

**Nat'l cricket
Four more
advance**

Sports Reporter
Satkhira, Rajshahi, Noakhali and Jahangirnagar University moved into their respective zonal finals in the preliminary phase of the 23rd national cricket championship after winning their respective zonal matches at different venues across the country yesterday.

In Pabna, Russell hammered a brilliant half-century for Satkhira as they eliminated Khulna by nine wickets. Chasing a paltry Khulna total of 86 in 50 overs, the winners reached 87 for one in 35 overs with Russell collecting highest 52.

Earlier, the losers were all out for 86 in 41.4 overs. Sanu, the man behind Khulna's debacle, captured three wickets for 16. He was aided by Firoze and Munna who shared four wickets, between them.

In the three-day final scheduled to start on April 12 at the same venue, Satkhira will take on the winners of today's match between Rajshahi University and Jessore.

Away at the Thakurgaon Stadium, Rajshahi trounced Meherpur by 97 runs.

Batting first, Rajshahi piled up 227 before they were all out in 44.4 overs. Tareque top scored with 75 followed by Liton who added 31.

In reply, Meherpur were bundled out for 130 in 42.5 overs with Riton hammering highest 37.

In the three-day final also scheduled to start on Saturday, Rajshahi will meet the winners of today's match between Dhaka University and Dinajpur.

Meanwhile, in Comilla, Noakhali handed Sherpur a humiliating 91-run defeat to set up a zonal final clash with Manikganj which begins tomorrow.

Two magnificent half-centuries by Towhid (51) and Azim (50) helped the winners to reach 193 before they were all out in 44 overs in the first session. On the other hand, Sherpur were shot out for 102 in 33.3 overs with Lipon collecting highest 40.

Robin was the most successful Noakhali bowler taking four wickets for only 11 runs while Liton captured two.

In the day's other match at the Noakhali stadium, Jahangirnagar University registered a five-wicket victory over Comilla.

Chasing a manageable Comilla total of 158, the winners reached 160 in 30.3 overs with five wickets in hand.

Mahfuz scored 65 while Lipu added 41 runs to the winners account.

Jahangirnagar University will now face Sylhet in the three-day final billed for April 11 at the same venue.

**Tyson-Holyfield
rematch now
June 28**

LAS VEGAS, Apr 9: The rematch between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson, originally scheduled for May 3, was postponed until June 28 because Tyson suffered a cut above his eye, a spokesman for the MGM Grand Hotel said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

**Zelezny proves
his point**

CAPE TOWN, Apr 9: World javelin record holder Jan Zelezny proved just why he is recognised internationally as the man with the perfect throwing technique at the Green Point Stadium here Tuesday.

The Czech Republic athlete let the javelin soar over the 90m mark at the Engen Grand Prix summer series final here.

Zelezny, whose world beat stands at 98.48m, was included in the Grand Prix series final field as a high profile replacement for Olympic 100 and 200m silver medalist Merlene Ottey, who withdrew from the series due to injury.

He threw 91.34m against limited opposition to win comfortably.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Second Division Football League:
(Venue: Dhaka Stadium)
Avijatrik Malibagh vs Mahakhali Ekadash (2 pm)

Gandaria Famous, SC vs Lalmatia Club (4 pm)

(Venue: Mirpur Stadium)
The Muslim Institute vs Adamjee (4 pm)

Wings Cup Women's Handball League:
(Venue: Women's Sports Complex)
BJMC vs Jatrabari KC
Narayanganj DWSA vs Madaripur HC

Ansars vs West Jatrabari KC
Rangamati Mukul Fouz vs Maghbazar Girls' High School.



THREE CHEERS FOR BANGLADESH: The streets of Dhaka came alive yesterday when people in their thousands left their homes to celebrate Bangladesh's entry into the next cricket World Cup in England. —Star photo

Pakistan reach final

SHARIAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 9: Pakistan entered the Sharjah Cup final with a thrilling 32-run victory over Zimbabwe here today, reports AFP.

Defending a modest 151 for nine, the Pakistanis fought back to bowl out Zimbabwe for 119 in 40.1 overs in the last match of the preliminary league.

Pakistan clash with world champions Sri Lanka in Friday's final worth 40,000 dollars to the winners.

Earlier, Pakistani wicket-keeper Moin Khan and Tailender Saqlain Mushtaq joined together to rescue their team from Zimbabwe's clutches.

The pair put a face-saving stand of 77 for the eighth wicket after Pakistan had crashed to 51 for seven in the crucial league game.

Moin scored a career-best 61 and Saqlain contributed 20 after taking 29 balls to get off the mark as Pakistan closed their innings on 151 for nine.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Sharjah Cup one-day international between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN

Inzamam run out	14
Sajid Ali b Matambanadzo	4
Ijaz c A Whittall b Brandes	19
Malk c A Flower b Brandes	0
M Matambanadzo	3
M Wasim lbw b Streak	3
Wasim Akram c P. Strang b Matambanadzo	1

Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-34; 3-34; 4-40; 5-41; 6-43; 7-51; 8-128;

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Brandes	10	4	39	2
Matambanadzo	8	0	27	2
Streak	10	2	18	4
Strang	10	0	32	0
A. Whittall	8	1	18	0
G. Whittall	4	1	10	0

ZIMBABWE

Wishart b Younis	5
C. Flower c Ijaz b Younis	1
A. Flower b Mushtaq	28
P. Strang b Saqlain	26
A. Campbell b Saqlain	0
G. Whittall c Moin b Mushtaq	0
D. Viljoen run out	25
H. Streak lbw b Younis	20
E. Brandes st Moin b Mushtaq	0
A. Whittall c Akram b Mushtaq	0
Matambanadzo not out	5
Extras: (lb-5, w-4)	9
Total:	119

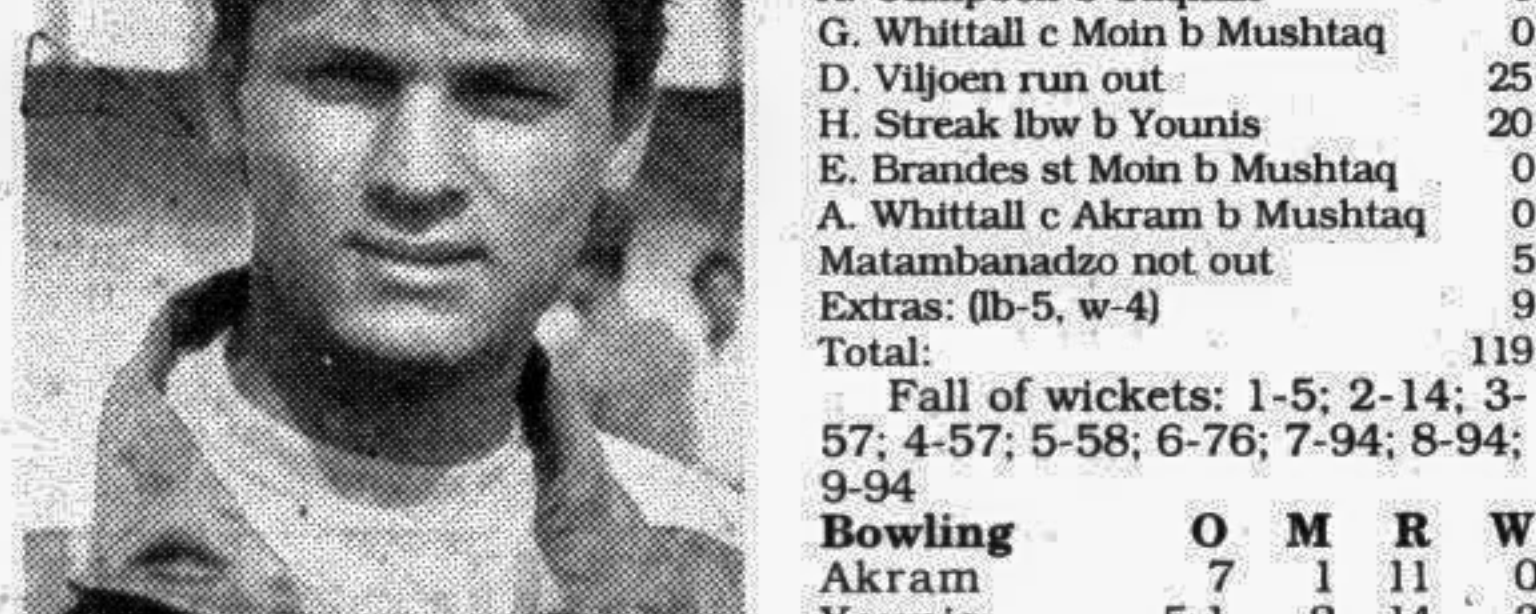
Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-14; 3-57; 4-57; 5-58; 6-76; 7-94; 8-94; 9-94

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Akram	7	1	11	0
Younis	5.1	2	14	3
Saqlain	9	2	37	2
Afridi	9	1	25	0
Mushtaq	10	0	27	4

Result: Pakistan won by 32 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Moin Khan.

Friday's final: Sri Lanka v Pakistan



MOIN KHAN ... m-o-m

Moin c A. Whittall b Streak 61
Afridi b Streak 20
Saqlain c G. Flower b Streak 20
Mushtaq not out 5
Wagar not out 8
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-4) 11
Total: (for 9 wks in 50 overs) 151

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Dull draw in Antigua

Jadeja misses the mark

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 9: Opening batsman Ajay Jadeja was run out just four runs shy of his first century in Tests as the Indians gained batting practice on the fifth and final day of the rain-ruined fourth cricket Test at the Recreation Ground here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Making his ninth appearance in Tests, Jadeja failed to beat a throw from third man fielder Stuart Williams to wicketkeeper Courtney Browne and was dismissed for his highest score in this form of the game.

It lifted the tourists to 212 for two, replying to the home team's first innings total of 333 for nine declared.

"We just wanted to get some actual match practice," admitted Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar.

Using the relaxed atmosphere in which the meaningless last day was being contested, Jadeja and opening partner Venkata Laxman survived a hostile opening spell from the West Indies new-ball pair of Curtly Ambrose and Ian Bishop to post India's best first wicket stand in the series of 97.

"The opening batsmen batted very well. It is always important for us to get a good start," Tendulkar commented.

With Navjot Sidhu the only established opening batsman out of the side, both openers were under the microscope.

Jadeja had been chosen in the original squad of 12 from which the final 11 was to be chosen for this Test to replace Laxman, who in the end kept his position in the 11 when Sidhu suffered a bout of malarial fever on the eve of the match.

Ambrose and Bishop bowled a menacing opening spell both sides of lunch, which saw India three without loss. But neither of them, nor the rest of the bowlers, minus paceman Franklyn Rose who was suffering from a bout of influenza, could make the breakthrough.

The openers consequently saw things through to tea on 83 without loss.

Fast bowler Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain, finally separated the pair when Laxman edged to Browne after the tea break.

The batsman's 56 lasting just over two hours contained five fours and would have lifted his confidence which might have waned when he endured lean times in the previous two Tests.

Jadeja played some handsome strokes in his 253-minute innings which was spiced by seven fours and two sixes and which carried him past the 73 that he scored against New Zealand at Bangalore in the 1995-96 series.

There were strokes of all descriptions before his unfortunate dismissal in an innings which could create a dilemma when the side chosen for the next Test at Bourda Oval in Georgetown Guyana.

The consistent Rahul Dravid, who shared a second wicket partnership of 101 with Jadeja, was 37 not out at the close with Sunil Joshi on 10.

Brian Lara, who hit a world record 375 on the same ground

Browne and Ambrose added 43 before Ambrose (22) edged Abey Kuruvilla to wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia.

During his innings, the Antiguan paceman had reached 1,000 runs in Test cricket when he pulled left-arm spinner Joshi for four. Ambrose has now 1,019 runs in 69 Tests.

Browne surpassed his previous Test-best 34 as he reached 39 not out with Walsh, who was out after skying the ball to Dravid to give Joshi his third wicket.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the fourth cricket Test between West Indies and India on Tuesday:

WEST INDIES: First innings (overnight 252-7)

Campbell run out	10
Williams c Tendulkar b Kuruvilla	0
Chanderpaul c Laxman b Kumble	24
Lara c Mongia b Prasad	103
Hooper c Azharuddin b Joshi	26
Holder c Mongia b Kumble	56
Browne not out	39
Bishop c Dravid b Joshi	17
Ambrose c Mongia b Kuruvilla	22
Walsh c Dravid b Joshi	21
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-9)	15
Total: (for nine declared)	333

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-32; 3-40; 4-82; 5-224; 6-230; 7-252; 8-295; 9-333.

Did not bat: F. Rose.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Prasad	24	5	65	1
Kuruvilla	24	1	69	2
Kumble	36	14	93	2
Joshi	23.4	7	76	3
Ganguly	3	0	24	0

INDIA: First innings

Jadeja run out	96
Laxman c Browne b Walsh	56
Dravid not out	37
Joshi not out	10
Extras: (b-3, nb-10)	13
Total: (for 2 wks)	212

Fall of wickets: 1-97; 2-198.

Did not bat: S. Tendulkar, S. Ganguly, M. Azharuddin, N. Mongia, A. Kumble, S. Joshi, A. Kuruvilla, V. Prasad.

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	9	1	26	0
Bishop	16	3	47	0
Walsh	15	3	37	1
Hooper	15	4	40	0
Chanderpaul	11	0	40	0
Williams	3	0	19	0

Result: Match drawn.
Fifth Test will be played in Georgetown, Guyana from April 17 to 21.

**BD-Scotland
scoreboard**

BANGLADESH
Athar Ali c Davies b Beven 5
Naimur Rahman run out 26
K Masood st Davies b Beven 70
Aminul Islam b Blain 57
Akram c Kennedy b Blain 4
Saiful Islam b Gourlay 15
Minhajul Abedin not out 39
Rafique c Lockie b Gourlay 16
Khaled Mahmud not out 0
Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-1, w-4) 11
Total: (for 7 wks in 50 overs) 243

Fall of wickets: 1/12; 2/51; 3/168; 4/168; 5/172; 6/211.
Did not bat: Hasibul Hossain and Enamul Haq.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Blain	10	0	49	2
Beven	10	2	29	2
Gourlay	7	0	62	2
Kennedy	10	3	23	0
Williamson	8	0	43	0
Sheridan	5	0	30	0

SCOTLAND
Philip st K Masood b Naimur 37
Lockie run out (Hasibul) 0
Lockhart c Athar b Enamul 19
Beven c Saiful b Enamul 5
Salmond st K Masood b Enamul 24
Williamson not out 39
Gourlay c b Rafique 4
Davies b Rafique 12
Kennedy c Minhajul b Rafique 3
Blain run out (Saiful) 4
Sheridan c Aminul b Rafique 2
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-14) 22
Total: (All out in 44.5 overs) 171

Fall of wickets: 1/30; 2/62; 3/73; 4/80; 5/111; 6/123; 7/154; 8/162; 9/169; 10/171.

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Saiful Islam	7	0	21	0
Hasibul Hossain	2	0	10	0
Khaled Mahmud	6	1	18	0
Enamul Haq	10	0	31	3
Naimur Rahman	9	1	30	1
Mohammed Rafique	5	0	25	4
Minhajul Abedin	2	0	10	0
Akram Khan	3	0	17	0

Result: Bangladesh won the match by 72 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Khaled Masood (Bangladesh).

Div II football

Sports Reporter

Leaders Shantinagar Club recorded their tenth victory in the Second Division football league when they handed BG Press a 1-3 defeat at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Alauddin, Pintu and Jahangir scored one each as the winners led the first half 3-0.

On the other hand, Mokaddas reduced the margin for BG Press in the second half.

Shantinagar raised their tally to 32 points from 12 matches and remained atop the sixteen-team league table. BG Press, however, were glued to their previous collection of 15 points.

In the day's other match, second place Dhaka Wanderers Club outplayed East End Boys Club by two goals to nil.

Wanderers strikers Anis and Alim were on target in the fifth and 15th minute respectively.

Wanderers maintained their position with 26 points from 12 matches.

Away at the Mirpur Stadium, Little Friends Club recorded a 4-3 victory over Prantik Krira Chakra while Jurain Janata Club and Basabo Tarun Sangha shared points in a 1-1 draw.

Women's h'ball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars, West Jatrabari Krira Chakra and Madaripur Handball Club won their respective Wings Cup women's handball league matches held at the Women Sports Complex at Dhanmondi yesterday.

In the first match Ansars outmastered Rangamati Mukul Fouz 39-7. Later, West Jatrabari defeated Suktra Jubo Sangsad 18-10. In the day's last match, Madaripur tamed Jatrabari Krira Chakra 18-2.

Meanwhile, in the 8th Bata School handball tournament, BAF Shaheen School, BDR School and College and Kamalapur High School won their respective matches at the handball court near Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Nightmare laid to rest

Syed Ashfaul Haque

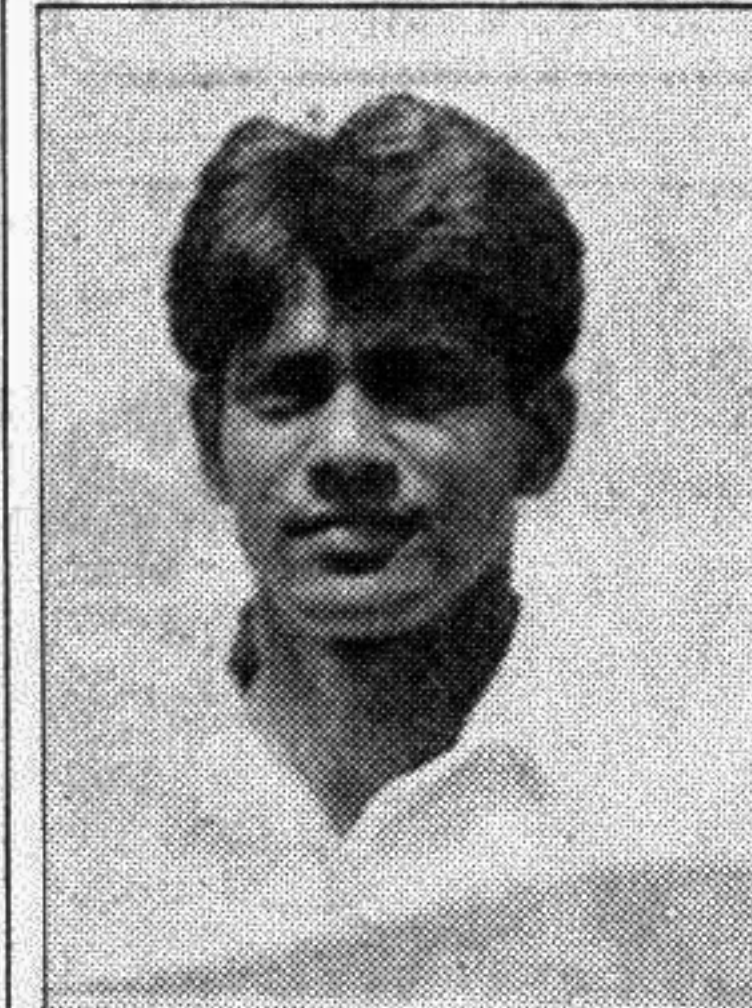
The cherished dream of the cricket-crazy crores has finally come true — Bangladesh are now in World Cup proper.

With the spin-unfamiliar

match beyond doubt, amassing an imposing total of 243 for seven in their share of 50 overs.

But, in spite of that commanding total, aficionados,

were present when history was made at the Kilat Kelab ground in Malaysia, soon invaded the pitch to hug and have the feel of their heroes, dancing and



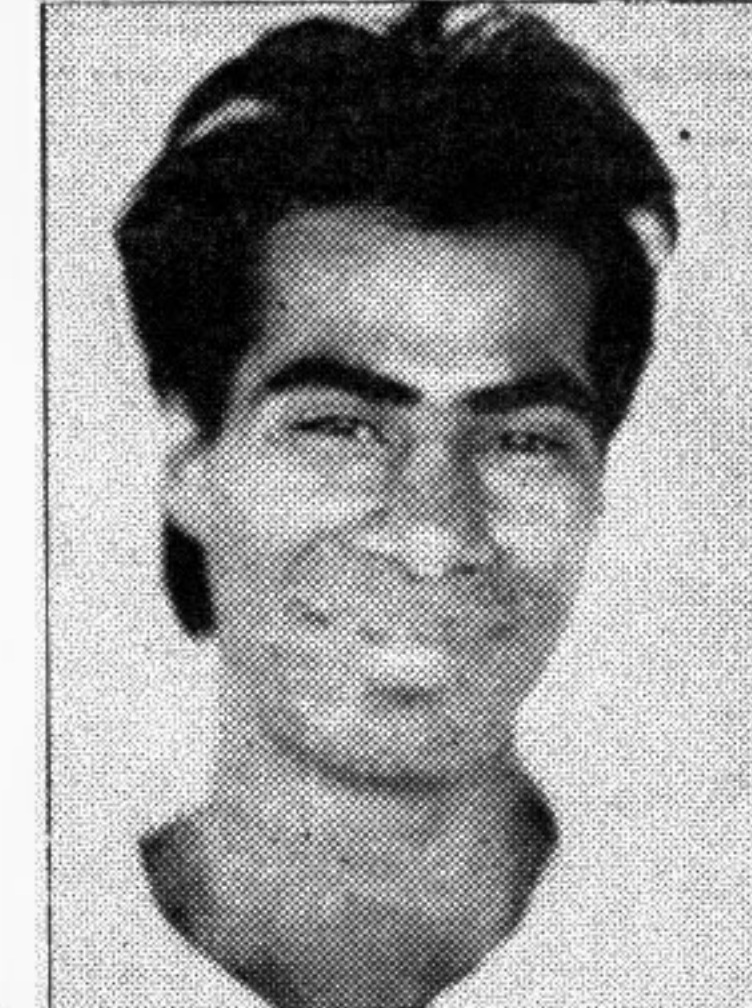
M RAFIQUE ... 4 for 25

Scotland batsmen succumbing to the tweakers' snare, Bangladesh reached the desired goal at long last, setting up an ideal form book final of the sixth International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy against Kenya on April 12.

The catch at point which heralded the fall of last Scottish wicket and saw Aminul Islam go down on his knees in a spontaneous act of gratitude to the God yesterday, marked a landmark in country's cricket and evoked emotional response from thousands of vociferous supporters at stands and 120 millions at home to have an unprecedented jubilation at its possible best.

Favourites Bangladesh, who were strongly tipped for a victory in the semifinal, had to hold back their party for one more day as overnight rain allowed only one innings to be completed on Tuesday.

Although a victory against the rank outsiders was always on the cards, Bangladesh, after being put into bat, put the



E HAQUE MONI ... 3 for 31

both away and home, having witnessed so many failures, flops and fiascos in the past.

At home, crores of sports-lovers — in the offices, factories, roads, transports, dormitories and houses — were seen fixing their ears to any radio they could get to be with the ball-by-ball commentary of the proceedings. In the capital, it was a common feature that people packed like sardines were seen around a radio set and even the quacks in the Gulistan areas, kept in tune with Betar commentary instead of campaigning their all-cure mysterious medicines. Intensity of enthusiasm was even higher at the Dhaka University campus where students were almost caught in an act of empathy with the two Betar commentators — Shamim Ashraf Chowdhury and Chowdhury Zafrullah Sharafat.

And when Zafrullah Sharafat, in his typical theatrical dialect, shouted,

"Sheridan...cut the ball...and Bangladesh in the World Cup", the whole nation jumped into an unfeigned euphoria. Jubilants had a field day of celebration all around the capital — dancing, singing, waving the red and green flag and sprinkling coloured water. There were always a nagging fear at the back of everybody's mind that our boys may not be able to pull it off when it mattered most. Incubus of the Kenyan catastrophe which led to our failure in participating in 1996 World Cup threatened to revisit even the best of the optimists.

But the nation has finally put behind the nightmare with a fitting World Cup qualification which came following the euphoric path of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Trophy triumph in last year, thanks to an excellent job in chalking up the success by the Bangladesh Cricket Board. The whole nation is now thriving to accord an overwhelming reception to those warriors who have translated its dreams into reality.

And as the immense pressure for qualifying in the World Cup has gone now, everybody is hoping that their cricketers would leave no stone unturned to end their Malaysian mission in a befitting manner, pipping the hot favourites Kenyans at the post in the final. What could have been better before squeezing in the ivy league of Test-playing nations with an ICC Trophy under the belt! So go and get it for us. Wish you all the best.

Faridpur cricket

FARIDPUR, Apr 9: Defending champions Mitul Club beat newcomers Faridpur Kishore Cricket Club by 44 runs in the opening match as this session's cricket league began at the local stadium here on Friday, reports BSS.

Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Masood shows off his man-of-the-match award shortly after the ICC Trophy second semifinal against Scotland in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bangladesh won by 72 runs to earn a ticket to 1999 World Cup in England. —AFP/UNB photo

ICC TROPHY



MALAYSIA 1997



Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Masood shows off his man-of-the-match award shortly after the ICC Trophy second semifinal against Scotland in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bangladesh won by 72 runs to earn a ticket to 1999 World Cup in England. —AFP/UNB photo

On to the WORLD CUP !!!

Congratulations to the Bangladesh Cricket Team

Meghna and BP. Together we keep you moving.

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1999 WORLD CUP ... HERE WE COME!

Congratulations to the Bangladesh Cricket Team

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