

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 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)
.....

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Ajit Wadekar

(Indian cricket board's chief selector)

"We have selected the 19 probables 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	1
Munshiganj	0	0	2
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 Sohel 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 Sameer Sattar 5-3 (62/26, 33/46, 75/27, 18/68, 60/14, 65/20, 39/53 & 69/27).

Shoel Asif recorded tournament's highest break 48.

In today's semifinal matches Narayan will play Quamrul while Sajjad faces Mofazzal. The matches start at 1 pm at Dhaka Club billiards room.

Zimbabwe pros looking to devour 'amateur' hosts

Hasan Masood

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 batters 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.



ALISTAIR CAMPBELL

"Both Bangladesh and Kenya are almost equal in standard. But we are not going to take anybody 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.

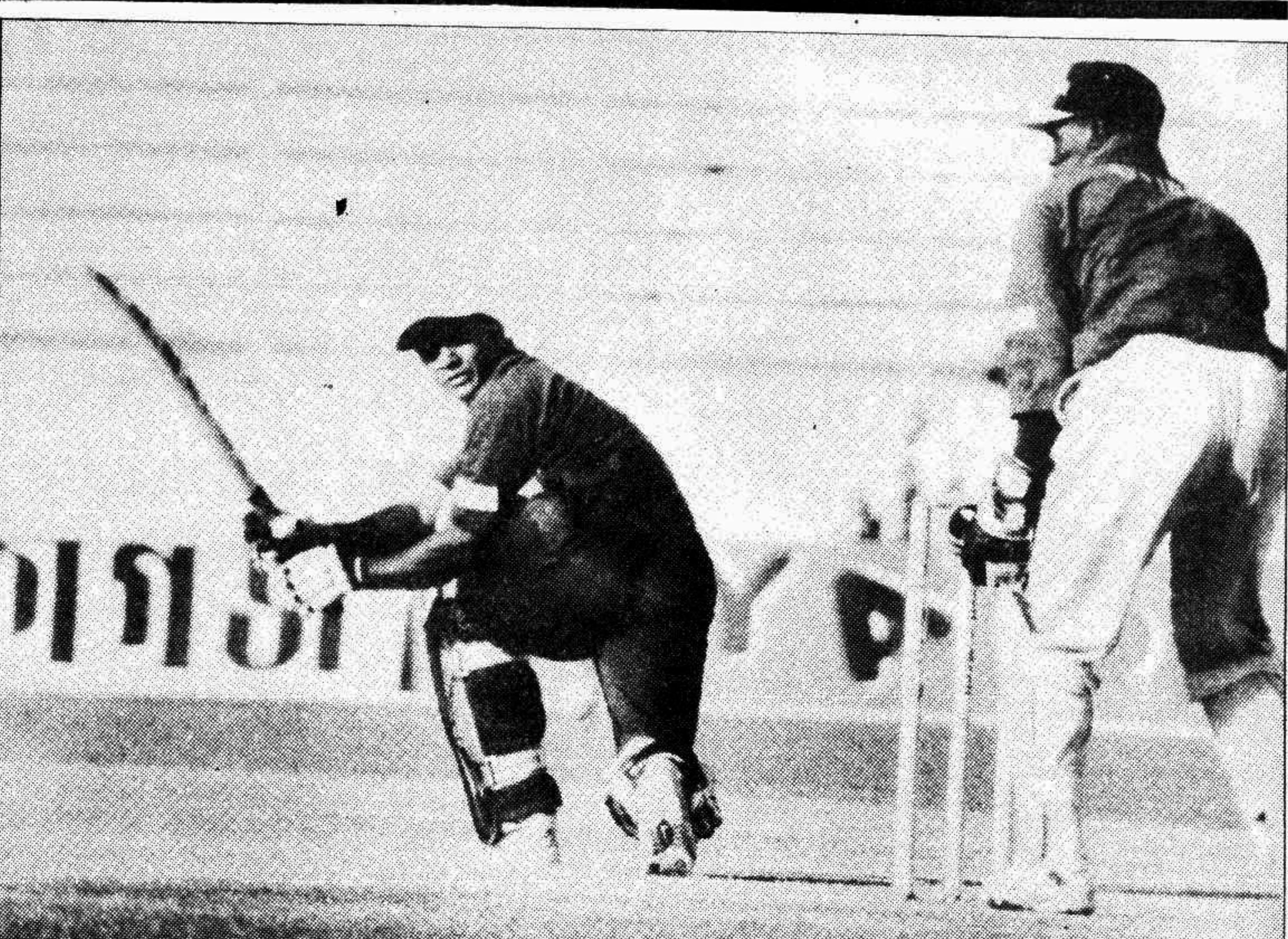
"They are the favourites. We will try our best to play positive cricket against them," said Aminul.

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, Mehrab Hossain, Javed Omar, Al-Shahriar, Akram Khan, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque, Hasibul Hossain, Shafiquddin Ahmed, Aminul Islam Junior, Manjurul Islam, Naimur Rashid, Mahbubur Rahman, Faruque Ahmed and Jahangir Alam.

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



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 nineties. 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 Odovo, scored eight boundaries, two threes, nine twos and three sixes.

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

The fools shall hope again

Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed

wisdom in this decision?

But then, is there any wisdom in having any hopes for Bangladeshi 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.

Firoz and Javed struck once each for Mariner.

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 today.

Ehtesham put Mohammedan ahead in the 12th minute from a penalty corner, play-maker 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 Mariner 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. Moksed 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.

At other times television showed New Zealand players having plenty to say to the South African batsmen.

Smith spoke to New Zealand manager John Graham at the end of Friday's play about the team's behaviour.

"There were one or two incidents yesterday that concerned me," Smith said Saturday. "I have spoken with the manager and asked him to remind the players of their responsibilities to the game and I am entirely satisfied that he has conveyed the message."



CULLINAN 152

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 48 Tests, was the 11th hundred by a South African to none by the West Indies and New Zealand in the last eight Test. It was also the 13th first-class century of the tour.

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 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

"We are looking for a big

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

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