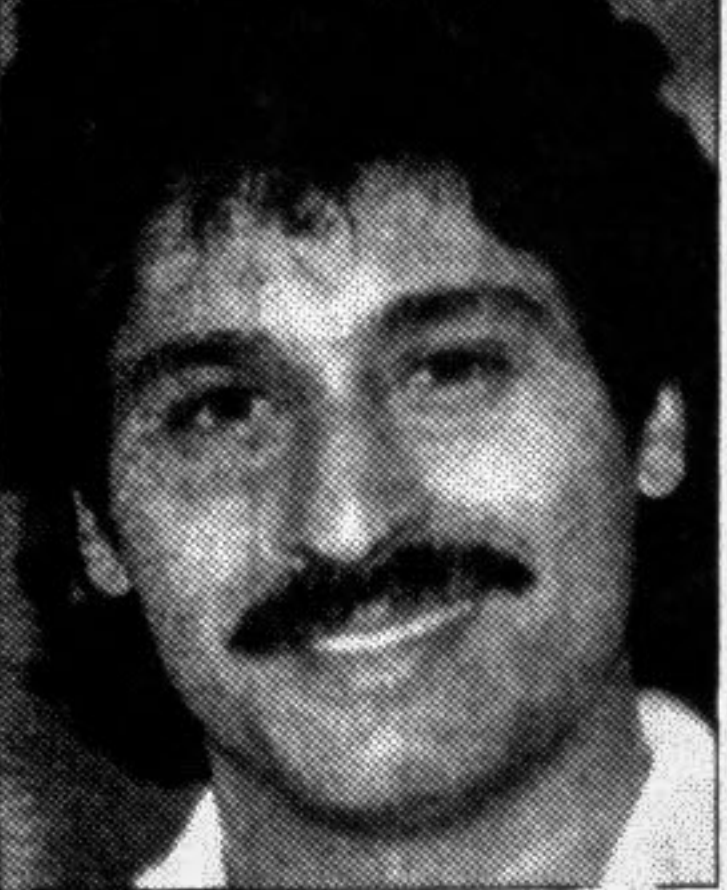


Column One SPORTS TALK



Rameez Raja (Pakistan cricket captain) We feel at home here. We like the people. Said during the Independence Cup tournament in India.

Bangladesh's Test plea gains momentum

Twenty-three associate nations of the International Cricket Council (ICC) have extended their support Thursday to award Bangladesh Test status during the ongoing annual conference of cricket's ruling body at Lord's.

Improvement, recently, was quite eager to give a promotion to the elite echelon with the senior status.



ASHRAFUL HAQUE Bangladesh's bid, however, got a big boost when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP,

Second Indian for Usha

Rahul Singh, a 22-year-old Indian international, arrived in the city yesterday afternoon to don the Usha Kirra Chakra colours in the ongoing Green Delta First Division hockey league.

Reifer replaces Chanderpaul SL face WI in Antigua



A RANATUNGA ager Clive Lloyd on the eve of the match Thursday. "Shiv will not be able to make it at this stage."

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, June 13: Bowing to a bothersome neck injury, West Indies star batsman Shiv-

regional Red Stripe Cup with 756 runs at an average of 44.47. The Sri Lankans have themselves been set back by injuries.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-72 Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 3 columns: Question, Answer, and Score. Questions include 'How many countries will participate in the sixth Asia Cup cricket?', 'The number of associate members in the International Cricket Council are', etc.

Div III soccer

Matuail Udayan Sangsad recorded a solitary goal victory over Labagh Sporting Club in one of the two Third Division football league matches played at the Army Stadium yesterday.

Alec stymies Y'shire

LONDON, June 13: England wicket-keeper-batsman Alec Stewart stroked a superb unbeaten double century as Surrey played Yorkshire's attack in their county championship match on Thursday, reports Reuter.



ALEC STEWART... out as Surrey piled up 426 for six at the close on the first day of the four-day game at The Oval.

Cork's Ashes in ashes

LONDON, June 13: England paceman Dominic Cork has been ruled out of the Ashes series after a specialist confirmed on Thursday he needs surgery on a groin injury, reports Reuter.

Courtney Walsh

On the other side, Brian Lara, the double world record-holder, is keen to emulate De Silva's big scoring after a modest series against India. On the ground where he notched his Test best 375 in 1994 and his only century against the Indians, the 28-year-old left-hander is a dangerous opponent.

SRI LANKA: Russell Arnold, Sanath Jayasuriya, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Hashan Tillekeratne, Roshan Mahanama, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Kumara Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralitharan, Dulip Liyanage, Sajeeva de Silva, Marvan Atapattu, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Sanjeeva Ranatunga.

But it is the batting of the visitors that carries the most sting. Aravinda de Silva averaged 216 per innings in his most recent Test series against Pakistan at home in April. His last three innings have produced three centuries (168, 138 not out and 103 not out) and his form has been prolific in the last three months in both versions of the game.

EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

M United stake Babel high

MUNICH, Germany, June 13: Manchester United have raised their offer for Markus Babel to 2.8 million marks (1.6 million dollars) per year after the Bayern Munich defender rejected an earlier bid of 1.75 million marks, the German news agency SID said today, reports Reuter.

Maturana may quit Ecuador

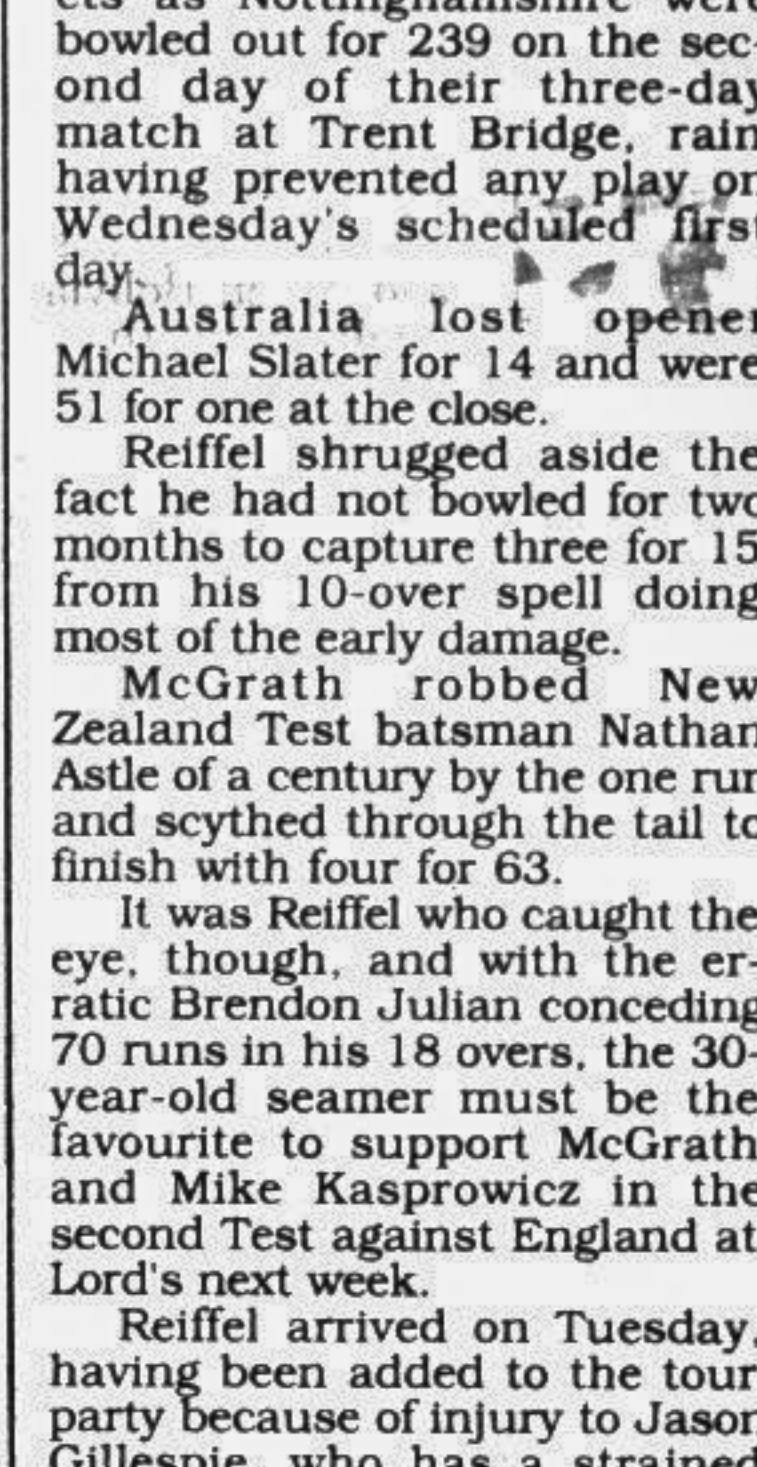
COCHABAMBA, Bolivia, June 13: Ecuador coach Francisco Maturana said on Thursday he may leave the job as soon as the World Cup qualifying matches finish in November, reports Reuter.

Reiffel back in business

NOTTINGHAM, June 13: Paul Reiffel started his tour impressively and fellow paceman Glenn McGrath showed encouraging signs of a return to form to lift the Australians on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Cute handball

Bangladesh Police recorded a thrilling 35-34 victory over Menjis Krira Chakra in the lone CUTE Premier league match held at the court near Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



PAUL REIFFEL build a big innings when he was trapped leg before when pulling at a delivery from Evans that did not get up as much as he expected.

Table with columns: Player, O, M, R, W. Lists statistics for McGrath, Kasprovic, Reiffel, Julian, Bevan, and Australia's first innings.

WHIZZ KID-71 correct answers

- 1. Who lifted the Independence Cup cricket title? Ans: Sri Lanka
2. Who won the European Cup football title? Ans: Borussia
3. How many fours did Saeed Anwar clout in his record setting innings of 194? Ans: 22
4. Who was adjudged man-of-the-series in the Independence Cup? Ans: Jayasuriya
5. Who became champion in the 23rd national chess tournament? Ans: Rajib

Mario believes in Zagallo

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia, June 13: Brazil coach Mario Zagallo hit back at his detractors on Thursday, predicting that he would have the last laugh by leading his country to their fifth World Cup success next year, reports Reuter.

Tyson will be careful now

NEW YORK, June 13: Mike Tyson pointed the finger on Thursday at the man who cost him the WBA heavyweight title in his fight against Evander Holyfield on Nov. 9, reports AP.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Table with columns: Match Name, Venue, Time. Lists matches like Green Delta First Division Hockey League, Usha KC vs Sadharan Bima, etc.

Invitation for Bid

International Tender Inquiry No Pur-2.1092/97 Credit No. 2016-BD. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of "Power Distribution (16-Town) Project".

WHIZZ KID-71 winner

Tofael Ahmed Tanveer Tilagaoon Govt Primary School, Mirzapur. (Remember to bring your ID card and a passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star on June 18 at 7.30 pm.)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP. Includes crossword clues and a grid for a cryptogram puzzle.