

Column One

ROOSTI sports WHIZZ KID

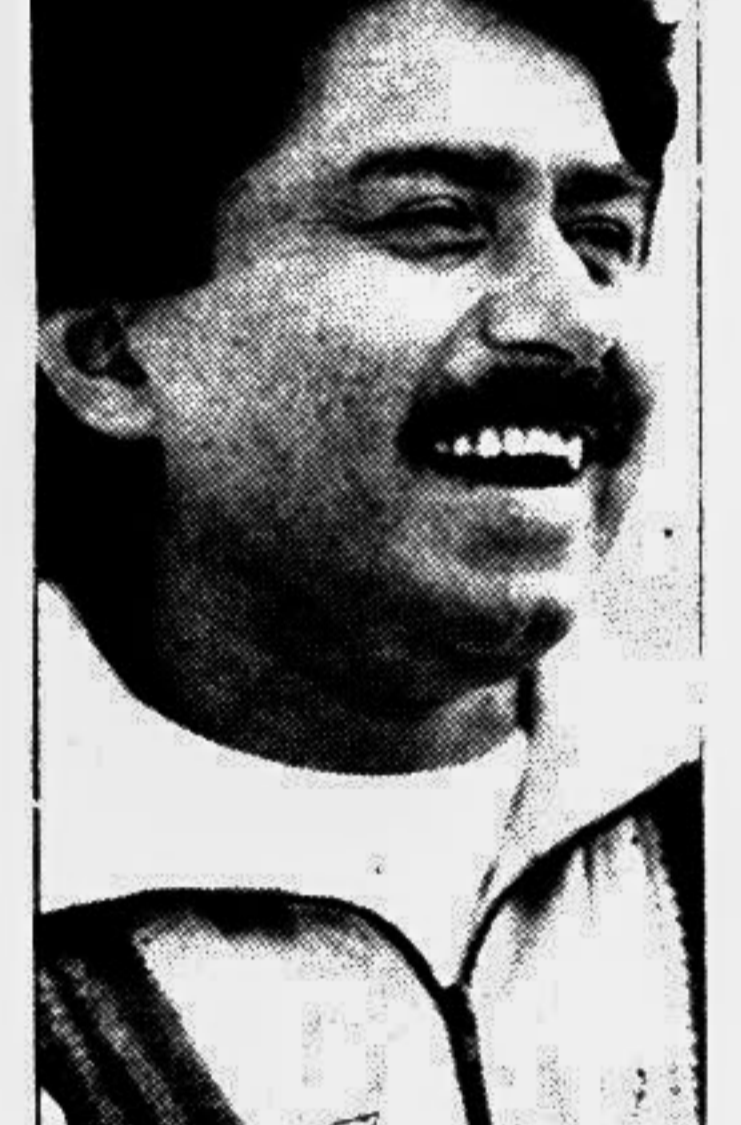
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-86

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

- 1 Who is the Australia cricket coach? Lille Marsh Simpson
2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach? Passarella Venables Cruyff
3 Which county will Lara lead next year? Essex Durham Warwickshire
4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league? Nadim Saad Kazim

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

EN-VITS SPORTS TALK



Javed Miandad (Pakistani cricket great) 'I'm obliged to do something for my country, as I'm indebted to it for all the fame achieved. And whenever my country needs me, I'm available.'

Acme hockey Bangladesh Shishkha Prasthan (BKSP), Dhaka Education Board and Faridpur DSA reached the semifinals of the Acme 16th national youth championship, winning their respective quarterfinals at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

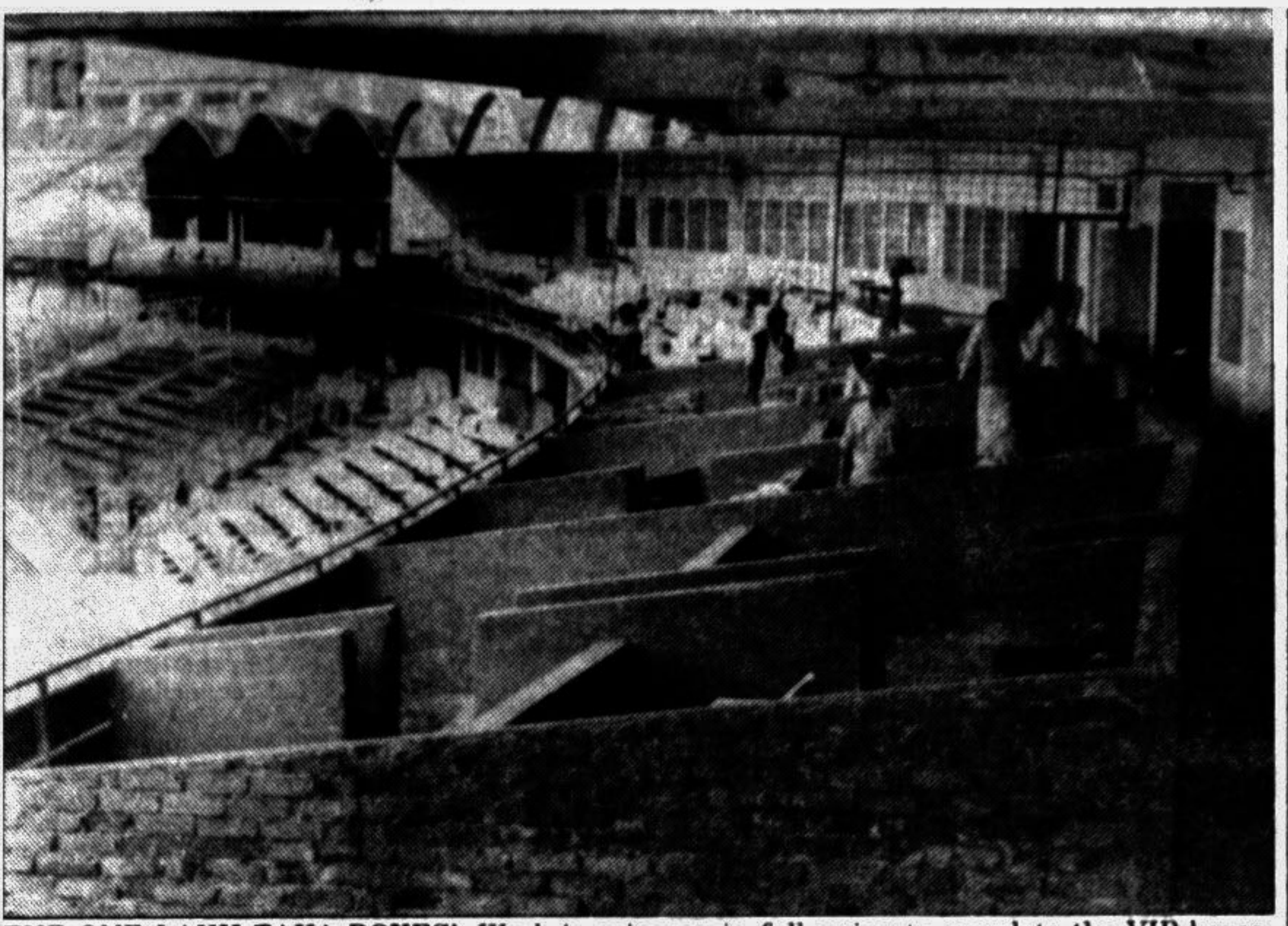
Holders BKSP recorded a massive 11-0 goals victory over Gazipur DSA. The first half score was 6-0. Maududur Rahman and Mahbulul Ehsan netted five goals each to score the day's first and second hat-trick while Ariful Haq scored the other.

In the day's second match, Dhaka Education Board outplayed Sylhet DSA by 5-1 goals after dominating the first half with a 2-1 goals margin. Dhaka Board skipper Faruk Ahmed scored three goals in a row. Kajal and Shakil netted one each for the winners while Hashem scored the consolation goal for the losers.

In the day's last match, Faridpur DSA defeated Narayanjan DSA 4-0 goals after leading the first half by a lone goal. Prasanta, Hassan, Ashiqur and Firoj scored one piece for the Faridpur DSA.

BKSP will meet Dhaka Education Board while Dhaka DSA will face Faridpur DSA in the semifinals.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT JURISDICTION (ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION) MATTER NO. 146 OF 1997 IN THE MATTER OF: An application under section 12 read with section 13 of the companies Act, 1994.



THE ONE LAKH TAKA BOXES! Work is going on in full swing to complete the VIP boxes ahead of the silver jubilee triangular cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium. Each luxury compartment seating upto ten persons, includes a TV monitor and free lunch.

Div II cricket Sports Reporter

Utara Sporting Club, DOHS, East End Club and Rupali Bank won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league first round matches at different city venues yesterday.

Utara defeated Shantinagar 'A' by 57 runs at the Dhanmondi Club ground, DOHS posted a six-wicket victory over Kheleghar Samaj Kalyan Sangstha at the Utara Friend's Club ground, East End Club beat Azad Boys Club by five wickets at the Mirpur Outer Stadium while Rupali Bank edged past Young One's Club at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

In another match of the day, the Young Muslim Sporting Club outplayed Khulna Town Club by three goals to one. The winners led the first half 2-0.

BCB plans for a financial bonanza Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has drawn up an ambitious plan to make the forthcoming Independence Cup cricket tournament a financial bonanza.

Although the official announcement is yet to be made, it was gathered that the BCB is expecting to spin off a significant amount of money from the gate receipts of the tri-nation tournament where the two Asian giants - Pakistan and India - along with the hosts Bangladesh will compete in a week-long one-day spectacle starting January 10.

The organisers have constructed twenty-four family boxes at the VIP gallery of the Dhaka Stadium. And each box, which will offer ten-person accommodation, foods and a TV monitor a la Sharjah, will cost taka one lakh. The package offer, unique of its kind, will be valid for the whole tournament.

The price of normal VIP tickets on the top floor of the two-storied Dhaka Stadium, which will host all the six matches including the three-game mandatory finals, have been fixed at taka 1200 apiece for a match while for the ground floor of the same enclosure, it will be taka 750 apiece.

Rate of tickets for the western gallery has been fixed at taka 150 apiece for a match while for the less convenient eastern gallery it will be taka 100 apiece per match.

Tickets are likely to be put on sale through some selected branches of Al-Baraka Bank from January 5.

America-based company WorldTel has bought the TV rights from the BCB and will provide live coverage of the tourney to millions of viewers in 22 different countries.

Latif hopes to unite the team

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'I presume this is the objective of the authorities and I am keen to fulfill the task entrusted to me,' Latif said on Friday evening.

Latif admitted that he was unsure of his tenure 'but for whatever period I am, this will be my top priority.'

Latif emphasised that he was keen to forget the past. 'Whatever happened earlier this year is history now. The Dhaka tournament is the first of the year and I am looking forward to help the team take a winning start.'

Latif agreed that there would be a lot of pressure on the team after it lost all the six tournaments this year. But he was confident that the players would put everything behind them.

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Latif said the cricket authorities contacted him before appointing him the captain and said he was fully satisfied with the selected outfit.

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Latif, whose five-year career is plagued with controversies, promised that he was now a changed person. 'I am now a different player who only wants to play cricket without controversies. I want to perform for the team and I think I have been selected because the side needs me.'

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Balakov named best for '97 SOFIA, Dec 27: VFB Stuttgart midfielder Krassimir Balakov, a key member of the national team, has been named Bulgarian footballer-of-the-year for 1997, reports AFP.

Soccer resumes on Dec 30 Sports Reporter

After a six-day recess the Senior Division football league resumes on December 30 with the matches to be held at the Mirpur and Army stadiums.

It was decided at an emergency meeting of the Dhaka Mahanagari Football League Committee (DMFLC) at the Dhaka Stadium last night.

Earlier, the league was suspended for three days on December 24 following requests by the leading clubs to press their demand to let them use Dhaka Stadium for footballing for at least six months a year.

It was learnt that, Bangladesh Football Federation general secretary Harunur-Rashid, MP, was present at the meeting and he assured all the 20 clubs of an acceptable solution within a short time.

Two matches will be played everyday with one at Mirpur and the other at Army Stadium. The matches will start from 2:30 pm. Remaining league fixture will be announced soon.

Romi, Baishakhi lift titles Sports Reporter

Fahim Ahsan Khan Romi and Sheefat Nusrat Baishakhi lifted the under-18 boys and girls' singles titles of the Elite Paint national age-group tennis circuit respectively, which concluded at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday.

Romi defeated Nadeem Kamran Khan Rohan 7-5, 0-6, 6-3 while Baishakhi registered a 6-1, 6-1 win over Ishrat Jahant Etl of Meherpur.

Besides, Kabir Hossain clinched the boys' under-14 singles title with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Mustafizur Rahman Russell.

Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan witnessed the finals and distributed prizes.

Nat'l kabadi Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Police moved into the final of the 22nd national kabadi championship winning their respective semifinals at the court adjacent to Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Fire Service by 94-27 points while Police ousted Khulna by 81-33 points. The final will be held at 10 am today at the same venue.

Nat'l badminton Sports Reporter

Biman's Konica and Elina moved into the women's singles final of the Meril 20th national badminton championships in Pabna yesterday, according to faxed message.

Konica ousted her teammate Noori, 2-0 while Elina eliminated local favourite Lopa by an identical margin to set up an all-Biman clash in the final.

Women's singles apart, the men's doubles final line up was also decided on Saturday. In the first semifinal, Biman's Mahub and Sarwar beat Ansar's Pesta and Ullash by two sets to nil while local duo Rinku and Hamid defeated Zia and Javed of Ansars by the same margin in the next match.

Besides, eight pre-quarterfinals in the men's singles were also decided on the day.

V-Day sports Sports Reporter

The Victory Day gymnastics competition, organised by Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation, will be held at the NSC gymnasium today. A total of 60 boys and girls will participate in the day long meet.

Ask your conscience

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

If one asks, 'How old is the Chairman of the Selection Committee for the under-20 cricket team?' In all probability he will not get a correct answer.

This is nothing new in a country where births are not registered. The only recognised method of ascertaining someone's approximate age is to take into cognizance one's matriculation certificate on which one's date of birth (not always correct) is printed.

This information is obtained at the time of filling in the form at school before sitting for the most important examination of one's student career. Once a student does this and gets his certificate from the Board of Education it works as his birth certificate also. Here I am not discussing those who have not passed their matriculation examination.

This certificate is the most important one because in any future application either for a job or for a loan or for a passport the applicant's age is generally determined not by his countenance, height, weight or year of obtaining master's degree but by the matric certificate. This is why most parents play safe at the time of admission into school of their children providing for bad days (God forbid) and session jams by commuting a couple of years (in many cases more than 3-4 years) from the actual age so that he/she is not barred by overage for a job or a superior service examination.

The international sporting scenario has undergone radical changes over the past two decades. There has been an explosion of competitions in which the nations of the world have come closure through sports with generous support from the promoters and satellite TV channels. More teams are going out today to participate in internationals hence, more sportsmen and women are also taking part and flying out. Even ten years back it was unthinkable that so many cricket teams would participate in tournaments outside the country.

The recent controversy which has been kicked up by the Selection Committee by including as many as three players from the national team which has returned from its disastrous tour of New Zealand and who were not in the team that has become champions at Hong Kong. There are allegations against the committee of tampering with the selection, eliminating genuine players from the original team and above all, replacing them by some overaged players. Accusing fingers have been pointed at a number of new entrants and none of them has so far denied the accusations against them. Asaduzzaman Misha should have known how passports of a team are obtained. Why did the Selection Committee forget to ask for the matric certificates of the players or asked for a certificate of age from the head of the institution to which the player belongs? If Rokon was the important player for the under-20 team, why was he not selected for Hong Kong? Why was he sent to New Zealand? This is one of the many challenges that the Selection Committee must face. By sending

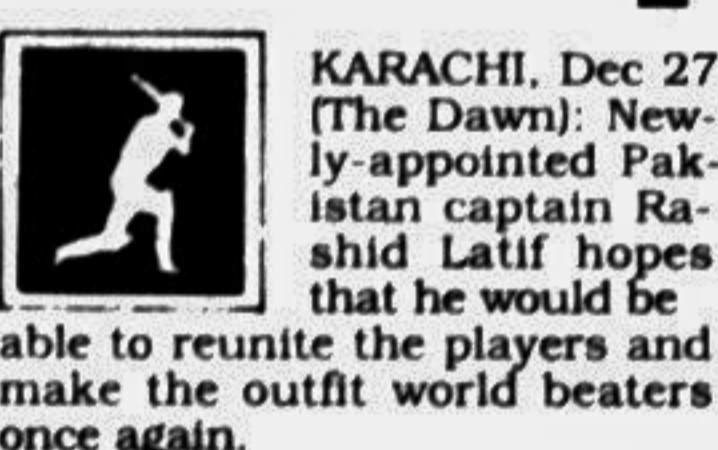
overaged players to the Youth World Cup, what is the BCB trying to prove? Is this the way they are going to improve the game in Bangladesh? I have known the Chairman of the Selection Committee since 1956. We have played together and I can vouch for his personality, ability and above all his knowledge of the game. Why then did he have to do it? Shall we recall the famous line from Hamlet: 'There are many things in heaven and earth, Horatio.'

I take on face value that the cricketers included in the South Africa bound team next year are a bunch of youngsters dedicated to the improvement of the game in Bangladesh. They are the true representatives of the youth of a young nation striving to achieve glory in international cricket. Can I request them to stand in front of a mirror and ask themselves: a) Do I fulfil the requirement of age? b) Am I doing justice to my fellow players? c) Am I clear in my conscience that I am doing the right thing by grabbing the chance?

If the answers to these questions are in the affirmative, please go ahead, if not please think a little and do whatever your conscience tells you. Do not carry a guilty conscience for the rest of your life. Because the examples that you will set today will be followed by thousands tomorrow.

Let it not be said that the ghost of Gothia has found a new mount.

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