

## Column One

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)  
THAT hundreds of volunteers have made the Wills International Cup possible. These dedicated workers have been working, some through the night the past week, for several months. While only the two innings are the focus of the event, many other aspects have to be taken care of. There is the question of funds, flights, hotel accommodation, menu, travel, tickets, gate, security, seating, printing, publicity, ground, press, wickets, floodlights, vendors, building, toilets, communication, correspondence, sight screen, balls, roller, scorer, scoreboard, commentators, radio, television, umpires... the list could go on. And hundreds have worked selflessly to look into small details to make the big event a success. Today's column is dedicated to those unsung heroes. Thank you, all of you who have done so much for cricket in Bangladesh.

### 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) .....

### POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

### SPORTS TALK



**Saeed Anwar**  
(Pakistan opener)  
"It's one of my best innings as it was very trying to bat on this pitch."  
After the century against Australia at Rawalpindi.

**BCB calls 40**  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday summoned 40 cricketers to select two teams to play against the West Indies, reports UNB.

Two teams — national team and Bangladesh A team — will play against the West Indies A team who will visit Bangladesh from November 5.  
The primarily selected players are: Azam Iqbal, Sharif Hossain, Ehsanul Haq, Parvez Ahmed, Sajjad Ahmed, Javed Omar, Belim, Hannan Sarkar, Al Shahrir, Faruque Ahmed, Sanwar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Hasibul Bashar, Ridwan Hassan, Nasirul Islam, Hasanuzzaman, Rashidul Haq, Khaled Masud, Naimur Rahman, Fahim Muntasir, Tauhid Hossain, Mahfuzur Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haq, Tanvir Khan, Sabir Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Mursheed Ali Khan, Shaifuddin Ahmed, Zakir Hossain, Zakir Hasan, Ah-sanullah, Tahmid Bashir, Harunur Rashid, Mohammed Murtoza and Aminul Islam.  
The players are requested to report to Gordon Greenidge at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex today at 9 am.



New Zealander Alex Tait attempts to sweep.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Looking at the lucky ground

Al-Amin & Syed Ashfaul Haque

Whenever Mohammad Azharuddin runs out of luck coincidentally he comes back to the Dhaka Stadium. Lady luck has always smiled on the Indian skipper here.  
Spectators have witnessed the elegant stroke-maker staging spectacular turnarounds on a number of occasions.  
In 1997, after the dismal tour of England, Azharuddin was removed first as captain and then, much to the shock of the world, was dropped as a player. After a short absence, he regained a place on the team and the captaincy from Sachin Tendulkar, to play in the Independence Cup. The tournament also featured Pakistan and hosts Bangladesh. He consolidated his position by taking the Cup home.

The Indian team arrived in the city Sunday afternoon to participate in the Wills International Cup. They will take on favourites Australia in a make-it-or-break-it quarterfinal match on October 28. The Indian skipper however stressed more on performance rather than luck while talking to the press at the Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

"You can say that this is a lucky ground for us. But, I think, when one is not playing well the luck factor is not much help. I sincerely hope that we'll play well also this time and win another trophy here.  
"I will bat at number three.

But if the situation demands like what happened in Dhaka during the Independence Cup final where I had to send Robin (Singh) in to accelerate the run-rate, then the batting order will change if situation demands.  
Azharuddin has experienced a torrid month or so which started with a 4-1 drubbing at the hands of arch-rivals Pakistan in the Sahara Cup at Toronto last month followed by humiliating defeat inside four days by lightweights Zimbabwe in the one-off Harare Test match that ended a few weeks back.  
The situation became more awkward for Azharuddin as he did not make much of an impact with the bat, forcing the Hyderabad-born 35-year-old to declare the Dhaka tournament his own.

But the format may hold the key to whether Azhar's men survive or not.  
"It's a knock-out tournament, and in such a format you will have to play well in every match. Every match is the final match. I think we will have to do collectively very well," said Azharuddin.

About the pressure, the most successful Indian captain tactfully explained.  
"You know, we're playing more one-day games than any other side in the world. We are an experienced side with most of the players featuring in more than hundred one-day internationals."

"By this time we knew (watching TV) how the wicket will behave and also the ground condition. And that makes a lot of difference. When you are playing the first match, you don't know what you're up to. But, now I think we know what exactly we will have to do.  
"We're here last January, and played lot of matches. That time there was lot of movement on the slow track. But I believe, now the wicket has improved a lot and the ground condition has also got better."  
On the strong Aussie side, Azhar said, "In a one-day game, the team playing better on the day, will win the match. Whoever commits less mistakes and plays better will win."

Azharuddin could make history here provided he scores only 95 runs in the tournament. With 8554 runs in one-day cricket, the veteran of 299 matches is only 94 runs short of equalling the world record of West Indian opener Desmond Haynes.  
"I'm very happy playing for my country for so long. The inspiration came from a lot of people — my grandfather, parents and wife. I never stop playing cricket. And the biggest compliment I can give is to my parents if I reach that landmark," said the skipper modestly.

"Inshallah I will try to reach the goal and if it happens my father, family members and fans would be delighted," he said.

## BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

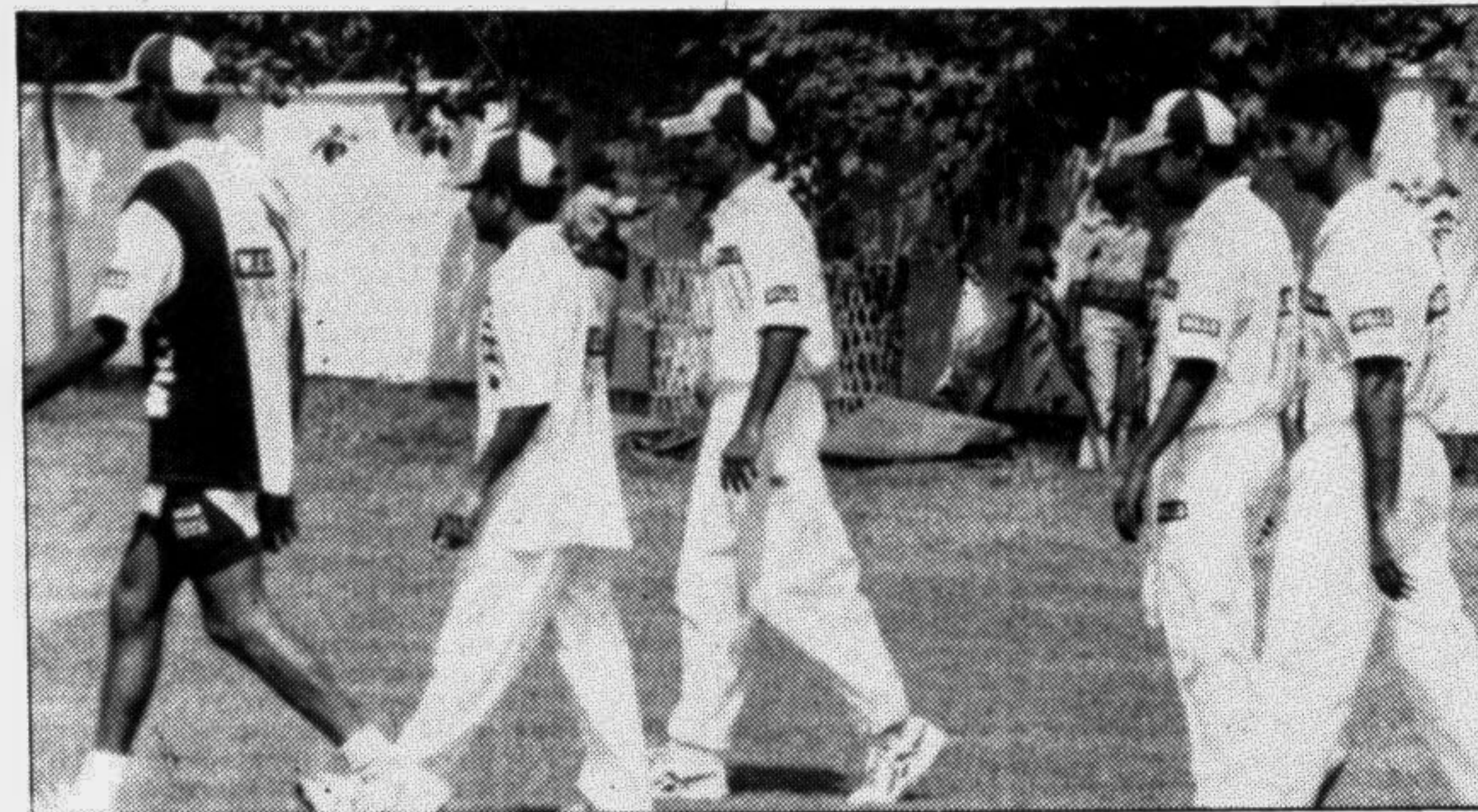
### The Forgotten Few

By Shakil Kasem

It was a wait that seemed to stretch into eternity. So my interest in yesterday's match was heightened not so much whether Sri Lankan fireworks were in the offing, as much as to know if Aminul Islam was finally able to go to a cricket match. After all the match was being played on the very ground which had been his stage for so many years.  
Introductions are in order at this point. A Islam, to the uninitiated and the uninformed of this world as well as the organisers of this ongoing competition, merely happens to be the present captain of the Bangladesh cricket team. Presumably, he is not the sort of mortal likely to merit any importance at a cricket match held under the aegis of his very own Cricket Board. The less said about his colleagues in the Bangladesh side is, of course, better for all concerned.  
These individuals are part of the team that was camped at the BKSP for over a week. Their would be opponents, NZ and England were being offered the ultimate in comforts, hospitality and practice facilities. A Islam and his partners in distress at Gulag Archipelago were left to fend for themselves without even a practice net sighted on the immediate skyline. It is a pity that A Islam was not able to read the writing on the wall. In computer jargon, he and his team were being erased from memory. Nevertheless the captain and his team put in a very creditable performance against England, with the anti hero himself standing out with a fine unbeaten 60. Rafique, who performed so ad-

mirably abroad when his own dwelling was lost to the floods, had taken five wickets in that match.  
As to why these players should expect free passes, just because they had served the country, is a question bordering on the metaphysical. Is there a criteria, a sort of norm, or perhaps a modicum of decency that determines whether cricketers doing duty for their country and the flag should be so honoured? At least in some small measure, with the courtesy of a ticket? Cricketers — past, present, and future — and the rest of the nation would appreciate an answer. The problem is, is there an accountable body this question can be addressed to?  
As a matter of form and tradition national players were always invited to international matches, in effect as guests of the Board. If there was indeed a change in policy, this should have been communicated to the captain of the Bangladesh team. He should have been spared the ignominy of having to scuttle back and forth. He could have done without being put on the dole. The complimentary ticket given to national cricketers is actually a token of honour. There is no honour in a player being told to wait for ages for non-existent members of the hierarchy to finally arrive and dispense with the 'favour'.  
The national cricketers have done this country proud. Only last year these individuals had given the rest of their compa-

trials the biggest and best gift since the liberation of Bangladesh. To be treated thus was inexcusable. Was it because in the general hoopla of the Mini World Cup the small matter of twenty odd tickets was forgotten totally? Does that mean we are not able to chew gum and cross the street at the same time? Whatever it was, it certainly wasn't cricket.  
People who are put in positions of power are expected to perform. There is no excuse for not doing so. In other words, those who live in glass houses should not undress with the lights on.



Some members of the Indian cricket team arrive for practice at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

## Lara's Windies on a mission

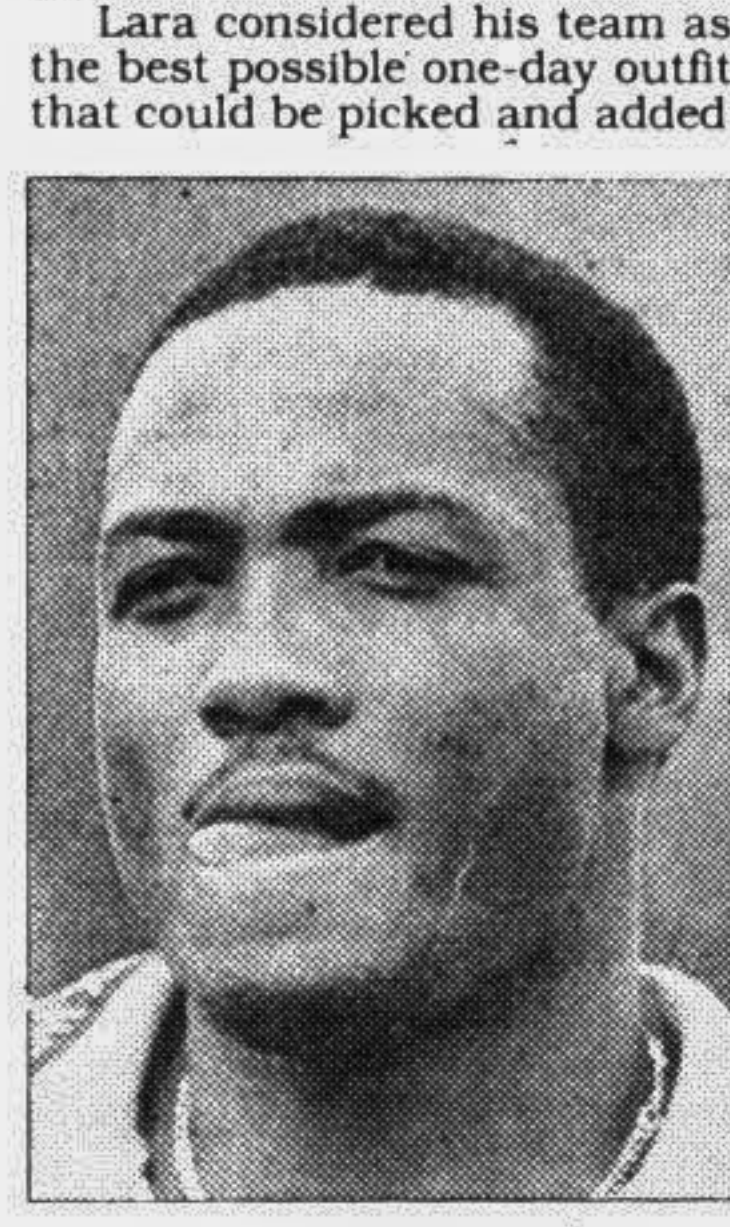
### 'I want to ensure my team is successful most of the time'

Rabeed Imam

The coming months will be crucial for the West Indies and by the end of the World Cup in England, they could regain their status as the best team in the world, believes captain Brian Lara.  
"I think the next eight months could tell a very big story in West Indies cricket. During that period we will be playing South Africa away in Tests and one dayers, then Australia will be coming to the Caribbean for a Test series. After that we will compete in the World Cup where apart from the Test countries we are scheduled to face Bangladesh and Scotland. If we are successful on most of those occasions, we will be doing a great job for West Indies cricket," said Lara during a media conference at the team hotel yesterday.  
"Obviously I want to see the West Indies back on top again. The opposition will stay in front of us but we have to be able to get out there and do our best."  
The world record holder in Test and first-class batting, said that he considered quarter-final opponents Pakistan as a formidable side. "They are very good. A bit inconsistent maybe, but when they play according to their potential, they can beat any team in the world."  
"We are aware that this is a knock out tournament and losing one game means you are out. I'm very excited about it and looking forward to the competition with high hopes, having flown a long way, we have no intention of leaving Dhaka before the final," Lara added.

Replying to a query Lara admitted that he didn't know the exact reason behind star fast bowler Curtly Ambrose missing the Wills Cup. "The West Indies board can give you a better answer on that. We definitely would miss a great bowler like him, however, we've got three young capable fast men. Let's see them go out there and do their best. We have to put Ambrose behind us."  
Manager Clive Lloyd confirmed that Ambrose's absence was due to family reasons.  
"About the squad, Lloyd said, "We have some proven performers as well as some talented youngsters. We can't have Curtly Ambrose and Courtney

Walsh for ever so it's a good opportunity for the new fast bowlers to show their worth. We have Reon King, who is Ambrose's replacement, pretty lively. Neil McGarrel, the left arm spinner, is a bright prospect. It's a mixture of youth and experience which should see us through in this tournament."  
Lara considered his team as the best possible one-day outfit that could be picked and added



BRIAN LARA

that the inclusion of two specialist spinners (Leg-spinner Raul Lewis and McGarrel) was a breath of fresh air. "We have a lot of variation. It's good to see we have some spinners who can be potential match-winners in both forms of the game. But that doesn't mean we are depleted in the fast bowling department. Still spin is important in one-dayers."  
Lara said all-rounder Carl Hooper was his 'trump card'.  
On his individual form, Lara said that he is satisfied with it despite pressure and criticism. "I have other priorities — the performance of my team for example. As the captain, my job is to ensure that I play my part in batting and also to make sure my team is successful most of the time."  
When asked who he thought as the toughest opponent in the tournament, a witty Lara answered, "England, but they have already lost."

Coach Malcolm Marshall kept silent throughout the press briefing except for once. He was asked if lanky tearaway Nixon McLean was the fastest bowler in the world at the moment. "I can't say if he is the quickest, but he certainly is there among the top three," said the champion fast bowler of yester years.

**PRACTICE AT BUET**  
The West Indies team had a tough three-hour practice session at the Bangladesh Institute of Engineering and Technology (BUET) ground in the afternoon.  
Around a thousand or more fans were present to watch the Caribbean. Not surprisingly Brian Lara seemed to be the chief attraction.  
Photographers, who are getting the privilege of taking pictures of the stars from very close range, were seen following the cricketers where ever they went.  
Things got a little out of proportion when the men with lens kept their cameras firmly focused on the toilet door after Lara had got inside.  
On one occasion an understandably disgusted Lara was heard murmuring "I think I've had enough of this."  
Security personnel were having a hard time trying to control the autograph hunters. A tiny school girl, however managed to convince the men in uniform and went straight to the West Indies captain. She presented Lara with one of her own drawings.  
A visibly moved Lara took the tiny tot in his lap and spent some time with her.  
The team had a prolonged net where all the players had a go with the bat.  
After the practice, opener Clayton Lambert, awash in sweat, said, "It was hard, extremely hard."  
The Guyanese left-hander, who is tremendously fit at the age 36, said the pitches and facilities at BUET were superb.  
"My form in the recently concluded Red Stripe Bowl (Domestic one-day tournament) wasn't very good. I am looking forward to making up here," said Lambert.

## SCOREBOARD



**NEW ZEALAND**

Bell st Kaluwitharana	16
b Muralitharan	10
Astle c Jayasuriya b Zoysa	10
Fleming lbw b Vaas	23
McMillan run out	26
Parore c Chandana	54
b Dharmasena	8
Harris lbw Jayasuriya	7
Tait b Muralitharan	9
Vettori c Kaluwitharana	6
b Muralitharan	7
Doull run out	3
Wiseman not out	19
Allott run out	3
Extras: (lb-12, w-6, nb-1)	19
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 188	
Fall of wkts: 1-15; 2-36; 3-58; 4-118; 5-134; 6-150; 7-160; 8-169; 9-176; 10-188.	

**Bowler**

Vaas	7	0	27	1
Zoysa	6	0	24	1
Dharmasena	10	0	34	1
Muralitharan	10	1	31	3
Jayasuriya	9.5	0	30	1
Chandana	7	0	30	0

**SRI LANKA**

Jayasuriya c Parore b Doull	0
Kaluwitharana run out	48
Atapattu c Parore b Doull	3
A de Silva c Astle b Allott	0
Ranatunga not out	90
Mahanama c Allott b Wiseman	7
Chandana not out	22
Extras: (lb-8, lb-6, wb-5, nb-2)	21
Total: (For five wickets in 41.3 overs) 191	
Fall of wkts: 1-0; 2-4; 3-5; 4-132; 5-150.	

**Bowler**

S Doull	5	1	17	2
G Allott	9	0	37	1
D Vettori	10	1	44	1
A Tait	2	0	9	0
C Harris	6.3	1	29	0
P Wiseman	4	0	21	1
C McMillan	5	0	20	0

Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets.

Player-of-the match: Arjuna Ranatunga.

## OCA's uplift programme

SYDNEY, Oct 26: Sydney Olympic planners are trying to recreate the Wimbledon feel for their own tennis tournament, reports AFP.  
The Centre Court for the 2000 Olympics has been modelled on the new Number One court at Wimbledon, Olympic Coordination Authority (OCA) director Mike Grealy said today.

## SIX MINUTE SUSPENSE

Nearly thirty-seven thousand spectators missed several lakh heartbeats as some bulbs of the already famous floodlight system at the Bangabandhu National Stadium suddenly went off at 6.55 pm.  
As voltage tripped at the power sub-station adjacent to the stadium, the floodlights, capable of generating 2000 lux, all at once looked very dim, leaving the organisers in cold sweat.  
With the proceedings coming to an abrupt halt, three ministers literally started running towards the power-substation near the Gate No 16. Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sabir Hossain, State Minister for Shipping and Raquibul Islam, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, rushed to the centre where they got hold of Siemens technician, who was in a hectic quandary to redeem the situation. Much to the relief of millions, he could get things in order within only six minutes. The statesman-trio then repeatedly requested the embarrassed technician to be very careful to avert further debacle. Siemens earned tons of tribute from the visitors and experts for installing at Bangabandhu what they said was the world's best floodlight facilities.  
But, the six-minute break proved vital for the Sri Lankans, who were reeling at 35 for 3 in the 9<sup>th</sup> over. Captain Ranatunga and Kaluwitharana could get enough time to draw up a plan to guide the team into safety. The two then featured in

## Syed Ashfaul Haque

a match-winning partnership of 127 runs.  
The government however has formed a 3-member committee to look into the incident, which will submit its report within three days.

## SORRY SANATH

The Dhaka soil simply doesn't suit Sanath Jayasuriya. The Sri Lankan ball-bashing opener once again failed to live up to his reputation at the Dhaka Stadium when he got himself out for a duck. It was Jayasuriya's third appearance at the big bowl. Earlier, he played for local giants Mohammedan Sporting Club in three matches. Much to the frustration of his fans here, he was out for 4, 8 and 17. Jayasuriya however gets another chance to break the Dhaka jinx when his team meets South Africa in the first semifinal on October 30. So, good luck next time.

## CAPTAIN COOL

The day belonged to the Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga. Coming in at a crucial stage of the game, with his team reeling at 5 for 3, the cool captain of the islanders smashed an unbeaten 90 to stymie the spirited men of Stephen Fleming, Ranatunga, who lost 10 kgs in six months, is no longer a burly man. The 34-year-old ran like a spring chicken while stealing a cheeky single and showed no sign of fatigue under the scorching heat of 40 degrees Celsius.

## GOOD LUCK DE SILVA

Sri Lankan vice-captain Aravinda de Silva is all set to call his bachelor's days set to call his lucky bride-to-be is a model girl, Sarita Rajendran. De Silva made the engagement announcement a few days back. But she won't be happy. He got a duck at Dhaka.

## ANOTHER FOUR IN TOWN

The second batch of the Australian team arrived in Dhaka yesterday. Four more Australians — fast bowler Brendon Julian, Damien Martin, Andrew Simonds and wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist, flew in from down under to join Michael Bevan and Brad Young. One-day specialist Bevan and spinner Young arrived in the city the day before. The rest of the Australian team, which was touring Pakistan, will reach the capital today. But the Australian Test captain Mark Taylor will have to grace the seat at the gallery this time because of his country's 'one team-two captain policy'. Steve Waugh, his deputy in the Test team, will

## Wills Cup: Itsy bitsy teenie weenies

lead the Australians against India on October 28.

## IN THE SAME FLIGHT

Pakistan, who managed to clinch a draw in the third and final Test against Australia, will board the same flight along with the Australians. The Pakistanis will face the West Indies, who are already in the town, on October 29.

## HOUSEFUL

Ticket touts took a time-out yesterday. Spectators were packed like sardines at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, watching the opening match of world champions Sri Lanka against the spirited New Zealanders. In the previous matches hundreds of black marketers were seen busy in doing brisk business, selling gallery tickets of Taka 120 and Taka 150 for Taka 200 plus. Only a few seats in the International Gallery were seen vacant at the 37000-capacity stadium.

## SRI LANKAN WAVE

The islanders made the eastern International Gallery their base. They waved flags to the full and sang songs to their hearts content. The music was very much Bangladeshi but the language was obviously not. The thrill in their ranks was sky-high after New Zealand returned home cheaply. But it slumped to sub-zero after Sanath, Atapattu and De Silva were dismissed with five on the card. Well, Arjuna and Kaluwitharana gave enough reasons for the crest to rise again.

## TIT FOR TAT

Some 'stupid' spectators in the eastern gallery threw fireballs on to the ground. This annoyed the more sensible of the fans, of which there was vast majority. To teach the pranksters a lesson with the same exercise, thousands of fans in good humour pelted empty plastic bottles, banana peel and whatnot towards them. The fireballs stopped for good.

## CARING SABER

Saber Hossain, the young president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, has finally visited the media box to inquire about the facilities provided to journalists. The professionals working at the media box and inside the stadium had been complaining about some problems and treatment meted out by some Board officials the past few days. Clad in white pajama and Sanath, Atapattu and De Silva (president talked to the journalists, inquired about the prevailing problems and assured them of looking into them immediately.