

Column One

SPORTS TALK



**Danny Morrison**  
(New Zealand fast-bowler)  
"I can bat when I put my mind to it."

After his involvement in a match-saving last-wicket partnership with Nathan Astle in the first Test against England.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID

competition-64

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm, Feb 28, '97

1 Who finished runners-up in the Premier Division cricket league?	Biman	Kalabagan	Brothers
2 In the ICC Trophy, Bangladesh will be led by	Bulbul	Nannu	Akram
3 The eighth SAF Games will be held in	Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka
4 Where was Martina Hingis born?	Switzerland	Hungary	Czech Republic
5 Name the skipper of the Zimbabwe cricket team.	A Flower	Campbell	Houghton

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
Phone: (If any) .....

Inter-varsity

cricket from

Feb 23

Sports Reporter

Hosts Jahangirnagar University have picked 16-member squad to participate in the Coca Cola inter-University cricket tournament scheduled to start from February 23.

The players are: Sanwar, Timir, Al-Amin (Sr), Salauddin, Hasanuzzaman, Manju, Lipu, Raju, Rinku, Ullash, Al-Amin (Jr), Shuvo, Sabbir, Mahfuz and Baglu.

Lutful Hai Jami and Nurul Haque will act as manager and coach of the team respectively.

Eight teams, split into two groups, will participate in the meet.

**Group A:** Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Agricultural University and Khulna University.

**Group B:** Dhaka University, Chittagong University, BUET and Islamic University.

Deng doubtful

BEIJING, Feb 19: World women's table tennis number-one Deng Yaping has been diagnosed with a back problem which she fears could affect her title defence at the April World Championships, a report said Tuesday, says AFP.

Doctors who examined her last week said she was suffering from a protrusion of intervertebral discs in the waist area, the China Sports daily report said, adding that Deng had been suffering from numbness in her legs.

"I am worried about whether I can maintain my technical form," she was quoted as saying.

The World Championships will be held in Manchester, Britain from April 24 to May 5.

Costanzo hopes

against hope

MELBOURNE, Feb 19: Australian soccer player Angelo Costanzo hopes to recover enough sight in his injured left eye to resume his career next season — but was Wednesday told he will never regain full use of the eye, reports AP.

Costanzo, 21, suffered a sliced pupil when fans of the rival South Melbourne club threw rocks and bottles at the Adelaide City team bus after a National Soccer League match on Sunday evening.

Costanzo had a patch removed from his eye on Wednesday. He was relieved he will regain some use of the eye, but concerned for his future.

"It's all a bit blurry, but the doctor said I should be alright, although it will never be 100 per cent again," Costanzo said from the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Bangladesh bungle badly

Sports Reporter

The fancied Pakistan A got off to a predictably sound start in the third SAARC cricket tournament when they defeated hosts Bangladesh by six wickets in the inaugural match of the four-nation invitational tourney at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Set to score a modest 183 for a win in the 50-overs-a-side match, the former world champions rattled up 186 for the loss of four wickets with ten overs to spare.

In front of a full-house crowd, the facile victory of Asif Mujtaba's men against Bangladesh was a prevailing of professionalism over shama-tourism.

For the Pakistan A skipper everything went according to his sweet will. After calling correctly in the spin of coin, in the morning he opted to chase a target. And Bangladesh, sent into bat, could muster 182 for nine from their stipulated

a synthetic surface and that too in boots not equipped with steel spikes seemed to have got the better of their confidence. Mohammed Zahid, dubbed faster than his more illustrious com-



patriot Waqar Younis, bowled from a very short run-up and struggled with both length and line. Together with Aaqib he was the main culprit for the 43 extras that Pakistan A deposited to the Bangladesh ac-

Haq Moni at the wicket who with a gritty 26 made sure Bangladesh crossed the 100 figure mark. But the real drama of the morning session put on display when the Bangladesh innings looked destined for premature closure with Hasibul Hossain finding an able ally in Anis.

Hasib hit some lusty blows in his 41-ball 42. He was particularly harsh on Aaqib Javed. The otherwise dependable right-arm seamer conceded 12 runs in the penultimate over to eventually finish with 38/1 in his ten overs.

In reply, Pakistan were off to a rollicking start as the left-right combination of openers Akhtar Sarfraz and Salim Elahi putting on 41 runs on the board in eight overs. Selim Elahi, who scored a century on his debut for Pakistan a couple of years back, fell to a gem of delivery off Hasib after scoring 15 while left-hander Akhtar Sarfraz, who departed for 18 spooning a simple catch at mid-on off Saiful Islam.

But skipper Asif Mujtaba and Mohammed Wasim, who shared 98 runs for the third wicket, carried the side to an unassailable position. One down Wasim, who appeared more compact among the two, fell eight runs short of fifty. He was run out while chasing a non-existent single.

On the other hand Asif Mujtaba played a captain's knock of 67. The southpaw, who hammered seven hits across the rope and a two huge sixes in his chancy 105-ball innings was caught at mid-on in the 38th over while trying to clear the close-in field for the winning runs. However, Mujtaba's enterprising half century in a rather low-scoring affair earned him the man-of-the-match award. The left-hander became richer for Tk 5000.

Among the Bangladesh bowlers Anisur Rahman returned the most expensive figures 6-0-52-1.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the inaugural match of the third SAARC cricket tournament between Pakistan A and hosts Bangladesh:



BANGLADESH				
Athar b Aaqib	12			
Javed c Yousaif b M Zahid	4			
Jahangir c Yousaif b Azhar	11			
Akram c Wasim b Kabir	14			
Naimur c S Elahi b Kabir	0			
Aminul c Yousaif b Kabir	5			
Enamul b M Zahid	26			
Khaled lbw b M Hussain	7			
Saiful c b M Hussain	11			
Hasibul not out	42			
Anisur not out	7			
Extras (lb-5; nb-8; w-30)	43			
Total (for 9 wks in 50 overs)	182			
Fall of wks: 1/26; 2/26; 3/35; 4/58; 5/66; 6/70; 7/109; 8/130; 9/131				
Bowling				
Aaqib Javed	10	0	38	1
M Zahid	10	0	43	2
Kabir Khan	10	0	29	3
A Mahmood	10	1	34	1
M Hussain	10	1	33	2

PAKISTAN A

A Sarfaraz c Anis b Saiful	18
S Elahi c Khaled b Hasibul	15
M Wasim run out	42
A Mujtaba c sub (Zakir) b Anis	67
Basit Ali not out	21
Azhar Mahmood not out	4
Did not bat: Wasim Yousafi, Kabir Khan, M Zahid, M Hus- sain and Aaqib Javed	
Extras: (lb-2; nb-1; w-16)	19
Total: (for 4 wks in 39 overs)	186
Fall of wkts: 1/32; 2/41; 3/139; 4/182	

Result: Pakistan A won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Asif Mujtaba (Pakistan A)

Locals in

injury jinx

Sports Reporter

Injuries to the players will cause a big problem for Bangladesh cricket team in the subsequent matches of the on-going third SAARC cricket tournament.

Athar Ali, the national opener, was the latest victim of injuries having pulled a muscle in his groin while taking a third run against Pakistan A in the inaugural match yesterday. The injury did not allow him to field in the afternoon session along with Aminul Islam Bulbul, the vice-captain, who suffered a waist injury during a motor accident at the BKSP in Savar on Tuesday which also caused a severe injury to all-rounder Mohammad Rafique.

Although Bulbul managed to play after taking some painkillers and is likely to be healed before next match, Rafique with his damaged ankle is almost certain to miss the whole tourney. The fate of Athar will be depending on how quick he recuperates before the next match against Sri Lanka on Saturday. Earlier, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, the former national captain and the most experienced player of the side was ruled out for the opening match with a wrist injury sustained during a practice session, at the BKSP early this week.

It's not cricket!

Sports Reporter

National right-arm seamer Saiful Islam Khan was hit on the head by an object thrown by spectators in the crowd at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Fielding against the Pakistan A side, Saiful was hit as he was fetching the ball that had gone for a four. As he approached the Eastern gallery, objects were thrown into the playing area by seemingly a section of the crowd, seemingly venting their frustrations at the home side's poor performance.

The incidence was an unfortunate one that, we hope, will not be repeated in future.

TODAY'S MATCH

Third SAARC cricket tournament

(Venue: Dhaka Stadium)

Sri Lanka A vs India A (9:15 am)

Umpires: Javed Akhtar (Pakistan) and Manzoor Rahman (Bangladesh).

Match adjudicator: Omar Khaled Rumi.

Lunch break: 12:45 pm to 1:25 pm

ECB undecided

LONDON, Feb 19: England will meet Malaysian organisers at Lord's this week before deciding whether to field a cricket team at next year's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, reports Reuter.

The English Cricket Board (ECB), basking in the glow of the Test side's 2-0 series win in New Zealand, said on Tuesday no firm decision had yet been taken.

But they appear unlikely to send a proper representative side to the September 1998 event.

"We haven't decided we're not sending a team but there are a lot of clashes with our fixture list at home," spokesman Richard Little said.

Football fan

jailed

LILLE, France, Feb 19: A soccer fan who knocked out a linesman with a bottle of water during a French league match at Lens last week was jailed for a month on Tuesday and banned from all soccer grounds for a year, reports Reuter.

The 21-year-old unemployed fan threw the bottle at the official during the second half of Lens's First Division match against Paris St Germain on Friday. The match was held up for 10 minutes but the linesman resumed his duties after treatment.

The French league's disciplinary commission is due to meet next week to study the incident and could ban Lens' Olalbert ground for one or more matches.

Bailey, Johnson

turn heat up

NEW YORK, Feb 19: Canada's 100m Olympic champion Donovan Bailey and US 200 and 400m champion Michael Johnson on Tuesday stoked the media hype surrounding their 150m clash in Toronto on June 1, reports AFP.

The two will race on a flat curved 400m track in Toronto's Skydome Stadium with their clash preceding unspecified undercard events.

But the men immediately stirred up their rivalry with Bailey firing the first shot at a teleconference, saying: "There is absolutely no discussion as to who the fastest man in the world is. If it's not me I would say it's Frankie Fredericks or Ato Bolden. Not Michael Johnson."

Biman athletics

The 16th annual athletic championship of Biman Bangladesh Airlines will be held today at the Rajarbagh Police Line ground, says a press release.

State Minister for Planning and Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir will inaugurate the meet as the chief guest at 9 am. Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohammad Ismail Hossain will be the special guest.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed being introduced to members of the Pakistan A cricket team before the match. — Star photo

Suck-in or reality-check?

By Zayd Almer Khan



If ever you wanted to see a side playing cricket without any hint of conviction or, for that matter, application, you'd had better been at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. A Bangladesh performance, or rather their non-performance, that bordered on the pathetic almost throughout the match, left the 35-odd-thousand at the ground and millions throughout the country disheartened, angered and utterly embarrassed.

Manager Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu had every reason to denounce his team while expressing his disappointment at the post-match press briefing. Asked which aspect of his team's game he thought satisfactory, he candidly replied, "none". One could not agree more. Be it batting, bowling or fielding, Bangladesh simply failed to perform.

Put in to bat in the morning session, the side looked vulnerable throughout the innings against a sometimes brilliant but mostly erratic (30 wides, 8 no-balls) bowling attack. The 'star batsmen' of the domestic league showed every sign of lack of application, lack of responsibility, lack of commitment and, put simply, lack of class.

Captain Akram Khan provided the best example of reckless play, scooping up a catch to short square leg to a man kept there especially for the shot he played. Better judgement and common sense was expected from a batsman of his experience, more so as he is the skipper. Athar Ali Khan did no better, completely missing the line of a regulation delivery, not to

mention the huge gap between his bat and pad.

The perennial habit of poking outside the off-stump refused to desert our batsmen as Javed Omar Belim and Jahangir Alam provided near-perfect examples of how to get out this particular way, only to be outdone by Aminul Islam Bulbul. Ironically, the former two are both opening batsmen, expected to be good players of quicker bowling.

There would have been greater embarrassment for the home team if it were not for the determined batting of Enamul Haq Moni and, more significantly, Hasibul Hossain Shanto, the member seven and number 10 respectively. Shanto especially brought cheers of delight from the jam-packed galleries with his positive, yet none-so-outrageous batting. Although the knock delighted the crowd, his upper order teammates would not have been amused as he robbed them of their two most credible excuse — unplayable conditions and unplayable bowling.

At lunch-time if you thought things could get no worse, you were in for a surprise. As the

Pakistani innings progressed, Bangladesh's batting seemed to be the least of their worries. In a school-boy-like display of bowling and fielding, the hosts seemed determined to add injury to insult to the home crowd's aspirations.

Anis started off characteristically bowling all over the place. With six men committed to the off-side, he invariably bowled down leg. And when the skipper did move two more men to the on-side, Anis suddenly

realised his earlier errors and bowled a succession of deliveries outside off-stump.

Not surprisingly, he conceded 52 runs in his six overs.

Not that his colleagues did any better. On a pitch where Asif Mujtaba, the Pakistan A skipper and the highest scorer on the day, admitted later that driving was difficult, all three pacers, and occasionally the two spinners, thought best to bowl short of length. Anything but a driving length. Why the batsmen in the side, who had experienced the batting conditions earlier, had not passed on this bit of information to the bowlers was unclear. Or are they themselves incapable of making such a rudimentary inference?

Naimur Rahman Durjoy was the only bowler who bowled with conviction, pinning down the opponent batsmen with intelligent bowling and returning with figures of 10-0-28-0. His performance only strengthens the case for a specialist off-spinner to be included in the side.

The display on the field that the home-boys put up was anything but of even school-boy standard. Dropping catches seemed to have been the order of the day, along with missing easy pick-ups. The hosts gave the art of fielding new definition — chasing after balls or picking up the ball off the ground almost as an afterthought. One could not help but wonder if they were trained in letting catches go rather than to hold on to them. Could the light have been too dim? And at two in the afternoon at that?

The current injury problems of the team do not do the commitment of the players any favours either, as most of them are due to carelessness and lack of professionalism. Bulbul and Mohammed Rafique's injuries, in the abdomen and ankle respectively were, curiously enough, sustained when Enamul Haq Moni's car hit them at the BKSP premises the day before yesterday. Such carelessness right before such a crucial tournament can not only be condemned but should rather result in punitive measures. And why the Bangladesh Cricket Board allowed the players to bring their own cars to the camp is only understood by the officials themselves.

Whatever the reason for our boys' dismal show yesterday, the match gave their well-wishers a reason to reconsider their aspirations about the team. It was a reality-check that may have come too late.

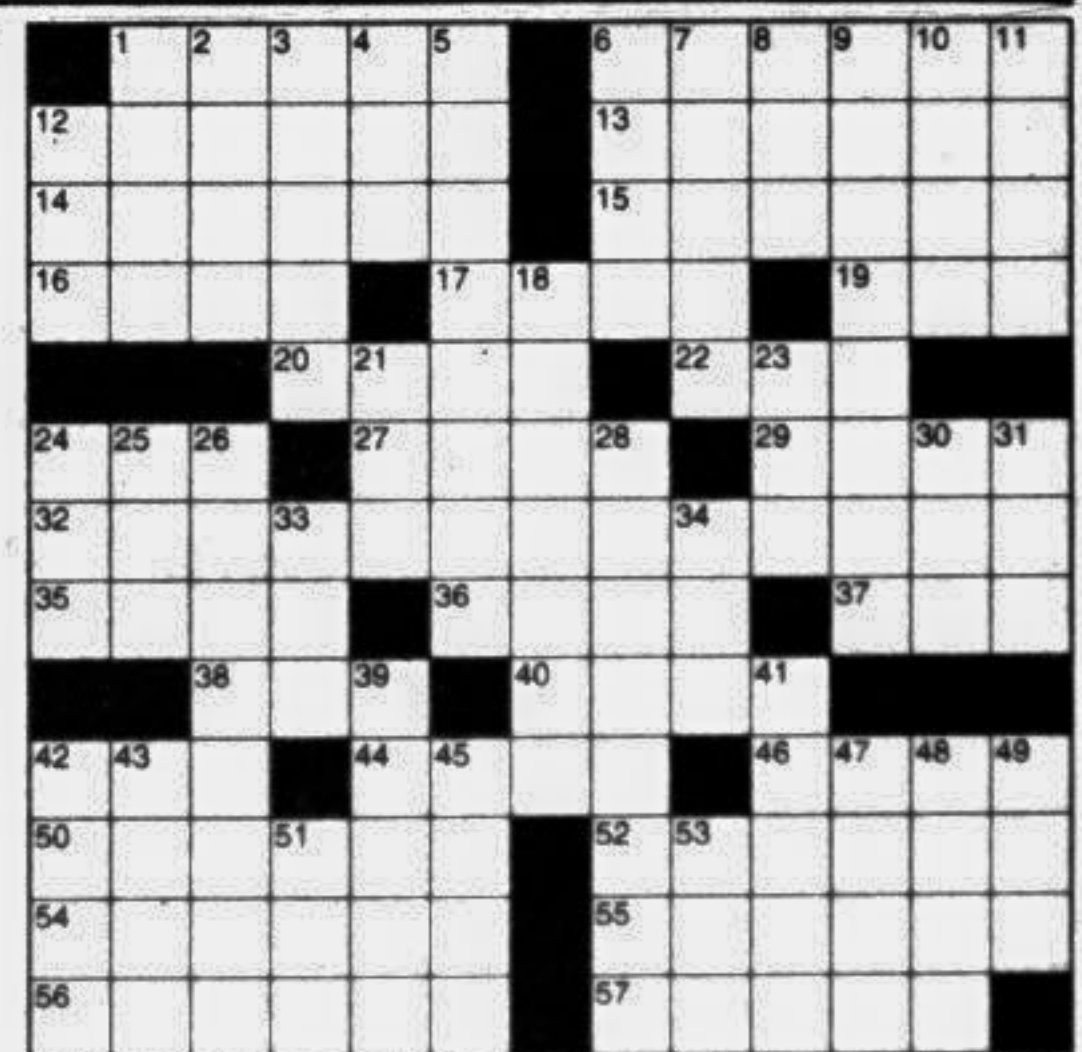
Amid questions about if we are really prepared to take on sides at the Test or one day international level, or even to match those who excel at the associate level, it is time the management and coaching staff give serious thoughts to their efforts and how to go about them. One thing is certain, though, if we are to do well not only in the current tourney but also at the ICC meet, the team will have to play proper cricket, at least, and not repeat the circus-act of yesterday.

How the players go about that, I do not know, but for now, they better take cover to hide their shame — for there will be 120 million people exclaiming today. "What a pathetic show of cricket." Or was it something else we were supposed to be watching?

OFF YOU GO: Hasibul Hossain, the tall right-arm seamer who conjured up an unexpected, ungainly yet highly effective batting display to deadlift Bangladesh, here smashes yet another delivery to the boundary. Hasib's effort, 42 not out off 41 balls, however, was too late and too lonely to save Bangladesh from a six-wicket thrashing to Pakistan A. — Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Catch a	fixture	pal
1 Toss out	6 Argentine	plains	12 Seek
13 Pal of	14 North of	15 Milanese	16 Post-bout
17 Talk on	18 Avoid	20 Potential	21 Tinge
22 Deseritlike	23 Double	24 agent,	25 Factory
26 Setups	27 Yawn	28 Trig	29 function
30 Diastema	31 U.S.	32 Pat. Off.	
41 Four-star	42 W.C.'s	one-time-	43 Particular
44 Wings	50 Take for	granted	52 African
54 Freebies	55 The spirit	of friend-	ship?
56 Notions-	counter	gizmos	57 "The 39 —
58 One's per-	21 Omelet	formance?	23 Parisian
24 Nursery	23 Parsian	Solution time: 24 mins.	
WIG THAW BRIM	ADO HERA LACE	REDWINGS CONYX	WASHER TWO
CHASE PET ORO	HOCK MIL SKIP	AM KAP SWIDE	RED HOT AHA
YOU REMISS	JANE RED LIGHT	OPEN ECOL OOD	BETA DORS ROW
Yesterdays answer			
45 Hardy	46 Heroine	47 Reindeer	48 Herder,
49 often	48 Brewery	creation	49 Com
50 serving	51 Gie's enter-	tainment	53 Entangle



CRYPTOQUIP

I H T K W F F S I D K F

IEKLWDILN AKLK IGDKH  
TJHXCKLK EWLID IG  
DSK XHH TLIAC

Yesterday's Cryptogram: CAN THIS MOCKING  
SHOEMAKER BRAG THAT HE'S GOTTEN THE BOOT?

Today's Cryptogram clue: H equals N

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.