

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT 'cricket' gained prominence in Dhaka when the Dhaka College Club was formed in Dhaka College. It is not known when this club was formed. But, it is assumed that students and teachers of the college together formed the club in the 1880s. In addition to regular involvement with cricket in Dhaka, they used to travel to play matches at different places. And the club gained fame all over Bengal as a top class cricket club.

I wonder since which year teachers and students of the college have not been doing together something similar. Perhaps even the veterans do not remember. Help someone.

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-105

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

Competition closes at 8 pm,
Oct 23 '98, and draw shortly
afterwards

- How many ODI centuries has Tendulkar hit so far?
17 18 19
- Who is England's cricket coach?
Lloyd Botham Gooch
- Who is the new France soccer coach?
Platini Cruyff Lemerre
- Next Asia Cup cricket will be held in:
Dhaka Colombo Calcutta
- Who lifted this year's 1st Division hockey league title?
MSC AKC BSC

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Mark Taylor
(Australia's Test team captain)
I don't want to aggravate the situation. What I understand is that it's an internal investigation.

On the match-fixing and bribery hearings in Pakistan.

Kournikova goes from bad to worse

MOSCOW, Oct 22: Russian sixth seed Annan Kournikova suffered a second crushing defeat in a week Wednesday, crashing out of the Kremlin Cup at the first hurdle in three sets to Italy's Silvia Farina, who advanced 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 6-1, reports APF.

The defeat completed a miserable few days for the teenage star, who lost in the first round in Zurich last week to Belgium's Dominique van Roost after serving 17 double faults.

World number 12 Kournikova, normally a crowd favourite with her pin-up looks, was even worse this time, producing an amazing double fault count of 20.

Kournikova, 17, was the biggest name to tumble on the day although eight-seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea also slumped, losing 6-2, 6-3 to Chanda Rubin of the United States.

Fifth seed Mary Pierce of France ended the hopes of Japan's Ai Sygyima, winning 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, while seventh seed Sandrine Testud comprehensively won an all-French clash with Nathalie Dechy 6-2, 6-2.

BSJWC's protest

Bangladesh Sports Journalists' and Writers' Community will wear black badges during the Wills International Cup to protest alleged irregularities in issuing accreditation cards to the local media, reports APB.



Arjuna Ranatunga (C), skipper of the world champions Sri Lanka, speaking at a press conference at the Hotel Sanargaon yesterday. Coach Roy Dias (L) and manager Ranjit Fernando were also present.

Sri Lanka has come to win

Hasan Masood

World Champions Sri Lanka have but one goal -- that to win the Wills International Cup which starts at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow afternoon.

This was exuberantly stated by veteran Sri Lankan World Cup winning skipper Arjuna Ranatunga while talking to a host of local and foreign journalists at a press briefing at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

"We did not come here to lose. We know that all the tough (world) teams are playing here and the format is also very new. But I can tell you we do not play to lose. That's not our trend these days," said a confident Ranatunga who led the islanders to their biggest success in cricketing history, the 1996 World Cup.

"The format says if you lose any match you go home, that's something new because in every tournament you have a chance to come back even after losing a match in the first round. But this is completely different."

When asked whether his team has any extra pressure as World champions to win the trophy, the 35-year old skipper said that there was nothing called pressure in Sri Lankan cricket. "I don't know what is pressure."

About their preparation for the knock-out tournament, Ranatunga said that they did not have any cricket back home after the England tour in July because the weather is almost similar to that of Bangladesh.

"For the last three weeks it had been raining almost every day in Colombo. So we had to restrict our preparations to the indoors and gyms. However, we had some nets during last two days."

"The team morale is quite high now after we won the one-off Test and tri-nation tournament in England. That was another big achievement after the World Cup. And I think we will continue with our positive cricket here in Dhaka."

About the teams he considers most powerful, Ranatunga said that India and Pakistan also have good opportunities to win the trophy because they were also from the sub-continent.

The most experienced Sri Lankan cricketer, who also played club cricket in Dhaka for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the last couple of seasons along with his dashing opener

Sanath Jayasuriya, said that the return of experienced batsman Mahanama and left-arm medium-pacer Chaminda Vaas have made the team stronger than that in England.

"Mahanama is one of the most dependable middle-order bats and Vaas is also our main strike bowler. So, that will naturally uplift the team strength."

Answering to another question, Ranatunga said that batting was their main strength next to fielding, and positive attitude was their recipe for success in the last few years.

"We have a pretty strong bat-

ting line-up. Aravinda is the most accomplished batsman and we consider him the best. We also have Sanath, Atapattu, Kaluwatharana, Mahanama and Tillekeratne. Besides there is a good left-hander in the making in Avishka Gunawardane who did very well in the Commonwealth games. I think they are good enough to win a match," said Ranatunga.

Ranatunga, who was also a member of the Sri Lanka team that played in the second Asia Cup in Dhaka way back in 1988, added that the picture of cricket in Sri Lanka has changed a lot since their emergence as World champions.

"The whole nation is now showing interest in the game. Earlier, cricket was only played in Colombo, but now it has spread all over the country."

Roy Dias, the Sri Lankan coach, who also toured Bangladesh in 1994 in the capacity of the coach of Sri Lanka 'A' team for the third SAARC cricket tournament, said that this time his feeling was different because he was now coaching the senior team.

On the other hand, Ranjit Fernando, the manager of the team said that he has served cricket in every capacity but the post of the team manager is something very special for him.

Earlier, the Sri Lankan team arrived at the ZIA during the half-day long hartial called by the opposition parties. The team was escorted to their hotel by a contingent of Bangladesh Army.

Wills Cup: Itsy bitsy teenie weenies

The England cricket team had a three-hour practice session yesterday at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (DCS) amidst unprecedented security. A contingent of armed police were guarding every possible entrance to the ground and there was hardly any unauthorised entry.

This pitches at DCS were badly affected by rain and former national paceman Dipu Roy Chaudhury, who is responsible for the wickets, said, "It is a near miracle that a team is able to practice here."

"This ground was totally under water a few days ago and there was no pitch covers. It's a great relief that they dried up in time," added Dipu.

SO FAR SO GOOD

David Lloyd doesn't mix business with pleasure. The England coach keeps totally focused when practice is on and only obliges when its over. He seemed to be in a generous mood at the end of yesterday's nets.

"I have a fine team. It's keen, eager, determined and we are always confident," said Lloyd about the spirit of his team. "We are not the best side in the world so we are working hard to get there. I'm pleased with what I've seen in practice."

Lloyd expressed his total satisfaction with the practice facilities at the DCS. "It's excellent. I do not know how the



groundsmen have managed to keep the pitches dry despite the rain. They have done a tremendous job.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney was in tone with Lloyd. "The pitches, dressing rooms and other aspects of this ground are fantastic," remarked

Rabeed Imam Graveney who frequently tries out his looping off-breaks at the nets.

HARSHA IN TOWN!

ESPN is not covering the Wills International Cup. So one was puzzled to see the network's crew at the DCS. A little distance away from the England net stood the bespectacled Harsha Bhogle, a house hold name in TV commentating, now working for ESPN.

"I'm not in Dhaka to commentate," confirmed the affable Indian. "I have only arrived yesterday and possibly would leave on Wednesday after doing some interviews and stuffs like that."

Changing the topic to the Bangladesh team, Harsha seemed a bit taken aback by recent changes. "What's happening to your side? I've heard that the selectors have dropped two very fine batsmen Akram Khan and Athar Ali Khan. You can strip Akram of the captaincy but how could you drop him as a batsman? I just don't understand."

Harsha appeared to be a big fan of the present skipper Aminul Islam. "He is without parallel among your batsmen. You can tell by the way he bats that Aminul belongs to a different league."

THE MAN KNOWS HIS JOB

Brian Murgatroyd, the media relations officer of the England team is probably the busiest man in the contingent. He can be well mistaken for a player in his England shirt and is an indispensable member of the squad.

The Welshman, has been with the England Test and one-day sides since July 1997. He has been of immense help to the local journalists in arranging interviews with the stars of the England side and has also kept the pressmen up to date with team news.

The amiable Murgatroyd is a bundle of knowledge regarding any information about his players. "It's my job to know as much as possible about the team and the cricketers. I try to accommodate things precisely and in an orderly way."

gatroyd, obviously foreseeing his side playing in the final scheduled for November 1

IT'S NOT FUNNY

World champions Sri Lanka had a rather abrupt introduction to Bangladesh yesterday when some overly enthusiastic civil aviation personnel started taking photographs upon the team's arrival at the ZIA International Airport.

Arjuna Ranatunga's men were clearly not amused.

DINNER DATE DUMPED?

According to reliable sources, the gala dinner for all the participants, scheduled for October 27 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, has been called off. However, nobody among the hosts or the organisers could spell out any special reason for the postponement.

INDIANS NOT PLEASED

The delays in issuing of accreditation cards and other mismanagement has irked a number of journalists who have flown in from India.

"The national stadium has had a remarkable face lift from the time we last visited (Coca Cola Independence Cup in January). Unfortunately the organisational features has deteriorated at the same rate," said one frustrated pressman.

NZ baffle Bangladesh

The Bangladesh cricket team lost to New Zealand by eight wickets in an exhibition match at BKSP ground in Savar yesterday, reports APB.

Opting to bat in the morning, Bangladesh got off to a disastrous start as they lost their first four wickets with the scoreboard reading only 50 runs. Only vice-captain Khaled Mahmud played with some authority and added 33 runs with opener Javed Omar for the sixth wicket as the hosts made 129 all out in 42.1 overs.

Khaled Mahmud hit four boundaries and a sixer in his 62-ball 44 while Javed's 21 off 52 balls was the second highest score. He struck four fours. Besides, Enamul Haq and Mohammad Rafique were the other batsmen who could reach double figures. Enamul made 10 and Rafique 12.

Skipper Aminul Islam (2), veteran Faruque Ahmed (6) and middleorder Al Shahrir (5) were dismissed in quick succession triggering the batting debacle.

Paceman Simon Doull, who ripped through the Bangladesh middle-order, sent back Aminul and Faruque in successive overs to finish with three wickets for 19 runs from his 5 overs.

Chris Harris and Vettori snapped up two wickets each for the Kiwis while A Tait and Wiseman took one wicket each. Chasing the easy target, New Zealand lost their first wicket at 11 when opener M Bell was run out. But they overcame the initial setback and overhauled the target making 130 for two wickets in 35.3 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the exhibition match between Bangladesh and New Zealand at BKSP ground yesterday.

BANGLADESH

Shahrir lbw b Doull	5
Javed Omar c McMillan b Harris	21
Faruque Ahmed c Home b Doull	6
Aminul Islam b Doull	6
Al Shahrir c Vettori b Tait	5
K Mahmud c O'Connor b Wiseman	44
Enamul Haq b Vettori	10
Mohammad Rafiq b Harris	12
Hasbul Hossain run out	0
Shafuddin not out	0
Extras:	18
Total: (all out in 42.1 overs)	129
Fall of wkts: 1/19; 2/41; 3/44; 4/50; 5/56; 6/89; 7/106; 8/123; 9/127; 10/129	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Allott	6	1	18
Doull	6	0	19
Tait	6	2	13
Harris	10	2	24
Vettori	10	2	34
O'Connor	3	1	13
C McMillan	2	1	14
Wiseman	1	0	0

NEW ZEALAND

M Bell run out	6
N Astle retire	39
M Bailey retire	45
G McMillan not out	18
A Parore c Rafiq b Morshed	4
C Harris not out	1
Extras:	8
Total: (for 2 wickets in 35.3 overs)	130
Fall of wkts: 1/11; 2/111	

Bowler

O	M	R	W
Hasbul	4	1	18
Shafuddin	2	0	0
K Mahmud	7	1	25
Rafique	5	0	20
Aminul	5	0	13
Enamul	6	1	12
Mushfiq	4	0	13
Morshed	2	3	9

Result: New Zealand won by eight wickets.

Miura destined for MLS?

TOKYO, Oct 22 (AFP) - Kazuyoshi Miura, whose international fame has waned since he missed Japan's World Cup finals debut this year, is bound for a career in the US Major League Soccer, a press report said today.

Miura's agent has reached an outline agreement with San Jose club on the 31-year-old striker's transfer, possibly effective February 1, the Nikkan Sports newspaper reported.

"We have no comment to make at the moment," a spokesman for Miura's club Verdy Kawasaki said. "As a team we have not been formally informed about the matter."

Japan's advertising giant Dentsu Inc in July bought San Jose, one of the 12 clubs in the three-year-old Major League Soccer.

BCB favours the elite

Al-Amin

Cricket fans. Much like a vanishing act, the tickets of the tournament, be it for the gallery or the high-priced enclosures, disappeared from every IFIC Bank branch when it was released on October 20. Cricket fans, who stood at long queues even before sunrise, returned home empty-handed after being told "tickets have been sold out". It is a pity that Tanveer's men did not even bother to disclose the up-date situation to the Press so that the suffering of the ticket-hunters could have been greatly reduced.

The story revolving the Family Box, VIP, Club House, Special enclosure and International gallery tickets are more interesting. Although the BCB did not have to spend a single penny of the about Taka 16 crore incurred for face-lifting the Bangabandhu National Stadium, their commercial interest was so prominent that they have even ignored the icons of the game.

The BCB allotted 45 sets of tickets for each Premier Division outfit which also included the players. But a dejected Brothers Union official said the allotment was so nominal that they can not even accommodate

their officials, let alone the players. "We are spending not less than Taka 40 lakh to run cricket for one calendar year. But this is the reward of our wholehearted effort," said the BU official.

But in a strange world reward for non-cricketing clubs like Dhaka Club and Uttara Club are enormous. Of course, the two Clubs who primarily cater to the elite of the society, play Holiday cricket. To the shock of the league cricket officials and players, Dhaka Club and Uttara Club have been allotted three hundred sets of tickets each for the International Gallery, which the BCB had announced would be restricted to foreigners only. If the six hundred ticket-holders of Dhaka Club and Uttara Club are all foreigners, we rest our case. If they are Bangladeshis, which is more the case according to our survey, then BCB has flouted the responsibility with which the nation entrusted them. Perhaps the State Minister for Sports and Culture, Obaidul Quader, would like to have a word with the BCB regarding such deplorable partisan behaviour. The State Minister should do so on behalf of the not-so-privileged citizens.

'We'll be back on top'

Syed Ashfaul Haque & Al-Amin

Cricket connoisseurs fondly called him as 'the Rolls Royce of Bowlers'.

A genuine fast bowler with one of the smoothest actions of all, Michael Anthony Holding took 249 wickets in only 60 Test matches and 142 scalps in 102 one-dayers for the West Indies.

In his teens he was a fine sprinter in Jamaica. And his innate talent of the track enabled him to develop a silky and silent run-up before slamming down the ball at an estimated 97 mph to a bewitched batsman at the other end.

Umpires who had the experience of officiating a match while the silent cyclone from the shore of Caribbean sea wrecking havoc admitted afterwards that they could not even hear the sound of his approach until he crossed them for the final assault. It eventually earned him a famous nickname - 'whispering death'.

He was capable of terrorising batsmen with his steep bounce, intimidating pace, and invariably stunned them generating movement even on a docile wicket.

As for the job of getting opening batsmen out, to him, India proved most obliging. In the three Test series he played, Holding dislodged Gavaskar on 11 occasions and Gawkward on eight.

Holding, who turned into a popular television commentator after his retirement from cricket in 1987, took the art of fast bowling to new heights with his unprecedented blend of skill, dexterity, devastation, and technical perfection.

The famous West Indian has come to Dhaka as a member of the six-man WorldTel commentary team.

Although his hairline is greying, the famous rhythmic silence is still prominent when the 44-year-old walks. And at the top floor of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday, passers-by started to look up, hearing the baritone voice of Holding while having a friendly bout with The Daily Star Sport.

The Daily Star Sport: You're supposed to arrive in Dhaka on the 20. Any special reason for the delay?

Michael Holding: No. I was doing the Test match (between Australia and Pakistan in Peshawar, I'm very much on schedule).

DSS: So you witnessed the much talked-about decision of Mark Taylor for no going after the world record (375) of Brian Lara. What would you have done if you were Taylor?

MH: I would have batted on. If I were the captain of that team I would've instructed him to bat on. But, I don't feel sorry for him, and he made his own

decision and he's a big man. DSS: This is your first visit to Bangladesh. How do you feel being here?

MH: Yes it's my first visit. I haven't seen a lot yet. The stadium looks very impressive. You know I've been not there in the middle. I understand it's wet and people should not walk.

DSS: Do you've any idea about Bangladesh cricket? MH: No. Don't know anything about Bangladesh cricket. DSS: We sure you know that Gordon (Greenidge) is here and now coaching Bangladesh? MH: Yes, I know that. But I

your first game you go home. So it's a bit difficult to really predict who is going to win or who is going to do worse. A one-day game is pretty much a lottery, especially under these conditions.

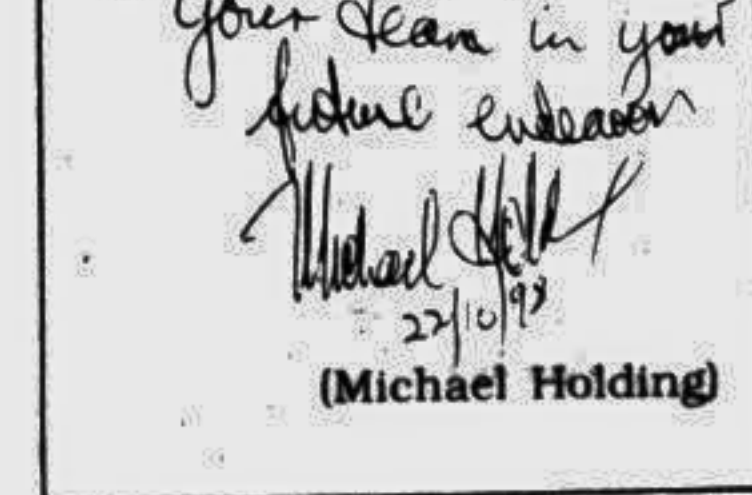
DSS: What are your thoughts on the tournament format? MH: Well, this is a one-off situation. Because the ICC wanted to get the competition, showpiece going. They didn't have really much of a choice because of the schedules going around the world now. A lot of teams are playing a lot of cricket.

DSS: Tony Cozier (renowned commentator and writer from Barbados) depicted a dismal picture of Jamaican cricket recently. Is it true that the youngsters are more inclined to games other than cricket? MH: My comment (on the article) is that it's over-exaggerated. I think, as any country or islands develops you will find young people there exploring other avenues. Traditionally cricket was the game to play in the Caribbean. But suddenly with the advent of satellite television, kids are seeing other sports. They will certainly want to experiment and try other things that they're seeing. And that's typical of any country.

DSS: You were a proud member of the invincible team of seventies and eighties. But since then the West Indians have been wandering in the wilderness. Do you predict a renaissance in West Indies cricket soon? MH: Yes, I'm hopeful of that. Sure, I would think that we haven't done too badly at all. We've slipped but as you see we still can beat most teams in the world. And, I think within four or five years we will be back on top again.

DSS: Unlike your days, there is lots of money lately in cricket. Players seem to be more engaged in counting notes instead of playing quality cricket. Do you think that money motivates them rather than cricket in general? MH: Well, if you're talking about the financial aspects of cricket, if you compare cricket with any other professional sport, cricket is last, dead last, distant last... So there is no financial incentive there if turn about other sport.

DSS: Which team do you tip as the favourite for the Will International Cup? MH: I don't know. I don't have a favourite.



haven't met him yet. DSS: In your view what prospects do the West Indies have in the tournament? MH: Well that's difficult. Their first game is against Pakistan, and that's not an easy team to beat. The structure of the meet is that if you lose



"WE HAVE TO BE FOCUSED": Zimbabwe players having a brief chat at their hotel lobby before leaving for practice yesterday evening. -Star photo

Ole Ole Ole Olonga

Hasan Masood

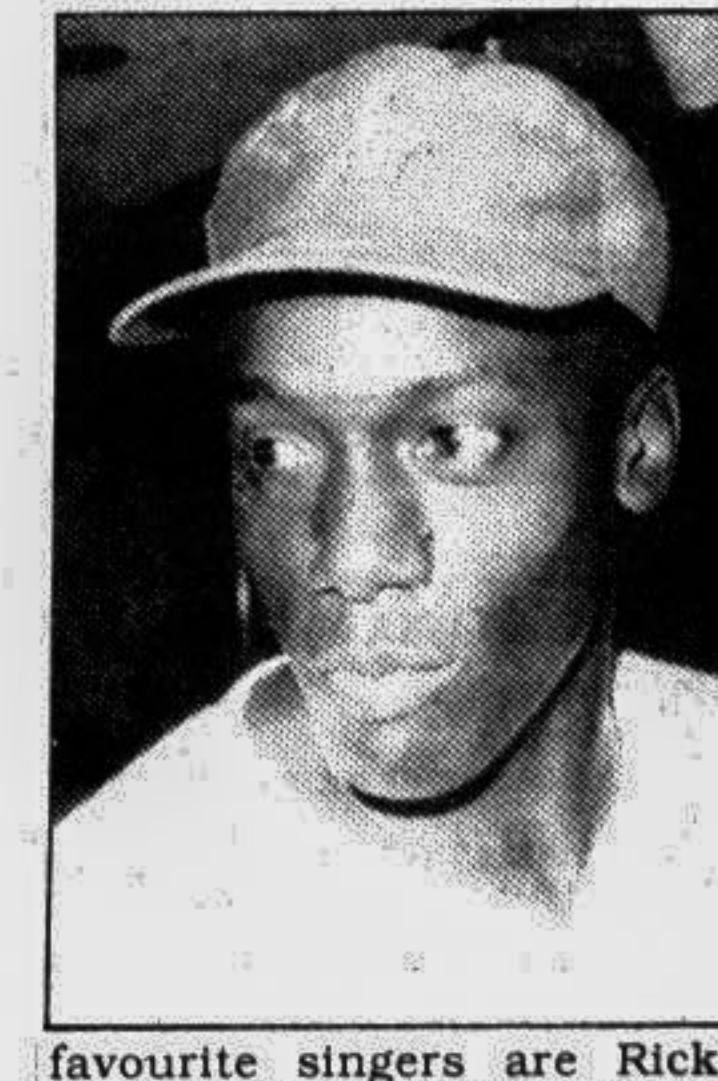
Zimbabwean pace bowler Henry Olonga is eager to make his one-day debut during the Wills International Cup which begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

Olonga, one of the three native cricketers in the Zimbabwean team for the knock-out tournament, was talking to The Daily Star at the Sonargaon Hotel lobby yesterday.

"We have a good number of native cricketers back home who are fighting for a place in the national team. This is a positive sign," said the 22-year-old Olonga who is a full-time cricketer and plays for the Bulawayo Athletics Club in Bulawayo.

About his idol, Olonga mentioned the name of Pakistan speedster Wasim Akram and said that he (Akram) was the best bowler of the world. Apart from cricket, Olonga is a good singer and wants to make his carrier in showbiz after his retirement from the game.

"One day you will see me in MTV," said Olonga whose



favourite singers are Ricky Martin and Celine Dion. "I like solo and romantic songs but hate band music," added Olonga. He also praised the Bangladesh food saying that it was similar to the Indian and Pakistani food which were also very tasty.