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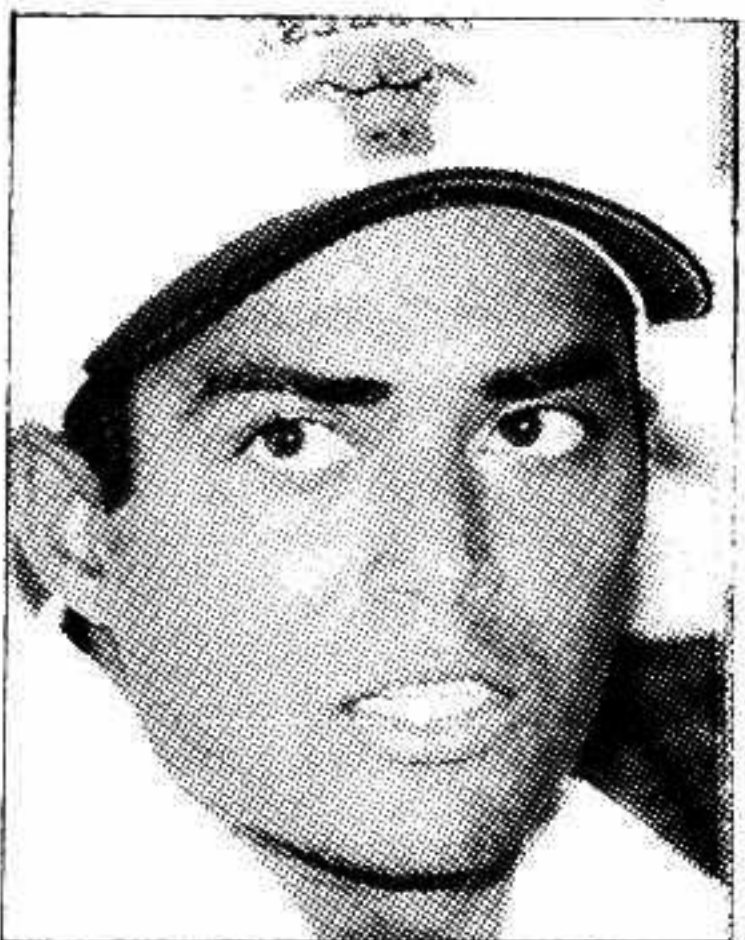
Star Sport

DHAKA FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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Column One

SPORTS TALK



Leander Paes

(India's number one tennis player)

"Most of my injuries are headed. But the shoulder is still a little sore. I have to be patient and play smart."

On the eve of India's Davis Cup match against South Korea, recently.

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-112

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

March 12 '99 and draw

shortly afterwards

1 Who is the new Real Madrid soccer coach?

Hiddink Toshack Sacchi

2 Pakistan won the hockey series against India by

5-1 6-3 4-3

3 Who is the first woman referee to officiate a First Division soccer match?

Danielle Carolina Janet

4 Who won the boys' singles title in the ITF tourney in Rajshahi?

Chang Weaver Wala

5 How many players are taking part in the United Insurance GM chess tourney?

10 13 20

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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Nat'l cricket

Bangladesh Biman made 189 against Dhaka University on the first day of the two-day zonal final of the 25th national cricket championship at the Dhamondia Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In reply, Dhaka University were 21 for two in 9 overs at stumps. Sohail and Seezan were batting with 10 and 5 respectively.

Left-arm pacer Jahangir Alam Dulu and Munna picked up the two DU wickets.

Earlier, winning the toss, Biman decided to bat and made the moderate total in 77.2 overs.

Hasanuzzaman scored highest 39 off 120 balls that included eight boundaries while Dulu contributed 35 off 73 balls with five fours.

Habibul Bashar added 22 off 35 balls with four boundaries while Plabon 21 off 56 deliveries that featured two fours.

Bappi claimed four wickets giving away 53 runs while Seezan and Sohail took two wickets each for 23 and 43 runs respectively.

At the Mymensingh Stadium, a magnificent 133 not out by Sajjad Ahmed guided Tangail to earn a massive 190-run victory over Narsingdi.

Opted to bat first, Tangail scored a mammoth 321 losing seven wickets in the stipulated 50 overs.

Sajjad played only 102 balls while Sushanta made 42 and Sajib 40 runs.

Shariful picked up three wickets for 57 runs and Mahtab took two wickets conceding 42.

Chasing the huge target, Narsingdi were bundled out for only 131 in 39.5 overs.

Shariful scored the team highest 27 and Pipu added 24 runs.

Sakhat captured three wickets for 15 runs while Russell took two for 20.

Away at the Comilla Stadium, the hosts smashed Brahmanbaria by six wickets.

Sent in to bat first, Brahmanbaria managed to score a meagre 156 runs for nine wickets in the stipulated 50 overs.

Intiaz made 28 while Jewel scored 23 runs.

Hasan claimed three wickets for 24 while Sumon and Babu took two wickets each for 16 and 23 runs respectively.

Chasing the victory target of 157, Comilla easily reached home making 159 runs losing only four wickets in 34.3 overs.

Asian Test Championship

Tickets on sale March 9

Sports Reporter



Tickets for the Coca-Cola Asian Test Championship final and three-nation one-day series will go on sale from March 9 through eleven branches of Al-Baraka Bank.

The Asian Test will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from March 12 followed by the tri-series, involving Zimbabwe, Kenya and hosts Bangladesh, which starts at the same venue a week later.

The branches are as follows: Dilkusha, Principal Office, Kawan Bazar, VIP Road, Gulshan, Mirpur Road, Imamganj, Islampur, Bangshal, Narayanganj and IDB booth at Agargaon.

For the convenience of spectators, the Dilkusha branch will remain open on the first day of the Test from 8 in the morning till 12 noon.

The rate of tickets will be the same for the Test and a match for the tri-nation tournament. Only AC and non AC hospitality boxes will be sold for the entire Test final and the tournament while the other tickets will be for each day.

Rates of the tickets: Hospitality Box (AC)--1,25,000/-; Hospitality (non AC)--1,00,000/-; Club House (West)--400/-; Club House (East)--350/-; VIP--700/-; Special Enclosure (for players and officials)--50/-; International Gallery--300/-; Gallery--50/-.

Pakistan due on March 9

Sports Reporter

Pakistan who have already qualified for the Asian Test final will arrive in the capital on March 9.

Pakistan are now playing Sri Lanka in Lahore in the third and deciding match for the final of the Asian Championship. India are the other team involved.

Bangladesh Cricket Board general secretary Syed Ashrafur Huq said yesterday both the finalists will stay at the Sonargaon Hotel during the final.

Match referee Cammie Smith of West Indies and tournament director Duleep Mendis will also fly in to the city on the same day along with two umpires designate - David Shepherd of England and Doug Cowie of New Zealand. The third umpire, which is yet to be named, will be nominated from the country which will not qualify for the final.

There will be 24 non AC and 20 AC hospitality boxes for sale. However, talking to the local press during a briefing, yesterday, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashrafur Huq said that some boxes would be reserved for Asian Cricket Council (ACC), BCB and other sponsors.

There will be 350 tickets for the western Club House while the Club House East will accommodate 1400 spectators. In the VIP Gallery, there will be 375 tickets while the International Gallery will contain 2200 tickets. Besides, there will be 1400 seats in the Special Enclosure apart from 30000 gallery tickets.

According to the BCB general secretary, 2000 tickets will be distributed free of charge to the school children everyday during the five-day final.

AF Rafiqul Islam, the chairman of Al-Baraka Bank, Anwar Ahmed, executive president of Al-Baraka and BCB vice-president Tanveer Mazhar Islam were also present.



Tanveer Mazhar Islam (R), vice-president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), makes a point during a press conference yesterday in connection with the ticket sale for the Asian Test Championship final and three-nation cricket tournament. Chairman of Al-Baraka Bank, A F Rafiqul Islam (2nd from R) and BCB general secretary Syed Ashrafur Huq (C) were also present. — Star photo

Kids outshine Pak oldies



LAHORE, Mar 4 (AFP): Pakistan were comfortably placed at 192-3 against Sri Lanka at stumps on Thursday.

First day of their Asian Test series match.

Newcomers Wajahatullah Wasti and Imran Nazir both played sparkling knocks to put the Pakistanis in command.

Opener Wajahatullah hit an unbeaten 80 while teenager Imran Nazir played a debut Test with an impressive 64. At the close, Yousuf Yohanna was not out on 40.

Pakistan, after winning the toss, were well set at 98-1 at lunch but lost two quick wickets in the session after tea.

Rain and bad light curtailed play by 24 overs with no play possible between lunch and tea. Bad light ended the extended last session six overs short.

Wajahatullah, who made his debut against India in Calcutta, gave plenty of chances but survived.

The Sri Lankans, needing seven points from this match to oust India from the final from March 12-16 in Dhaka, got their first point when they dismissed three Pakistani batsmen.

Sri Lanka capped opener Avishka Gunawardene and included two seamers and two spinners in their side. Imran Nazir was given his Test cap by Pakistan while paceman Shoaib Akhtar was ruled out due to a stiff neck.

Pakistan started badly, losing Saeed Anwar to the third ball of the game. Saeed, fresh from his 188 not out in the Calcutta Test, played across a Pramodya Wickremasinghe inswinger which took his off stump for a duck.

But debutant Imran played with authority, hitting eight fours and a six in a 50 off just 67 balls. He hit the fourth ball he faced for a boundary and pulled Hathurusinghe over the boundary for a six.

"It is a great honour for me to represent my country at this age and I am happy that I scored 64," Imran said.

The 17-year-old caught the eye of the selectors after scoring two centuries against South African Under-19 eleven last month.

Imran finally went for 64, hooking Wickremasinghe straight to deep line leg after an innings which lasted 121 minutes and included 10 fours and a six. He added 105 for the second wicket with Wajahatullah.

Inzamam-ul-Haq then lasted just four balls before edging Wickremasinghe onto his stumps.

Wickremasinghe was the pick of the bowlers with 3-61 and could have done even better with more support from the field.

Wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana dropped Wajahatullah off Wickremasinghe on nine while Yohanna was given a life when dropped on one by Russell Arnold at second slip, again off Wickremasinghe.

Wajahatullah completed his first 50 in his second Test in 176 minutes, hitting seven boundaries. In all, he hit 12 fours during his 266 minutes at the crease.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the Asian Test Championship match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Thursday.

PAKISTAN: First innings
Anwar b Wickremasinghe 0
Wasti not out 80
I Nazir c De Silva b Wickremasinghe 64
Inzamam b Wickremasinghe 0
Yohanna not out 40
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, nb-3) 8
Total: (For 3 wickets in 65 overs) 192
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-105; 3-105.

To bat: Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Nazir, Fazle Akbar.
Bowler (to date): O M R W
Wickremasinghe 19 7 61 3
De Silva 11 0 66 0
Hathurusinghe 10 3 21 0
Bandarathilake 18 7 25 0
Kulpage 7 1 14 0

SRI LANKA: Russell Arnold, Marvan Atapattu, Niroshan Bandaranathilake, Hashan Tillekeratne (captain), Sajeeva De Silva, Avishka Gunawardene, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Mahela Jayawardena, Ruwan Kalpage, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Pramodya Wickremasinghe.

Pakistan debutant Imran Nazir cover-drives on way to scoring a half-century on the first day of the third match of the Asian Test Championship in Lahore yesterday. — AFP photo



International junior tournament in full swing.

— Photo taken by the writer

Beyond the capital

Rajshahi

Tennis Complex: A success story

Rabeed Imam

A home for the children' is the sign that greets you as you enter the neat compound of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex. Indeed, it has the kind of ambience that would appeal to any youngster.

Tennis is a fast growing sport in Rajshahi and tiny tots can be seen in hundreds practising at the complex everyday.

The introduction of School Tennis Improvement Programme (STIP) under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) has done wonders to encourage boys and girls to take up tennis," said Zafar Imam, General Secretary of the District Sports Association.

"ITF provides playing equipment and gear for schools, and kids can practise as much as they want to here at the tennis complex. At present we have local coaches to guide them but we hope to bring foreign coaches in the near future," Zafar added.

The complex started functioning in 1981 on two unprepared courts of Boalia Club. That same year, former president and the then Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad sanctioned taka one lakh fifty thousand for development of the complex. Apart from that, the government provided land to construct two more courts. Flood lights were also installed in 1981.

Development work began in 1983 and the complex held its first international tournament — the Pepsi International Open — in 1986. The complex successfully conducted International Open tournaments in 1987, 88 and 90.

1991 saw the complex hold the International Satellite Circuit Competition for the very first time. The impressive fact about that occasion was that the tennis authorities bore the entire expenditure of that event.

Rajshahi remained a regular venue for satellite circuit tournaments for the next four years — Gold Leaf being the sponsors.

From 1996 onwards, the complex concentrated more on

organising junior level tournaments.

Talking to The Daily Star, secretary of the Rajshahi tennis complex, Moshtaq Ahmed, stressed that it has all been a labour of love.

"We started off from a very

humble state but sincerity and hardwork of local tennis enthusiasts have ensured Rajshahi to become a proud owner of an internationally recognised tennis complex."

Moshtaq, who is also joint secretary of the Bangladesh

Tennis Federation, informed that they are in constant touch with the ITF.

"The ITF is extremely pleased with the progress this complex is making and I feel it has shown its confidence in our capabilities by giving us the opportunity to hold international events regularly," he said.

Moshtaq however feels a bit let down by the attitude of the Bangladesh Tennis Federation towards Rajshahi.

"Probably they think that the Rajshahi Tennis Complex is a threat to the popularity of the National Tennis Complex in Dhaka, and that is largely true."

"We have better facilities here and also more sincere organisers. The authorities in Dhaka are running a campaign of harassment against Rajshahi."

"They have been blocking satellite circuit tournaments since 1996 even though we are always prepared to hold that particular event."

"But for some mysterious reason, the ITF was informed of Bangladesh's inability to organise that tournament and the Dhaka authorities didn't even bother to take our opinion," Moshtaq complained.

Both Zafar and Moshtaq conceded that funds were at a premium in Rajshahi.

"Definitely money is a stumbling block. However we have managed to strike sponsorship deals with Uttara Motors and the BEXIMCO Group, who are helping the development of the tennis complex," said Zafar.

There can be no doubt that tennis is beginning to catch the imagination of the locals. This correspondent observed that a large number of fans regularly filled the galleries during the recently completed International Junior (U-18) competition 99.

"We have the dream of bringing the Davis Cup to Rajshahi but first of all we want the satellite circuit back," said Moshtaq. Will Bangladesh Tennis Federation give Rajshahi its due?



Entrance to the complex.

— Photo taken by the writer

Premier Division hockey starts March 7

Sports Reporter

The inaugural Premier Division hockey league, sponsored by Green Delta Insurance Company Limited, starts at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium on Sunday morning.

Top eight teams from the 1997 First Division League will be featured in the two-tier league which is expected to conclude at the end of April.

Although, all matches of the league will be played in the afternoon, the opening encounter between Premier Division champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Azad Sporting Club will start at 10:30 am for special reasons.

Teams: Mohammedan SC, Usha KC, Abahani, Mariner Young's Club, Ajax SC, Sadharan Bima KS, Farashganj and Azad SC.

FIXTURE (First week)

Match	Time
Mar 7: Mohammedan SC v Azad SC	10:30 am
Mar 8: Usha KC v Farashganj SC	3:30 pm
Mar 9: Abahani v Sadharan Bima	3:30 pm
Mar 11: Mariner Young's v Usha KC	3:30 pm
Mar 12: Usha KC v Azad SC	2:15 pm
Mar 13: Abahani v Ajax SC	4:00 pm
Mar 13: Mariner Young's v Sadharan Bima	4:00 pm

Annual cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 4: The 79th annual sports of Kashiipur High School and College was held at its play-ground yesterday.

Nearly 150 competitors participated in 48 events.

Steve happy with the Oval wicket

Lara scare for Windies



PORT OF SPAIN, Mar 4: West Indies captain Brian Lara on Wednesday awaited the results of a scan on his damaged right wrist to determine whether he will play in the first Test against Australia which begins on Friday, reports Reuters.

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Ambrose trained with the team on Wednesday but Walsh was still on his way from Jamaica.

Walsh has just returned from visiting a specialist in New York who assessed the player's groin and hamstring problems.

Asked if Walsh was fit, concerned team manager Clive Lloyd replied: "I hope so."

The West Indian selectors have named six fast bowlers in a 15-man squad as cover for injuries. Lloyd expects the final XI to be chosen this afternoon.

Australia have also yet to name a team but there is no doubt both leg-spinners, Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, will play along with fast bowlers Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie.

The pitch has a reasonable cover of thick grass but is nothing like the sodden mine-field of a track which confronted the Australians on their last tour four years ago.

The toss is likely to be irrelevant. With a bank of fast bowlers and no spinners, the West Indies will be looking to bowl first to exploit any early life in the pitch.

Australia will want to bat first so the spinners can bowl last on a wearing wicket.

Despite the good grass coverage Steve Walsh, in his first Test as captain, expects the pitch to begin taking spin after day two.

the fitness of veteran fast bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh.

Like Lara they have not played a competitive match since returning a month ago from the tour of South Africa in which West Indies lost all five Tests and six of the seven one-day matches.

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Almost daily showers have prevented the groundsmen from rolling the wicket as much as they would like but Waugh was happy with what he saw.

"It looks as though it's going to be pretty slow, pretty dead. I've got no complaints," he said. "I think our blokes will turn the ball on it but you don't want to read too much into it."

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