

## BD-INDIA SCOREBOARD

Scorecard of the tri-nation Coca-Cola Independence Cup cricket match between India and Bangladesh played at the Dhaka National Stadium yesterday.

BANGLADESH				
Shahriar c Tendulkar b Srinath	1			
Javed Omar lbw b Mohanty	4			
Sanwar c Tendulkar b Srinath	9			
Aminul not out	69			
Akram c and b Mohanty	2			
Mahmud run out	47			
Rafique b Srinath	20			
Masud c Srinath b Mohanty	3			
Hasibul b Srinath	8			
Shafiuddin b Srinath	10			
Shariful run out	0			
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-3, w-6)	17			
Total: (All out in 48 overs)	190			
Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-16; 3-19; 4-22; 5-131; 6-158; 7-171; 8-179; 9-179; 10-190				
INDIA				
Ganguly c Masud b Shafiuddin	11			
Sidhu run out	0			
Azharuddin c Akram b Shafiuddin	84			
Tendulkar c and b Rafique	54			
Jadeja b Hasibul	10			
Robin Singh run out	8			
Kanitkar not out	13			
Mongia not out	11			
Extras: (lb-1, w-8, nb-2)	0			
Total: (For six wickets in 46.2 overs)	191			
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-14; 3-135; 4-162; 5-167; 6-190				
Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Srinath	10	4	23	5
Mohanty	10	1	30	3
Bahutule	8	0	43	0
Ganguly	5	1	13	0
Kanitkar	7	1	27	0
Robin Singh	6	0	33	0
Tendulkar	2	0	13	0
Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	9.2	2	37	1
Shafiuddin	10	1	40	2
Mahmud	9	0	38	0
Shariful	3	0	21	0
Rafique	10	0	42	1
Aminul	5	0	12	0

Result: India won by four wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Javag Srinath.

## Santos banned sine die

PORTO, Portugal, Jan 10: Porto's Paulinho Santos, who is said to have fractured Benfica captain Joao Pinto's jaw during a match last weekend, has been banned until the striker is fit again, reports Reuters.

The Portuguese football league, which initially suspended both players for two games for being sent off, decided on Friday to stiffen the penalty against the international defender.

Doctors say Joao Pinto could be out for up to six weeks after Santos' blow to the face in an incident that severely strained relations between two of Portugal's top sides.

Both players were shown red cards because Joao Pinto retaliated by kicking his international colleague.

The league decision followed an appeal by Benfica who claimed the original punishment was not enough in view of the seriousness of the incident and their loss of a key player.

The ban against Joao Pinto still stands and it was not immediately clear if Paulinho Santos would be able to play once the striker had recovered or whether he would also have to sit out the two-match suspension.

The Lisbon club have already announced that they plan to bring a civil suit against Santos for damages.

Initially, both Porto and Santos denied the incident but television pictures showed the Porto defender elbowing the Benfica captain on two different occasions, once when the two players were walking side by side arguing.

Benfica have sounded out Arsenal about buying England striker Ian Wright, partly to help cover the gap left by Pinto.

But the English Premier league club said Wright was not for sale.

## FIFA exonerates Suarez

ZURICH, Jan 10: FIFA said Friday it had dropped doping charges against Mexican national team captain Claudio Suarez, reports AP.

FIFA said despite an initial positive result, subsequent tests had proved negative.

Traces of the banned anabolic steroid nandrolone were originally found in a urine sample from Suarez taken during a doping test during the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia last month.

However, there was "an administrative error" in the procedure, according to a FIFA statement.

Moreover, FIFA took further tests into account which the captain of the Mexican national team had undergone of his own accord, it said.

"These tests have all proved to be negative."

## Independence Cup notebook

Sports Reporter

### ONLY A SIX

The only over-boundary during yesterday's inaugural Coca-Cola Independence Cup match between hosts Bangladesh and India, was hammered by number eleven batsman of Bangladesh Shariful Haque, who was a debutant.

Shariful, who is in the side as a specialist off-spinner, drove Indian slow medium pacer Robin Singh over the long-off boundary in the last

over of the Bangladesh innings. But the office certainly did not feel that good in the afternoon session when his first delivery of the day was hit through the covers for a boundary by Sachin Tendulkar.

### MAHMUD THE FIRST

Middle-order Khaled Mahmud, who helped Bangladesh reach a commendable total of 190 with an well-composed 48, became the first victim of the

'electronic eye' as far as the history of Dhaka Stadium is concerned.

He was declared run out by third umpire Rudin Koertzen of South Africa in the 40th over.

### DAY-LIGHT MATCH

There are two types of matches played in one-day internationals — day or day-night. But the match between Bangladesh and India yesterday was played under the lights from the beginning till end due to poor light condition.

An enthusiastic cricket fan termed the match as 'day-light' match.

### COLD

It was almost a freezing condition out there at the Dhaka Stadium during yesterday's match.

The temperature fell to 12 degrees Celsius and the weather was chilly. But that could not stop thousands of fans flocking to the stadium.

Seeing the condition, Ali Zaker, a renowned actor, compared Dhaka Stadium with Lord's where cricket is played in such cold weather.

### FRIENDLY GESTURE

Indian pacer Javag Srinath, who came out with his career best figure of 5 for 23 yesterday, was seen meeting all the Bangladesh team members and lauded their performance during the presentation ceremony.

Later on, in his interview with Ravi Shahstri after receiving the player-of-the-match award, also praised Bangladesh for their brilliant performance.

## Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 10: Rajshahi Medical Campus Senior Ekadash defeated Islam Smriti Sangha by four wickets in the second round of the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament today at Rajshahi Government College Playground.

Islam Smriti batted first winning the toss and collected 120 runs for seven wickets in 22.3 overs.

In reply Rajshahi Medical made 121 runs for six in 21 overs.

Masud collected 55 runs and Bipul got five wickets for 19.

In the second match of the day, Elite Club defeated Alingan Kfira Chakra by nine wickets.

Winning the toss, Alingan batted first and made 85 runs for all in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Elite Club collected 88 runs for only one wicket in 11.1 overs.

## Akram's SOS to supporters

KARACHI, Jan 10: Pakistani cricket star Wasim Akram today called for public support following reports that he might be dropped from coming South Africa tour over match-fixing suspicions.

"I don't know whether I will be selected or not but I badly need public support as I face a most difficult phase in my career," Akram told AFP in an interview.

Akram, recognised as one of the world's best pacer bowlers, resigned from captaincy last week following match-fixing allegations.

"I have read in newspapers that I do not feature in the team but I am fit now and ready to play," after a recent shoulder problem, he said.

Pakistani selectors have finalised a team for South Africa-Zimbabwe tour in February but have said they would announce the line-up after getting approval from the General Council of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on January 20.

Akram confirmed reports in



WASIM AKRAM

national dailies that he had received threats after match-fixing allegations surfaced in the country following Pakistan's poor performance in Sharjah

tournament in December.

Cricket circles and fans criticised Akram's handling in Sharjah and The News Daily last week said Salim Malik and Wasim Akram "feature prominently" in PCB board's suspicions over match-fixing.

Akram said he would "surely protest" if he was dropped without a reason.

"I don't know from where the baseless allegations came from. I wish I knew but I am ready to face any inquiry and can give details of my bank account," he said, adding "Once we lose people start raising fingers at us which is unfair."

Akram said that all players were under "stress" over the allegations and "want an end to that."

"You remember what happened when we lost to India in the 1996 World Cup, my house was pelted with stones and the same has been happening now," he said.

Akram will leave for England next week to finalise matters with his county Lancashire in connection with his benefit year in the coming English season.



Was it too cold, or all too upsetting out in the field? Anyway, Nayan Mongia felt the bite. —Star photo

## Innovative!

People who could not witness the battle between bat and ball yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium or on television, nor had a radio were, however, not out of touch with the inaugural match of the Independence Cup Cricket, reports UNB.

Mobile scoreboards kept the people on the streets updated with the latest position of the match.

About a dozen of mobile scoreboards started functioning at the busy crossings in the city as soon as the match between hosts Bangladesh and India began.

"This is fantastic... I am going for an urgent work, but this mobile board gave me the latest of the match," said a delighted Atiqur Rahman at the Magbazar crossing.

A motley group of people was seen huddling in front of another scoreboard at the Shahbagh crossing.

"I was listening to the running-commentary through Bangladesh Betar. But this is something special," said Shahidul Islam at the gathering.

Bangladesh Beverage Industries Ltd, bottlers of Pepsi, arranged the mobile scoreboards on pick-up vans.

Mosharraf Hossain, an official of Pepsi, told the news agency that they had set up 10 such scoreboards to keep the people on the streets updated about the match.

He said the arrangement will continue throughout the tournament.

## Blatter stands by S Africa

LONDON, Jan 10: South Africa's hopes of staging the 2006 World Cup received a welcome boost on Friday when FIFA chief Sepp Blatter suggested it was time the African continent staged the premier event in sport, reports AFP.

Blatter, general secretary of football's world governing body, admitted England's bid would also be taken "very seriously".

Blatter told BBC radio: "We play the 1998 World Cup in Europe, we play in Asia in 2002 and why shouldn't we go to another continent like Africa for 2006?"

"Africa has made a lot of progress in the organisation of football, at national level especially. The players of Africa are at all the big clubs in Europe and I think they have a good chance."

"I have one favourite in my heart, but I cannot disclose it. I must be the most neutral man, not only because I am Swiss but because I'm the general secretary of FIFA and I cannot give any indication."

But England will also have drawn heart from the comments of Blatter, who said the "motherland of football" had the facilities and organisational skills to stage the tournament.

Blatter, who is set to retire from the post after 25 years in office later this year, said: "The England bid is very important and is a very serious bid, but England will not be alone in bidding for 2006."

"The World Cup is the biggest event organised on our globe, therefore the 2006 will interest countries like Germany, South Africa and may be Brazil."

"But I can say that England is a very serious candidate."

"They have the right and are entitled to bid, even though there was some controversy some time ago that there was an arrangement in Europe that only one candidate should be present, and it was said that this should be in Germany."

"England is a good member of FIFA and with all the facilities they have and the development of football at the highest level, I think they have the right to bid."

"Also you can never forget that England is the motherland of football."

## Evander to fight with Francois

NEW YORK, Jan 10: Evander Holyfield's next fight could be a "command performance" for Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, reports AP.

It would match Holyfield against Francois Botha of South Africa.

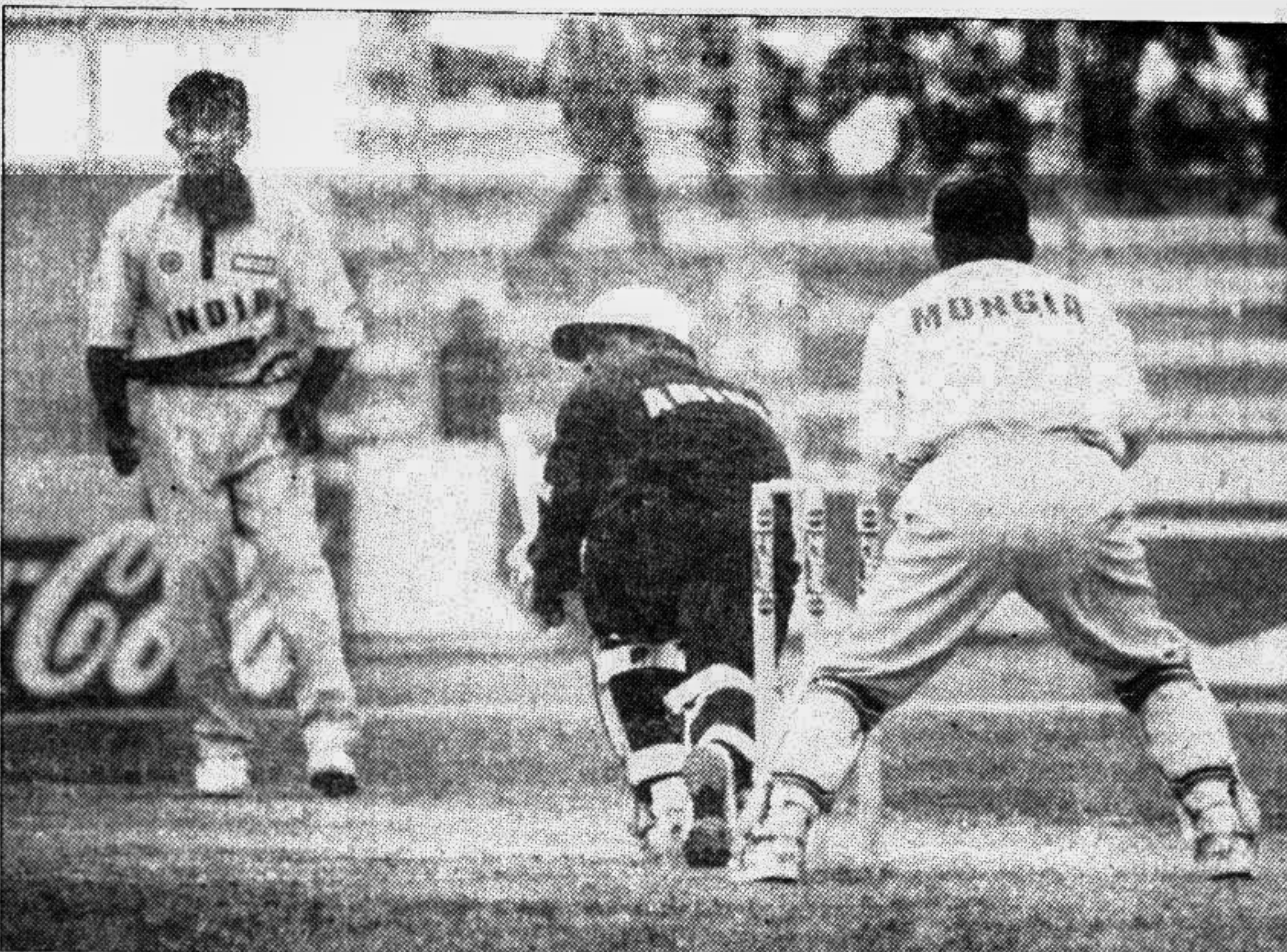
The fight has the support of Nelson Mandela, who has personally called Evander Holyfield, said Jay Larkin, executive vice president for sports for Showtime, which would telecast the fight in the United States on SET, its pay-per-view arm.

"The fight is in the process of being made and it will be held," promoter Don King said Friday by telephone.

"We're targeting it for May in Johannesburg or Cape Town," Larkin said in another telephone interview.

King wasn't sure of the site, but he said that it would be held in May and cap a week-long celebration that would include concerts.

After Holyfield beat Michael Moorer and added the IBF title to the WBA championship he won from Mike Tyson, he talked about fighting WBC champion Lennox Lewis. But negotiations for such a match fell through.



Aminul Islam of Bangladesh sweeps Indian leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule during his masterly 69 not out in the inaugural match of the Coca-Cola Independence Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## How the match went

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh's coach Gordon Greenidge expressed satisfaction with his team's performance against India in the inaugural Coca-Cola Independence Cup encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The former West Indian opener was talking exclusively to The Daily Star at the team's dressing room during the second session.

"I think the difference in today's performance was the batting. Even though we had lost few early wickets which has been the problem in the past Khaled Mahmud Sujon's positiveness inspired us," said Greenidge.

"And probably because of his (Sujon) determination and positive attitude that gave the others a lot of heart too."

"The only thing we were lacking was in the firepower department to continue putting India under pressure. He (Sujon) was able to take few singles soon and that way eased their own pressure and from then on as long as they didn't lose any wicket it was always an easy task for them," added Gordon.

About Aminul Islam Bulbul's unbeaten 69, the great opener of the yesterday said that it was a long overdue for the dark and dapper middle order who had been fighting to regain his form for the last couple of months.

"In the last three tournaments we played in, Bulbul has been dismissed just trying to play bat and pad. He was never looked the Bulbul that everyone talked about."

On bowling and fielding, Gordon said: "Except for the early part of the match, we still lack a match-winning bowler but I am quite happy on the way the boys performed in the field."

That is definitely a positive sign for our future. I hope it continues."

### Akram Khan

After his coach's words of praise, the Bangladesh captain Akram Khan, who scored only two runs off seven balls, had hardly anything to add except voice the same opinion.

"Bulbul and Sujon played very well. I am very happy to see

der batsmen," said Azhar who recently regained the captaincy.

The Indian skipper thought he was lucky to win the toss.

When asked whether his team will play or not against Pakistan if the weather remains same, Azhar said, "Well we will have to discuss the matter with the match referee. Let's hope we have a 9 am start tomorrow."



Coca-Cola Independence Cup Dhaka - Bangladesh - 1998

Bulbul back among the runs. I thank the selectors for keeping faith in him. At last he has shown his class," Akram said.

### Azharuddin

Akram's Indian counterpart Mohammad Azharuddin was not entirely pleased with how things went.

"I think there are still much room for improvement."

"I think the Bangladesh side also played quite well. They have shown lot of commitment particularly the two middle or-

## Sino diver grabs gold

PERTH, Jan 10: China's Yu Zhuocheng won the only gold medal on offer at the World Swimming Championships Saturday while one of his teammates and a coach testified at a FINA panel over a controversial drug seizure, reports AP.

Yu won the one-metre springboard dive after leading through the first qualifying session and Friday's earlier semifinal. American diver Troy Dumais, competing in his first World Championship, took the silver and German Holger Schlegels the bronze.

The results left Russia atop the medal table with four — two gold, one silver and a bronze — while China and the United States have three — two golds and a silver each.

The two Chinese team members at the centre of the country's latest drugs scandal — swimmer Yuan Yuan and coach Zhou Zewen — gave evidence to world governing body FINA's doping panel Saturday.

The inquiry was held at China's team hotel to protect the pair from a public appearance.

"We had a hearing detailed, very calmly and very instructive, and the Chinese federation and the two individuals concerned were very co-operative," said doping panel chairman Harm Beyer.

## Govt defends the Germans

BONN, Jan 10: German Interior Minister Manfred Kanther defended the reputation of German athletes on Friday following the dispute involving coach Winfried Leo-pold at the World Swimming Championships, reports Reuters.

German sport is free of any form of manipulation," Kanther wrote in an open letter to the country's sport federation (DSB) president Manfred Von Richthofen.

"German athletes are fighting rightly against suspicion of doping," he added. "International organisations are invited to come to our country at any time to check the high level of our anti-doping system."

Kanther's letter was released hours after the world swimming body FINA was forced by an Australian court to give Leopold his accreditation back.

The German coach had been stripped of his accreditation at the World Championships in Perth after admitting being involved in doping in East Germany in the 1980s.

Kanther said 6,321 doping tests, including 4,048 during training, had been performed by German sports officials in 1996 for Olympic sports alone.

The German sports federations and the government spent an estimated 3.5 million marks (1.9 million dollars) a year to fight doping, he said.

Earlier, German Olympic Committee president Walther Troger said sports authorities could not be held responsible for the wrongdoings of former East Germany.

East German coaches admitted several years ago that doping played an important role in the state's remarkable achievements in the 1970s and 1980s when sporting success was used to promote communism.



DANCING TEENS OF DHAKA: While their Aminul Islam 'Bulbul' was hitting the fences, they were there to cheer him up with all the masks they could muster. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman