

Sport

Column One

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-63

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm Feb 14, '97

Quiz questions and answers regarding sports events like Australian Open women's singles title and World Series Cup cricket title.

Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone: (If any) fields for student registration.

SPORTS TALK



Gary Kirsten (South Africa opener) was lucky to be dropped by Azhar and Kumble. But this only made me resolute to make the most of it.

TODAY'S MATCHES

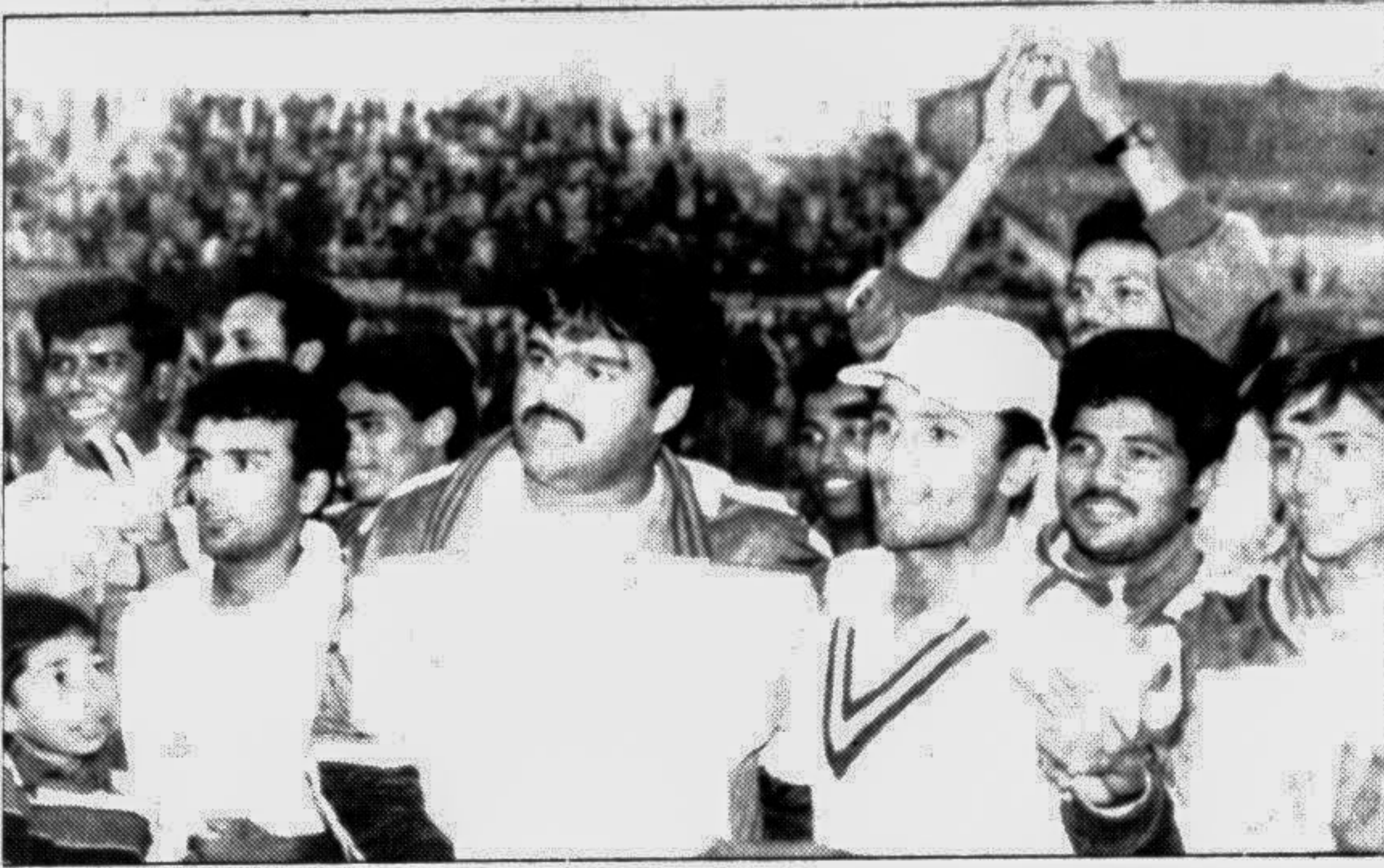
- Premier Division cricket league: Kalabagan KC vs Brothers Union (DS). Biman vs Wari (BKSP) (Relegation League). Surjo Tarun Club vs Gulshan Youth (DCS). First Division cricket league: Azad SC vs Sadharan Bima KS (CCG). Acme Second Division cricket league: Mariner Youngs Club vs Rayerbazar CC (MOS). DOHS vs Nirman Eleven (DCS, West). East End Club vs Kalindi KC (T&T). Nabin Sangha vs Shantinagar Club (Uttara). Orient SC vs Udayachal Club (DCG).

Romania athletics coach quits

BUCHAREST, Feb 1: Romanian athletics team trainer Dorin Melinte resigned on Thursday, saying he could not work in the atmosphere of suspicion following a positive drugs test by the country's top women's long distance runner, reports Reuters.

Michael's mind unsettled

OAKLAND, California, Feb 1: Michael Jordan anticipates he will return to the National Basketball Association next season, but the legend who makes 30 million dollars for this season has made no guarantees, reports AFP.



Abahani players, led by captain Akram Khan, celebrating their victory over arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in a Premier Division super league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

No consolation for Mohammedans Abahani almost there

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra are favourably poised to round off the 1996-97 cricket season with a hat-trick of titles.

The popular Dhanmondi Club which had earlier won the Damal memorial tourney and the Reporters' Cup established their proximity to the Premier league crown yesterday when they defeated holders Mohammedan Sporting Club by six wickets in a rather anticlimactic super league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

The former champions will now face Wari Club in their last super league encounter tomorrow and a win will ensure them the top slot in the six-team super league though not exactly the Premier title.

Although Abahani have played themselves in an unassailable position they still have to wait a while to know that the Premier crown has been regained after a lapse of two years. This is because both Bangladesh Biman and Brothers Union, the other two survivors of the championship race, are still in with a chance to finish at par with Abahani.

Even in the context of Abahani's record of a clean slate against their arch-rivals yesterday's match, third clash between the two this season, was a dampish one-sided match. Abahani outplayed their demoralised opponents in every department of the game.

In a rain-affected, truncated 40-overs-a-side, affair which began more than two hours behind the schedule, Abahani bowled and fielded zestfully to book Mohammedans for a paltry 148 in 37.3 overs and then reached the target in 36.1 overs for the loss of four wickets only.

Opener Javed Omar Belim Golla was at the centre of Abahani's victory charge with a characteristically sedate and workmanlike half century.

The dour opener who made 64 however rode his luck as the butterfly-fingered Mohammedan fielders let him off thrice.

After losing his partner, Al-Shahriar Rokon (5), on 22 in the 11th over, Golla shared a 32-run partnership with Gulam Ali before the former Pakistan international was caught at mid-off by Parvez or Sumon in the 16th over with Abahani placed on 54, in his 18-balls 23.

Gulam Ali hit four sweetly-timed boundaries. Abahani proceeded rather smoothly with skipper Akram Khan joining Golla as the duo added 63 runs for the third wicket before an unsavoury incident brought the game to an abrupt and unwarranted halt.

A section of the spectators in the northern galleries, apparently displeased by the course of the match started throwing missiles and the Sri Lankan umpires quite logically withheld the proceedings.

It took some twenty minutes for the disturbance to die down and when the match resumed skipper Akram Khan was on his way. Dropped twice in his 17, Akram chased a wicket from Shanto to be caught at the wicket.

Unperturbed by the stoppage Golla went on to complete his fifty of the league with a late cut of Mohammedan's Pakistani leg break bowler Shahed Mehmood. The right hander who all but carried his bat through the innings fell when he mistimed a pull of left arm seamer Sumon to be caught by veteran Nannu at the square leg with Abahani just six runs away from victory.

Naimur Rahman Durjoy closed the gap with a first ball boundary before Pakistani Monirul Khan who remained unbeaten on a run-a-ball 17 brought the victory by despatching his compatriot Raja Arshad to the square leg boundary in the very first ball of the 37th over.

Apart from the hold-up, the spirit of the match was considerably spoiled by the Mohammedan bowlers, particularly the two seamers Hasibul Hossain Shanto and Morshed Ali Khan. Both indulged in time-wasting tactics a fact that forced Abahani to bat in fading light and provoked the umpires to talk to the Mohammedan captain.

Although there was not much excitement in the game, the umpires had a busy day, particularly in the first of the day as they had to consult and swap position to keep an eye on the Abahani pacer Rahat who reported against for chucking by the Mohammedan skipper Bulbul.

Earlier, Mohammedans' paltry total was built around yet another brilliant half century by skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul who scored 60 off 82 balls inclusive of five boundaries. It was the dapper right hander's third half century in the league.

The vice captain of the national team scored a century against Wari Club in their previous match last week. Among others, one down

Sanwar, who earned his first call for the national team yesterday, scored 24 off 40 deliveries while Minhazul Abedin Nannu added 20 to the Mohammedan account.

Although Mohammedan innings showed promise of assuming a fairly healthy look especially with Bulbul and Nannu in full command, a strange collapse that saw them lose the last six wickets for only 22 runs nipped them in the bud. The rot started when the experienced Nannu threw his wicket in a premature attempt for slog.

After that it was only a matter of following the cardinal principle of one day cricket - length-line stuff - for the Abahani bowlers who otherwise never looked menacing.

For Abahani, right-arm medium pacer Ashfaque Ali Rahat and Pakistani Gulam Ali shared six wickets conceding 31 and 28 runs respectively while Iqbal Ahmed took two wickets giving away 22 runs in eight overs.

SCOREBOARD MOHAMMEDAN SC. Parvez run out 2, S Mehmood c Pilot b Rahat 16, Sanwar c Pilot b Gulam Ali 24, Bulbul c Rahat b Gulam Ali 60, Raja Arshad b Gulam Ali 7, Nannu c Pilot b Iqbal 20, Shanto c Monirul b Iqbal 0, Sumon run out for 10, Nasir b Rahat 2, Al-Amin c Rokon b Rahat 12, Sumon not out 18, Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-9) 15. Total: (all out in 37.3 overs) 148. Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-22; 3-60; 4-79; 5-126; 6-126; 7-128; 8-133; 9-137; 10-148.

Bowling: Dulu 8 0 22 0, Rahat 8 1 31 3, Zakir 7 0 41 2, Gulam Ali 6.3 0 28 3, Iqbal 8 2 22 2.

ABAHANI KC. Golla c Nasir b Sumon 64, Rokon c Nasir b Al-Amin 5, Gulam c Parvez b Sumon 23, Akram c Nasir b Shanto 17, Monirul not out 17, Durjoy not out 4, Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-15) 21. Total for four wickets in 36.1 overs 151. Did not bat: Dulu, Zakir, Iqbal, Pilot and Rahat.

Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-54; 3-117; 4-143. Bowling: Al-Amin 8 2 15 1, Shanto 8 0 29 1, Sumon 8 0 37 2, Mehmood 5 0 12 0, Bulbul 2 0 10 0, Nannu 1 0 9 0, Raja Arshad 2 1 0 15 0. Result: Abahani won by six wickets.

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Toshack's days numbered?

MADRID, Feb 1: Deportivo Coruna manager John Toshack can hardly be relishing the prospect of this weekend's game at Real Madrid, the club he once took to the Spanish Championship, reports Reuters.

Toshack, who is fighting for this managerial life after a series of bad results, knows that Deportivo have seen their hopes disappear in three successive years with defeats in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Most Spanish commentators have already written off Deportivo's bid for glory this season. The Galicians have gone five games without a win, and will be left 10 points adrift of leaders Real if they lose again this weekend.

To make matters worse Deportivo have been hit by a series of internal disputes. Deportivo have opened disciplinary action against the Welshman after he shouted insults to fans in the home match against Athletic Bilbao.

And the wealth of foreign talent at the club is beginning to weigh heavily on the man who each week has to leave full internationals on the bench.

Div I Super league Wins for Azad, Dhanmondi

Sports Reporter

DHAKA WANDERERS: 163 all out in 43 overs (Sizen 30, Tapan 23, Sagr 20, Nasir Ali Khan 3/11, Nazrul 3/19). DHANMONDI CLUB: 165 for eight in 43.4 overs (Babu 65, Aasim Rizvi 40, Shakeel 3/4). Result: Dhanmondi Club win by two wickets.

AZAD SC: 220 all out in 43.2 overs (Shahnawaz 57, Adil 42, Rana 35, Ripon 3/14, Sopa 3/40). GOPIBAGH BOYS CLUB: 180 all out in 42.5 overs (Babu 65, Aasim Rizvi 40, Shakeel 3/4). Result: Azad Sporting Club won by 40 runs.

A brilliant all-round performance by Pakistani Nasir Ali Khan steered Dhanmondi Club to two-wicket victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club in one of the two First Division Super league cricket matches played yesterday at the City Club ground.

Chasing a manageable Wanderers' total in 45 overs, right handed Nasir, who earlier helped his side in restricting their opponents to 163 taking three wickets for only eleven runs, hammered a brilliant 62 to enable his side reach the summit in the 44th over with two wickets to spare.

Earlier, opting to bat first, Wanderers could manage the meagre total before being bowled out in 43 overs with middle order bat Sizen scoring highest 30 followed by Tapan who added 23 runs.

With yesterday's win, Dhanmondi raised their tally to 16 points from 12 matches and joined Ajax Sporting Club on top of the six-team super league table. On the other hand, Wanderers remained glued to their previous collections of 12 points from as many matches.

In the other match of the day, Azad Sporting Club defeated Gopibagh Boys' Association by 40 runs on the eastern strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Batting first, Azad piled up 220 in 43.2 overs with one down Shahnawaz adding highest 57. In reply, the Gopibagh boys succumbed in 42.3 overs with the scoreboard reading 180.

Women Sports Complex in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Feb 1: Government has granted a total of Tk. 25 lakh for the construction of Rajshahi divisional Women Sports Complex, reports UNB.

Khulna cricket tourney on

KHULNA, Feb 1: Rupshas Shivaki second District Sports Association cricket tournament began here today at the local stadium, reports BSS.

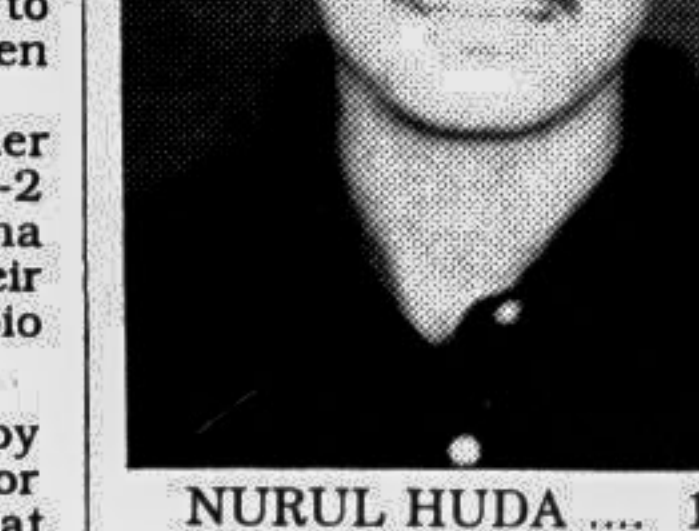
Acme Div II cricket Huda powers Shantinagar 'A'

A magnificent century by opener Nurul Huda guided Shantinagar 'A' to a massive 118-run win over Mill Barrack Cricket Club in one of yesterday's four Acme Second Division cricket league matches at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Sent into bat, Huda hammered 130 off just 104 deliveries as Shantinagar amassed a huge 312 for seven in their stipulated 40 overs. Shahidul (34) and Badshah (33) were the other leading run-getters.

In reply, Mill Barrack were never in the hunt and were eventually restricted to 194 for six in their allotted 40 overs.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Bangladesh Railway Club had a huge 107-run defeat.



NURUL HUDA ... 130. Batting first, Railway piled up 260 for seven in 40 overs with middle orders Haris and Harun scoring 68 runs each. In reply, Nawabganj were restricted to 153 for nine in their 40-over innings.

In the day's other two matches, Uddity Club beat Mariner Youngs Club by three wickets at the Uttara Friends' Club ground while Gendaria Cricketers defeated Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangstha by 17 runs at the T&T ground in Mahakhali.

Bidyut left in the cold

Akram stays in saddle

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) ignored the importance of a specialist right-arm spinner in the final selection of 16 players for the forthcoming ICC Trophy, scheduled to begin in Malaysia from March.

The final list, which was announced by the BCB yesterday, surprisingly missed the name of a probable candidate - Sheikh Salauddin, an impressive performer in Bangladesh's triumph at the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Trophy in Malaysia last year.

The right-arm spinner, however, was included in the stand-by choice of four.

The selection committee headed by Shaiful Haq Hera kept their faith in Akram Khan



AKRAM KHAN

SA keep babes at bay

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 1: A superb sixth wicket partnership of 137 between Shaun Pollock and Hansie Cronje earned South Africa a four-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the triangular one-day international at Wanderers here Friday, report agencies.

Between then, Pollock (75) and man-of-the-match Cronje (70 not out) established a South African record and turned a match that could so easily have gone the other way.

Winning the toss and electing to bat, Zimbabwe had posted a record score of 256 for eight at South Africa's premier ground, surpassing the 227 for five by Alan Border's Australians four seasons back.

It had put Zimbabwe in a... got worse with Craig Wisart scoring just 24 before giving wicketkeeper Dave Richardson his second catch of the innings off Shaun Pollock's bowling.

Zimbabwe skipper Campbell was then run out for 5 from a direct hit by Hudson to leave the visiting side floundering at 61 for four.

But then came a 93-run fifth wicket partnership from 103 balls by opener Grant Flower (62) and veteran Dave Houghton (57) and a 63-run joint effort from Paul Strang (40 not out) and Whittall (41) for the seventh wicket and Zimbabwe were right back on track.

Houghton went to a catch by Jonty Rhodes from a leading edge, attempting to force the pace against off-spinner Pat Symcox with the total on 154, and Flower was bowled by Cronje just 14 runs later.

What ball was out to a catch low down to Cronje off Donald, who then got his fourth wicket in the 49th over, bowling Heath Streak for 12.

SCOREBOARD. Scoreboard of the day night triangular series match between South Africa and Zimbabwe at the Wanderers on Friday.

ZIMBABWE. G. Flower b Cronje 62, Waller c and b Donald 1, A Flower c Richardson b Donald 0, Wishart c Richardson b Pollock 24, Campbell run out 5, Houghton c Rhodes b Symcox 57, Whittall c Cronje b Donald 41, P Strang not out 40, Streak b Donald 12, Brando not out 13, Extras: (lb-5, w-7, nb-1) 13. Total (For 8 wkts) 256.

SOUTH AFRICA. Hudson lbw Brando 1, Kirsten lbw Brando 5, Klusener c Whittall b Brando 7, Cullinan b Whittall 30, Rhodes c Campbell b Matambanado 34, Cronje not out 70, Pollock b Streak 11, Richardson not out 75, Extras: (lb-7, b-3, w-16) 26. Total (for 6 wkts) 259.

Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-15; 3-16; 4-72; 5-102; 6-239.

Did not bat: P Symcox, R Bryson, A Donald.

Result: South Africa won by four wickets. Man-of-the-match: Hansie Cronje.

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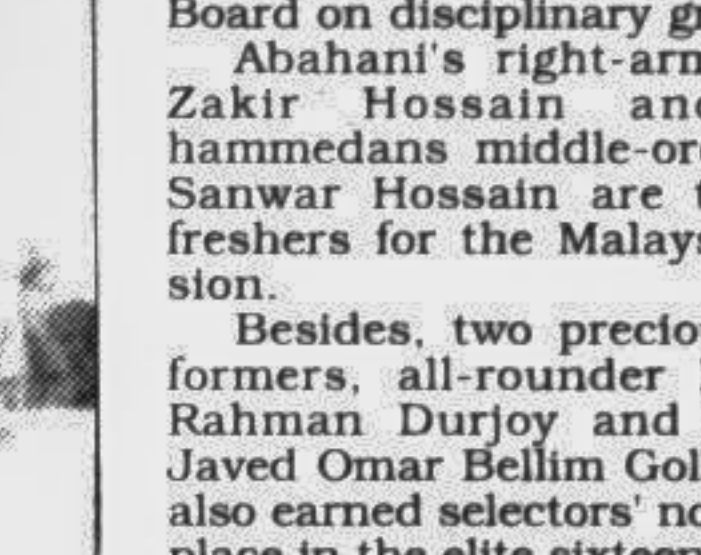
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POLLOCK... 75

No Perc

PARIO, Feb 1: France's double Olympic sprint champion Marie-Jose Perec will not compete at the World Indoor Championships in Paris from March 7-9, reports Reuters.

"Marie-Jose will not do indoors this season. That's final decision," Perec's manager Jukka Harkonen said on Thursday.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.