

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

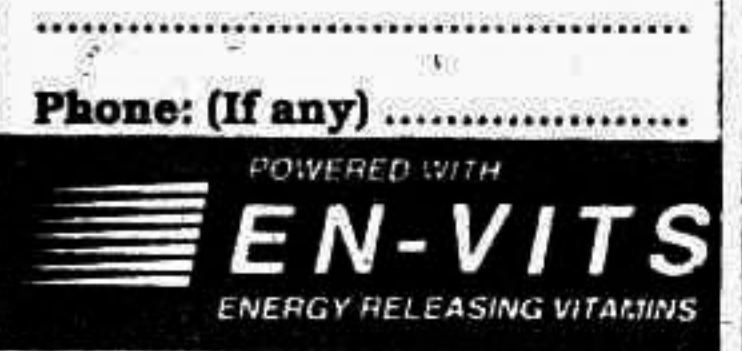
| | | | | |
|---|--|----------|----------|--------|
| 1 | Who is the new Real Madrid soccer coach? | | | |
| | | Hiddink | Toshack | Sacchi |
| 2 | Pakistan won the hockey series against India by | | | |
| | | 5-1 | 6-3 | 4-3 |
| 3 | Who is the first woman referee to officiate a First Division soccer match? | | | |
| | | Danielle | Carolina | Janel |
| 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)



SPORTS TALK



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
When someone else has scored 1282 goals and won three world titles, then someone has done the same as I, we will talk about it. There are many painters but only one Michelangelo.
Commenting on whether there were any challengers to his status as the all-time great.

Davis Cup Malaysia, HK in Group 2

Malaysia and Hong Kong moved into Group-2 in the Davis Cup Asia Oceania Zone after defeating their respective rivals in Group-3 at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday, reports APB.

Malaysia outplayed Pacific Oceania 3-0 while Hong Kong posted a 2-1 match win over Tajikistan.

Malaysia will take on Hong Kong in the first place deciding match on the concluding day today.

In the day's other match, Syria beat Saudi Arabia 2-1. Syria will play against Bangladesh for fifth and sixth positions deciding match today.

Martinez freed

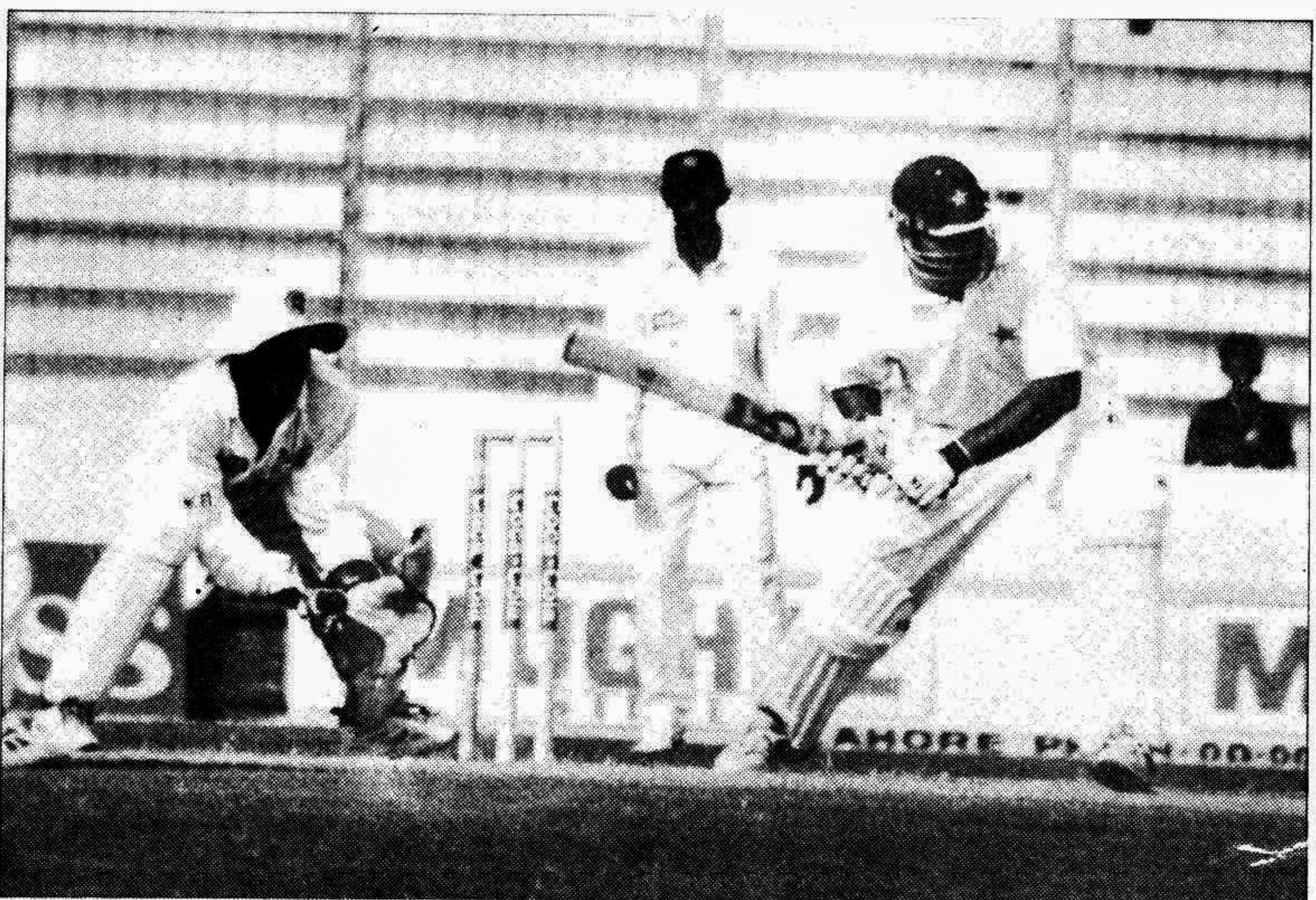
LIMA, Mar 13: Kidnappers freed former Peruvian football star Roberto Martinez Friday, two days after he was abducted, reports AFP.

Martinez, one of this South American nation's greatest football stars, said he was taken to Santa Maria Beach - 40 kilometers (24 miles) south of Lima - in the early hours of Friday morning and left there.

"I had to walk two and a half hours until I found a passenger bus that took me to the city," he said.

Reports had said the kidnapers demanded a ransom of half a million dollars. But Martinez, one-time national team star, said no ransom was asked.

"I paid nothing," he told American television news. "They never asked for money for my freedom."
"They made a mistake with me. I'm not a millionaire," he said.



Inzamamul Haq playing forward defensive.

—Star photo

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY POINTLESS BECAUSE OF POINTS

Shakil Kasem

It may be a question of attitude. Perhaps this championship does not mean much to the Sri Lankans. They have arrived in Dhaka minus Ranatunga, Muralitharan and Jayaraj, all reportedly unfit. Ergo a depleted side. What they had on display was a stand-in captain sans imagination, a bowling attack that was toothless, to put it politely, and a fielding effort that would have driven the most philosophical of bowlers to take up felony as a career option.

On a wicket where on the first day two spinners managed to snap up six wickets between them, the Sri Lanka captain kept his spinning options locked up a tightly as the Crown Jewels. Granted Russell Arnold, Upul Chandana, or Aravinda, the man himself, are not likely to set the Buriganga afire, but somewhat longer spells by any of them would have at least conveyed the impression that the Sri Lankans were at least trying to create something out of this game.

What happened in the end was the torturous ordeal of having to bowl for hours together to someone like Ijaz Ahmed, who was more than happy to take this opportunity to rehabilitate himself in the side. What was worse from the spectator's point of view was the sight of Ijaz hogging the crease for hours on end. Ijaz Ahmed running, Ijaz Ahmed in his stance, or even Ijaz Ahmed playing any kind of shot, is not the prettiest of sights. But like the Volkswagen, he gets you there. And so he did. He took Pakistan to an impregnable position, receiving help along the way in said cause from the Lankans to a large extent.

Pakistan dutifully acquired

their third batting point, thus giving them a sum total of seven against the Sri Lanka's two. Effectively the Test match is over in two days really. It is hard to imagine that the Sri Lanka bowling attack is even remotely capable of bowling out the Pakistanis twice to force an outright result. But to give them credit, the Lankan bowlers stuck manfully to their task, although in all fairness, both Ijaz and Inzamam, both short of

eyebrow, and their game plan tests the bounds of cricketing logic. Add the fact that the fielders never knew what to do with a catch, and you have a sure-fire recipe for a disaster Test match final.

Quite simply, sadly for Dhaka, the "neutral venue" Test is a bit of a mismatch. Pakistan under Wasim Akram are patently on a revival curve; they have tasted blood in India,



runs in recent days, did make heavy weather out of a lacklustre bowling attack. At the end of the day, whatever the merits of the point system, the fact that one side is making sure it has enough points in the kitty, has killed this match before it has even reached the halfway stage.

and really do not have time for this sort of opposition. The coach of the side is a man of many summers who knows every trick in the book, and the captain is ready, willing and able to implement each and all of them. In the absence of Arjuna Ranatunga, the shrewdest of contemporary captains, the battle of the minds is totally lopsided.



Sri Lanka really does not look like a team that seems to be overly interested in this competition. They arrived with a depleted side, their team selection has raised many an expert

It would now need a really Herculean effort from Vaas and company to dislodge the Ijaz-Inzamam partnership which has already passed the benchmark of being ominous. With one batsman already with a ton under his belt and the other winning sight of another, and with Afridi, Youhana, Moin Khan and Wasim Akram himself to follow, Sri Lanka faces a Black Sunday with all its potent ramifications.

Take a brick as they say. Squeeze it, see all that water? That's as much interest now left in this final.

Dhaka's ton tales

Sports Reporter

Pakistani batsman Ijaz Ahmed seemed to be the happiest man in the world when he slammed a century yesterday against Sri Lanka on the second day of the Asian Test Championship final.

"It's a great feeling to have scored a century here. I have been struggling with my form and today's century will definitely give me extra confidence for the future. I also scored a hundred here during the Independence Cup final but unfortunately we lost that match to India," said Ijaz, who also scored a century in Chittagong in 1988.

"Any player would love to make a comeback with a century and I want to take it to a double hundred tomorrow," said a confident Ijaz, who remained unbeaten on 118.

Saturday's century was the eleventh Test ton for the Lahore-based right-hander, who was dropped for the Lahore Test against Sri Lanka for his poor performance against India in the first match at the Eden Gardens last month.

Apart from his own record, this was the ninth Test century scored at the Dhaka Stadium, now known as Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The other eight centuries were scored between 1955 to 1969 before the independence of Bangladesh. Legendary Pakistani batsman Hanif Mohammad is leading the list with three centuries including his centuries in both innings against England in 1962.

| No | Name | Runs | Against | Month/Year |
|----|------------------------|------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. | Hanif Mohammad (Pak) | 103 | New Zealand | November, 1955 |
| 2. | Javed Burki (Pak) | 140 | England | January, 1962 |
| 3. | Hanif Mohammad (Pak) | 111 | England | January, 1962 |
| 4. | Hanif Mohammad (Pak) | 104 | England | January, 1962 |
| 5. | Geoff Puller (Eng) | 165 | Pakistan | January, 1962 |
| 6. | Basil d'Oliveira (Eng) | 114* | Pakistan | February, 1969 |
| 7. | Glenn Turner (NZ) | 110 | Pakistan | November, 1969 |
| 8. | MG Burgess (NZ) | 119* | Pakistan | November, 1969 |
| 9. | Ijaz Ahmed (Pak) | 118* | Sri Lanka | March, 1999 |

COMILLA, Mar 13: Comilla Hawks Club clinched the Coca Cola Gold Cup cricket championship title defeating Nimitoli Boys Club by four wickets at the Town Hall ground here today, reports APB.

Batting first, Boys' Club were all out for 126 in 22.4 overs in the final match of the tourney.

In reply, Hawks Club reached their winning target at the cost of six wickets, playing 20 overs. Shimul of the winning team was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Comilla cricket

Lloyd said Neil Broad, Miles MacLagan and Mark Hilton would round out the five-man squad for the April 2-4 matches at the national indoor arena.

The 24-year-old Henman, ranked seventh, reached the Wimbledon semifinals last summer, while 10th-ranked Rusedski was runner up at the 1997 US Open.

Hilton, the youngest member of the squad at 17 years, will be making his Davis Cup debut.

The United States Tennis Association is expected to name its Davis Cup team later in the month.



A CLOSE CALL: Sri Lanka's Hashan Tillekeratne (grounded) fails to take a sharp catch offered by Saeed Anwar.

Premier Div hockey Abahani sink Ajax

Title aspirants Abahani earned a massive 11-1 victory over Ajax SC in the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division hockey league at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UMB.

It was the second consecutive win for Dhanmondi-based outfit as they defeated Sadharan Bima KC 2-0 in their first encounter.

Star-studded Abahani led the first half 3-0.

Indian playmakers Sabu Verki and Dhanraj Pillay were pivotal in earning the huge win. Dhanraj netted three goals while Sabu two.

Abahani's local veteran striker Mahubub Harun and Ashikuzzaman scored twice each while defender Mamunir Rashid and Pakistani-recruit Imran Yousuf netted once.

Ariful Haq grabbed a consolation goal before the last whistle for Ajax.

In the another match, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club beat Sadharan Bima KC 2-0 after leading the first half 1-0.

Both goals came from Biaka who netted in the 2nd and 62nd minutes.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Mohammedan SC vs Sadharan Bima (2:15 pm)
Usha KC vs Ajax SC (4 pm)

Davis Cup Henman, Rusedski to lead British squad

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 13: Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski will lead the British squad in next month's Davis Cup World Group first round tie against the United States in Birmingham. British captain David Lloyd announced Friday, reports Reuters.

Lloyd said Neil Broad, Miles MacLagan and Mark Hilton would round out the five-man squad for the April 2-4 matches at the national indoor arena.

The 24-year-old Henman, ranked seventh, reached the Wimbledon semifinals last summer, while 10th-ranked Rusedski was runner up at the 1997 US Open.

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Championship nuggets

Syed Ashfaquul Haque

ONE MISSED FOR ONE

Pakistan failed to garner one bonus point by falling one run short yesterday. They finished the 100 over of their first innings scoring 299 runs for two when they required just one more run to capture another batting point.

Pakistan managed two points while the Sri Lankan bowlers toiled under the mid-March sun to finish the day empty-handed. The islanders needed one more wicket within the required overs to collect a minimum one point.

Pakistan openers -- Saeed Anwar and Wajahatullah Wasti, scored 33 runs in the first 10 overs before the stumps were drawn for Friday, the first day of the Asian Test Championship finale. Ijaz Ahmed, who returned to form with an unbeaten 118, and an obese Inzamamul Haq with 77 saw off the second day to wipe out Lankan hopes for the first-ever championship.

As per the rules of the tri-nation Test championship, which also included out-of-the-race India, Wasim Akram's Pakistan would certainly win the final unless Aravinda de Silva's depleted team pull off something better to beat their rivals.

Pakistan have earned 6 points while the Lankans could master 2 batting points in their first innings.

As there are no points for the second innings a draw would ensure the championship for Pakistan, who grabbed maximum four points in bowling by skittling Sri Lanka out for 231 in 78 overs.

BEST WISHES FOR BADE MIA

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad surely missed his wife sorely yesterday.

Sitting at the dressing room with his boys batting confidently, the miserable mind of Miandad, adorably called as 'Bade Mia' of Pakistan cricket, should drift back and forth between Karachi and Dhaka as he had to pass a very special day far from his family.

On this day, March 13, the famous Pakistani tied the knot sixteen years back. His family lives in Karachi.

Miandad, who became coach last year, born on June 12, 1957 in Karachi. The star batsman of the yore poses an enviable record as a cricketer.

He scored 8832 runs in 124 Test matches, averaging 52.57 with 23 hundreds and 43 half-centuries. Miandad's number of matches, runs, centuries, fifties and catches (as a fielder) are all still Pakistan Test records.

Aged 19 years, 141 days he became the youngest player to score a double hundred (206 against New Zealand in Karachi, 1976-77) in the history of Test cricket.

SHIV SENA SCARED SUFI

He is a gem of supporter. Even at the ripe old age of 55, he goes where Pakistan goes. Sufi Abdul Jalil, a rabid cricket junkie from Sialkot, is a familiar face at the gallery of most grounds around the world.

The Star Sport camera crew spotted the bubbly, bearded gentleman on the stands at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Draped all over in the green-white Pakistan flag, Sufi inspired a band of Bangladeshi lads to chant and dance ceaselessly to buck up his favourite cricketers. The amiable cricket aficionado came to Dhaka this time at the courtesy of the Pakistan sports minister.

He served in the Dubai Municipal Corporation for 26 years and did not miss a single match played in the desert venue of Sharjah since 1981. He retired last year.

But much to the frustration of Sufi, he could not make the Indian trip in January as the Hindu fundamentalist party, Shiv Sena, threatened to spoil Pakistan's historic tour of India.

Sufi, who is already famous by the electronic eye of satellite TV network, was refrained by his family members from making the trip fearing that he could become an easy target of Shiv Sena.

DON'T DO THE WAY OUTLOOK DID

An Indian journalist had been chasing Wasim Akram for an interview prior to the start of the day's play when at one point Akram melted.

"Well you can take it when we'll be in India," Akram said while returning to the dressing room. Pakistan will go to India later this month to feature in a triangular tournament which also includes Sri Lanka.

The persuasive newsman asked, "Exactly where in India?"

"Well, you can do it in Jamshepur. But don't write

anything negative about me the way the Outlook did," Akram, who is at the centre of match-fixing controversy, warned.

The Indian weekly magazine published the excerpt of Judge Quayum's report. The judge heads a one-man commission, formed by the Pakistan government to investigate match-fixing allegation in the country's cricket.

SMITH LOOKED FOR WHAT?

He was in search of something.

Cammie Smith, the West Indian match referee of the final, was seen yesterday examining the shoulder, calf and thigh muscles of Shoaib Akhtar, the newest speed sensation of Pakistan. Before the start of the play, Shoaib faced the friendly investigation of the former Caribbean cricketer outside the boundary rope.

The young fast bowler, who shot into prominence by producing two lightning yorkers in succession that sent the stumps of Indian master batsman Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid cart-wheeling in the first match of the Asian Test Championship at Eden Gardens last month, appeared a bit embarrassed by the gentle shake-down.

"He's probably looking for an electronic device with the help of which Shoaib (arguably rated as the fastest in the world) probably generates so much pace," quipped a reporter close by.

VIPS KEEP COMING

The distinguished dignitaries of the Asian Cricket Council keep on coming to the city.

Thilanga Sumathipala, president of the Asian Cricket Council and the chief of Sri Lanka board, and Khalid Mahmood, the president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, are expected to arrive tomorrow.

Nuski Mohamed, honorary treasurer of the ACC, is already in town.

ASIAN TEST SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the Asian Test Championship final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 231 (Aravinda 72, Atapattu 36, Vaas 20 n.o.; Arshad Khan 5/38, Shoaib 2/36, Akram 2/45).
PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 33/0 in 10 overs)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Anwar c & b Arnold | 57 |
| Wasti c Jayawardena b Sajewwa | 22 |
| Ijaz batting | 118 |
| Inzamam batting | 77 |
| Extras: (b-11, lb-7, nb-7) | 25 |
| Total: (For 2 wks in 100 overs) | 299 |

To bat: Yousaf Yohana, Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Arshad Khan and Saqlain Mushtaq.
Fall of wickets: 1-75; 2-117

| Bowlers | O | M | R | W |
|----------------|------|---|----|---|
| Vaas | 28 | 3 | 59 | 0 |
| Wickremasinghe | 18 | 4 | 41 | 0 |
| Sajewwa | 17.4 | 3 | 45 | 0 |
| Chandana | 17 | 2 | 63 | 1 |
| Aravinda | 4 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Arnold | 13.2 | 3 | 25 | 1 |
| Jayawardena | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

Pakistan influenced Lahore Test result—Sikander Bakht

Former Pakistan medium-fast bowler Sikander Bakht is in town as one of the six television commentators covering the ongoing inaugural Asian Test Championship final.

Born on August 25, 1957, in Karachi, Sikander played 26 Test matches for Pakistan from 1976 to 1983 and captured 67 wickets at an average of 36.00. The tall handsome cricketer also played 27 one-dayers for Pakistan from 1977 to 1989 and bagged 33 wickets.

After retiring from active cricket, Sikander emerged as a popular commentator in Urdu and had been serving Pakistan Television until he was included in the Star Sports commentary team early this year.

Although he does not play cricket any more, Sikander has deep concern for the future of the game. During an interview yesterday with The Daily Star correspondent Hasan Masood, the former Pakistan cricketer talked on many aspects of the game.

The Daily Star (DS): This is your second trip to Bangladesh. Earlier you came as a cricketer and now you are a commentator. Which do you enjoy more?

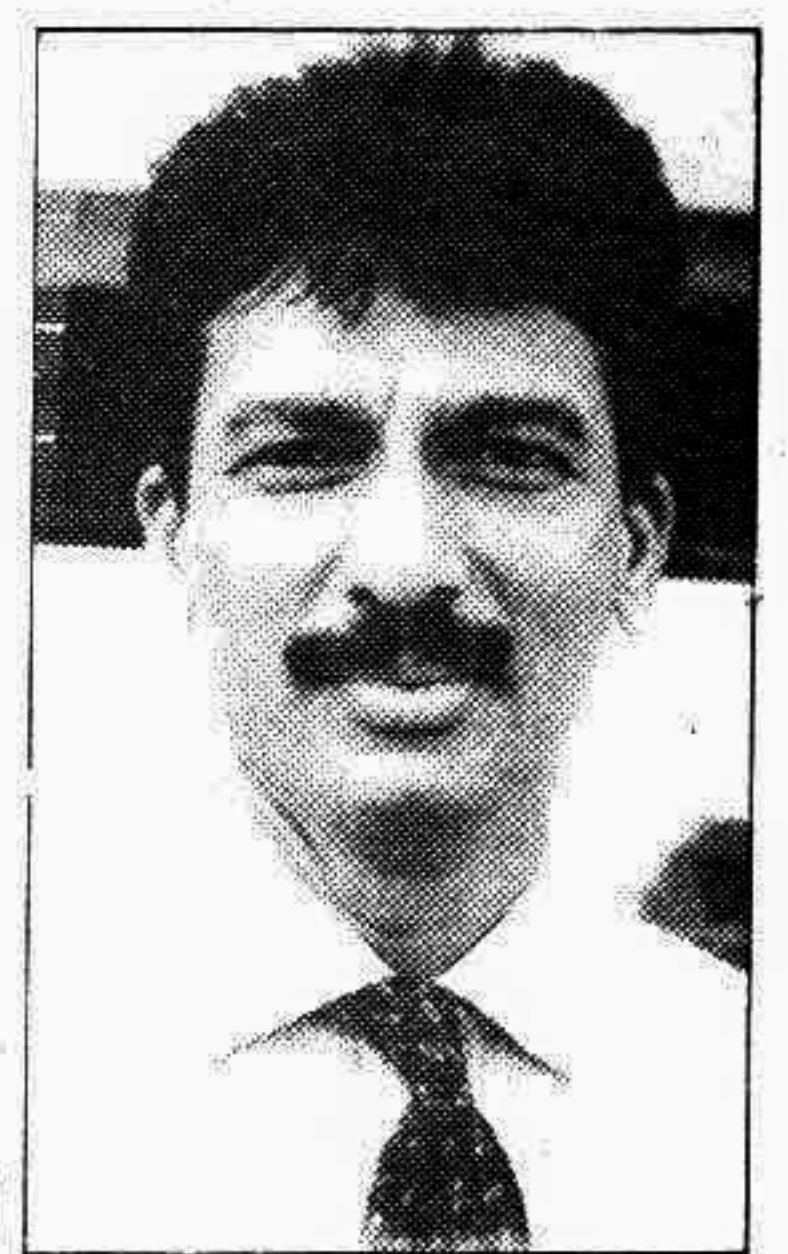
Sikander Bakht (SB): To tell you honestly, when I was here the last time in 1980, I didn't play any match. We had some problems and we couldn't play any matches on that tour. There was a match in Dhaka against the Bangladesh side and it could not be played. Now I am here as a commentator. So, I can't say

much about the difference—I mean—as I didn't play.

DS: How do you assess the concept of holding this Asian Test Championship? Is it okay with you?

SB: The concept is very good. The only thing they have to do is make some changes in the system, the points system. As you have seen, people were expecting India to play against Pakistan in the final here at Dhaka. But, as we all know, at Lahore, the Pakistanis influenced the result. They had a

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Reader of the Daily Star
I salute you for all the
best
Sikander Bakht
20/3/99

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