

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

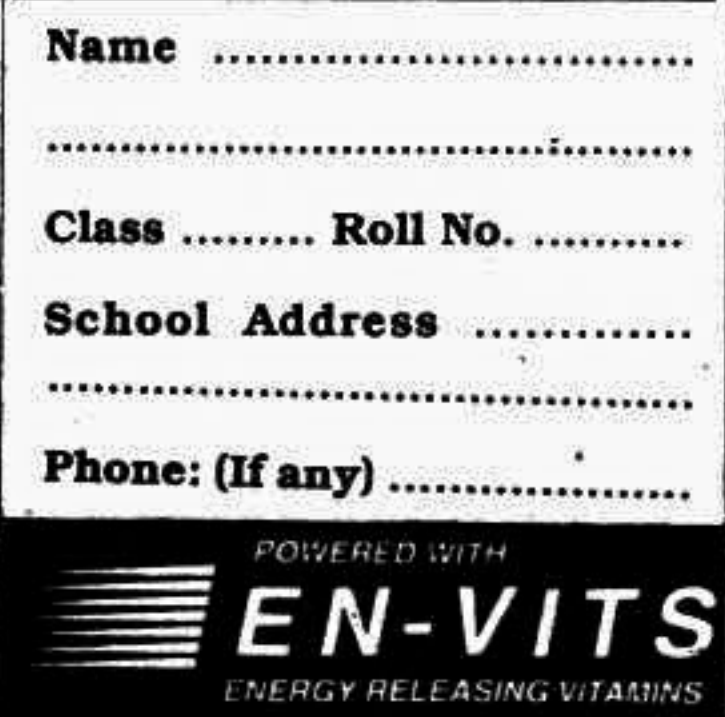
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-112

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? Hidinck 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)



SPORTS TALK



Carl Hooper (West Indian all-rounder) 'Sitting and watching it on television, you're sort of torn into two.'

Inter-varsity handball

By JU Correspondent Hosts Jahangirnagar University (JU) and Dhaka University (DU) drew 10-10 in the women's section of the inter-university handball tournament at JU yesterday. Maushumi and Monowara scored four goals apiece for DU while Sraboni netted for JU.

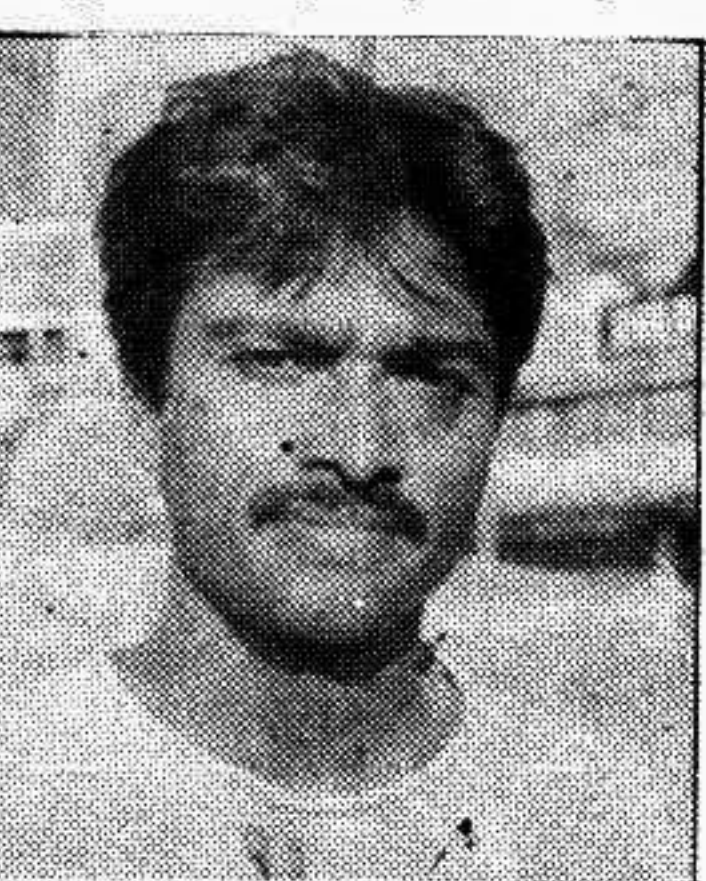
'It's a bit personal'

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, Mar 21 (AP): Australia's Patrick Rafter says his third-round match Sunday against Germany's Nicolas Pietrangola is a bit personal. 'I'm pretty disappointed with his attitude,' Rafter said.

BCB names World Cup squad, suddenly Faruque gets undue nod



Faruque Ahmed sneaked through the scrutiny screen to avail the dream bus to the England World Cup.



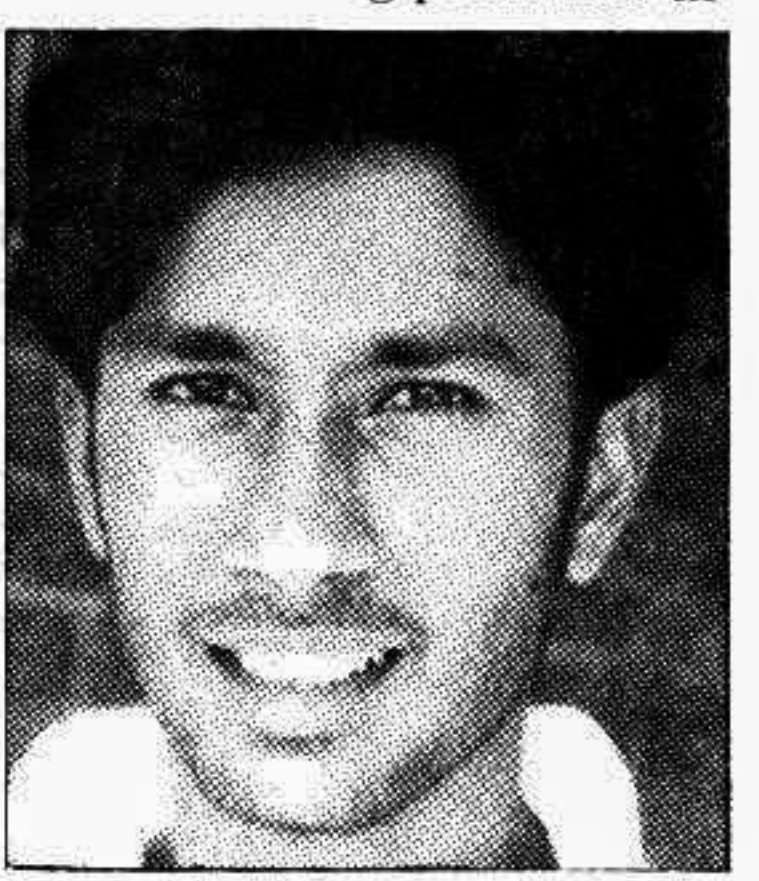
FARUQUE AHMED

The former national captain, not considered for any of the three limited-over matches at home due to a long-standing groin injury, got the much-sought-after ticket when the national selectors picked the experienced right-hander ahead of an itchy-fever Al-Shahriar for the demanding number three spot.

Although the tardy selectors, led by an ever-whimsical Enayet Hossain Siraj, did not have too many options in picking the final fifteen from a choice of nineteen, they showed once again the uncanny skill of choosing and chopping for ap-

Sports Reporter

parently no good logic. The four others in the 19-man list have been named as stand-by players.



AL-SHAHRIAR

ceptually well in domestic cricket. The infant-terrible got the chop for what the selectors termed 'disciplinary ground'. However, following vehement protests from all quarters, Enayet tried to save his skin by claiming that Minhazul was too old to run alongside the other fresh legs.

The veteran right-hander did not score a lot of runs in domestic cricket. And more importantly, he never appeared comfortable since being recalled to the national selection after a long four-year break.

'old' injury was, however, 'surprisingly' discovered only 24 hours before the selectors announced the playing eleven against Pakistan earlier this month.

Cynics say that Faruque, always a suspect against quality fast bowling, ducked the match for obvious reasons.

Although it was not confirmed whether Faruque has recovered, the national selectors have kept their faith on him without giving him a trial to prove his mettle.

It is true that no selection is safe from criticism. But the selection procedure appears more like an arbitrary process. Only a week ago, the national selectors said that they would announce the final squad after the tri-nation tournament. But they changed their mind midway through the process.

One also wondered where was Gordon Greenidge. Did the national coach, switched on to the muted mode since long, have any say in the team? Does the Aussie physio Alan Hunt and the West Indian national coach know that Faruque has a chronic groin problem? Above all, does everyone concerned know that such precedents can harm Bangladesh cricket in the long run?

Bangladesh squad: Aminul Islam (captain), Khaled Mahmud (vice-captain), Shahriar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Khaled Masud, Naimur Rahman, Mohammed Rafique, Enamul Haque, Hasibul Hossain, Saifuddin Ahmed, Monjurul Islam, Jahangir Alam and Neeyamur Rashid.

One-match suspension on Saqlain Lanka face India today



Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistani spinner) will miss Wednesday's one-day international against India after being slapped with a one-match suspension for showing dissent.

NAGPUR, India, Mar 21 (AFP/Internet): Leading Pakistani spinner Saqlain Mushtaq will miss Wednesday's one-day international against India after being slapped with a one-match suspension for showing dissent.

Match referee Cammie Smith of the West Indies said Sunday the off-spinner was penalised for disputing the umpires' verdict during Pakistan's tri-series opener against Sri Lanka at Jamshedpur on Friday.



RANATUNGA

Saqlain, who walked in to bat after his captain Wasim Akram was declared run out, went straight to the square-leg umpire and demanded use of television replays since the batsman was not out.

Saqlain's suspension means Pakistan will be without the services of their main spinner for the key game against arch-rivals India at Jaipur on Wednesday.

India, meanwhile, are set to play the recalled duo of Vinod Kambli and Ajit Agarkar in their opening match against Sri Lanka here on Monday.

Kambli, the flamboyant left-hander, and all-rounder Agarkar were included in India's provisional 19-man World Cup squad on March 3 after recovering from leg injuries.

Kambli has been out of action since last April when he dislocated an ankle while fielding as a substitute during a one-day international against Zimbabwe at Cuttack.

The wily Agarkar suffered a stress fracture in his left foot in December, forcing him to pull out of the New Zealand tour a day before the team's departure.

The performance of both players in the tri-series will be keenly watched by the selectors

stressed his absence will not be an excuse. 'You can't replace a cricketer like Sachin, but the others must learn to shoulder the burden without him,' Azharuddin said.

Beleaguered World Cup champions Sri Lanka, who lost to Pakistan by nine runs on Friday, need a win to keep their hopes alive of making the final.

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga hoped his team, without the injured duo of Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralitharan, will reverse its fortunes with a victory on Monday.

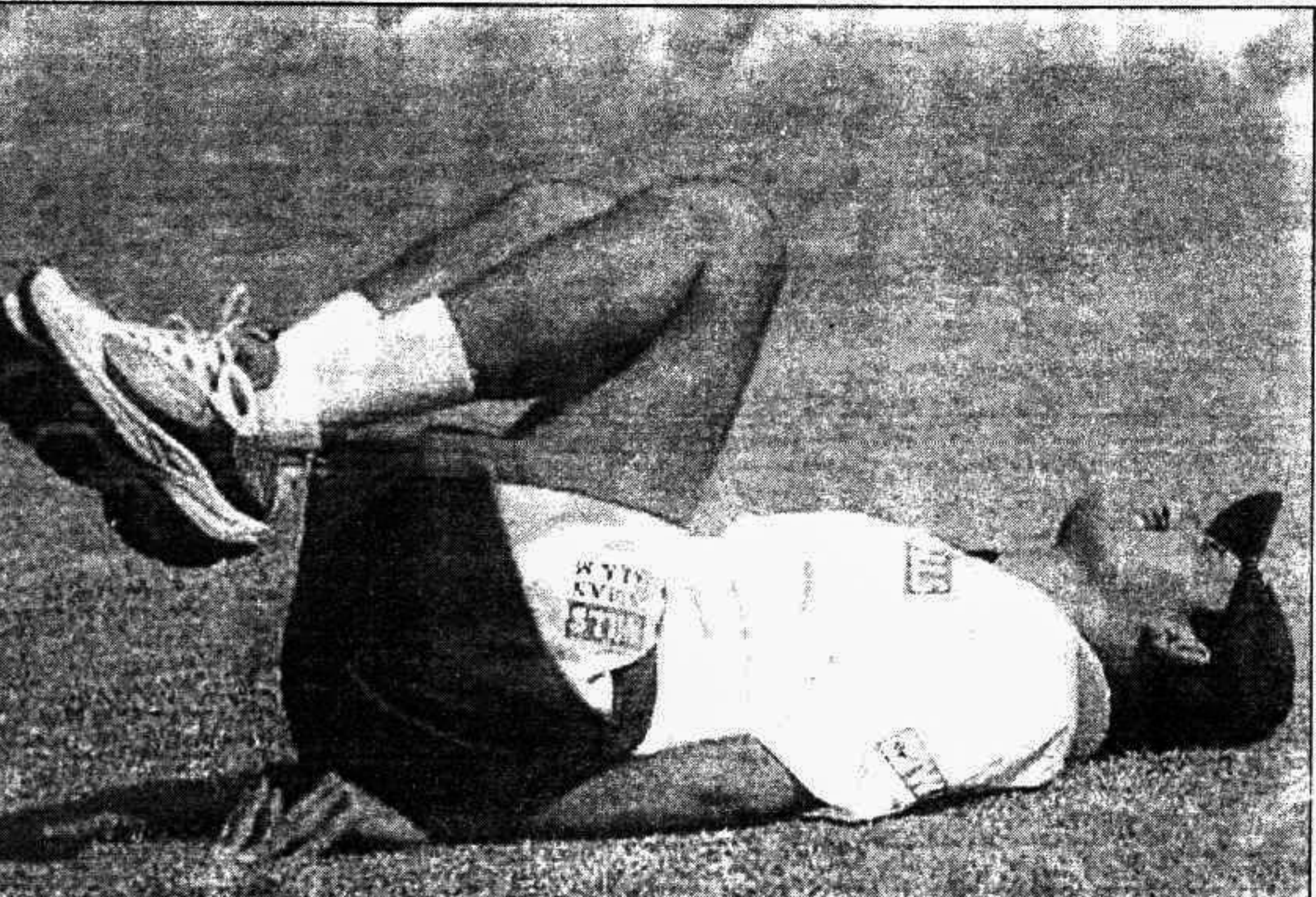
'This is a crucial game for us,' Ranatunga said. 'We need one win to turn the corner and hopefully it will come against India.'

The Sri Lankans, who defend the World Cup in England in May, are seeking a revival after being thrashed by India in the Independence Cup one-day final at home in 1998.

Since then, they have failed to make the final of the world series in Australia earlier this year and were routed by an innings and 175 runs by Pakistan in the Asian Test final at Dhaka last week.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: Sagarika Shilpa Ekadosh became champions in the Mahanagari Ishpani Pioneer football competition beating Jhatala Senior Club 2-0 at the Dampara Police Lines ground here today, reports BSS.



India captain Mohammad Azharuddin stretching during a practice session at Nagpur yesterday.



Zimbabwe's Andrew Flower sweeps.

Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Premier Div hockey

Pillay pilots Abahani

Playmaker Dhanraj Pillay powered title aspirants Abahani to a solitary goal win over mighty Usha KC in a Green Delta Premier Division Hockey league match marred by violence yesterday, reports APB.

Usha should only blame themselves for their first league defeat as they missed a penalty a minute before the final whistle at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium.

Medio Musa Mia sent it outside much to the dismay of his teammates and spectators who gathered there ignoring the international cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the nearby Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The brawl between two sides and their officials erupted after the final whistle with Kamal of Usha and Abahani goalie Bappi kicking off the trouble.

Police quelled the fighting before anyone was seriously hurt.

Pillay burst into action in the 41st minute and struck with a reverse hit to ensure Abahani's fifth straight league win.

Abahani joined Mohammed SC at the top of the table while Usha slipped to the second position.

Pillay received a pass from veteran Harun and dodged past three Usha defenders in spectacular fashion before unleashing the blow.

His other attempt ten minutes before the end of the game went awry.

In the other match, Sadharan Bima and Farashganj SC shared points after settling for a 1-1 draw. Hassan scored for Bima while Rubel for Farashganj.

Barbados 258/8

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Mar 21: Half centuries by Sherwin Campbell and Adrian Griffith and an explosive 44 from all-rounder Hendy Bryan pushed Barbados to a respectable 258 for eight on the opening day of the Busta Cup regional cricket final against Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday, reports AP.

West Indies Test opener Campbell led his side with 62 and Griffith added 58, the pair contributing 111 for the second wicket.

Barbados lost Philo Wallace in the first half hour after being sent into bat by Trinidad and Tobago. The 28-year-old was bowled by fast bowler Mervyn Dillon for 16.

But 28-year-old right-hander Campbell and left-hander Griffith shored up the innings with a well-organised partnership.

Trinidad and Tobago began their rally just before tea and continued afterward, taking five wickets for 46 to slow the home team's progress.

Campbell was caught by Richard Smith off off-spinner Mukesh Persad. He faced 123 balls and hit two sixes and six fours.

The 27-year-old Griffith also fell to Persad, edging a catch to David Williams behind the stumps. He hit three fours in his innings.



ZIMBABWE-BANGLADESH SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the third match of the Meril International Cricket Tournament between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday.

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Hasibul, Shaifuiddin, K Mahmud, Rafique, Naimur, Enamul.

Inter-varsity cricket

DU lift title

Dhaka University clinched the championship of the inter-university cricket competition with a 51-run win over Rajshahi University in the final match yesterday, reports APB.

Dhaka University scored a huge 255 for 8 wickets in the stipulated 40 overs after electing to bat at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Half centuries by Munna (53) Ehsanul Huq Sejan (50) an Sajjad Ahmed Shipton (59) helped DU set an imposing total before the RU side. Yasin and Salahuddin took two wickets each for RU.

In reply, Rajshahi University were bundled out for 204 in 36.5 overs. Mushfiq Babu scored 42, Rami 29 and Nayan contributed 27 runs.

Dhaka University's Sejan snapped up three wickets conceding 35 runs. Litu captured three for 32 and Sohel claimed two for 41 runs.

Sejan was adjudged man-of-the-match for his outstanding all-round performance while Omar Sharif of RU became man-of-the-series.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Shahadat Ali distributed prizes.

Thorpe has a target

BRISBANE, Mar 21: Australian teenager Ian Thorpe will chase the oldest world record in men's swimming Monday in the 200-metre freestyle final at the Australian national championships, reports AP.

Thorpe, 16, qualified fastest out of Sunday's semifinals for the event and will attempt to break Italian Giorgio Lamberti's 1989 world record of 1 minute, 46.69 seconds.

The new Olympic programme, which includes semifinals in all events up to including 200 metres, means Thorpe will be fresh for the attempt. He won the Commonwealth Games gold medal in September in 1:45.79 and proved he is in strong form by going 0.05 outside Kieren Perkins' 1994 record for the 400-metre freestyle on Saturday's programme.



Zimbabwe's Murray Goodwin leaves one outside the off-stump.

Nat'l snooker

Ghosh, Mofazzal showdown

Narayan Chandra Ghosh of Narayanjoni Club reached the final of the 15th National Snooker Championship defeating Quamrul Huda of Dhaka Club 6-0 (66/35, 58/29, 56/30, 46/23, 65/35 & 57/28) in the semifinal yesterday at Dhaka Club, says a press release.

In the second semifinal, Mofazzal Hossain of Gulshan Club had to use all his skill to beat SM Sajjad, the national junior champion from Dhaka Club 6-3 (68/64, 50/39, 32/59, 35/55, 65/30, 14/52, 46/25, 65/37, 74/09). After losing the first two frames, Sajjad fought back taking next two frames to make the score 2-2 and then it was a game of nerve for both the players when the score again was at 3-3 level. But experienced Mofazzal played cool and confident game and took next three frames to win the match.

The best of thirteen final between Narayan and Mofazzal will be held on Tuesday, March 23, at 12 noon while the play-off for 3rd and 4th between Quamrul and Sajjad will be held today at 2 pm at Dhaka Club.

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Meanwhile, world and Olympic 200-metre butterfly champion Susie O'Neil claimed a record-equalling 10th straight national title in the 100-metre event Sunday.

The performance matched Nicole Stevenson's run of 10 consecutive Australian Open titles in the 100 backstroke between 1987 and 1996.