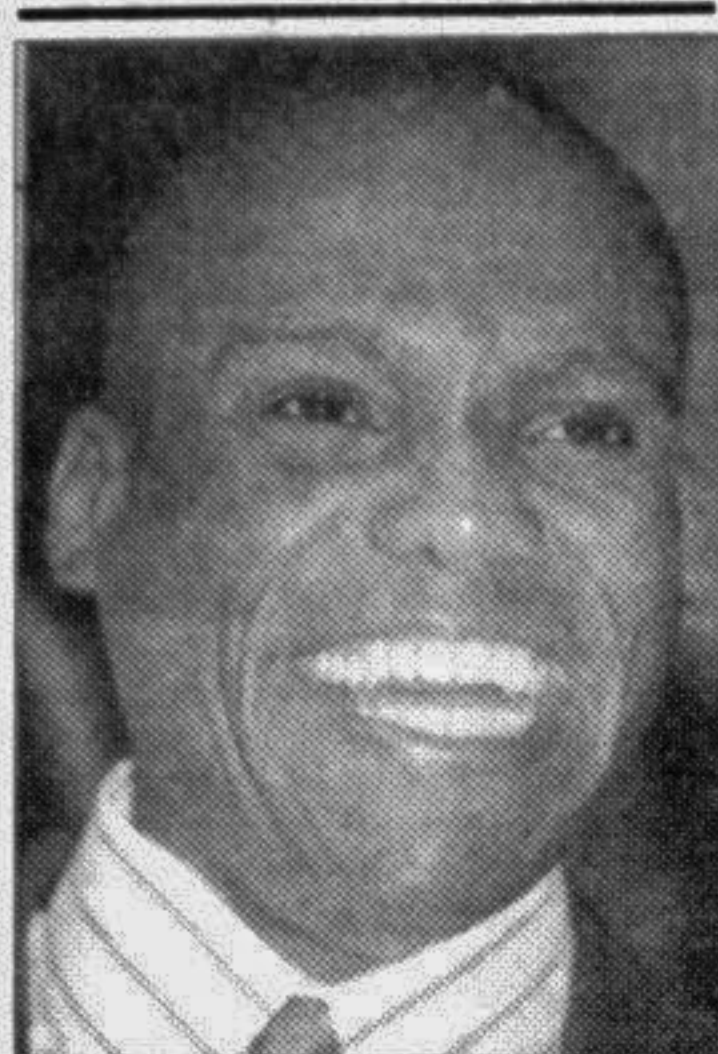


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Carl Lewis
(American athlete)
There is definitely an effort to make the situation better, but there are still loopholes that need to be closed.

Said on keeping athletics clean from drug.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-64

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 6 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)

Nat'l junior snooker results

Sports Reporter

ZR Azad of the hosts Dhaka Club stole the limelight on the inaugural day of the Ashok Leyland second national junior snooker championship defeating Fazar Ali of Gulshan Club at the billiards room yesterday.

Shane Baptist of Catholic Club handed Officers' Club Monir Chowdhury a 3-0 whitewash. Meanwhile, in the other billing of the day, Sagib Rahim of Chittagong Club recorded a hard-fought 4-1 win against MS Sattar of Gulshan Club while, Rahim's clubmate ZR Iqbal earned a 3-0 cakewalk over Navid Haq, who played under the banner of Gulshan Club.

Schools h'ball

The eighth Bata schools handball tournament organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation will begin in the second week of March, reports UNB.

Interested metropolitan school teams have been requested to send their entries by February 25 between 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm at the federation office with a fee of Tk 50.

Jhalakati cricket

JHALAKATI, Feb 24: The First Division cricket league arranged by the District Sports Association began at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

In the inaugural match, Halim Smriti Sangha defeated Itaydi Club by seven wickets. The losers were all-out for 81 runs only in 21.3 overs. The winners chased the target for the loss of three wickets sparing only 14.1 overs.

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement
Al-Quran Programme Summary
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patric songs 3:20 Recitation from the Geeta 3:25 The Album Show 3:30 Cartoon film 4:15 Unmesh 4:50 Coach 5:00 News in Bangla 5:22 Sangeeta 6:00pm National Television Debate Competition 6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Silver Jubilee of Freedom Fighter A Documentary 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Silver Jubilee of Freedom Fighting-Mulabgar Govt 9:00 Drama Series: 10:00 The News 10:25 The day of Freedom Fighting 10:30 sur Laharie 11:35 Wednesday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:10

The sad same suffering

By The Animadverter

Whatever the game is—football, cricket, hockey or even khokho—they are there as the inevitable characters occupying the microphone as much as possible to prove their peculiar prowess before the millions of audience of electronic media across the country.

The most consistent virtue (or vice?) of them is non-stop blabbering. Making mockery of the art of commentary with their sickening spur-of-the-moment cracks, the same old combination has achieved a telling success in keeping their seasonal jobs intact in order to sink the zillions of sports zealous in an unfathomable sea of auditory suffering and anguish owing to frustration. But the tragedy is that, in spite of the harshest criticism hurled at them from time to time, they have been oddly victorious in wooing the hearts of the BTV and Betar authorities. One always ties oneself in knots thinking of the stuff that make the hearts and heads of these bizarre fans in the two state media.

The usually sports-shy BTV this time made up for its negligence that at times borders on criminality by extending live coverage to all the matches of the ongoing SAARC cricket tournament but cricket buffs who perform had to rely on the electronic media were soon made to find out that their delight was not without its share of disappointment. And as usual it was provided by the 'talkers' who while supplying sound to the sight of the proceedings took the mickey out of the viewers as well. For more significant the occasion is, kener the urge is of our radio and TV commentators to drown dependants of the electronic media in a sea of misinformation, mispronunciation.

Zia's hopes dashed

Sports Reporter

Local favourite IM Ziaur Rahman's hopes of earning his first Grand Master norm suffered a severe blow when he stooped to Indian IM Devaki Prasad in the fifth round of the third United Insurance Grand Masters chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.



Zia, who adopted Sicilian defence with his black pieces and followed Timanov variation against Prasad, stumbled to his first defeat in five outings after 32 moves.

With this defeat Zia consequently put himself out of the title race as he remained glued to his previous collection of three points, one point adrift of GM Jim Plaskett of England and IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam who won their respective boards yesterday to lead the standings collecting four points each.

In the day's round, Plaskett edged past IM Saidali of Uzbekistan while Dung, the most promising participant in the 14-player meet, defeated Saifuddin Lovlu of Bangladesh. Playing with white pieces and developing Trompsky strategy, Plaskett outplayed his counterpart after 39 moves while Dung, who played with black pieces, overplayed Lovlu after 25 moves.

Besides, GM Malisauskas of Lithuania won his fifth match, defeating IM Dmitri Kaibumov of Uzbekistan in 67 moves.

Bolden bursts to fore

BIRMINGHAM, England, Feb 24: Ato Bolden passed a self-imposed trial with flying colours on Sunday by speeding to world best times in both the 60 and 200 metres at the Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix, reports Reuters.

The Olympic 100 and 200 metres bronze medalist equalled Jamaican Michael Green's 60 metres mark of 6.49 before taking to the boards less than an hour later for the 200 metres.

Right from the beginning of the tourney spectators outside the stadium had no way but to strain every nerve with a great deal of patience to be on the ball. Because let alone humour and education, the men in charge of the microphone were heard wanting in the most basic of information. It is not only a case of oral creation of new cricket geography but also enigmatically confident and repentant swapping of names. For example, during the opening match of the TV commentator conspicuous for his long pauses (perhaps an artistic style developed by the person with a longish and feudal name for auditory suspense and drama) said three times "Bangladesh 77 for three" when in reality it was Pakistan A whose innings was in progress.

Earlier, the same commentator showed an appalling want of gumption when after being snubbed, quite deservedly though, by one of the experts with his annoyingly stony voice tried to right his own wrong. It was a cacophonous comedy at its best (or worst). Yet this chap beats all others when it comes to two-time at both the radio and TV commentary boxes. It looks like he has got his 'men' among those who are in charge of producing commentaries both in television and radio.

As if their incompetence is not enough, and the poor viewers or listeners sinned enough to be punished with more some of the commentators, specially the new kids on the blocks make it point to be introduced by their nick names along with the certificate names. One whose parents named him after a leader of the south east Asian country has already established a dubious familiarity with his insistence of not correcting

himself even after being prompted and corrected by a fellow senior peer. He would dub a steer as a drive as easily as one would drive away a fly. The pattern has many variations. On one occasion one of them described a boundary like this, "The ball is speeding to the long-off boundary off the inner edge of the bat... f-u-u-r r-u-n-s." You may go on a hair-tearing mind rummaging to figure out how on earth a cricket ball can reach the long-off boundary after having got a deflection from the inner edge of the bat. Then small things like uttering the leg stump as *legstump* and stumping as *eshumping*, SAARC cricket as *shark* cricket and bungling of degree and language like *shobhega* quickest, a rather funny literal translation of which can be highest quickest. With such nonsense rhyme almost unceasingly on, the unique and strange custom of mentioning one's nickname that too in a national media not only sounds comic but also outrageous. Cannot they leave those nicknames back home with their friends and relatives?

One who was before the Betar microphone once heard introducing the celebrated Indian A coach Krishnamachari Srikkanth as a cricketer who made his Test debut in Pakistan's Madras! What wallowing of geography! In fact this dashing former Indian opener played his first Test against Pakistan in Madras. Nothing history, geography, politics, you name any discipline appear safe in the hands—no, no, mouths—of our wise men in the boxes. We pay for electricity. We pay for our televisions and radios then why should we put up with the daily ordeal of having our ears raped by these blokes?

Masterkova to miss Paris meet

Sports Reporter

VOLGOGRAD, Russia, Feb 24: Double Olympic gold medalist Svetlana Masterkova will miss next month's World Indoor Championships, Russian selectors said on Sunday when they named a 42-strong party to travel to Paris, reports Reuters.

Masterkova, winner of the 800 and 1,500 metres in Atlanta, is still in need of rest after last year's hectic season. The team for the March 7-9 meeting in France was chosen after a lacklustre national indoor championships in the southern city of Volgograd this weekend.

Olympic champion Maxim Tarasov's 5.80 metres in the pole vault was the high point of the event, which a number of top athletes were allowed to miss without jeopardising their places.

Among those absent was indoor sprint specialist Irina Privalova, who ran a year's best 7.02 seconds over 60 metres at Levin, France, last Sunday. She has her sights on both that distance and the 200 metres in Paris.

Olympic triple-jump silver medalist Inna Lasovskaya also skipped the meeting but will travel to France.

European soccer scene

Sports Reporter

LONDON, Feb 24: A brilliant volleyed goal by midfielder David Beckham earned English league leaders Manchester United a point from a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge on Saturday after Gianfranco Zola had put Chelsea ahead, reports Reuters.

Second placed Liverpool managed only a 0-0 draw at home to Blackburn while Newcastle moved into third after beating Middlesbrough 1-0.

Arsenal's title challenge was effectively ended with a 1-0 home defeat by Wimbledon on Sunday.

ITALY

Milan's nightmare season continued when they lost 1-0 to lowly Perugia, had Paolo Maldini and Christophe Dugarry both sent off for elbowing and lost Edgar Davids with a broken leg.

The defeat leaves Milan in 11th place.

League leaders Juventus, who had their bus stoned before their match in Florence, drew 1-1 away to 10-man Fiorentina but stayed five points clear of Sampdoria who recorded the same result at Napoli.

SPAIN

Barcelona striker Ronaldo and Real Madrid's Davor Suker each scored hat-tricks in big wins for the two sides.

Real stayed six points ahead of their arch-rivals after hammering Oviedo 6-1 while Barcelona thrashed Zaragoza 4-1.

Third placed Betis lost ground after going down 3-0 to Deportivo Coruna.

GERMANY

Bayern Munich extended their Bundesliga lead to three points with a 1-1 draw at Bochum—Juergen Klinsmann the man of the match for Bayern. Second-placed Borussia Dortmund lost 2-0 at Fortuna Dusseldorf on Friday.

HOLLAND

Feyenoord missed the chance of going level with PSV at the top of the Dutch League when they were beaten 3-0 at arch-rivals Ajax Amsterdam.

It left PSV 2-1 home winners over AZ Alkmaar on Saturday, three points ahead of Feyenoord with Twente Enschede third on 46.

SAARC cricket Pakistan-SL tie today

Sports Reporter



Sri Lanka A will be looking to book a place in the final of the third SAARC cricket tournament when they take on favourites Pakistan A in their last round robin match of the competition at the Dhaka stadium today.

The Sri Lankans will have to win the match if they are to ensure an outright place in the championship decider. Victory will put them atop the table with five points. If they lose, however, their fate will depend on the outcome of the India A Bangladesh match on Wednesday. If the Indians come out winners in that match, the matter will fall in the hands of statisticians, as both teams will then be locked on three points.

The Pakistanis, on the other hand, have already booked their place in the final with a cent-percentage record in the two matches they have played so far.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	Pts
Pakistan A	2	2	-	4
Sri Lanka A	2	1	1	3
India A	2	-	2	0
Bangladesh	2	-	2	0

Note: Sri Lanka A and India A awarded one point each for their abandoned match.

Gagan arrives today

Sports Reporter

Rajasthan opening batsman Gagan Khoda is scheduled to fly into the capital today to join the India A side currently participating in the third SAARC cricket tournament.

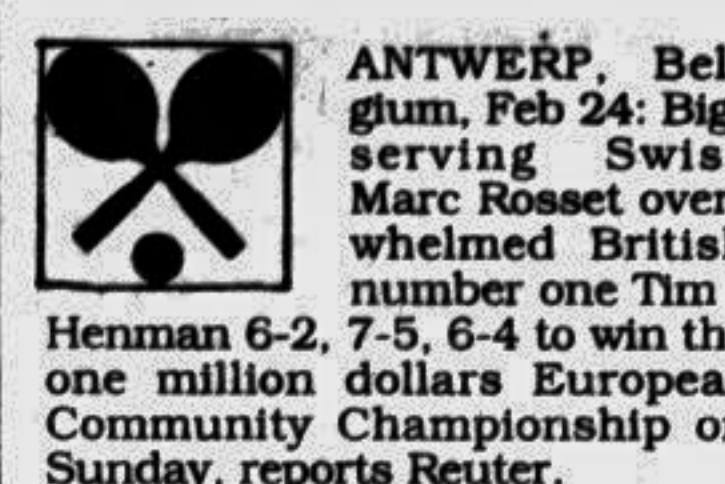
Khoda will be replacing skipper Ajay Sharma, who left for home yesterday due to a fluid leakage in his left eye. Middle-order batsman Amay Khurashiya will take up the captaincy in their last round robin match against Bangladesh tomorrow.



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Henman stoops to Rosset



ANTWERP, Belgium, Feb 24: Big-serving Swiss Marc Rosset overwhelmed British number one Tim Henman 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 to win the one million dollars European Community Championship on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was the 12th career singles title for the 1992 Olympic champion and his first since June 1995.

Rosset was always in control and cancelled out most of Henman's break points with his big serve, which he repeatedly hit at more than 200 kph.

But he said afterwards he still was not entirely happy. "I'm the kind of person who is never really satisfied. I'm happy that I won today but I was not very pleased with my game and especially with my backhand," Rosset said.

"My service was great, my backhand was rubbish."

Davenport's eighth

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma, Feb 24: Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport won for the first time since last August by beating Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-2 Sunday in the final of the 164,250 dollars IGA Classic, reports Reuters.

The top-seeded, 20-year-old Californian received 27,000 dollars for claiming her eighth career pro victory.

PDB athletics end

Ghorasal Power Station team became group champions securing 55 points in the 22nd annual inter-office athletics competition of the Power Development Board (PDB) at Rajbargh Police Line ground, reports BSS.

Dr Taufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury BB. Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

Rosset, who hit 16 aces in the final, believed Henman had made life easier than he had expected.

It was the third final and just the fourth defeat in less than two months for Henman, who had never before played Rosset.

Rosset is a traditionally slow starter but began well, breaking Henman's serve in the third game and taking the first set with a love game after just 28 minutes.

Henman, who at one point threw his racket down in frustration, began to find his feet but at 5-5 in the second was broken again.

Rosset broke again immediately and went on to take the match after two hours and nine minutes of action.

He collected 162,500 dollars for the victory and was also allowed to hold, briefly, a diamond-studded golden racket-shaped trophy on offer to anyone who wins the event three times in five years.

Last year's winner, Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, pulled out on Tuesday before his scheduled first-round match because of shoulder problems.

28 keepers for Kirmani camp

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has selected 28 Dhaka-based wicketkeepers to participate in an eight-day camp under former Indian Test keeper Syed Kirmani scheduled to begin in the city from March 2.

The selected players have been instructed to report to the BCB office any day before the first of March.

The players are: Azim, Bashir (Abahani), Toman, M Selim, Jasim (Biman), Azim Rahman (Victoria SC), Tuhin, Rubayyat (Surjo Barun Club), Ishtiaq (Agrani Tarkun Club), Kadir, Yasir (Wari Club), Raju, Morshed (Ajax SC), Shaheen (GMCC), Murad Khan, Shamsul Alam (Eskaton SS), Sujon (Brothers Union), Manjural Haque, Javed Hashmi (Uttara SC), Pranay Dutt (B Boys Club), Liton, Philip (Gopibagh FA), Omar Sharif, Ruhul Kabir (Wanderers), Rana, Mukhtar (Azad SC), Jiaid (Lalmaita Club), Golam Murtaga (Dhanmndi Club).

Inter-varsity cricket Solid start for DU

Sports Reporter

Dhaka University were off to a flying start in the Coca Cola inter university cricket championship with an impressive 147-run victory over Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at the Jahangirnagar University ground yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Dhaka University piled up a huge 272 for seven in their stipulated 40 overs with Sajjad hammering highest 63, Litu (40), Sohel (37) and Mushtaq (36) were the notable run-getters.

On the other hand, BUET were bouldered out for 125 in 35 overs. Shuvro scored highest 31 while Manik added 27 runs.

Litu of Dhaka University, who earlier scored 40 runs in the first session, also shone with the cherry capturing three wickets for 14 runs. He was equally supported by Rakib who took two wickets for 32 runs.

Today's match: Agricultural University vs Khulna University.

Khulna cricket

KHULNA, Feb 24: Shaheed Abul Kashem Smriti Sangsad won the Rupsa-Shivaki District Sports Association cricket championship beating National Welfare Club by 11 runs in the final at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

During the first session, champions piled up 242 runs in 44.4 overs losing all their wickets with Georgi scoring highest 49 runs. In reply, Welfare Club were all out for 231.

Georgi was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Walsh stays in the saddle

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Feb 24: Courtney Walsh will continue as captain of the West Indies for the home series against India, reports Reuters.

India are due to arrive on Tuesday. The first Test of a five-match series starts on March 6.

England-NZ third ODI tomorrow

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 24: England's cricketers are growing in confidence in New Zealand and said Monday they have set their sights on sealing the five-match limited-overs series as quickly as possible, reports AP.

England have reeled off four wins in succession—in the second and third Tests and the first two matches of the one-day programme—going into Wednesday's third limited-overs game at McLean Park.



MARC ROSSET

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BRIDGE NOTES

By An Expert

Hands from Bermuda Bowl

Score	Board: 53
Pakistan 95½	Dir: North
USA 99	Vul: N-S

♠6	♠KJ 10953	♠872
♥AK 87653	♥10943	♥AKQ 862
♦AK 975	♦4	♦109
	♣J8	♣Q 10

W	N	E	S
♠AQ 4	♠AQ 4	♠AQ 4	♠AQ 4
♥J 75	♥J 75	♥J 75	♥J 75
♦KJ 2	♦KJ 2	♦KJ 2	♦KJ 2
♣6432	♣6432	♣6432	♣6432

Open Room

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Solodar	Munir	Levin	Fazli
3♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
5♠	Pass	3♥	Pass

Closed Room

MASOOD	MECKSTROTH	ZIA	RODWELL
3♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♦	Pass
6♠	Pass	5♦	Pass

The Americans opened up some daylight in the match with a major swing on Board 53, Levin-Solodar stopping at 5♦ while Zia-Masood went on to slam after tipping the best lead, leaving Masood to divine the double dummy line to make it. He didn't and the US gained 10 big IMPs.

Open Room

Levin's second-seat 2♥ (weak two bid) was just right in the American style. This left Masood to plan an intelligent campaign with his freak. He could have forced with 3♥ and bid clubs later or tried 2NT to learn about side features, but he tried something enticingly indirect. He bid 3♠, asking for shortness. When Levin denied a short suit with 3♥, Solodar knew diamonds would play at least as well as clubs and he gave up on slam, setting for 5♦.

Munir started the trump 4, 9, king, ace. Solodar cashed the trump queen and led a club to the queen. He was able to throw his spade and two clubs on the hearts, losing only to the ♠J. Twelve tricks. Almost worth bidding after the fact.

Closed Room

Zia weighed in with a semi-psychic INT (12-14) as his assessment of the East cards. Masood emphasized his diamonds and Zia backedpedaled with 3NT (3♥ would have shown interest in a diamond slam), but Masood wasn't stopping short.

New federation

With a mission to promote taekwondo—a traditional Korean martial art, which is part of both the Olympic and SAF Games—the Bangladesh Taekwondo Federation has formed a strong 21-member executive committee in a meeting on Sunday, says a press release.

The meeting took place at the Federation's temporary office at 186/2, Tejgunipara, Tejgaon.

Renowned physician and advisor to the 1996 caretaker government Major General (ret'd) AR Khan has been made chairman of the newly formed committee.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide