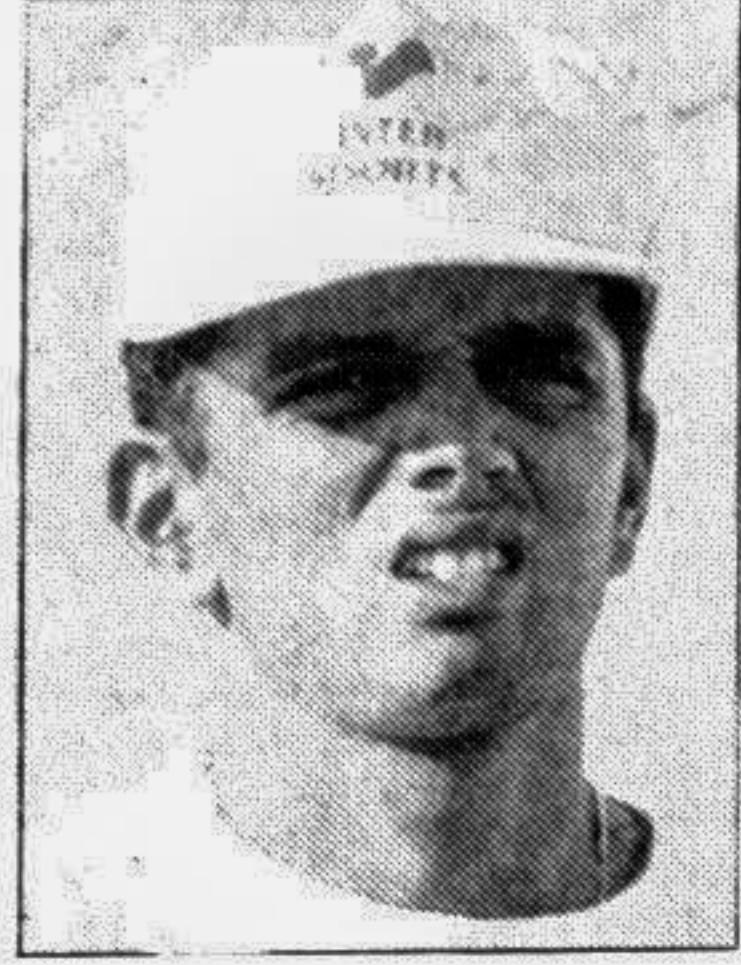


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Rahul Dravid

(India batsman)
They are quite different from each other and bowl well in their spells. Allan Donald, obviously, has speed. Shaun Pollock is very consistent and does not give you anything. Lance Klusener can be deceptively pacy and swings the ball both ways. Brian McMillan is deceptive... in the sense that he has the ability to bowl a beauty and innocuous ones. So all of them are good and one has to be watchful all the time.

Revealing his views about the four South African bowlers.

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-66

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm, March 28, 97

1	Who won the third SAARC cricket tournament?	Pakistan	India	Sri Lanka
2	Who clinched the title of the third Grand Masters chess tournament?	Tipsy	Zia	Tiviakov
3	In which group is Bangladesh placed in the ICC Trophy?	A	B	C
4	How many Tests will India play in their ongoing Caribbean tour?	2	4	5
5	After how many matches has Pete Sampras suffered his first loss this year?	17	18	19

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

Kenya off the mark

KUALA LUMPUR: Mar 24: Israel made their first sporting appearance in Asia since 1974 as their cricket team lost its opening match of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy to Kenya today, reports Reuter.

It is the first-ever visit to Malaysia by an Israeli sporting team, or any official delegation. Predominantly Muslim Malaysians has no diplomatic ties with Israel.

"We had a tremendous reception from the Malaysians and the organiser and we feel very excited and happy to be here," Israel's team manager Stanley Perlman told the national news agency Bernama.

Kenya, who recorded a famous win over the West Indies in the last World Cup, beat Israel by five wickets.

The Malaysian Cricket Association (MCA) said it was the first visit of an Israeli team to Asia since the Asia Games in Tehran in 1974, when Israel and other Middle East countries were considered part of the Asian sporting scene.

LOWEST SCORE

In another match of the day, title aspirants Netherlands beat East and Central Africa by eight wickets.

Batting first, at the RMC ground, the East and Central Africa were shot out in only 15 overs to record the lowest-ever ICC score of 26 runs.

In reply, the Netherlands overhauled the target in 5.2 overs, losing two wickets.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Gazi Tank 17th National Youth Cricket Championship:

(Second day of 3-day final)
Comilla vs Khulna (DCS, east)

15th Nirman School Cricket Championship:

(Semifinals)
Narayanganj Govt HS vs Satirpara KK School (DCG)
Rajbari Zilla School vs Scholastica (DS)

Second Division Football League:

(Venue: Mirpur Stadium)
Basabro Tarun Sangha vs East End Boys' Club (2:30 pm)
Eskaton SS vs Adamjee SCC (4:30 pm)

(Venue: Army Stadium)
Shantinagar Club vs Muslim Institute (4 pm)

Sound start for Bangladesh

Naimur in thick of things

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh got off to a pre-dicted sound start in their cherished campaign for a passage in the 1999 World Cup with a five-wicket win over minnows Argentina at the University of Malaysia ground yesterday.

The sixth International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy, which will also act as the World Cup qualifying tourney, involving the 22 associate member nations commenced in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur with eight first round matches billed for the opening day.

According to a faxed message received here last night, Bangladesh, the second seeded team behind Kenya, chasing a paltry Argentina total of 138 in the stipulated 50 overs, rattled up 142 for the loss of five wickets in only 24 overs.

It would have been a more convincing win for Bangladesh against the Latin American champions had not the middle-order tumbled like nine pins after a rolicking start by openers Naimur Rahman, Durjoy and Athar Ali Khan, who put on 78 runs for the first wicket in only 11.3 overs.

Naimur, who was pushed up to cash in on the first 15 overs field restrictions, justified his elevation as a pinch-hitter with a breezy 53 off only 43 balls.

The dapper right-hander clouted two huge sixes and eight cracking boundaries before being run out in the 12th over.

Earlier, Naimur, the unofficial man-of-the-match, captured three wickets with his off-spin.

The departure of Naimur inflicted a strange collapse with Bangladesh losing half of their wickets for the addition of 46 runs.

One-down Sanwar, one of the three victims of Tunon, fell for one while vice-captain Aminul Islam was on only four off six balls when Iriyogen had the experienced all-rounder trapped in front of the wickets.

Minhazul Abedin Namnu, the most vaunted peer in Bangladesh squad, scored only five and skipper Akram Khan made 11 off 16 balls.

But thanks to an electrifying unbeaten six-ball 15 from Mohammad Rafique and a gritty 39 not out by opener Athar Ali Khan, Bangladesh ended their chase without further damage.

Athar, the tall right-hander, hammered a quartet of fours in his 62-ball vigil at the crease.

But it was Rafique, who notched

planned bowling from Bangladesh. Openers Paterlini and Roberts, however, buckled down to built the innings, putting on 31 runs. But once the two were dismissed by slow left-arm Enamul Haq Moni, Argentina's hopes of scoring even

DURJOY... all-round show

planned bowling from Bangladesh. Openers Paterlini and Roberts, however, buckled down to built the innings, putting on 31 runs. But once the two were dismissed by slow left-arm Enamul Haq Moni, Argentina's hopes of scoring even

Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.

Scholastica, Rajbari Zilla School and Satirpara KK School of Narasingdi moved into the semifinals of the 15th Nirman schools national cricket championship after winning their respective matches held at different venues of the city yesterday.

At the T&T ground in Maha Chali, Scholastica handed Comilla Zilla School a three-wicket defeat to become the only team from Dhaka to move into the last four.

Chasing a manageable target of 164 in 40 overs to win, Ridwan hammered a brilliant 65 as the winners reached the summit (166) in 38 overs with three wickets in hand. Imran, Jamil and Moinuddin added 23, 17 and 15 respectively to their account.

Earlier, electing to bat, Comilla Zilla School were restricted to 163 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with Yusuf collecting highest 30.

For Scholastica, Noman was the most successful bowler with three for 14 while Hossain captured two wickets.

Scholastica will take on Rajbari Zilla School, who defeated

Khulna Zilla School by 36 runs at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium yesterday, in one semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium today.

In reply, Khulna were bundled out for 166 in 36.5 overs.

Shahneen captured four wickets for 27 runs. He was ably-supported by Ranu and Roman who shared four wickets between them.

In the day's other match at the Mirpur Sheraton ground, Satirpara KK School recorded an upset 23-run victory over BKSP.

Batting first, the Narsingdi outfit collected 142 before bowled out in 38.1 overs. Shariful top-scored with 36 followed by Sumon and Shahjada, who added 28 and 22 respectively.

On the other hand, chasing a paltry total, the BKSP were bundled out for 119 in 34.5 overs.

Satirpara's Mahtabuddin and Sumon shared six wickets conceding 10 and 22 runs respectively. Besides, Upal took two wickets.

In the other semifinal at the Dhanmandi Club ground today, Satirpara KK School meet Narayanganj Govt School who earned their semifinals berth defeating Jhalakati Govt High School on Sunday.

In the evening match, City Club and Gandaria Famous Sporting Club ended in a goalless draw.

European soccer scene

PARIS, Mar 24: Juventus, Real Madrid and Monaco kept their minds on job in hand and moved closer to their respective league titles this weekend, reports AFP.

European Champions Juventus, who on Wednesday booked their passage to the European Cup semifinals by beating Rosenborg of Norway, were made to work hard for a goalless draw at Napoli but went six points clear of Parma who crashed 1-0 at Fiorentina.

Two goals from Fernando Hierro earned Real Madrid a 2-0 win over Real Zaragoza — a victory which kept them nine points clear of rivals Barcelona who hammered Sevilla 4-0.

French pacemakers Monaco, fresh from their UEFA Cup triumph over Newcastle in mid-week, showed their class with a 3-1 win over Bastia to stay seven points clear of Paris Saint Germain who continued their recent revival with a 2-0 win over Metz at the Parc des Princes.

With Croatian forward Alen Boksic and fellow-striker, Vladimir Jugovic suspended and with Alessandro del Piero and Moreno Torricelli out with injury, Juventus knew they were in for a tough clash against the Italian Cup finalists who have been beaten only once at home all season.

But Juventus came to defend and coach Marcello Lippi revamped the line-up by leaving out striker Nicola Amoruso for another defender in Gianluca Pessotto.

Roy Hodgson's UEFA Cup semifinalist Inter Milan leapfrogged Sampdoria to go

into third place by beating Verona 2-1 at the San Siro.

Sampdoria themselves

slipped back as they could only manage a 2-2 draw at struggling Piacenza but reigning champions AC Milan recovered some lost pride in moving back into the top-half of the table by winning 2-0 at Atalanta — their goals coming from George Weah and Stefano Ernado.

Lazio kept up their hopes of a UEFA Cup place with a 2-0 victory away to Vicenza.

In the evening match, Roma were hosting Bologna who could go third with a victory.

SPAIN

For Real Madrid, Hierro's scored his goals in the 35th and 43rd minutes. While Barcelona's scorers were Oscar, Brazilian Ronald, Juan Antonio Pizzi and Luis Enrique.

Barcelona are level on points with Betis who won 4-0 Real Oviedo.

Elsewhere fourth-placed Deportivo La Coruna, three points behind Barcelona, beat Racing Santander 2-1 for their sixth consecutive victory.

Seventh-placed Athletic Bilbao could only draw 2-2 at home to Compostela and Atletico Madrid won 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

FRANCE

In France, where Monaco closed on their sixth league title — Scottish international John Collinson gave the principality the best possible start against Bastia by scoring after just 13 minutes.

With eight games remaining

Monaco now have 62 points from 30 matches while nearest

challengers Paris Saint Germain have 55.

Meanwhile Nantes, who began the season disastrously, meanwhile moved into third place by stretching their unbeaten run to 23 matches after defeating Lille 1-0.

GERMANY

Bayern Munich ended a turbulent week off the pitch with a 2-0 victory at Karlsruhe to take over top spot in the German First Division.

Two goals from striker Alexander Zickler in the 30th and 90th minutes helped the Bavarians take a two-point lead after a week in which striker Juergen Klinsmann said he was leaving the club.

Bayern have 49 points from 24 games while Stuttgart who won 4-0 at struggling Fortuna Duesseldorf of Friday, and Bayer Leverkusen, 2-1 winners at bottom club Freiburg on Saturday, are level on 47 points in second and third places respectively.

Last week's leaders Bourse Dortmund have slipped to fourth a further point behind after losing 3-1 to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday. It was the reigning champions first defeat at home for more than a year.

HOLLAND

In the Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven suffered their first home defeat of the season when they went down 1-0 against Heerenveen. But they remained top of the Dutch league on goal difference over Feyenoord.

Sport



Defending champion IWM Rani Hamid (L) makes a move against Farzana Khan Aava during their third round engagement in the 18th national women's chess championship at the NSC yesterday. — Star photo

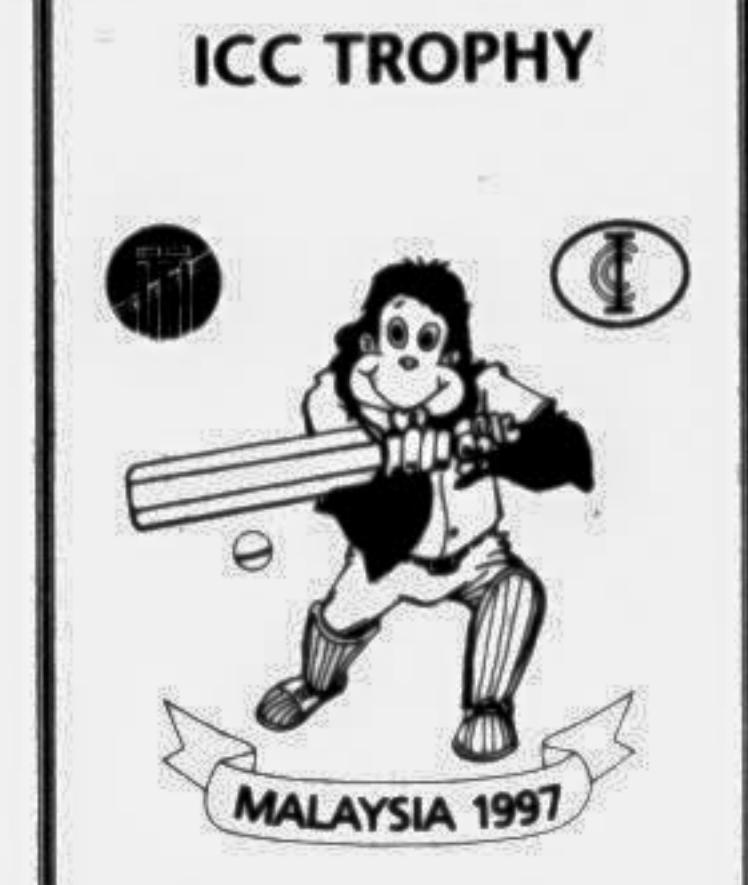
Rani going great guns

Sports Reporter

They were at one stage reeling at 104 for eight before lower middle-order bat Iriyogen with an unbeaten 30 off 40 balls gave the Argentine collection some sort of respectability. For Bangladesh, the two tweakers Enamul Haq and Naimur Rahman evenly shared six wickets between them while new-ball bowler Hasibul Hossain Shanto, who mopped up the tail, finished with two for nine runs in his 5.3 overs.

Bangladesh, who have been placed in Group B, will meet West Africa in their second match today.

ICC TROPHY



long-handled bat with this little gem of a knock showed signs of a great recovery act from a grave ankle injury. Rafique's availability in the ICC mission was in doubt when he was struck by the car of his teammate Enamul Haq Moni at their residential camp in the BKSP a couple of months back.

Earlier, winning the toss and electing to bat in the morning, Argentina were never seen comfortable against a disci-

planned bowling from Bangladesh. Openers Paterlini and Roberts, however, buckled down to built the innings, putting on 31 runs. But once the two were dismissed by slow left-arm Enamul Haq Moni, Argentina's hopes of scoring even

DURJOY... all-round show

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Result: Bangladesh won by five wickets.

BOWLING

ATHAR ALI NOT OUT

NAIMUR RAHMAN RUN OUT

ENAMUL HAQ RUN OUT

NAIMUR RAHMAN RUN OUT