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Star Sport

DHAKA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1998

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Make the Mini World Cup a Kodak Moment



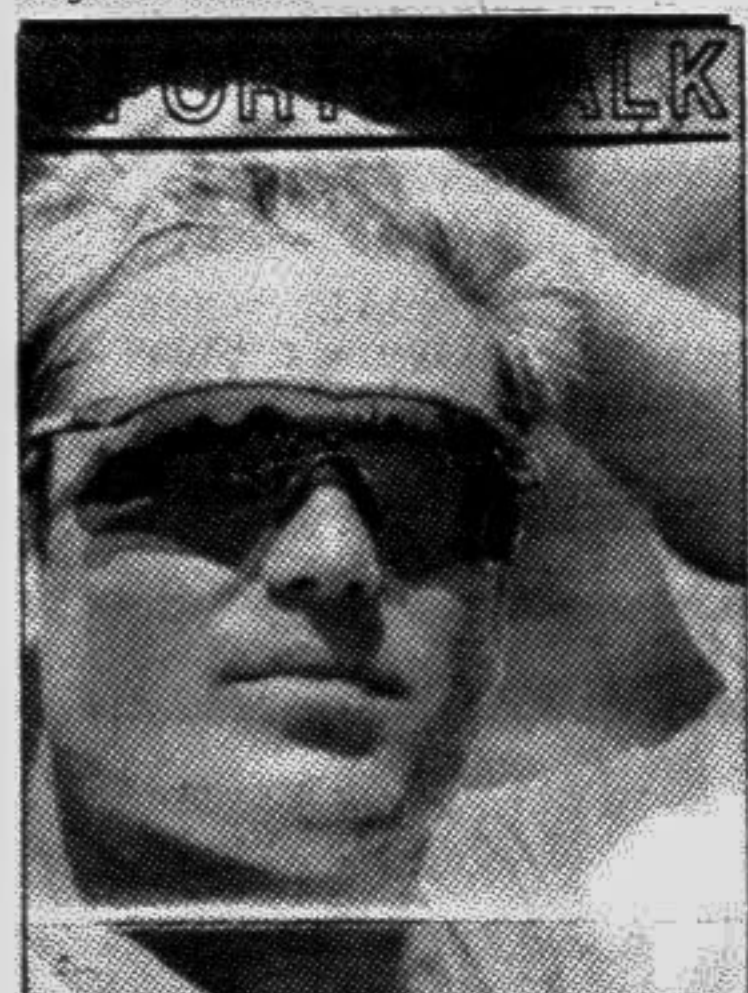
Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT from a Bangla newspaper of 1883, it is learnt that Dhaka College Club defeated the students' of Krishnanagar College. Quoting: "In that sporting event the honourable Lieutenant-Governor Bahadur by being present at the ground not only provided verbal encouragement to the winners, he even rewarded some of them."

The beginning of the man-of-the-match award, you could say. The only difference perhaps being that then Lieutenant-Governors were match adjudicators.



Shane Warne

(Ace Australian leg-spinner)
 "He has all the talent in the world, but is lazy. He is a very good first slipper, which is just as well as I don't think he wants to field anywhere else because he'd have to run."

On Inzamamul Haq.

Due to unavoidable reasons draw of the **WHIZZ KID 105** competition could not take place yesterday. This draw will be held on October 30.

Boost 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 30 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

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

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

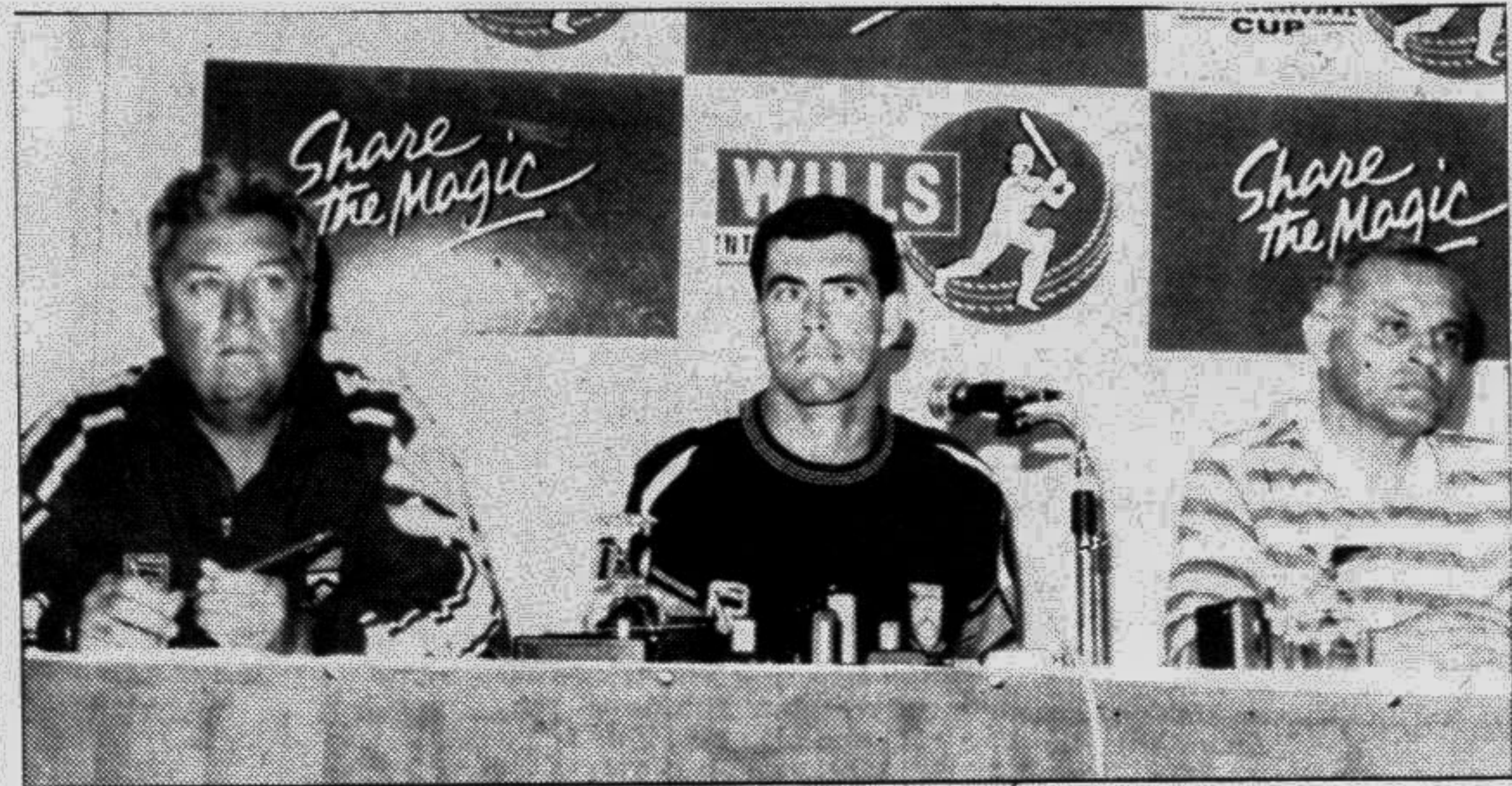


Captain's Cup golf results

Captain's Cup golf tournament 1998 was played at Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday, reports BSS.

President of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman inaugurated the tournament. He also distributed prizes.

The winners are: Most improvement: M H Samad. Longest drive: Jang Sae Man. Nearest to pin: Gurmit Singh. Back nine winner: H B Kang. Front nine winner: Won Ho Seo. 3rd runner-up: Lt Col Zainal Abedin. 2nd runner-up: Brig D Lahiri. Ladies runner-up: Mrs Naoko Yamauchi. Runner-up: Numayr Enam. Junior winner: Junaid Khan. Senior winner: Col Oli Ahmed. Ladies winner: Mrs Hiroko Kosaka. Winner: Brig Md Ahsan Habib.



South African captain Hansie Cronje (C) speaking at a media conference at the Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. Coach Bob Woolmer (L) and manager Goolam Rajah were also present. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Cronje counts on new guns

Al-Amin and Syed Ashfaqul Haque

The Proteas always played well on the soil of this sub-continent, but couldn't quite see much of the success.

In five tournaments in this region, South Africa moved to the finals twice and won only once in Pakistan.

This time around in the Wills International Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, the South Africans hope to better their sub-continental record. They will open their campaign against Adam Holoake's England on October 25. In their last trip to England a few months back, South Africa won the one-day series 2-1.

But it would not be an easy task for Hansie Cronje's depleted side that will be missing the services of its front-line bowlers. The long list of injured players includes - Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener and Roger Telemachus. South African top bowler Allan Donald, who had a problem with his heels during the England trip, opted to rest instead of playing in the nine-nation knockout tournament at Dhaka.

Besides, South Africa had to leave out Gary Kirsten from the tour party as the seasoned opener broke the middle finger of his left-hand.

Injury woes worsened further when Shaun Pollock, who was suffering from back problem but had a chance to come to

Dhaka as a batsman, withdrew himself from the tour party at the last moment, leaving the South Africans with only thirteen players.

"Obviously we're short of three or four fast bowlers. They're quality one-day bowlers. I believe the bowlers like Makhya Ntini, (Steve) Elworthy, (Allan) Dawson, (Jacques) Kallis, the three spinners and myself can play an important role in filling those gaps," said Cronje at a press briefing at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. South Africa arrived in the city on Thursday in the night.

Cronje, who led South Africa to six one-day tournament victories so far, appeared to have much confidence in his young side.

"Lots of young players are here who won the Commonwealth Games and hopefully they can take some of the confidence they've gained during that trip (to do well here)," he said.

He described England as a balanced side with the presence of some quality and established one-day players and the chances of winning the match for both sides are fifty-fifty.

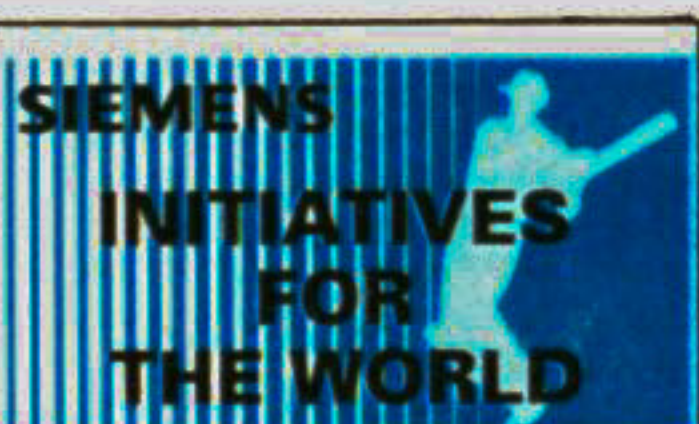
Cronje tipped world champions Sri Lanka and Australia as the favourites besides his

team.

But the South African captain does not think that the tournament would play a major role in their build-up for next year's World Cup in England.

"I think you can find a very good team knocked out in the first round. So, it's not going to be that easy to judge from this tournament, just straight, what the World Cup team will be. But, it will certainly give you some indication of what's goes on. I don't think it will be do-or-die situation for the call-up to the World Cup."

South African players practised under lights at the big bowl yesterday. They will get another day to limber-up before featuring in the make-it or break-it quarterfinal clash.



Look out for the Siemens scoreboard from tomorrow.

Windies without Ambrose

Sports Reporter

West Indies strike bowler Curtly Ambrose will not be coming to Dhaka for the Wills International Cup.

The 6ft 7 inch Antiguan who has 204 ODI wickets to his name, withdraw from the 14-man team on personal grounds.

Ambrose, veteran of 169 matches, had a meeting Tuesday with officials of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB). He said his home felt the fury of last month's Hurricane George that swept through United States. But he would be available for the tour of South Africa starting in November.

Ambrose will be replaced by Guyanese Reon King. King earlier toured Bangladesh in 1996 as part of the West Indies under-19 squad.

The "calipso cricketers" led by Brian Lara are expected to arrive tomorrow. They play Pakistan in final quarterfinal on October 29.

Pakistan will tour India

Sports Reporter

ISLAMABAD, Oct 23: Pakistan cricket team's first full-fledged tour of India in nearly 12 years will go ahead as scheduled early next year, according to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Majid Khan, reports PFI.

The PCB is in constant touch with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and it is hoped that the tour would proceed as planned," Majid was quoted as saying by the media here today.

Pakistan, scheduled to reach India on January 21, are to play three Test matches and five one-day internationals during the tour.

They will launch their campaign with a Test starting on February 3, and the tour will end with the fifth one-dayer on March 15, according to information available here.

The itinerary has almost been finalised. Only the venues were to be decided, Majid said, adding that the PCB had not expressed reservations about any venue in India and it had been left to the Indian Board to decide on the matter.

The Pakistani foreign ministry has so far not raised any objections regarding the tour.

Shakil Kasem's beyond the boundary

Roulette under the sun

The last time a serious English side played in Dhaka was in 1970 in a test match (no less) against Pakistan. One enduring memory was that of Basil D'Oliveira getting 130 odd on a crumbling track against the left arm spinners of Parvez Sajjad.

The other notable outcome of that match was a poem written by none other than John Snow, the vicar's son who decided to be one of the most hostile of English fast bowlers.

Small wonder that having bent his wry back on the most diabolic of clay tracks at the Dhaka Stadium, he should retire to the less than grandiose dressing room of that time, to pen "The wheel endlessly turns/And the body mindless bowls." Was I caught with my Kierkegaard down? I was, I was indeed. I basked in reflected glory though, for like Kieroy. I was there too, and saw what transpired, live and in technicolor. Much water has since flowed down the Buriganga and several English sides, known simply as the MCC have visited Dhaka, the first of them in 1976-77. No test players, mind you, although John Barclay and Dudley-Owen Thomas were. I suppose, fleetingly in consideration for a while.

The team also had Brian Taylor, the Essex wicketkeeper, who for some obscure reason I mistook for Fred Titmus, but not for long. "I got all me toes, mate," he corrected me.

The three-day "Unofficial Test" at Dhaka saw me taking the drinks out with Nigel Poplewell, nee-Somersel and Hampshire. Cricket was laid back, a romp in the sun, by flannelled fools which we were, and watched in some awe by over thirty thousand people.

Poplewell and I talked a lot as well as we waited with the drinks in the middle. It was a packed house, the sun was out, we were on stage, it was my moment. Talk we did, as the teams sipped their colas; Nigel had seen the movie but had not read the book, I on the other hand had read "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." But had not seen the movie. Was suicide murder or murder suicide? Was madness really a form of alienation? What indeed, was the ultimate form of alienation? Was it two subs conversing metaphysics on the middle

of a cricket pitch oblivious of their surroundings? Who could tell? The future never threw the two of us together again. We were passing ships at sea, that long forgotten winter afternoon. Cricket continued here as usual, as teams came and went, but my next sight of a full fledged English side was only a few days ago in the local dailies.

It was a sight also that would have gladdened Glenn Hoddle's heart. Bare bodied and muscled and playing soccer. Adam Holoake and his men. All because contrary to expectations the practice wickets were not ready on time.

These blokes are pros with stiff upper lips as well, so they took everything in stride. A few red faces, but none of them English. It has happened elsewhere also. Part of the game really. Make no mistake, England are here to prove a point. And well they might. Zimbabwe played rugby, while they waited out the damp practice wickets, fresh as they are from serious big game hunting, having put paid to Indian pretensions in the one-off Test back home. They take on New Zealand in the first match.

Cricket is a game of chance, they say, because it begins with a toss. One day cricket, that too the knockout variety, is an eight hour substitute for roulette. New Zealand, with their new found image, are tough competitors. Or are they just an attendant lord, to swell a progress, start a scene or two? TS Eliot was not known for his cricketing wisdom, so put a few quid on New Zealand to make this tournament exciting.

The new lights are likely to shine brightly on the chances of Australia, although I admit I am in total awe of the consummate mastery of one Sachin Tendulkar. I like his uncanny sense of knowing a big moment when he sees one, and in a world where freedom is only a state of mind, his belief in freedom of uninhibited expression on a cricket pitch borders on the exhibitionist. But it does take India where it wants to, Australia versus India, the final before the finale.

Pakistan are the wasted geniuses of world cricket. Eccentric and unpredictable, they are capable of setting the Jamuna on fire. They will also have the

unabashed support (surprise, surprise!) of all and sundry as well. Time could stand still as the Pakistanis go about their business.

After the share market collapse, one is bit wary of the uncertain, so I shall hold on to my wallet and not commit myself too soon on the South Africans, the West Indians, or the Sri Lankans. Would it be wise not to chance a few on long odds? I had burnt my fingers before.

But one thing is for certain. It is going to be an exciting week, no questions about it. Everything about this tournament is different. Perhaps we are on the brink of history, could this be the tradition of the new? The answer may well be blown in the wind. Let's wait for the lights to go on, and the electronic scoreboard to blink for the very first time. The collective subconscious will then be hypnotised, whether we like it or not. The circus has come to town.

French skip Confeds' Cup

PARIS, Oct 23: France's World Cup-winning team is pulling out of the Confederations' Cup, the French soccer federation said Friday, reports AP.

The Confederations' Cup is to be held in Mexico in January. The decision came after many European clubs — and domestic leagues — made it clear they didn't want to release their French players for the Jan 8-20 event, which comes in the middle of league seasons.

Some regard the event as an unneeded one that exhausts already burned out players.

Noel Le Graet, president of the national French league, said the Confederations Cup was "just for fun," noting that Brazil were only sending their "B" team and some club owners — notably of Italian teams — had said they weren't going to allow their players to leave.

"Les Bleus" were scheduled to represent Europe in the competition, along with teams from Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia, the United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Australia.

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