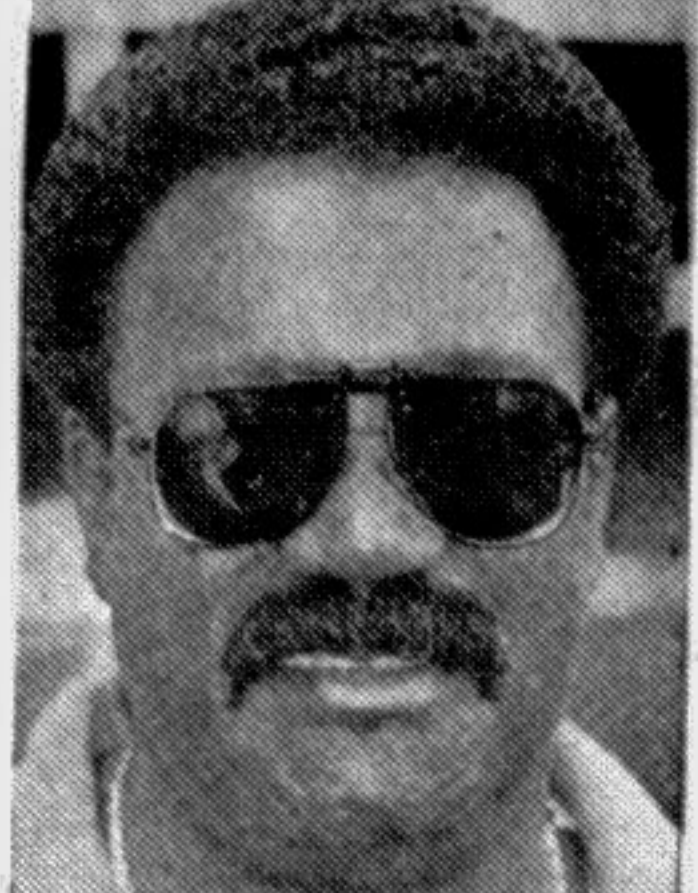


Column One
SPORTS TALK



Clive Lloyd
(Former West Indies cricket captain)
"Why not two neutral umpires in every Test?"

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?	Thipsay	Zia	Trivakov
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)

PM's reception for shooters

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accorded a hearty reception to the winners of second South Asian Shooting Confederation Championship held in New Delhi recently, reports BSS.

Seventeen shooters of the country bagged 23 medals including 9 golds which is a record success of the country in any international sports competition. They took part in 11 events.

Bangladesh keep going
Bulbul's bat back on song

Sports Reporter



AMINUL ISLAM ... m-o-m

Bangladesh recorded their third consecutive victory in the sixth International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy defeating fellow title-contenders Denmark by five wickets at the Royal Selangor Club (RSC) ground in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

According to a faxed message received here yesterday in the evening, Bangladesh, fresh after a scheduled day-off, resumed their campaign for a maiden World Cup ticket on an inspiring note.

On the bowler-friendly RSC wicket, Bangladesh, chasing a paltry Denmark total of 98 in the stipulated 50 overs, raced on to score the required 99 for the loss of five wickets, and with more than 16 overs to spare.

Earlier, on the same dicey wicket, Kenya, the top-seeded team in the tourney, had to strain its every nerve to prevail over Singapore by two wickets in a low-scoring affair.

Vice-captain Aminul Islam Bulbul, who was going through a lean patch, returned to his usual self with a timely 33 off 53 deliveries. The dapper right-hander, who came in to bat at his customary position of number four, with Bangladesh limping on 42/2, steered his side closer to victory, putting on a vital 32 runs for the third wicket with opener Athar Ali Khan before the latter fell for a sedate yet priceless 32 off 81 balls.

Aminul, who was later declared the man-of-the-match, clubbed five fours in his polished knock before becoming the last batsman out in Bangladesh innings. Aminul got himself out in the 33rd over when he went for a lofted drive off Jensen with Bangladesh needing four runs to reach the summit.

After the departure of Aminul, experienced Minhazul Abedin Nannu and skipper Akram Khan combined together to guide the team to the coast. With this win Bangladesh took the sole lead of Group B with a possible six points from three matches.

They will take on defending champions United Arab Emirates (UAE) in their penultimate group league match tomorrow. A win for Bangladesh will ensure them to finish atop the table before taking on hosts Malaysia in the last match.

On the other hand, for UAE, their second meeting against Bangladesh since their defeat in the ACC final, will be a do or die battle. A defeat for the UAE implies a premature exit of form the 22-nation meet, a qualifying tourney for the associate member nations in the 1999 World Cup to be held in England.

Although failed for the third consecutive occasion to call the coin correctly, skipper Akram Khan was duly paid off by his bowlers, who made the rival captain rue as he took the decision to bat first on a lively artificial turf.

Hasibul Hossain Shanto,

ICC TROPHY STANDINGS

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 27 (AFP): Results and standings after Thursday's preliminary round ICC Trophy matches here:

Group A
Singapore bt Israel by 68 runs.
Singapore 204 in 50 overs; Israel 136 43.4 overs.
Ireland bt United States by two wickets.
USA 212 in 50 overs (R Denny 44; N Doak 3-27); Ireland 215-8 in 49.1 overs (M Patterson 27 not out).
Kenya bt Gibraltar by seven wickets.
Gibraltar 44 in 27.1 overs (S Tikolo 4-10; A Karim 4-7); Kenya 46-3, 12.4 overs.

Group B
West Africa bt Argentina by five wickets.
Argentina 77 in 38.1 overs (D Idowu 4-14); West Africa 79-5 in 20.1 overs.
United Arab Emirates bt Malaysia by two wickets.

Malaysia 139 in 49.3 overs; UAE 141-8 in 47.3 overs.
Standings (played, won, lost, drawn, points)

Group A
Ireland 3 3 0 0 6
Kenya 2 2 0 0 4
USA 3 2 1 0 4
Singapore 3 1 2 0 2
Israel 3 0 3 0 0

Group B
Bangladesh 3 3 0 0 6
Denmark 3 2 1 0 4
UAE 3 2 1 0 4
Malaysia 3 1 2 0 2
West Africa 3 1 2 0 2
Argentina 3 0 3 0 0

Group C
Holland 2 2 0 0 4
Canada 2 2 0 0 4
Fiji 2 1 1 0 2
Namibia 2 0 2 0 0
E/C Africa 2 0 2 0 0

Group D
Scotland 2 2 0 0 4
Hong Kong 2 1 1 0 2
Bermuda 2 1 1 0 2
PNG 2 1 1 0 2
Italy 2 0 2 0 0

earlier defeated UAE in their previous match, could not be able to recover.

After the initial thrust, a burly Akram then led the way to dismiss Denmark with his two tweekers Enamul Haq and Mohammed Rafique.

Akram, the unlikely hero with the cherry, captured two wickets for only ten run in his miserly ten overs which yielded three maidens.

It was Denmark's first defeat after two successive wins.

SCOREBOARD

DENMARK:
Nielsen llw b Akram 0 0
M Lund b Hasibul 23
Pedersen llw b Saiful 0
JS Jensen b Saiful 2
Henriksen c K Masood b Akram 15
B Singh run out (Akram) 4
Andersen c&b Hasibul 1
Vestergaard c K Masood b Rafique 8
Rasmussen st K Masood b Enamul 14
Kristensen run out (Sanwar) 5
Soensen not out 2
Extras: (lb-1; lb-4; nb-3; w-16) 24
Total: (all out in 47.4 overs) 98

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-12; 3-12; 4-52; 5-64; 6-65; 7-74; 8-80; 9-95; 10-98.

Bowling: O M R W
Saiful Islam 8 0 12 2(w-7)
Hasibul Hossain 8.4 0 22 2(n-3; w-6)

ATHAR ALI 3 0 18 0
AKRAM KHAN 10 3 10 2
ENAMUL HAQ 10 2 16 1
MO SAIFUL 8 3 15 1

BANGLADESH:
Athar c Henriksen b Jensen 32
Nannu b Vestergaard 3
Sanwar b Kristensen 30
Aminul c & b Henriksen 13
Rafique c Pedersen b Jensen 4
Minhazul not out 1
Akram not out 3
Extras: (lb-2; w-11) 13
Total: (for 5 wks in 33.5 overs) 99

Fall of wks: 1-6; 2-42; 3-74; 4-88; 5-95

Did not bat: Khaled Masood
Saiful Islam, Enamul Haq and Hasibul Hossain

Bowling: O M R W
Vestergaard 5 0 17 1
Soensen 5 2 15 0
Andersen 5 0 14 0
Kristensen 6 2 14 1
Jensen 7.5 3 18 2
Rasmussen 4 0 18 0
Henriksen 1 0 1 1

Result: Bangladesh who by five wickets
Man-of-the-match: Aminul Islam

TODAY'S ICC TIES
Gibraltar vs Singapore
PNG vs Bermuda
Namibia vs East & Central Africa
Hong Kong vs Italy
Holland vs Fiji
Malaysia vs West Africa

BRIDGE NOTES
By An Expert

Hands from Bermuda Bowl

Score: Pakistan 95 1/2, USA 119

♠ KJ
♥ K86
♦ A 10875
♣ 987

♠ A 8765
♥ 742
♦ KJ 94
♣ A

Board: 58
Dir: East
Vul: Both

♠ 92
♥ QJ 10
♦ Q2
♣ J 106532

♠ Q1043
♥ A953
♦ K63
♣ KQ4

Open Room

WEST Solodar
MUNIR Munir
EAST Levin Pass
SOUTH Fazli Pass

Pass 14
Pass 24
All Pass

Closed Room

Masood Meckstroth
Zia Rodwell
Pass Pass
Pass Pass
All Pass

The US added 3 IMPs on Board 58 when Meckstroth made a trick at 4♣ by choosing a line of play that effectively forced his opponents to cash out for only one down while Munir was yielding a second under-trick, vulnerable.

Open Room
Munir and Fazli use the Drury convention only after 3rd seat openings (so says their system sheet) with a 2♣ response to 2♠ showing a sub-minimum opening. Thus their sequence here is a bit mysterious. Perhaps at some point during the tournament, they decided to switch to Reverse Drury (only a rebid of the major would promise a poor hand) after both third and fourth seat openings. Whatever their methods, they reached a normal aggressive game that became a very poor contract after the opening heart lead. Any other lead would have opened up communications to unblock the ♠A and take two heart discards on the ♠K-Q.

Munir won the first heart in dummy and immediately played a diamond to the jack and queen, hoping for some blockage in the heart suit and a nice diamond lie. Lie Levin cashed the ♥J and continued with ♥10 to Solodar's king. The ♠A was cashed for the setting trick and a club came back. Munir won his ace and played the ace and another trump, losing one more trick. Two down.

Score: USA (E-W) +200

Closed Room
Rodwell opened the 11-point South hand because of the two four-card majors and Meckstroth leaped to game after his 1♣ response caught a raise (usually four trumps).

The ♠Q was too late and Meckstroth won the ♠A. He decided to start on trumps immediately, hoping to be able to form an opinion about diamonds later and catering to a real combination ... stiff ♠K, which would allow a club unblock, quick entry to dummy and two timely discards. When the ♠K failed to drop, Meckstroth cashed the ♠A and exited with a second trump. Masood won the ♠K and cashed the ♥K, catching Zia's ♥10. He had to cash the other heart lest it go on a club, but that would set up a third discard for declarer's diamonds. With Zia then on play, he'd have to lead a diamond in any case for wait for the last trick in that suit. To underlead in diamonds risked the contract if Meckstroth guessed correctly or if he had no guess (♠K-Q-X) so, a bit frustratedly, Masood cashed the ♠A and led a third heart to the jack. One down and small swing to the US.

Score: PAKISTAN (E-W) +100
Net Score: USA+100 (3 IMPs)
Score Carried Forward: PAKISTAN 95; USA 122

REGRETS
Due to space constraint our regular item CROSSWORD could not be accommodated.
— Sports Editor

Club Cup hockey final today

Sports Reporter

Indian superstar Dhanraj Pillay arrived in the city yesterday to feature in the Karnaphuli Garden City Club Cup hockey tournament final in favour of Abahani Krira Chakra as they take on Mohammedan Sporting Club at the National Hockey Stadium this afternoon.

The title clash between the two local giants will start at 3:30 pm.

Pillay, who earlier took Abahani to the final of the invitational international hockey tournament last month, will be the main attraction in today's Abahani line up against their arch rivals who have decided to remain faithful to their local players. The noted Indian talent was instrumental in Abahani's 5-2 win over Mohammedans in the international meet.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Basabo Tarun Sangha recorded a 2-1 victory over Lalmitia Club in one of yesterday's four Second Division football league encounters at the Army Stadium.

Shanewaz and Monirul scored once each for the winners while Sami reduced the margin for the losers.

In the second match, at the same venue Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and the Muslim Institute shared points with a 1-1 draw.

The Mirpur Stadium, Little Friend's Club handed East End Boys Club a 2-3 defeat. Zahid, Siddique and Zakir netted once each for Little Friend's Club while Shah Alam and Kamal scored for East End Boys' Club.

In the other match at the same venue, Mahakali Ekadash and Prantik Krira Chakra split points with a 1-1 draw.

Independence Day int'l water polo begins tomorrow

The Independence Day international water polo tournament begins at the National Swimming Pool at Mirpur on March 29, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the tournament as the chief guest.

Six teams including three foreign teams would take part in the tournament.

The foreign teams are: Central Swimming Club of Calcutta, Calcutta University Institute and Sri Lanka.



Players and officials of the Scholastica team, which clinched the Nirman cricket trophy beating Narayanjan High School in the final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Mar 26.

Nirman schools championship
Scholastica retain title

Sports Reporter

Opener Yassir Arif displayed his unceasing batting skill to help the defending champions Scholastica retain the Nirman schools national cricket trophy with a comfortable 77-run victory over Narayanjan High School in the final, held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Wednesday.

Yassir, who earlier on Tuesday scored a match winning 72 in the semifinal against Rajbari Zila School, once again

hammered a swashbuckling 83 as Scholastica, opting to bat after winning the toss, amassed a huge 238 for eight in their share of 40 overs.

Coming to open the Scholastica innings, Yassir, who lost his opening partner Imran (27) on 66 and one-down Ridwan (18) on 108, stuck to the crease for more than two hours and played a gem of an innings to take the scoreboard to 168. The lithe opener shared a 60-run third wicket stand with Rubaiyat before being caught and bowled by Narayanjan's

Shafiqul Islam in the second delivery of the 31st over.

In his vital 91-ball knock, Yassir, who was adjudged man-of-the-match later, clobbered four sweetly-timed boundaries.

After Yassir's departure, Scholastica added further 60 runs to their account in the remaining 58 balls at the expense of five more wickets.

Rubaiyat was the other leading Scholastica batsman who scored 42 off 56 balls including three fours.

For Narayanjan, Didar and Samad shared four wickets

BRIEF SCORES

SCHOLASTICA: 238 for eight in 40 overs (Yassir 83, Rubaiyat 42, Imran 27; Didar 2/37, Samad 2/38)
NARAYANJAN HIGH SCHOOL: 161 all out in 37.2 overs (Samad 25, Didar 25, Mamun 25; Imran 4/20, Tanzem 2/26)
Result: Scholastica won by 77 runs.

conceding 37 and 38 runs respectively.

In reply, facing a daunting task of scoring six runs per over, Narayanjan boys wifed under the pressure and eventually caved in for 161 runs in 37.2 overs, losing all of their wickets at regular interval.

Narayanjan's middle-order bats — Samad, Didar and Mamun — scored 25 runs each. Scholastica's new-ball bowler Imran, who ripped through the Narayanjan top-order, with his military medium pace, finished with an impressive bowling figure of four for 20. The lanky pacer, who was adjudged as the bowler-of-the-tournament, was ably supported by Tanzem who took two wickets.



Man-of-the-match Yassir Arif (L) of Scholastica shows off his laurel after the prize-giving ceremony of the Nirman cricket final at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium on Mar 26. Their best bowler Jawad Md Imran Khan is on his left.

FIFA to bend the rules

ZURICH, Mar 27: Soccer's world governing body FIFA said on Wednesday it was changing its transfer rules to ensure equal treatment for all players moving between clubs within the European Union, reports Reuter.

The decision is effectively an extension of the ground-breaking Bosman ruling of December 1995.

FIFA's rule change means players from non EU countries who are playing for clubs within the EU will be able to move to other clubs within the EU on free transfers once their contracts expire.

For example Brazil's world footballer-of-the-year Ronaldo, who joined Barcelona for 20 million less than a year ago,

could join an Italian or an English club for nothing when his contract at Camp Nou runs out.

"We're just reacting to the reality of the situation," FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said. "This just says the rules as they apply to one group of players are now being extended to another."

The rule change, which has been ratified by the FIFA Executive will come into effect on April 1.

FIFA's decision is the latest response to the Bosman ruling, named after Belgian footballer Jean March Bosman.

He claimed European transfer rules violated EU law on the free movement of workers.

The European Court of Justice ruled in Bosman's favour in December 1995 sending shock waves through the continent's transfer market.

But until now the Bosman ruling has applied only to national of the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA).

Players from outside the EU and EEA were still subject to transfer fees, even if they were moving between clubs within the EU and EEA.

European clubs will still have to pay transfer fees when they import players from outside the EU and EEA.

If for example Barcelona want to buy a Brazilian player from a Brazilian club, they will have to pay.

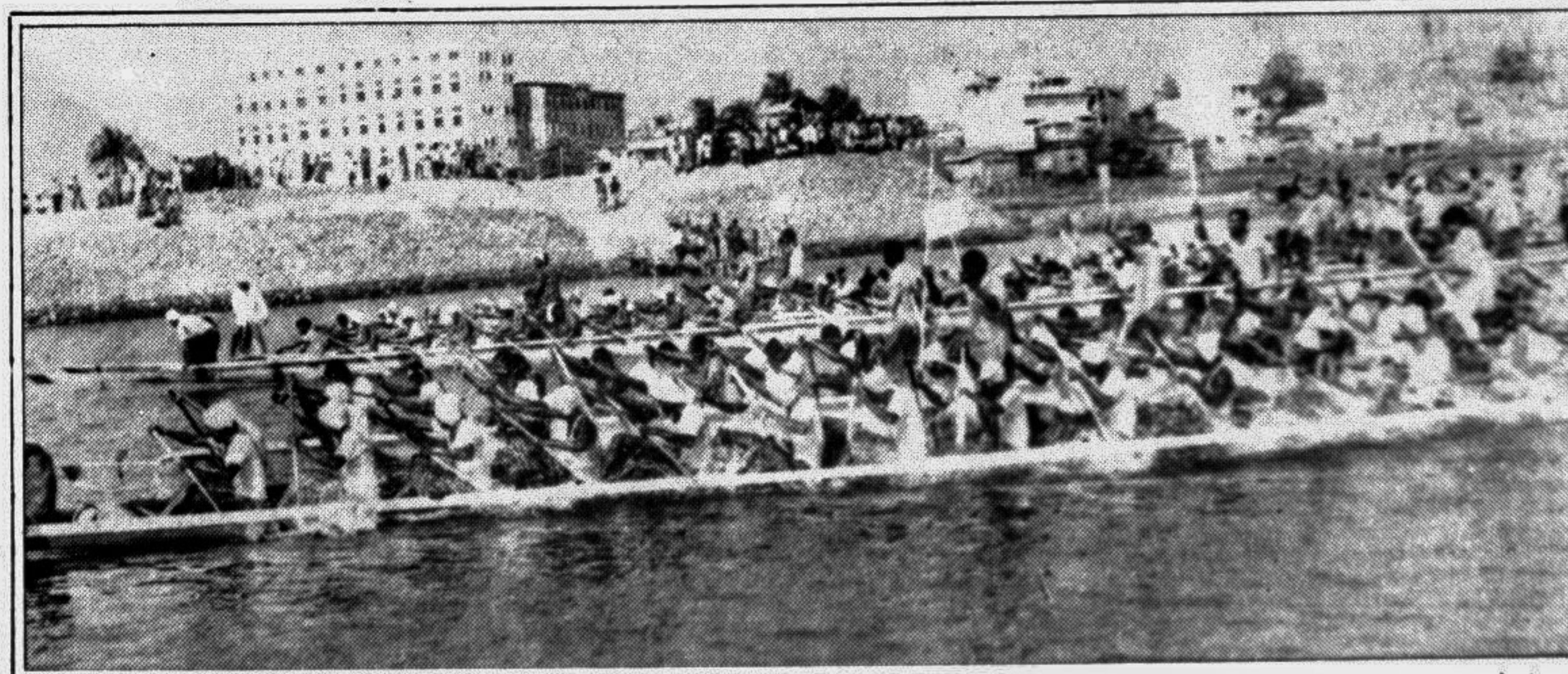
But once the player is in Spain, and once his contract with Barcelona has expired, he will be eligible to leave on a free transfer to join a club in, says Italy or England.

Schools h'ball begins Mar 29

The eighth Bata schools handball tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), begins on March 29, reports BSS.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, BHF president Lt Col (ret) M A Hamid said 12 teams would take part in the boys event in two groups while 14 teams in girls section in four groups.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid will inaugurate the tournament at the Dhanmondi Women Sports Complex at 3:30 pm.



Scene from Independence Day boat race at the Burganga river on Mar 26.