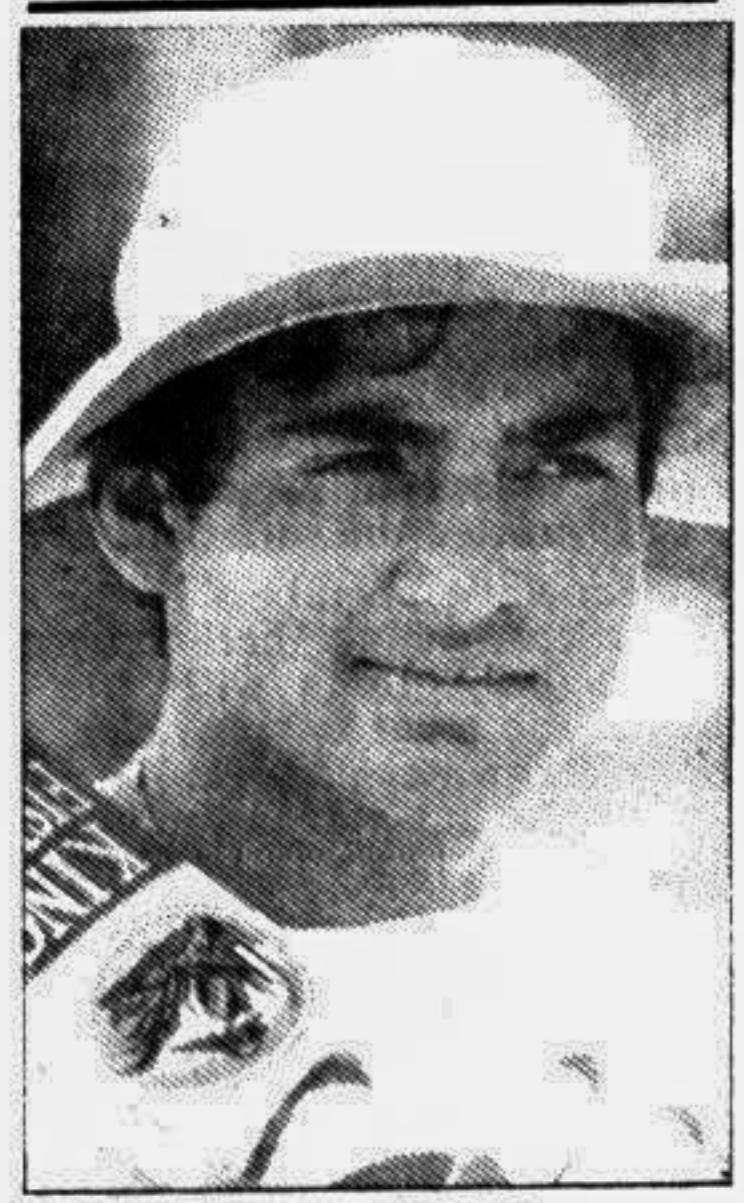


## Column One

## SPORTS TALK



Ajay Jadeja

(Indian cricketer)

"I think it is only attitude that explains my appeal among cricket lovers today. I am not a great looker — there must be nine hundred and ninety-nine millions in this country who are better looking than me. If I am still liked it is for my attitude. I guess."

## Sports

## WHIZZ KID

## COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-94

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm on May 15, 1998

1	Jahangir Talukdar Dulu	plays (competitive)		
2	Football	Cricket	Tennis	
3	In how many stadia World Cup '98 will be held	9	10	11
4	Gordon Greenidge was a Bowler	Batsman	Wicketkeeper	
5	Bangladesh's current FIFA ranking is	138th	142nd	148th
6	Bangladesh U-16 football team scored 11 goals against	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Guam

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

Ahsan made BCB EC member

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council (NSC) has selected Ali Ahsan Babu as a member of the new executive committee (EC) of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Babu apart, the NSC also chosen six other members for six federations on Monday. They are — Farukul Islam (Bangladesh Amateur Athletics Federation); Mahtabur Rahman Bulbul (Bangladesh Basketball Federation); Nasiruddin Lovlu (Bangladesh Handball Federation); ATM Giasuddin (Bangladesh Chess Federation); Habibur Rahman (Bangladesh Wrestling Federation) and Khanda M. Mohiuddin (Bangladesh Cycling Federation).

4-a-side h'ball from May 12

The Sheetal four-a-side handball competition begins at the ground near Dhaka Stadium on May 12, reports UNB.

Eight teams — Menzis KC, West Jatrabari KC, Jatrabari KC, Old Ideals, Victoria SC, Bangladesh Boys Club, Shabadi Boys Club and Mansoor SC — are expected to participate in the first ever meet of its kind.

"Now I have to forget every-

Selectors eat their own words

Syed Ashfaqul Haque

Selectors at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCB) sadly got back to Square One on April 27, prematurely calling off their 10-month-old venture to form a team of the future when they announced squad for the Pepsi Cup triangular tournament, starting in India from May 14.

Instead of injecting fresh blood into the team, the selection committee, led by Lutfar Rahman, fell back upon the old guards, who were once dropped from the national team on the grounds of poor performance, lack of motivation and conviction following the ICC Trophy triumph of Bangladesh last year. Evidently, the panel of five selectors did not bother much about the hopes of the aspiring young cricketers in the reckoning who were raring for a fair crack of the whip at the top level of the game. They tried to justify this regression by saying that the experiment with the youngsters had virtually back-fired.

While making the official announcement in front of newsmen, former national captain Shafiqul Haq Hira, now a senior member in the selection team of BCB, stepped forward to dampen the spirit of numerous young players. When the sports buffs were singing praises of the BCB for its initiative to induct young talents alongside experienced and consistent peers of the national team, the former wicketkeeper, oblivious to the reality, went to say, "We have experimented too early and it has hardly helped our cause."

Earlier, BCB had made a big fuss over having woken up to the necessity of replacing the old guards with new faces. Shafiqul himself was a "wise" member of the selection panel when the decision was taken to ring in changes. But few months down the line when it appeared that at last Bangladesh cricket was heading for a goal after having experienced a few ups and downs, Shafiqul and his peers seem to be at an altogether different ball game.

If it was a wrong decision,

can the players be blamed for that? Was not it a policy failure? Instead of passing the buck on new kids, they should take the blame on their own shoulders and then hand over the responsibility to someone eligible.

Shafiqul justified their de-

cision by saying, "It's not that we have picked them by name, but we've taken those who performed well in recent past."

The so-called recent performances of some of the players however tell a different tale. Top two run-getters in the recently concluded domestic league, Shahriar Hossain and Azam Iqbal, failed to make it to the India-bound final fourteen. Opener Shahriar scored 632 runs at an average of 42.13 in ten matches while opener Azam Iqbal, who was a symbol of consistency for his team, Abahani Krira Chakra, averaged 38.82 after scoring 538 runs in 16 matches. Whereas 36-year-old opener Athar Ali Khan, who scored only 170 in 10 matches at an average of 18.88, found no difficulty to make an unjustly return to the top flight.

Unlike Minhzul Abedin, who roared back to the team demonstrating a series of rippling performances after being ignored by the selectors, Athar failed miserably to revive his pristine touch with the willow since he was left out of the Independence Cup team of Bangladesh.

On the other hand, soon af-

ter his exclusion from the national team for the first time in his decade-long career, Minhzul vowed to the sympathetic journalists that he would certainly return to the team on the strength of his performance. The bat of the gutsy Chittagongian did talk in the domestic

national cricket championship

Independence Cup

SL to provide 'watertight' security

COLOMBO, May 5 (AP): Bombs marred two previous trips to Sri Lanka by New Zealand's cricket team. This time, a security officials said Tuesday, security will be "watertight."

The New Zealand team arrives May 15 for a seven-week that includes the Independence Cup series against India and Sri Lanka.

"We are going to secure the hotel floors where the teams will stay and make watertight arrangements at all other places," said Lucky Kodituwakku, senior deputy inspector general of police. Police commands will be stationed at the hotel and teams will be guarded during travel to and from cricket grounds.

New Zealand's 1987 tour was abandoned after just the first Test after a bomb blast in Colombo's bus station killed 113 people. Five years later, coach Warren Lees and five players returned to Wellington after a bomb exploded outside the team's hotel in Colombo. Reinforcements were sent, and the tour continued.

Australia and the West Indies refused to play their World Cup matches in Sri Lanka in 1996 because of security fears.

league and in Pakistan tour of the national team to silence even his worst critic. Once dubbed as the only professional player in Bangladesh by Mohindar Amarnath, the former Indian coach, Minhzul scored 528 runs in 14 matches at an average of 48.00.

There would not have been any controversy if some of the other recalled veterans could take a leaf out of Minhzul's book. Truth is they did not. And selectors did not seem to mind bringing that hated dictum of two rules for one game into play.

BCB's target should be to transform Bangladesh as a force to reckon with in one-day cricket within the next few years. It would not be possible if it does not cash in on the great enthusiasm for the game stirred around the country since the Kuala Lumpur conquest. The policy to count on new guns may not give fruits instantly. But if we persist with the youngsters it would not be long before we see them delivering goods. And if we don't do it right now, the next century may see us fiddling and fielding with the same old combination.

Stewart succeeds Mike Atherton, who resigned last month after four and a half years as captain.

"It came down a decision between two — Alec and Nasser," chairman of selectors David Graveney said. "The deciding factor is Alec's experience and respect within team."

"Alec's experience, coupled with the respect in which he is held by the players convinced us that he is the man to lead the Test side."

Graveney said Stewart would continue to bat in the top order, while admitting that he is likely to resume wicketkeeping duties, too.

Stewart's appointment does not necessarily mean he will give up the wicketkeeping role altogether.

"I'll be three or four if I do keep wicket," he said. "I've always said that if it's in the best interests of the team, then I'll do it."

Graveney also confirmed that Stewart, unlike Atherton last year, will serve on the Test selection panel.

On top of that Czech Pavel Nedved is nursing a sore back.

Martina leads money-makers' list

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 5 (Reuters): Leading money-winners in women's tennis, according to the WTA Tour:

Player	Dollars
1. Martina Hingis	1,015,704
2. Lindsay Davenport	507,100
3. Venus Williams	419,050
4. Conchita Martinez	345,636
5. Amanda Coetzer	275,769
6. Jana Novotna	263,922
7. Mary Pierce	229,667
8. Anna Kournikova	223,440
9. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	223,248
10. Patty Schnyder	205,778
11. Natasha Zvereva	182,028
12. Mirjana Lucic	169,798
13. Anke Huber	169,277
14. Ai Sugiyama	167,789
15. Dominique van Roost	146,952
16. Lisa Raymond	127,654
17. Irina Spirlea	116,938
18. Iva Majoli	112,200
19. Sandrine Testud	104,430
20. Elena Likhovtseva	103,719

thing and centre on the final," he said.

Inter long challenged Juventus for the league and a fatal loss in Turin last month will always be remembered for the incident when Ronaldo went down in the penalty area without any reaction from the referee. Moments later Juventus

Coach Luigi Simoni has failed to turn his international array of stars into a scoring machine and has had to count too often on Ronaldo's flashes of brilliance to turn a game around. The Brazilian's two semifinal goals against Spartak Moscow were a case in point.

"They field the world's greatest striker who can be decisive in every match," said Lazio's coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Lazio at their best would be serious challengers yet they are missing key players for their most important match since winning the Italian league in 1974. Up front Croatian striker Alen Boksic is injured and in defence Argentina's Antonio Chamot is also forced to the sidelines.

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MONTE CARLO, Monaco, May 5 (IAAF): Monaco president Primo Nebiolo Friday strongly protested the possible conversion of Berlin's historic stadium, where Jesse Owens won four gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympics, to a pure soccer venue, reports AP.

Nebiolo wrote a protest letter to Berlin city officials on behalf of the world's governing body for track and field. The city leaders are under pressure to upgrade the dilapidated 90,000-seat stadium, sections of which have been declared unsafe, to help Germany's 2006 World Cup bid.

The possibility of the famous venue could be torn down or abandoned in favour of a new stadium has unleashed a furious debate in Germany.

"The Olympic stadium in Berlin is one of the most highly regarded multi-sport arenas in the world," Nebiolo wrote to Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen.

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