

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

- Who is the new Real Madrid soccer coach?
Hiddink Tashack Sacchi
- Pakistan won the hockey series against India by
5-1 6-3 4-3
- Who is the first woman referee to officiate a First Division soccer match?
Danielle Carolina Janet
- Who won the boys' singles title in the ITF tourney in Rajshahi?
Chang Weaver Wala
- How many players are taking part in the United Insurance GM chess tourney?
10 13 20

Name

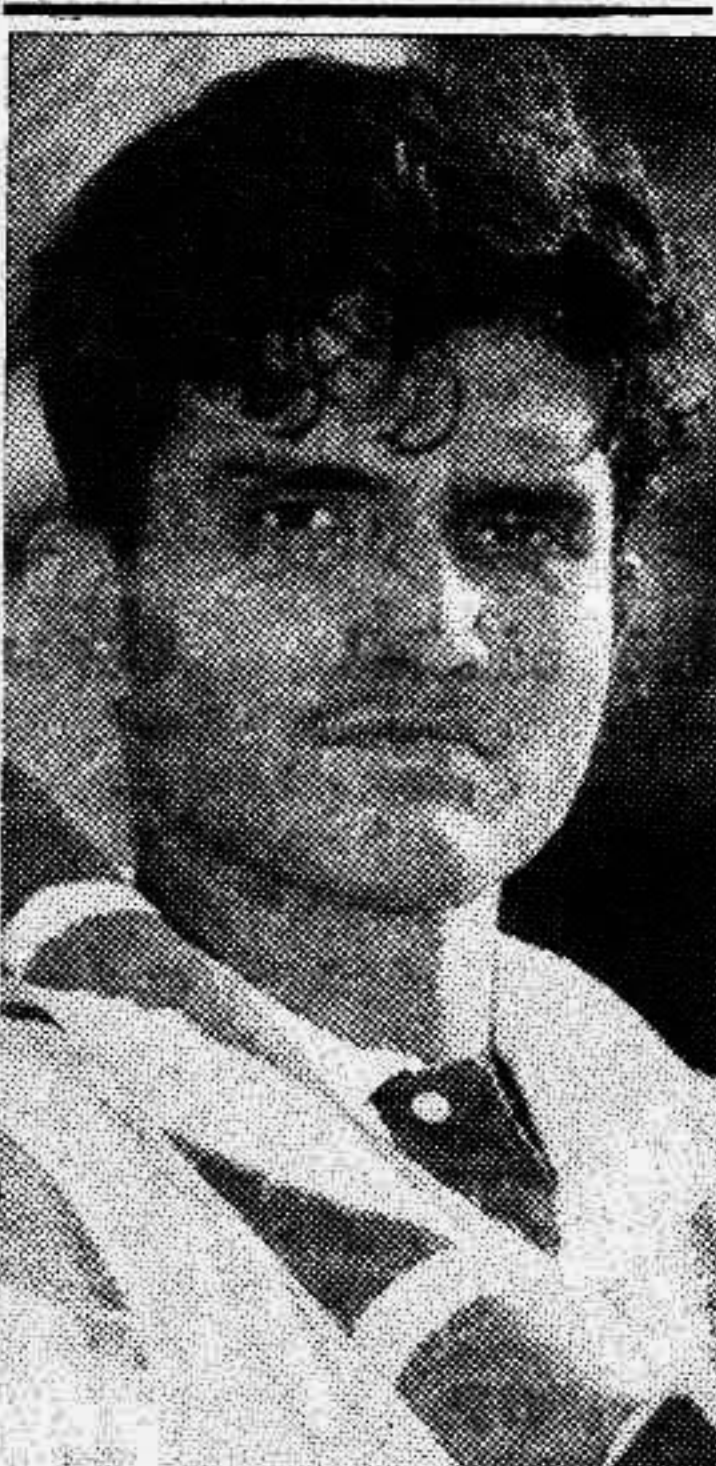
Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Saurav Ganguly

(Indian batsman)
"Everybody wants to have a good record in any class of cricket. If somebody says he doesn't look at his own record, I think he is lying. I also have certain targets, be it Test cricket or one-day cricket."
On records.

Imran sings Akram's praises

KARACHI, Mar 15 (AFP/Interne): Former cricket star-turned politician Imran Khan Monday heaped praise on Pakistani captain Wasim Akram and predicted the "great bowler" would break the record for the number of wickets in Test cricket.

Congratulating Wasim on his hat-trick against Sri Lanka in the final of the Asian Test Championship in Dhaka on Sunday, Imran said he always knew Wasim would become one of the all-time greats.

"He is a great bowler and a born cricketer. And I believe he will break the world record in Test cricket. He has just to keep himself fit," Imran told the news agency.

"I predicted in 1985 that this boy would be a great bowler. He has an amazing talent."

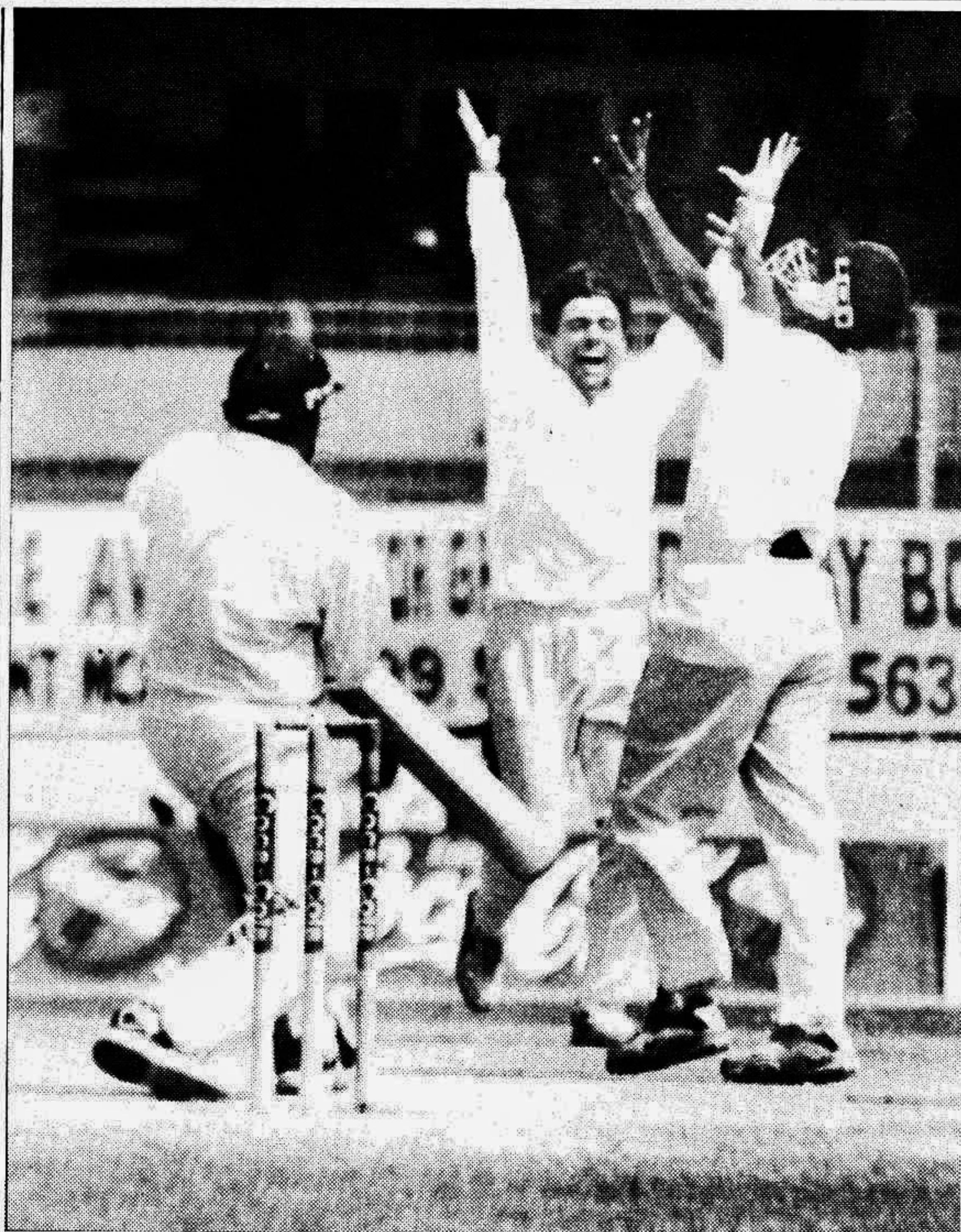
Wasim also achieved a hat-trick against Sri Lanka in last week's Test match in Lahore, and his feat in Dhaka made him the first bowler ever to take two hat-tricks in Test matches.

Wasim has taken 378 Test wickets and is vying with West Indian Courtney Walsh, who has 404 wickets, to break Indian Kapil Dev's world record of 434.

Imran said Wasim was "wrongly removed" from the captaincy in the past amid charges of match fixing and bribery.

The 32-year-old Wasim was re-appointed captain in January. He drew the two match series 1-1 against India and aims to lead the team to victory in the coming World Cup starting in May in England.

Imran, who won the 1992 World Cup for Pakistan, said "they (Pakistan) have less chances than they had in 1996 due to English conditions, but I think they have the potential to beat anyone."



Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq (C) is delighted after having Aravinda de Silva caught by Yousuf Youhana (R) on the fourth day. —Star photo

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

THE FINAL THAT NEVER WAS

Shakil Kasem

The concept of this competition was to determine the best Test playing nation in Asia. Well, Pakistan more than met the grade, winning two of the three matches they played and piling up umpteen points (DIRTY WORD!!) in the process. India managed to shoot itself in the foot right at the start and limped away into the sunset, while Sri Lanka runs the risk of being sued for deception.

The foregone conclusion of this no-contest was that the Dhaka crowd was hard done by the blatant manipulation of points (expletive deleted) at Lahore that made sure a mismatch took place over the last three days here. Granted a hat-trick was on offer, but one doubts if anybody had known from the start that Wasim Akram had it planned that way.

Sri Lanka's heart was never really in this competition. Arjuna Ranatunga spoke for the islanders when he stated after the second Test in Colombo, that the Sri Lankan priorities lay with the World Cup. In a nutshell, this competition could go for a hike.

Since the opposition was Pakistan, India really should have played for pride. But their wishy-washy selectorial efforts resulted in a massive faux pas in Colombo. Pakistan could then laugh their way to the bank. And so they did. Pre-ordained. Another instance where the ICC's customary quick fix for this region took the general public for yet another ride.

To get back to this misnomer of a final, Sri Lanka started the fourth day with its innards ripped out at 9 for 3. Two more wickets were then prised out, with Wasim Akram having a hand in both. All of the first five wickets thus carried the

Wasim Akram brand name. Fleeting the match threatened to drift into the last session, as the tenth pair prolonged the Sri Lankan agony and the non-existent crowd's misery. But the writing was well and truly on the wall, written with a flourish way back a week ago.

elan at being able to organise an ODI at next to no notice, that too carving it from an ongoing Test match itself. But one wonders why such creative and persuasive skills had dried up when the Mini-World Cup had taken place in October last, here at the very same venue. Ah,



In the midst of all this Bangladesh ensured that its countrymen and cricket lovers hang their heads in shame. The sudden announcement by the BCB that a Pakistan-Bangladesh ODI was on the cards on the fifth day, even before the Test match itself was anywhere but over, smacked of a bad taste and incredible cricketing ignorance. It was insulting and demeaning to the Sri Lankan team and was conducted wholly unbecomingly of a host nation.

If and when Bangladesh does get Test status, one prays fervently that its first series is not in Sri Lanka. The itinerary may well read "One 5 Day Test; Last Three Days One-dayers Against Provincial Sides." If this is indeed the comprehension of the Bangladesh authorities of what Test cricket is all about, then we may well perhaps be waiting for test status somewhat longer than we had bargained for.

As a nation we are masters of the Just in Time Technology. Some of us will no doubt pat ourselves on the back for such

well, why bother with trifles? Anyway, now that the Pakistanis have shown us how accommodating and considerate they are in agreeing (!) to this ODI, perhaps they may even let us win it. Joke, joke.

On a serious note, the Pakistanis, even if they lose the ODI against Bangladesh, would be leaving Dhaka brimming with new-found confidence in their abilities, and faith and trust in the unity of their side. In their captain they have an incomparable leader of men, one who is likely to raise the team to levels of performance far exceeding any they previously believed they were capable of. The message from Dhaka is going out everywhere. Watch out, world, the Pakis are on the prowl again.



Man-of-the-final Ijaz Ahmed poses with the trophy and the cheque. —Star photo

Azhar to skipper India thru' WC

BOMBAY, Mar 15: Mohammad Azharuddin was today named captain of India's 1999 World Cup squad, reports Reuters.

Azharuddin was also chosen to lead the team for a five-match limited-over series featuring India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as the one-day tournament in Sharjah to be played in April.

"The decision to retain Azharuddin was unanimous," BCCI secretary Jaywant Lele told a news conference.

Azharuddin was reported to be about to lose the captaincy last month after a heavy defeat by Pakistan in the opening match of the Asian Test Championship when Indian fans halted play. India failed to qualify for the final.

Azharuddin took over from Sachin Tendulkar in January 1998 for his second spell as captain after being axed in August 1996 after a disastrous tour of England.

The board also announced a 14-member squad for the first two matches of the one-day triangular series.

Lele said Tendulkar would not play in these first two matches because of a nagging back injury. Tendulkar is currently in London undergoing treatment with a specialist for recurring back spasms.

India are scheduled to play their first match against Sri Lanka in Nagpur on March 22. As well as India and Pakistan, England will play in the Sharjah tournament.

SQUAD

Mohammad Azharuddin (captain), Saurav Ganguly, Sadagopan Ramesh, Rahul Dravid, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kambli, Anay Khurasiya, Nikhil Chopra, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar, Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Nayan Mongia, Gyanendra Pandey.

Premier Div hockey

MSC, Usha earn emphatic victories

Holders Mohammedan SC trounced Sadharan Bima 10-2 while runners-up Usha RC recorded a facile 6-1 win over Ajax SC at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports APB.

Kamran Ashraf and Sheikh Ramiz netted three goals each. Raju found the net twice while Tahir Zaman and Khalid scored one each for Mohammedan. The winners led the first half 2-1.

Samad scored two goals for Bima.

In the other match Sadeq struck four goals for Usha after they dominated the first half 3-1.

Apart from Sadeq, Kamal netted the other two goals for Usha. Prince scored a consolation goal for Ajax.

Quader's gift to under-13 cricketers

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, Obaidul Quader handed over cricket equipment to the Bangladesh under-13 team at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports BSS.

The team clinched the Chand-Ballabh memorial tournament title at Shilliguri, West Bengal, recently.

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board and Deputy Minister for LG&D and Cooperatives, Sabir Hossain Chowdhury was present.

Bangladesh players excited Pak taking match seriously

Sports Reporter

tournament in India starting next week.

"After playing Test cricket for the last two months, we are going to play two one-day tournaments in India and Sharjah and this match will help us get prepared for those tourneys."



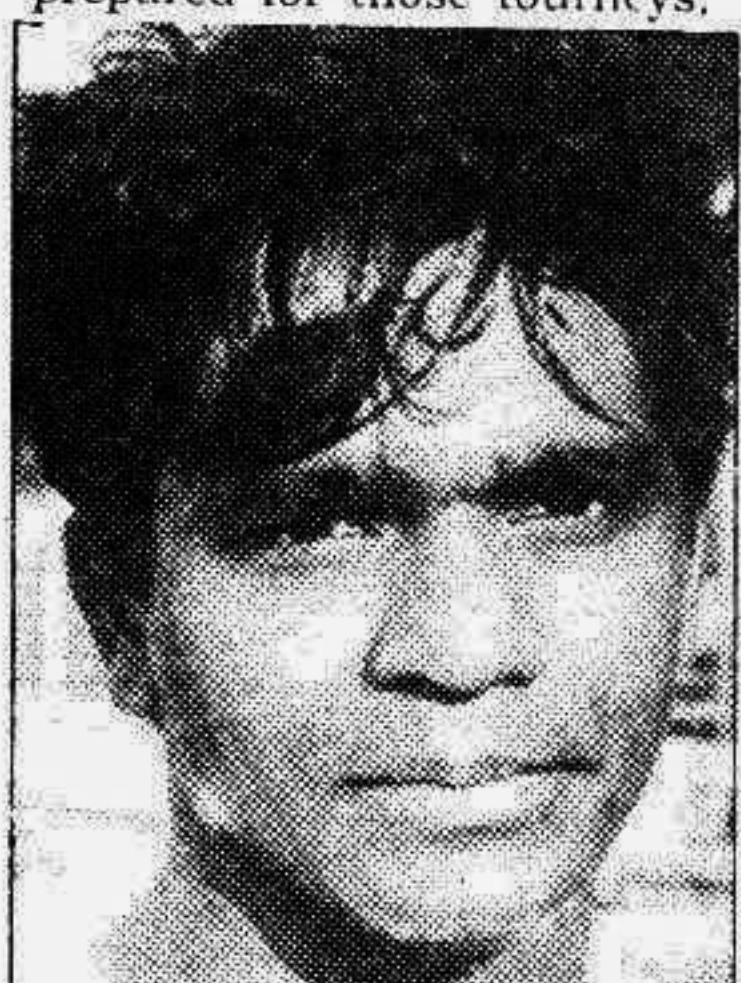
The one-off one-day international match between hosts Bangladesh and Pakistan will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from this afternoon. The day-night limited overs Meril Challenge Cup match will kick off at 2 pm BST.

Bangladesh Television and Star Sports pay channel will provide Live coverage of the match while Radio Bangladesh will broadcast ball-by-ball commentary.

ESPN-Star Sports won the TV rights for the match at an expense of USD 25,000.

David Shepherd of England and Douglas Cowie of New Zealand will officiate today's match while Indian umpire VK Ramaswami will be the third umpire.

Pakistan, who won the Asian Test Championship yesterday by an innings and 175 runs against Sri Lanka, have agreed to play the match as part of their preparation for the forthcoming Pepsi tri-nation



AMINUL ISLAM

said Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram yesterday.

"We are taking it as a practice match before we move to India," Wasim added.

About his less illustrious opponents, Bangladesh, Wasim said that they were going to take Bangladesh seriously.

"Bangladesh is the ICC champions. I hope they will get Test status soon. They are coming up well and I find no way to take on them casually."

"We play every match to win and nothing will be the exception in tomorrow's match. You know Kenya defeated West Indies and we don't want to have such a taste," Wasim said.

About the first eleven, Wasim did not give any final decision as he opted to know the conditions of all the players before finalising the squad.

"Let us see first who are fit tomorrow morning. If we find that one or two deserves rest, players from the reserves will be included," Wasim added.

When Wasim was beaming with confidence, his Bangladesh counterpart Aminul Islam Bulbul was pretty excited about the match last night.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone from BKSP, Aminul said that he never expected a win against Pakistan but wanted his team, which is yet to be announced, to perform well.

"We were a bit surprised when we were told about the match on Sunday. But now we are mentally prepared," said Aminul.

"Pakistan is in terrific form now. We will try our best to play positive cricket against them," said Aminul.

The 19-man Bangladesh World Cup squad moved to Dhaka last night from the BKSP.

The Bangladesh team will be announced today before the match.



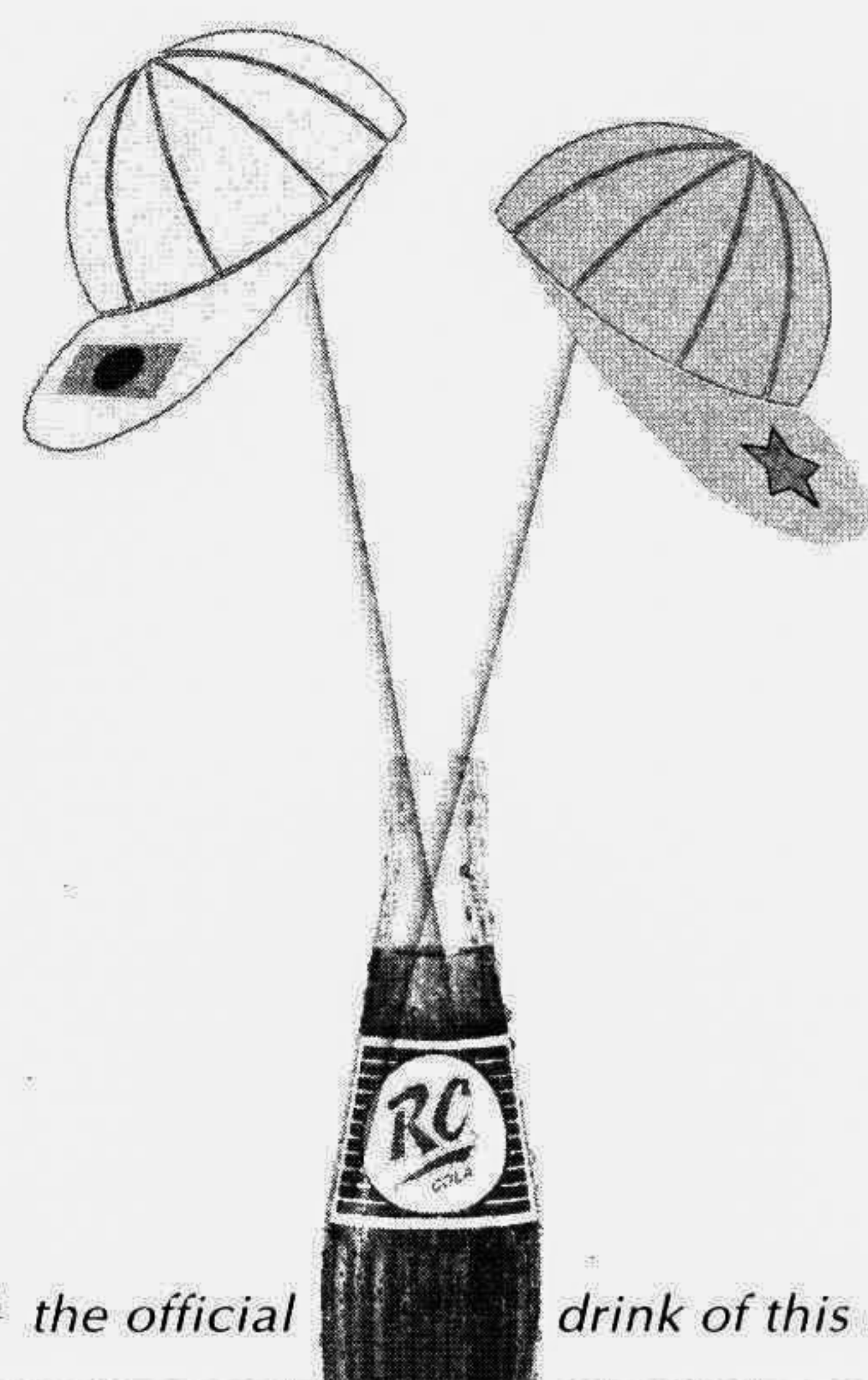
Players and officials of the Pakistan cricket team.

—Star photo

Watch out the excitement Chill out with RC

Bangladesh vs Pakistan Meril Challenge Cup One Day International
at Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka.

Today



RC the official drink of this match