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DHAKA SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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RANGS GROUP

Column One

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 19 '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.

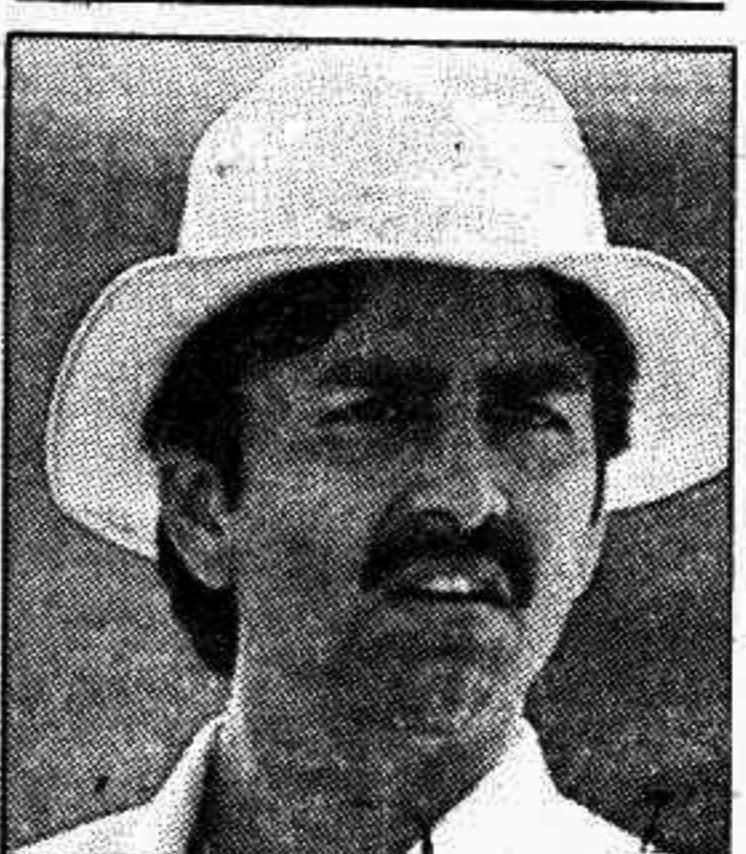
School Address

Phone: (if any)

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ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS**NOTICE**

Due to unavoidable reasons draw of the WHIZZ KID Competition 112 could not take place yesterday. The draw will be held on March 19.

—Sports Editor

SPORTS TALK**Manoj Prabhakar**
(Former Indian all-rounder)
"I have no idea, I have stopped watching cricket."

On how he rates the Indian team's chances in the World Cup '99 under Azharuddin.

Barisal cricket

BARISAL, Mar 12: Katpatti Friends Eleven beat Meghdoott Kira Chakra by 91 runs in the First Division cricket league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Opting to bat first, Katpatti Friends Eleven piled up 255 runs for nine in stipulated 40 overs with Ashu making high-58 off 63 balls.

Mamun captured three wickets while Moni and Sumon took two wickets each.

In reply, Meghdoott were all out for 164 in 33 overs with Biplob scoring 27 runs off 21 balls.

Sumon picked up three wickets while Goutam and Ashok took two wickets each.

DD launching sports channel

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpeyi will launch Doordarshan's sports channel on March 18 at a function here, reports PTI.

The channel will be inaugurated at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at a function which will also feature a cricket match between teams led by former captain Kapil Dev and current incumbent Mohammad Azharuddin.

Parsi Bharati chief executive officer (CEO) OP Kejriwal told PTI soon after a board meeting here yesterday.

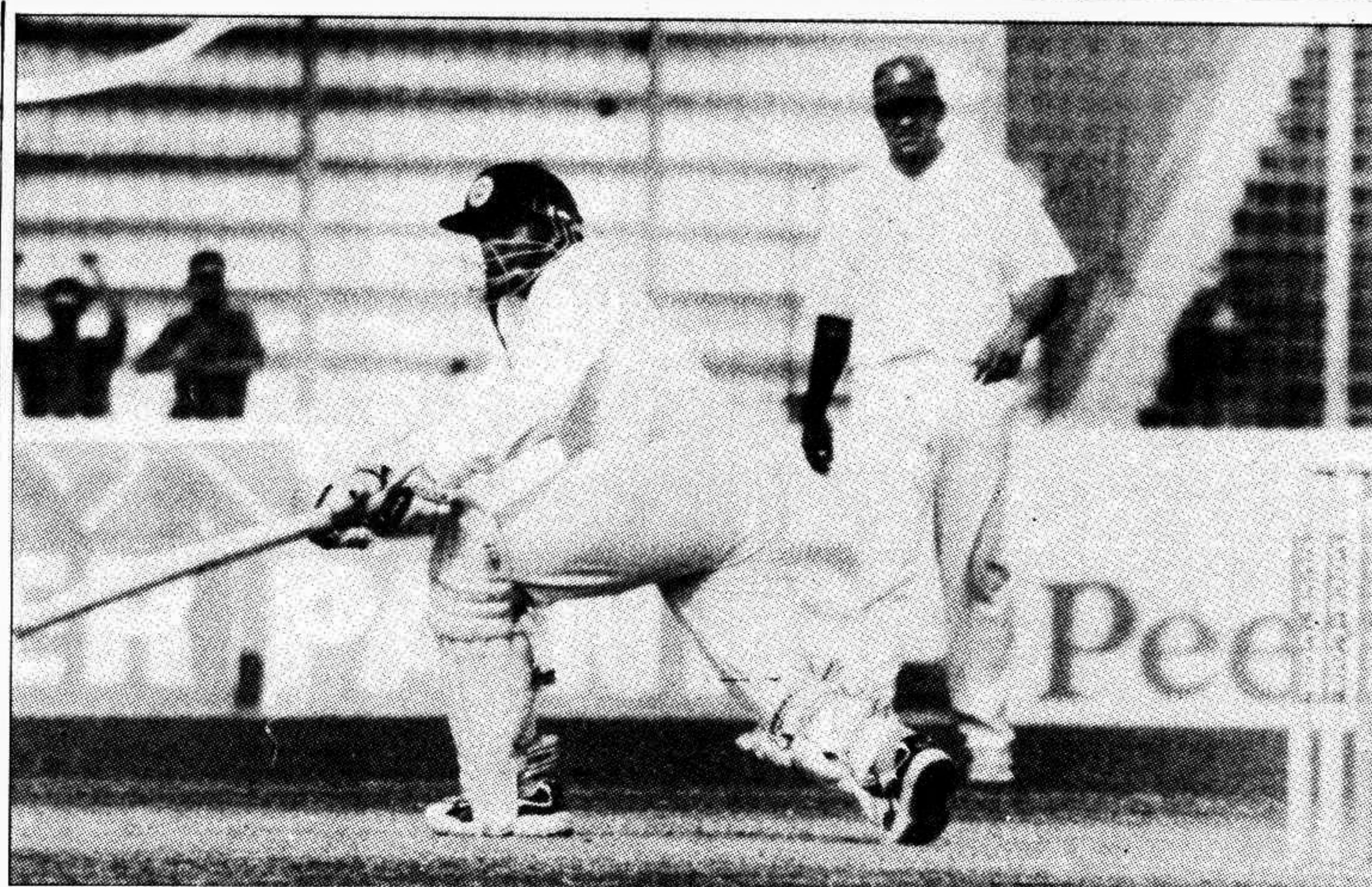
The channel will initially beam programmes for three hours a day, he said.

US Cup '99**Hosts win opener**

LOS ANGELES, Mar 12: The US national soccer team beat Guatemala 3-1 (halftime 2-0) in the opening match of US Cup '99 on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Joe Max Moore (22nd minute), Brian McBride (37th) and Frankie Hejduk (94th) netted for the Americans while Jorge Perez (penalty 51st) pulled one back for Guatemala.

35,000 fans attended the match.



Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva sweeps.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY TAUT AND TENSE TEST LIKELY

Shakil Kasem

The sight of two spinners bowling in tandem within the first three hours of any Test match should not warm any season ticket-holder's heart. The average Dhakaite who has bought entries for all five days of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Test match will be having a more fitful night than Aravinda de Silva.

Dhaka has not prepared a Test match wicket in the last thirty years. Granted, some assistance and advice have been forthcoming from Phil Russell, who has been the curator for this square in the past. But Russell is presently over 5,000 or more miles away, so obviously this has to have been a local effort. For the sake of the Dhaka Everyman, one only hopes that the wicket, such as it might be, does not decide to throw tantrums midway through the proceedings.

The Sri Lankans, meanwhile, have managed to dig themselves into a right royal hole. Winning the toss and opting to bat first, their innings curled up and died even before the butt end of the day was reached. When the top three of the order are back in the pavilion for less than twenty, any team worth its salt has its work cut out just to stay in the game. The Sri Lankans tried and looked like getting back in contention with Atapattu and De Silva, their two technically correct and accomplished batsmen coming into their own. Their 65 run partnership was ended just when Sri Lanka looked to have negotiated the choppy waters. It took a palpably bad decision by the umpire to pin the Sri Lankans back to the wall again. "Neutral umpires", whatever the term implies or means, counts for less than nothing if the man in question is not competent enough, or is just simply having

climes, "neutral" or otherwise.

From 84/4 with only the wrong end of the batting order for company, De Silva shouldered on manfully, putting together a masterful innings. For four and a half hours, he took on everything that the Pakistanis hurled at him, from speedster and spinners alike. The hundred was there for the taking. More importantly, the prospects of reaching 250-plus (since wickets were regularly disappearing from the other end) certainly looked like being

that is of small comfort to him and in no way condones the decision.

Clearly a case where the punishment did not fit the crime.

All said and done, barring

Atapattu and De Silva, the rest of the batting order dissolved to a heady chemistry of pace, swing and spin. Wasim Akram was in his elements. Shaobai Akhtar was pace personified, while Saqlain preyed on the mind all the time. In the general turmoil Arshad (who?) Khan picked up five wickets without quite being the most lethal spinner of a cricket ball in the world. He stuck to the basics and a rudimentary knowledge of line and length, and the rest was well, history of sorts. 5 for 30-odd by an up-and-down offie on the first afternoon of a test does really send shivers down the wrong spines.

Tajikistan defeated Saudi

Arabia 2-1 to top Group-B while Oceania were placed second and Saudi Arabia third.

Despite losing the matches, Bangladesh remained in Group-3.

Malaysia were leading

Group-A after beating Syria 2-1

on the day. Hong Kong and

Bangladesh were trailing with second and third positions respectively.

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