on his debut visit to Australia, says a press release.

The trio of international 555 Subaru drivers started the day cautiously, all too aware that the recent high rainfall, combined with the treacherous narrow gravel stages, could take their toll on any of the crews at any moment. However, after only a handful of stages, Kenneth was in third position with the fastest stage time on 5:56. Colin hot on his heels in fourth position after fastest times on 5:58 and 5:51.

With the 104 registered crews behind him, Colin McRae has



taken the brunt of the ever-changing conditions running at the head of the field, sweeping the stages clear of standing water and loose, marble-like gravel, giving today's adrenaline-pumping action. "It has taken me a few stages to get into my stride," commented Britain's most successful driver, "but feel a lot more confident now and we'll be giving it maximum attack tomorrow. In hindsight I think could have chosen a better tyre compound and cut this morning. I prefer a harder compound, but in reality the tyre with more cuts would probably have been a bit better." Like most of the European drivers, Piero Liati has found the conditions unlike anything else on the World Championship and has taken time to settle into a comfortable rhythm. The Italian's concentration was also broken on 5:57 when a stray kangaroo leapt into the path of the Subaru Impreza 555, and Piero spun the car. "I cannot believe this event, it is incredibly difficult," he commented.



Bangladesh opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut, who hammered highest 58 runs in the final, waits for the next delivery from UAE left-arm spinner Azhar Saeed. — Star TV photo

Champions' statistics

Hasan Masood
Vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul, considered to be the number one batsman of the country, earned the best batting average among the Bangladesh batsmen in the Pepsi ACC Trophy, which concluded in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Bulbul, the middle order bat who used his willow in six occasions out of Bangladesh's seven matches, collected a total of 257 runs and was not out three times which place him above all the Bangladeshi batsmen with an average of 85.67.

Opener Shahriar Hossain Bidyut emerged as the highest individual run scorer hammering a total of 300 runs in seven innings.

Bidyut, the only century-maker for Bangladesh against Japan, averaged 42.86.

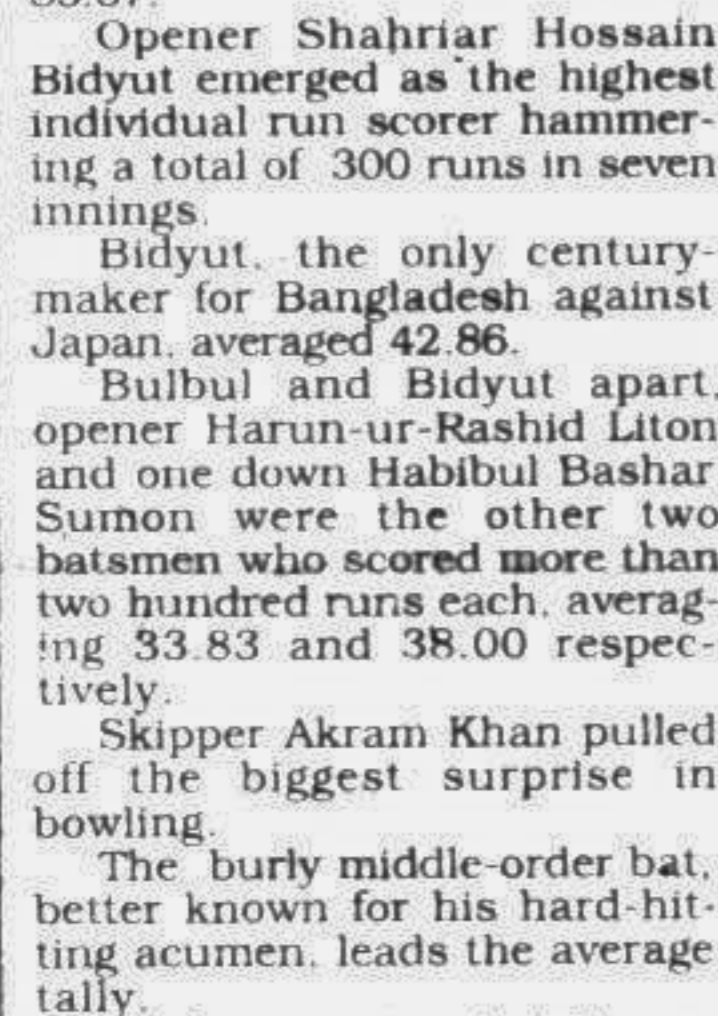
Bulbul and Bidyut apart, opener Harun-ur-Rashid Liton and one down Habibul Bashar Sumon were the other two batsmen who scored more than two hundred runs each, averaging 33.83 and 38.00 respectively.

Skipper Akram Khan pulled off the biggest surprise in bowling.

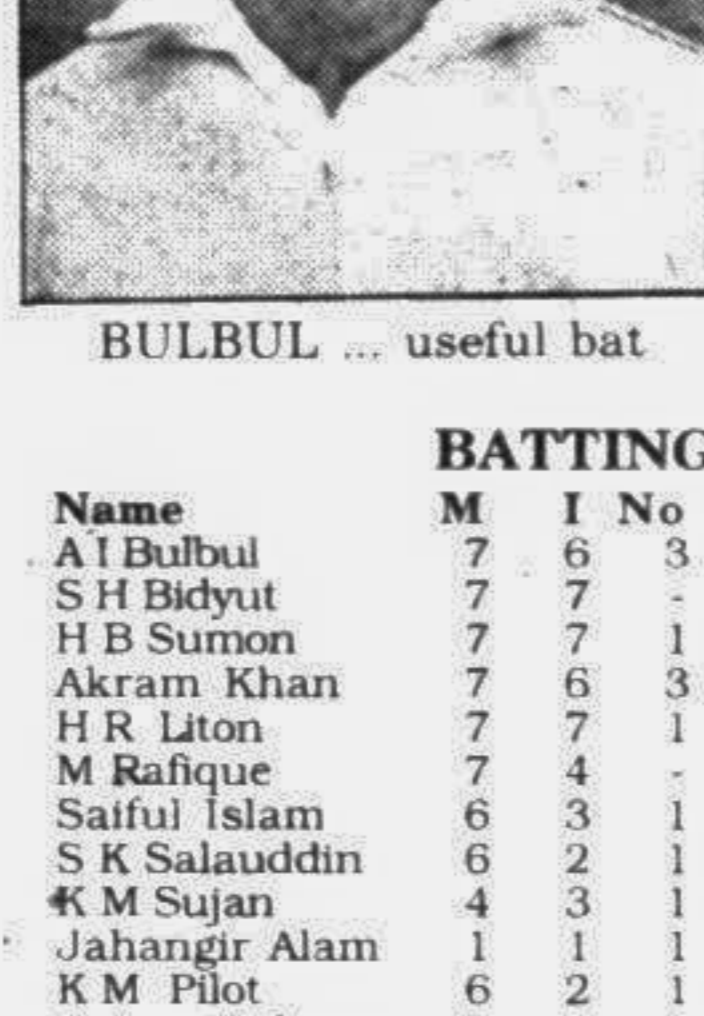
The burly middle-order bat, better known for his hard-hitting acumen, leads the average tally.

As the occasional right-arm bowler he captured six wickets in eight overs. His performance against Japan has been proved highly extraordinary when he took six wickets conceding only five runs, off six overs.

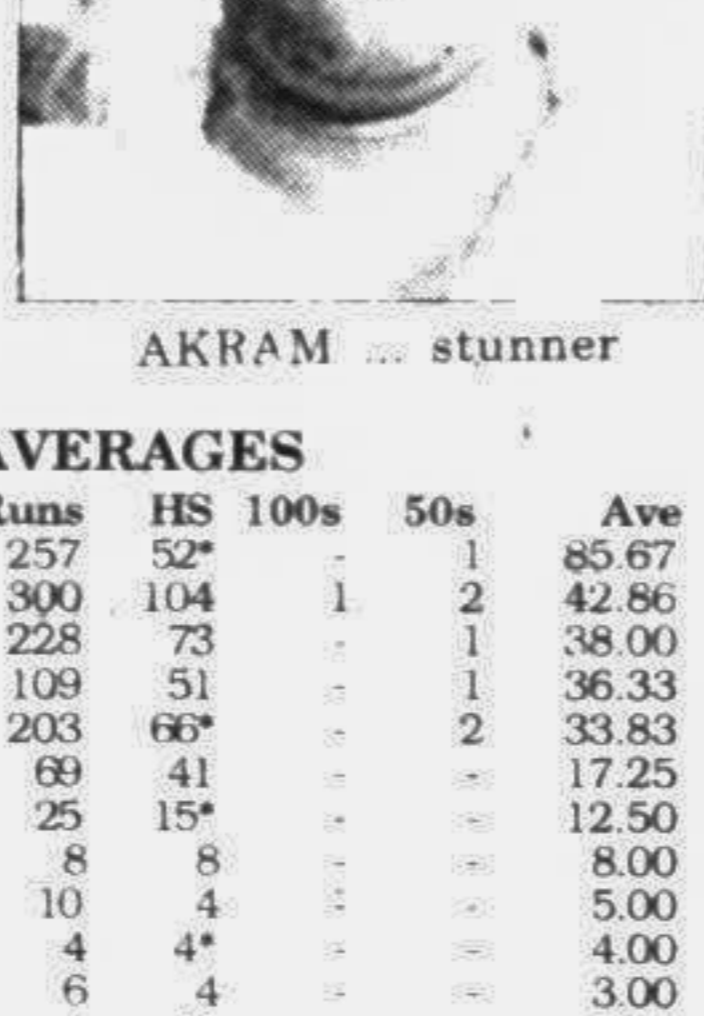
Right-arm off-spinner Sheikh Salahuddin was the highest wicket-taker for Bangladesh in the whole tournament with 13-wicket haul, followed by right arm medium pacer Saiful Islam who bagged



BULBUL ... useful bat



AKRAM ... stunner



BIDYUT ... 300 runs

BATTING AVERAGES									
Name	M	I	No	Runs	HS	100s	50s	Ave	
A I Bulbul	7	6	3	257	52*	1	1	85.67	
S H Bidyut	7	7	1	300	104	1	2	42.86	
H B Sumon	7	7	1	228	73	1	1	38.00	
Akram Khan	7	6	3	109	51	1	1	36.33	
H R Liton	7	7	1	203	66*	1	2	33.83	
M Rafique	7	4	1	69	41	1	1	17.25	
Saiful Islam	6	3	1	25	15*	1	1	12.50	
S K Salahuddin	6	2	1	8	8	1	1	8.00	
K M Sujon	4	3	1	10	4	1	1	5.00	
Jahangir Alam	1	1	1	4	4*	1	1	4.00	
K M Pilot	6	2	1	6	4	1	1	3.00	
Anisur Rahman	7	2	1	1	1*	1	1	1.00	

War of wits begins today

YEREVAN, Sept 15: Russia as ever favorite to win the 32nd Chess Olympiad which opens here on Monday, with unofficial world champion Gari Kasparov heading a team that includes several of the world's leading Grand Masters, reports AFP.

Winners in Manila (1992) and in Moscow (1994), Russia has lined up Vladimir Kramnik, Yevgeny Barevyr, Sergei Tivakov, Sergei Roublevsky and Alexei Dreyev to help Kasparov defend their title.

Notably absent will be Russia's other leading "K", Anatoly Karpov, who successfully defended his FIDE World Championship title earlier this year but who maintains chilly relations with his longtime rival, Kasparov and Karpov are engaged in a power struggle for control of the Russian Chess Federation, currently headed by a Kasparov associate Andrei Makharov.

They have been bitter rivals since Kasparov won the FIDE title from Karpov in 1985 and defended it successfully until breaking away to form his professional chess association in 1993, for which gesture FIDE stripped him of his title.

Russia's closest rivals for first place are likely to be republics which emerged from the former Soviet Union such as Armenia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The two latter republics took the silver and bronze medals

German stuns Stoltenberg

BOURNEMOUTH, England, Sept 15: Marc-Kevin Goellner of Germany upset Australia's Jason Stoltenberg in three sets Saturday to reach the final of the Bournemouth International clay-court tournament, reports AP.

Goellner, seeded No 8, will face top-seeded Alberto Costa of Spain in Sunday's final.

Red carpet reception for heroes

Sports Reporter
A red carpet awaits the Bangladesh national cricket team who are due to arrive at the Zia International Airport this evening after their glorious victory in the Pepsi ACC Trophy final. The plane is expected to touch down at 6pm.

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Obaidul Quader, will be present at ZIA to receive Akram and company.

Thousands of local cricket lovers will also be on hand to welcome the 'Bengal tigers' who recorded an emphatic 108-run win over the ICC Trophy champions UAE in the final of the 12-nation tournament yesterday.

Bangladesh-UAE scoreboard

Scoreboard of the Pepsi ACC Trophy final match between Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates (UAE) played at the Kuala Lumpur Kilat Club ground in Malaysia on Sunday:

BANGLADESH
S H Bidyut c A Laiq b A Saeed 58
H R Liton c A Saeed b A Laiq 21
H B Sumon c Saiful b S Raza 10
A I Bulbul c P Bakhsh b S Raza 46
Akram Khan c Anisur b A Saeed 1
K M Sujon c Al-Saffar b Ali Akber 3
M Rafique c P Bakhsh b Ali Akber 11
K M Pilot c Ali Akber b S Raza 4
Saiful Islam not out 15
Anisur Rahman run out 0
S K Salahuddin Ali Akber b A Laiq 8
Extras (lb 12, nb 2, W 21) 36
Total (All out in 49.3 overs) 212
Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-100, 3-120, 4-126, 5-138, 6-170, 7-176, 8-179, 9-182, 10-212

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Shahjad Altaf	9	0	31	0
Asim Saeed	6	0	25	0
Arshad Laiq	6.3	0	35	2
S Al-Saffar	1	0	7	0
Ali Akber	10	0	31	2
Salim Raza	10	0	31	3
Azhar Saeed	10	0	45	2

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

S Raza c Rafique b Sujon 20
Azhar Saeed b Sujon 0
Q Farooq c Rafique b Sujon 21
Ali Akber c Pilot b Salahuddin 14
D Banerjee c Pilot b Saiful 1
Arshad Laiq not out 31
Pir Bakhsh st Pilot b Rafique 7
S Al-Saffar b Salahuddin 0
S Altaf b Salahuddin 0
Asim Saeed run out 0
M Tauqeer c Bulbul b Rafique 0
Extras (w-10) 10
Total (All out in 36.5 overs) 104
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-24, 3-48, 4-49, 5-88, 6-100, 7-104, 8-104, 9-104, 10-104

Result: Bangladesh won by 108 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Khaled Mahmud Sujon.
Man-of-the-series: Azhar Saeed.

COMPARATIVE STATS

	Bangladesh	UAE
After 5 overs	14/0	25/0
After 10 overs	34/0	34/2
After 15 overs	58/0	50/4
After 20 overs	83/1	62/4
After 25 overs	102/2	81/4
After 30 overs	123/3	96/5
After 35 overs	139/5	104/7
After 40 overs	169/5	-
After 45 overs	184/9	-
After 49.3 overs	212/10	-

Romanian Open Berasategui's

BUCHAREST, Sept 15: Fourth-seeded Alberto Berasategui of Spain upset third-seeded countryman Carlos Moya to win the 500,000 dollar Romanian Open tennis tournament on Sunday, reports AFP.

It took 1:20 hours for Berasategui to defeat Moya 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) for a prize of 66,400 dollars. His victory gave him 170 ATP points.

Berasategui received the award from retired Romanian tennis star Ilie Nastase who, with Ion Tiriac, ran this year's tournament.



Action from yesterday's national women's handball match between Dhaka DSA and Barisal DSA at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex. — Star photo



A section of Bangladeshi supporters, who were present at the Killat Club ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday to cheer their heroes, are in good spirits seeing their team score reading 68 without loss in the 17th over of their innings. — Star TV photo

Our tears are for joy

If yesterday, you shed a drop of tear or wiped a glistening dribble from across your eye, as a Bangladeshi you have nothing to be ashamed of. As cricket's bashful and debonair skipper Akram Khan picked up Pepsi's Asian Cricket Council trophy which dare I say resembled the sail of a Bangladeshi boat, at Kuala Lumpur's Killat Club ground, the warmth of nationalism played wonders with our emotions, nay! havoc with our impassioned sensibility of having won something that the world saw live.

It is not for me to advocate how many homes have Star Sports satellite channel, but yesterday millions from across the region, from Syria to Japan, from Indonesia to Mongolia, understood the power of the crimson fireball against the green paddy field as it fluttered on zillions of television screens. And, that can cause goose pimple all over you if ever you believe in *Amar Sonar Bangla*.

The Killat Club stadium during the Bangladesh-UAE final yesterday was hot and humid, so went on the commentators. But, they had no way of knowing about the blistering heat and the streams of adrenaline

SL target Test triumph

COLOMBO, Sept 15: Sri Lanka are on course to take over the Test cricket arena as they have the one-day game, team leaders said today as they relished their innings and 77 run win over Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

"Though Zimbabwe are bigger underdogs than their Asian rivals, Saturday's victory was another important boost for Sri Lanka."

"If we can be exposed to more Test matches we could without any hesitation reach the pinnacle of Test cricket too in the near future," said Sri Lanka manager Duleep Mendis.

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga said that after becoming world champions, Sri Lanka should now focus more on Test cricket.

The island nation was elevated to Test status in 1981, but have won only one in 10 matches, on average, since then.

The rest of the world was forced on the defensive last year, when after winning a series in New Zealand, they went to Pakistan and won and then triumphed in the World Cup this year.

Sri Lanka meet Zimbabwe in the second and final Test on Wednesday.

Former Sri Lankan cricket chief Ana Panchihewa believes that one day victories will set the pace for Sri Lanka becoming the best cricketing nation by the year 2000.

Seles to defend Nichirei title

TOKYO, Sept 15: Two-time champion Monica Seles will make her journey to the Ariake Coliseum, interrupted three years ago, for defending the 450,000 dollar Nichirei women's tennis title in the tournament that begins today, reports AFP.

Seles was eyeing a third straight victory in 1993 but a deranged spectator stabbed her in the back in a tournament at Hamburg five months earlier.

The 22-year-old Yugoslav-American's main worry this week is her shoulder injury, which has hindered her play throughout the season. She also has to consolidate her points in the computer rankings.

She has been ranked co-number one with Steffi Graf of Germany by a special WTA ruling.

The ruling will end 18 months after her comeback or when she has played 14 tournaments.

Seles and three other top seeds received first-round byes before making their appearance on the outdoor hard courts, vying for the winner's cheque of 79,000 dollars and 210 ranking points.

The 28 leading players also included three former champions — Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, Mary Pierce of France and Amanda Coetzer of South Africa.

Seles, who will take on either Mana Endo or Yone Kamito of Japan in the second round, was drawn in the same half with local favourite Kimiko Date, third seed, Naoko Sawamatsu, seventh seed, and Coetzer, fifth seed.

Date, four-time Japan Open champion, avenged her loss in the Atlanta Olympics by beating Sanchez-Vicario to win in San Diego last month, but her tight schedule caused her a first-round elimination in the US Open three days later.

Second-seeded Sanchez-Vicario disappointed finalist in the French Open, Wimbledon and the Atlanta Olympics this season, seeks to save some face by winning back the Tokyo title she won in 1994.

Other top contenders are defending champion Pierce, fifth seed, Ai Sugiyama of Japan, sixth seed, and Wang Shi-Tung of Taiwan, eighth seed.