

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-112

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Competition closes at 8 pm
March 27/99 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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SPORTS TALK



Ajit Wadekar
(Indian cricket board's chief selector)

"We have selected the 19 probabilities for the World Cup, keeping in mind the weather condition in England in May and June."

Nat'l athletics

BJMC emerge champions

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) emerged champions in the 25th national athletics championships concluded at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. At the end of the three-day long championships, BJMC completed their campaign to finish atop the table with 16 gold, 14 silver and 8 bronze. Bangladesh Army finished second with 10 gold followed by Bangladesh Navy who clinched 6 gold.

Medals table

Teams	G	S	B
BJMC	16	14	8
Bangladesh Army	10	12	6
Bangladesh Navy	6	4	3
Bangladesh Air Force	2	0	2
Bangladesh Rifles	1	3	2
BKSP	0	3	3
Noakhali	0	0	1
Khulna	0	0	2
Dhaka	0	0	2
Munshiganj	0	0	1
Dhaka University	0	0	1
Jhenidah	0	0	1
Tangail	0	0	1

Ghosh in nat'l snooker semis

Narayan Chandra Ghosh, the defending champion from Narayanganj Club yesterday reached the semifinals of the 15th national snooker championship defeating Sohail Asif of Dhaka billiards centre 5-1 (69/17, 56/28, 64/24, 9/77, 41/33 & 63/28), says a press release.

National junior champion SM Sajjad of Dhaka Club also reached the last four beating Yasir Faruk 5-2 (51/10, 73/48, 20/61, 17/48, 72/20, 63/45 & 60/6).

In other two quarterfinal matches Quamrul Huda of Dhaka Club defeated AK Azad 5-2 (46/25, 53/60, 64/15, 54/26, 53/19, 33/41 & 62/33) while Mofazzal Hossain of Gulshan Club won against compatriot Samir Sattar 5-3 (62/26, 33/46, 75/27, 18/68, 60/14, 65/20, 39/53 & 69/27).

Zimbabwe pros looking to devour 'amateur' hosts

Hasan Masood



ALISTAIR CAMPBELL

After losing yet again to Kenya last night, this time by eight wickets, hosts Bangladesh will take on powerful Zimbabwe in their second Merit International Cricket Tournament match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The day-night limited-overs clash between the favourites and the hosts will begin at 2 pm. Bangladesh Television will provide live coverage while Radio Bangladesh will broadcast ball-by-ball commentary of the encounter. Sri Lankan umpire Peter Manuel and Pakistani umpire Javed Akhter will officiate today's match while Indian umpire VK Ramaswamy will act as the third eye.

This will be the third encounter between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe since Bangladesh got their ODI status in June, 1997.

The previous two meetings were held during the President Cup in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 1997. Bangladesh lost the first match by 48 runs while they tasted their biggest ODI defeat in the second match when they went down to the Test babes by 192 runs.

"We have come here to win the tournament with an unbeaten record and we will do everything possible to keep our mission on," said a confident Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell after his team had a three-hour long nets at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday morning.

The skipper's intention was very much reflected in his team-mates, who came to practice after defeating Kenya by 133 runs in the inaugural match just 12 hours earlier.

"Both Bangladesh and Kenya are almost equal in standard. But we are not going to take anything easily," said Campbell. "We are professional cricketers and every match is important to us," said Campbell, adding that he was looking forward to Andy Flower and Paul Strang coming up again with their good form. Andy, the left-

handed former Zimbabwe captain, scored 83 while leggie Strang returned with five for 22 against Kenya on Friday.

"Andy is always a responsible man and I have full confidence in him. Paul also bowled well and I hope he continues with his superb bowling," said Campbell. He also revealed that there would hardly be any changes in the team that played the first match.

Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam said his side had nothing to lose against Zimbabwe.

"They are the favourites. We will try our best to play positive cricket against them," said Aminul.

Talking at the post-match ceremony last night, a dejected Aminul said Bangladesh could not afford to look behind and would have to win two of the remaining three matches to remain in contention.

SQUADS

Bangladesh: Aminul Islam (captain), Khaled Mashud, Khaled Mahmud, Shahriar Hossain, Mehrez Hossain, Javed Omar, Al-Shahriar, Akram Khan, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque, Hasibul Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Naimur Rahman, Neezamur Rashid, Mahbubur Rahman, Faruque Ahmed and Jahangir Alam.

Zimbabwe: Alistair Campbell, Eddo Brandes, Stuart Carlisle, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Neil Johnson, M. Mbangwa, Henry Olonga, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, D. Viljoen, Guy Whittall and Andrew Whittall.

Cullinan solidifies SA

WELLINGTON. Mar 20: Darryl Cullinan piled up the misery on New Zealand's weak bowling attack with a brilliant 152 as South Africa battered the home side out of the decisive third Test on Saturday, reports AP.

After New Zealand's 222, South Africa, led by centuries from Herschelle Gibbs (120) and Cullinan and useful contributions from Hansie Cronje (72) and Shaun Pollock (43 not out), hit up a massive 498 for eight.

At stumps on the third day South Africa were 276 in front and well in control to force a 1-0 series win after the first two Tests were drawn.

Cullinan, fresh from a record-breaking 275 not out in the first Test in Auckland, batted for five hours and 27 minutes before finally being dismissed for the first time in the series.

"You always feel a kind of a pressure after a big innings like that," Cullinan said. "I was just quite happy to get to 50 and then push on from there."

"But once the going gets easy, you get the taste of it and you just want to push on. At the back of the mind is what the team needs to do."

The 32-year-old right-hander, continued with his new found batting form since his Test recall in February 1998, and has scored five centuries in a 366-day period.

Having reached 3,000 Test runs on 45, Cullinan, cracked 22 boundaries and a six off 272 balls as he took the series aggregate to 427. It surpassed Gary Kirsten's 322 (average 53.67) in India in 1996/97.

Cullinan's average of 53.67 in the series is second only to Englishman Walter Hammond's 563.00, also against New Zealand (1932-33) for a series of two Tests or more.

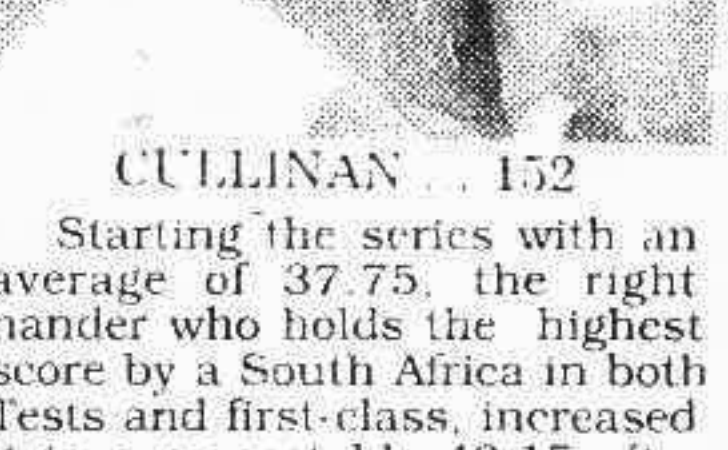
"We'll all be disappointed if we don't win the series," Cullinan said. "It is our

ultimate goal. It will leave a hollow feeling for all the guys who have scored the runs."

South Africa lost Gibbs in the pre-lunch session after the opener had added just five to his overnight score.

Cullinan, in the company of his skipper Cronje hit a record 145 for the fourth wicket when part-timer Nathan Astle removed the No. 4, 30 minutes into the afternoon session.

Cullinan's century, his eighth in 45 Tests, was the 11th hundred by a South African, to none by the West Indies and New Zealand in the last eight Tests. It was also the 13th first-class century of the tour.



CULLINAN, 152

Starting the series with an average of 37.75, the right hander who holds the highest score by a South African in both Tests and first-class, increased it to a respectable 43.15 after just two innings.

South Africa, surprisingly slowed down after lunch, adding 77 runs in each of the next two sessions.

Cullinan said his side was looking to bat only once on the wicket that is "deteriorating" and will continue to bat on the fourth morning.

"We are looking for a big

score and looking to bat only once on this wicket."

Cronje holed out to Dion Nash at mid on off Vettori after batting for seven minutes over three hours and hitting 10 boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third cricket Test between New Zealand and South Africa at the Basin Reserve on Saturday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 222 (Harris 68, Stead 68; Pollock 5-33, Elworthy 4-66).

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 235-2):

Kirsten b O'Connor	40
Gibbs c O'Connor b Vettori	120
Kallis c Horne b Nash	17
Cullinan c and b Astle	152
Cronje c Nash b Vettori	72
Rhodes c Young b Vettori	43
Pollock not out	3
Douder b Vettori	8
Klusener c Parore b Nash	19
Elworthy not out	3
Extras (b-10, lb-6, nb-5)	21
Total (For eight in 165 overs)	498
Fall of wickets: 1-73; 2-105; 3-258; 4-403; 5-415; 6-420; 7-440; 8-489.	

To bat: Paul Adams.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Doull	24	4	77	0
O'Connor	24	4	89	1
Nash	25	7	76	2 (2nb)
Vettori	54	16	153	4
Harris	22	0	66	0
Astle	16	8	21	1

Ctg women's sports Mar 23

CHITTAGONG. Mar 20: A three-day Chittagong divisional women's sports competition will begin at the Rangamati Stadium on March 23, reports BSS.

Bilqis Rashed, secretary general of Chittagong Divisional Women's Sports Association, said this at a press conference at the association office here today.



Bangladesh skipper Aminul Islam glances.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Shahriar 5 short of distinction

Sports Reporter

It was shocking when opener Shahriar Hossain failed to become the first Bangladeshi to score a century in one-day international cricket. He was short by only five runs yesterday.

Shahriar, the 23-year old right-hand opener, was on 95 when Pakistan Umpire Javed Akhter adjudged him leg before off left-arm Kenyan spinner Muhammad Sheikh.

However, his 95 was good enough to write his name in the record book as the first Bangladeshi to be out in the nervous run-ins. On his way to his career-best individual knock, Shahriar also surpassed Athar Ali's 82 against Pakistan scored in the last Asia Cup in Colombo two years back.

In his 145-ball stay at the crease, Shahriar, dropped on 83 by Odoyo, scored eight boundaries, two threes, nine twos and 39 singles.

For Athar Ali, the former national opener, it was a day of personal losses. He also lost his



place as the highest run-scorer for Bangladesh when Aminul Islam collected the last run of his 20.

With yesterday's 20 runs, Aminul scored 533 runs in 23 ODIs with two fifties, one run more than Athar Ali, who scored 532 runs in his 19 matches with three half-centuries.

Inter-varsity handball

By JU Correspondent

Both men and women's teams of Jahangirnagar and the men's team of Rajshahi won their respective first round matches of the inter-varsity handball competition at Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

In the inaugural match held at the central playground of the university, men's team of the hosts won 25-11 against Bangladesh Agricultural University with Selim and Moznun scoring seven and six goals respectively.

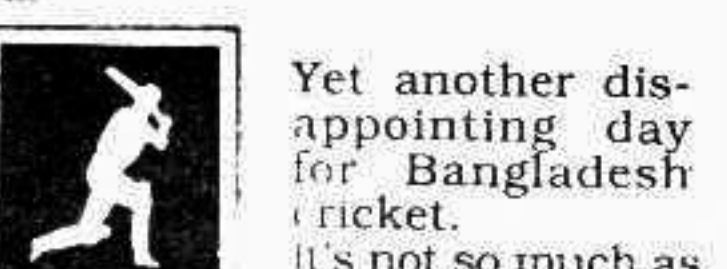
Rabi and Maruf scored six and five goals respectively for the losers.

In the second match, RU men's team won 30-10 against Shahjalal Science and Technology University.

Meanwhile, in the first match of women's competition JU defeated Bangladesh Agricultural 14-0.

The fools shall hope again

Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed



Yet another disappointing day for Bangladesh cricket.

It's not so much as losing to Kenya, as the manner of surrendering a match right from the planning stage. They say cricket is a thinking game but yesterday the home team played without any gray matter in the skull.

This correspondent is beginning to feel like despondent and frustrated parents, who have given their child a good home, the best diet, the right environment, the state-of-the-art tutoring and what not. But, somehow the child could not come within the top ten positions in his class. After 27th ODI, it is now gradually sinking in that the child does not have the potential to do any better.

We were beaten in all three aspects of the game, so commented a Bangalore television commentator as a matter of conclusion last night. We also performed miserably in other areas. TV commentary also being one of them. Some of our full-grown commentators keep on repeating every action that one can see on the screen. There is enough international cricket coverage on television for them to learn, and about time now, that there is no need to say things such as a bowler is going up to his mark, that he has turned around, that the batsman has played a shot or driven a ball, that the wicketkeeper... the viewer is watching. When these experienced commentators ever learn that they should narrate matters that we can see? They should do a lot of homework to inform us on matters that are not apparent

on the screen. They should also listen and watch very carefully the coverage of ESPN and Star Sports.

Yesterday's big defeat was hard to take because the nation had been pinning so much on it. Ever since the ICC triumph, we have been desperately trying to prove that it was no accident. Our only win against Kenya in India last year is also beginning to look like another accident.

The skipper was guilty of playing to the gallery by bringing in lesser reputed batsmen before Akram Khan, one of the few proven roots in the team. And the manner in which the whole order, save Shahriar Hossain, was shivering on home ground against the not-above mediocre bowling of the Kenyans, was a Shakespearean tragedy re-written. There was total lack of commitment. The whole team needs to be seen by a psychiatrist.

One or two of the batsmen tried to play for a place in the 15-man World Cup squad. They did not play for the team. They were not playing a one-day match. They forgot to look at the clock and the balls. No pun intended.

Some are of the opinion that pre-match press pampering of players have turned their heads; the wrong way. Some vernacular reports gave coverage of some of our national cricketers that they would do this to Kenya and that to Kenya. Thank God! The Kenyans cannot read Bangla.

The day-night matches have also come under criticism. This tournament is part of Bangladesh's preparation for the World Cup. But, Bangladesh will play all their World Cup matches in daylight. Is there

wisdom in this decision?

But then, is there any wisdom in having any hopes for Bangladesh cricket? Like many other fools all over the country, I will be again watching the proceedings against Zimbabwe today. We shall all be looking forward to an accident.

Premier Div hockey

MSC take solo lead

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club romped to a 7-2 win over Mariner Young's Club at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday to take a solo lead in the Green Delta Premier hockey league, reports APB.

Pakistani former international Kamran Ashraf sounded the board twice while Ehtesham, Tahir, Wahid and Ramiz scored one goal each for the winners who led the first half 5-1.

This was the third consecutive victory for Mohammedan, one win ahead of title aspirants Abahani and Usha KC — the sides who will lock horns in a crucial league tie today.

Ehtesham put Mohammedan ahead in the 12th minute from a penalty corner, play-marker Tahir extended the lead in the 16th minute and Khalid made it 3-0 before Firoz of Mariner pulled one goal back in the 29th minute.

Two minutes later, Wahid made the scoreline 4-1 and Kamran Ashraf scored his first goal two minutes before the short whistle.

Javed of Mariners reduced the margin in the 48th minute but Ramiz and Kamran added two more goals to the Mohammedan tally to further widen the margin.

For Mariner it was their first defeat.

In the other match, Ajax Sporting Club edged past Azad SC 4-3. The first session ended 2-2.

Mahbubul Ehsan scored two goals and Shamsuddin and Shuvo one each for Ajax. Moksled struck twice and Habul one for Azad.

Kiwis told to cool it

WELLINGTON. Mar 20: New Zealand's cricket team has been warned to behave by match referee Alan Smith following several incidents in the third Test against South Africa, reports AP.

There were some verbal altercations between players during Friday's second day but Smith stopped short of issuing a reprimand or fines.

South African batsman Gary Kirsten, the beneficiary of a highly controversial third umpiring decision against Simon Doull, exchanged words with Doull when he was later dismissed, stopping and turning around on his way to the dressing room.

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BANGLADESH-KENYA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Merit International Cricket Tournament match between Bangladesh and Kenya played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday:

BANGLADESH

Shahriar lbw b Sheikh	95
Javed c Odoyo b Oduumbe	25
Al-Shahriar c sub b Oduumbe	20
Aminul c Otieno b Sheikh	1
Rafique c Otieno b Odoyo	11
Hasibul c Oduumbe b Odoyo	9
K Mahmud c Alpeh b Sheikh	0
Akram run out	0
K Mashud c & b Karim	11
Enamul c sub b Karim	8
Aminul (jr) not out	1
Extras: (lb-14, nb-1, w-9)	24
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	213
Fall of wickets: 1-77, 2-101, 3-164, 4-168, 5-168, 6-188, 7-189, 8-192, 9-210.	

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
M Suji	10	0	25	0
T Suji	4	1	18	0
Odoyo	10	1	49	2
Oduumbe	10	0	47	2
Karim	8	1	24	2
Sheikh	8	0	36	3

KENYA

Otieno c Al-Shahriar b Aminul (jr)	8
Gupta c K Mashud b K Mahmud	29
Tikolo not out	106
Oduumbe not out	58
Extras: Extras: (lb-6, nb-1, w-7)	14
Total: (For 2 wks in 43.5 overs)	215
Did not bat: Alpeh Vadhier, Hitesh Modi, Asif Karim, Martin Suji, Tony Suji, Thomas Odoyo and Muhammad Sheikh.	
Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-97	

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	8.5	1	42	0
Aminul Jr	5	1	33	1
Rafique	8	0	46	0
K Mahmud	10	1	30	1
Enamul	9	0	39	0
Aminul	3	0	19	0

Result: Kenya won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Sieve Tikolo



South Africa captain Hansie Cronje plays a cut-shot on the third day of the third Test against New Zealand in Wellington yesterday.

— AFP photo