

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

WHAT soon after becoming a separate country in 1947 Pakistan entertained a Commonwealth team. Their blazers were embossed with the word 'PARKISTAN' in gilt lettering.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-112

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
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Competition closes at 8 pm
March 27 '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who's the new Real Madrid soccer coach?

Hidekiko 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

Tom Moody

(Australian cricketer)

"I wasn't considering it at all. I thought my chances of selection were very slim but I was hopeful my fitness and form in the last few weeks might help."

On his surprise call up to the Australian World Cup squad.

Sachin hopeful

of World Cup

NEW DELHI, Mar 24: Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar yesterday expressed confidence that the Indian team will live up to people's expectations and win the World Cup in England the coming summer, reports PTI.

Speaking to reporters after receiving the Padma Shri Award from President K R Narayanan at Rashtrapati Bhavan, he said, "We are going to try our level best. I am sure prayers of all the people in India won't go in vain at all."

"And we will try and live up to their expectations. And we can only do that by getting the Cup back home to India," he said.

About his recent back problem, which forced him to visit London to get treatment, Tendulkar said medical experts feel that there was some stiffness in the back and the muscles have to become stronger.

"So all I have to do is to work on my back and keep my fingers crossed. Hopefully things will be all right."

About the award he said it was very important as appreciation had come his way. "It's a very encouraging factor and especially when the president of India is presenting the award personally that becomes very special thing for me. So, I am very happy about it."

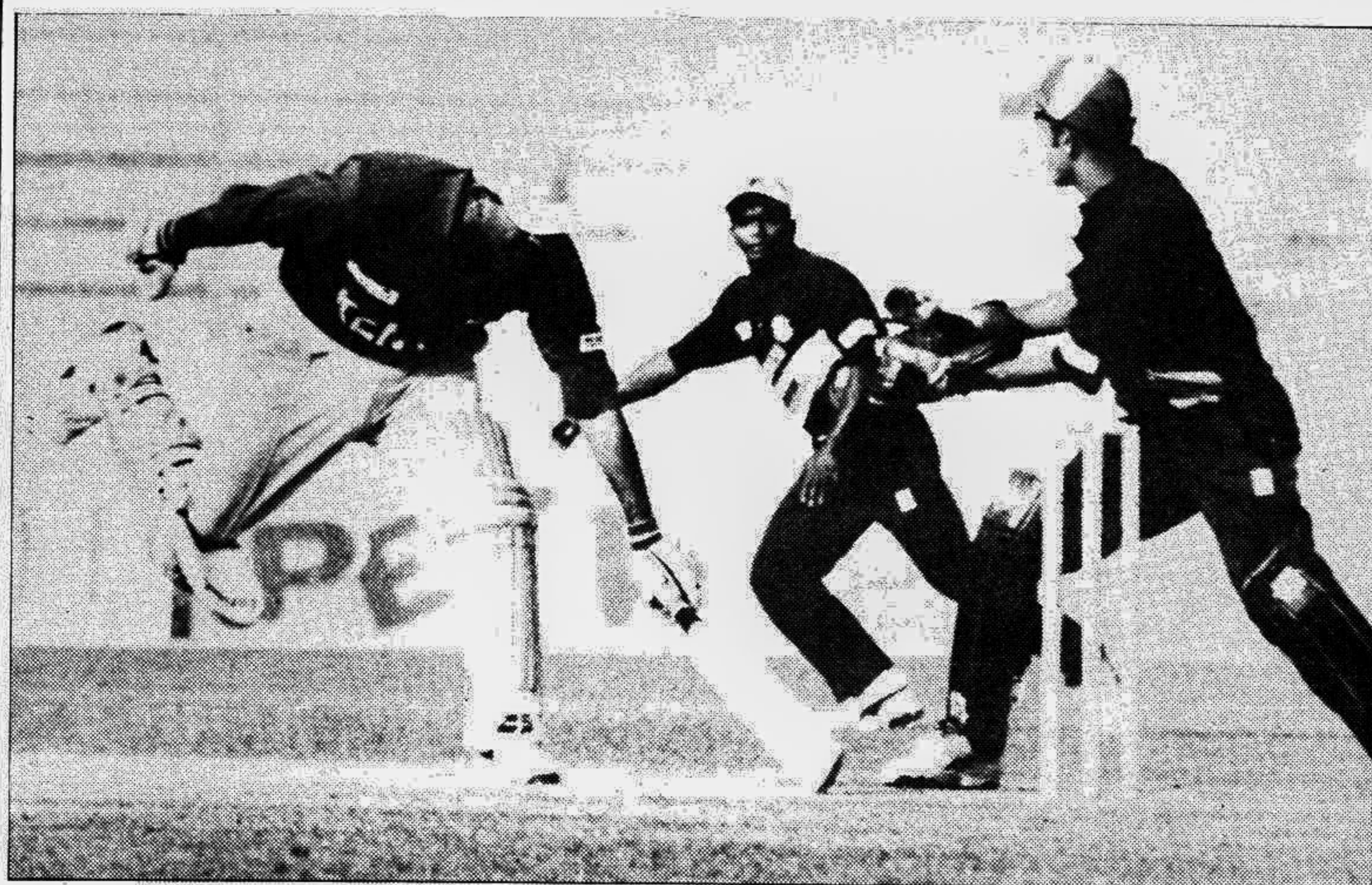
Inter-varsity

h'ball titles

Rajshahi's

By JU Correspondent

Both men and women's teams of Rajshahi emerged champions in the inter-university handball tournament at the Jahangirnagar University yesterday.



Kenya's Sandeep Gupta narrowly escapes a run-out during yesterday's match.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Bhasani derby tied

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club shared points in a gripping Green Delta Premier Division hockey league clash that ended in a 2-2 draw at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The result left the two most popular outfits unbeaten in the eight-team elite league and raised their tally to 16 points from six matches. Usha Krira Chakra are only a point behind the co-leaders having played the same number of matches.

The game came to life in the second period up when both sides moved up a gear in their search for a breakthrough. In the topsy-turvy half former Pakistan skipper and experienced midfielder Tahir Zaman and discarded Indian captain Dhanraj Pillay shared the goals.

Zaman, the Faisalabad based stick-wielder, put the black and whites ahead from their fourth short corner immediately after the break that gave the Motijheel outfit a huge boost to their morale.

Mohammedan continued to put Abahani under pressure with a series of sorties and could have gone two-nil up had winger Ramij not failed to convert a Khalid cross from the right flank in front of an open net after three minutes.

After surviving the close call, Pillay struck two quick goals for Abahani.

It was Pillay himself who earned the penalty following a solo move which was illegally stopped by Mohammedan custodian Javed inside the danger area.

Mohammedan equalised again in the 60th minute thanks to their fifth short corner which Zaman made no mistake in scooping the ball home.

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BANGLADESH-KENYA SCOREBOARD

KENYA		BANGLADESH		
Otieno c Rafique b Hasibul	120	Shahriar c & b M Suji	0	
Shah c sub (Neyamur) b Hasibul	16	Mehrab c M Suji b Tikolo	23	
Tikolo c Aminul b Saifuddin	0	Akram c Sheikh b Tikolo	65	
Odumbe st K Masud b Enamul	25	Aminul lbw b Odoyo	10	
Modi lbw to Aminul	8	K Mahmud c Tikolo b Sheikh	10	
Gupta c sub (Neyamur) b Hasibul	35	K Mahmud lbw b Karim	21	
Odoyo b K Mahmud	0	Rafique c T Suji b Sheikh	9	
T Suji b Hasibul	5	Enamul not out	4	
Sheikh run out	1	Namur c Karim b Sheikh	6	
A Karim not out	16	Hasibul b Sheikh	1	
M Suji run out	0	Shafuddin b Tikolo	9	
Extras: (lb-1, w-4)	9	Extras: (lb-2, w-7)	158	
Total: (All out in 48.4 overs)	231	Total: (All out in 41.4 overs)	158	
Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-35; 3-105; 4-124; 5-202; 6-203; 7-211; 8-213; 9-224	7	Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-38; 3-56; 4-72; 5-123; 6-146; 7-146; 8-155; 9-157	9	
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	10	0	56	4
Safuddin	7	0	27	1
K Mahmud	10	0	42	1
Rafique	9.4	0	43	0
Enamul	10	0	45	1
Aminul	2	0	17	1

BANGLADESH		KENYA		
Shahriar c & b M Suji	0	Shahriar c & b M Suji	0	
Mehrab c M Suji b Tikolo	23	Mehrab c M Suji b Tikolo	23	
Akram c Sheikh b Tikolo	65	Akram c Sheikh b Tikolo	65	
Aminul lbw b Odoyo	10	Aminul lbw b Odoyo	10	
K Mahmud c Tikolo b Sheikh	10	K Mahmud c Tikolo b Sheikh	10	
K Mahmud lbw b Karim	21	K Mahmud lbw b Karim	21	
Rafique c T Suji b Sheikh	9	Rafique c T Suji b Sheikh	9	
Enamul not out	4	Enamul not out	4	
Namur c Karim b Sheikh	6	Namur c Karim b Sheikh	6	
Hasibul b Sheikh	1	Hasibul b Sheikh	1	
Shafuddin b Tikolo	9	Shafuddin b Tikolo	9	
Extras: (lb-2, w-7)	158	Extras: (lb-2, w-7)	158	
Total: (All out in 41.4 overs)	158	Total: (All out in 41.4 overs)	158	
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-38; 3-56; 4-72; 5-123; 6-146; 7-146; 8-155; 9-157	9	Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-38; 3-56; 4-72; 5-123; 6-146; 7-146; 8-155; 9-157	9	
Bowler	O	M	R	W
M Suji	4	0	26	1
T Suji	2	0	9	0
Tikolo	6.4	1	28	3
Karim	7	4	11	1
Odoyo	7	1	29	1
Sheikh	10	0	36	4
Odumbe	5	0	17	0

Result: Kenya won by 73 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Kennedy Otieno (Kenya).

Bashar to skipper BCB select to Pakistan

Sports Reporter

Middle order batsman Habibul Bashar will lead the 14-member Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) squad in the President's Cup one-day cricket tournament to be held in Pakistan from April 4 the board announced yesterday.

The BCB Eleven has been pencilled in Pool A along with Karachi Cricket Club Association (KCCA) West, Pakistan Customs, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), Quetta and Hyderabad.

Bangladesh will meet KCCA (West) in their opening match at the National Stadium in Karachi on April 4. Their next three matches will be against Customs, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation and Quetta, scheduled on April 6, 8 and 10 also at the Karachi National Stadium. The last match against Hyderabad will be played at the Maki Stadium in Thatta on April 12.



Former national captain Roquibul Hassan has been appointed as the manager of the team which will be coached by Abdul Hadi.

The players have been asked to report at the BCB office today at 11 am.

SQUAD

Habibul Bashar, Ehsanul Haque, Javed Omar, Imran Hamid, Al-Shahriar, Nasirul Islam, Hasanuzzaman, Golam Murtuza, Aminul Islam (Irl), Mahbubur Rahman, Morshed Ali Khan, Mafizur Rahman, Mushfiqur Rahman and Fahim Muntasir.

Pakistan thrash India



JAIPUR, India, Mar 24 (AFP/Internet): Wasim Akram's Pakistan continued their impressive form

with a rousing 143-run victory over arch-rivals India in the one-day international here on Wednesday.

Left-handed opener Saeed Anwar smashed 95 and Inzamam-ul-Haq made 43 as Pakistan piled up 278-9 and then shot India out for a paltry 135 before 25,000 stunned fans at the Sawal Man Singh stadium here.

Pakistan did not miss 'spin king' Saqlain Mushtaq, serving a one-match suspension, as young seamer Abdul Razzaq and off-spinner Arshad Khan combined to wreck India in just 36.1 overs.

Razzaq, who replaced Saqlain, dealt telling blows with the wickets of skipper Mohammad Azharuddin and Vinod Kambli in his first over after coming on as first-change bowler.

Arshad, the lone specialist spinner in the side, finished with 3-22 including the wickets of all-rounder Ajit Agarkar and newcomer Gyanendra Pandey in the space of three deliveries.

Ajay Jadeja, opening the innings in place of the injured Sachin Tendulkar, toiled in vain for India to make 61 before being ninth out.

Pakistan, with two wins from successive matches, will ensure a place in the final of the three-nation tournament if they defeat Sri Lanka in the return match at Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Akram, who led Pakistan to victory in the inaugural Asian Test championship earlier this month, hoped his side would sweep the one-day competition also.

"We are playing very good cricket, to the best of our potential," Akram said. "It will be very hard to beat us if we continue to perform like this."

"I was a bit worried at the absence of Saqlain, but Anwar raised our spirits with his great innings. For me, he is the best opener in the world."

Azharuddin said the fall of regular wickets did India in.

"You need to have a big stand chasing a score like this," he said. "It was not a particularly good wicket to bat on."

Left-handed opener Anwar hit 10 boundaries and a six on his way to becoming the third Pakistani after current coach Javed Miandad and Salim Malik to cross the 6,000-run mark in limited-overs cricket.

Pakistan were headed for a bigger total when they reached 200-2 in the 38th over, but India hit back by claiming seven wickets for 76 runs.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble grabbed four for 53 to compensate for lacklustre bowling from young seamer Agarkar, who was hammered for 73 runs in his eight overs.

Anwar and his opening partner Shahid Afridi, who put on 148 for the first wicket against Sri Lanka last Friday, rattled up 75 in just the 10th over.

Afridi, who smashed 38 off 33 balls, hit five boundaries in Kumble's first over before the angry leg-spinner had him caught at mid-off in his second over.

Ijaz Ahmed helped Anwar add another 75 for the second wicket when he fell to a controversial catch behind the wicket for 29.

Ijaz brushed his bat against the ground as he attempted to cut off-spinner Nikhil Chopra, but umpire Jasbir Singh upheld wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia's appeal for a catch.

Pakistan, who were coasting along at 150-1 in the 25th over, were stopped in their tracks by steady spin bowling from Chopra and debutant left-arter Pandey.

Pandey gave away just 27 runs in his first eight overs, while Chopra bowled unchanged to finish with 1-42 from 10 overs.

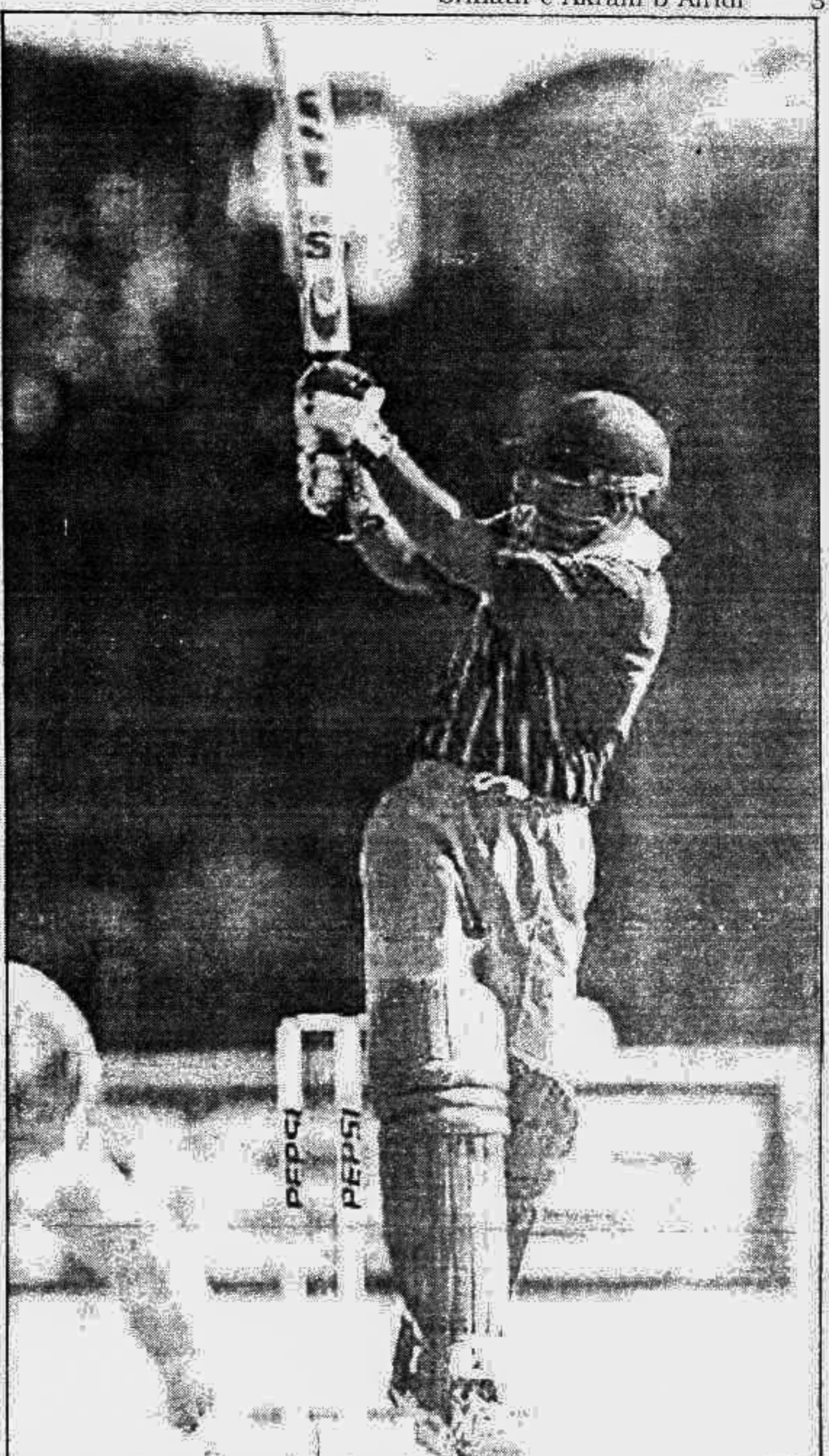
Anwar was set for his 16th one-day century when he was caught behind by Mongia to give part-time spinner Rahul Dravid his first international wicket.

Fall of wks: 1-75; 2-150; 3-200; 4-204; 5-236; 6-238; 7-260; 8-268; 9-276.

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Srinath	8	0	39	2
Agarkar	8	0	73	1
Kumble	10	1	53	4
Pandey	10	1	39	0
Chopra	10	0	42	1
Dravid	4	0	21	1

INDIA

Batter:	O	M	R	W
Ganguly c Moin b Shoaib	13			
Jadeja c and b Afridi	61			
Dravid b Shoaib	3			
Azharuddin c Moin b Razzaq	1			
Kambli lbw b Razzaq	4			
Mongia st Moin b Arshad	11			
Agarkar c and b Arshad	4			
Pandey st Moin b Arshad	0			
Chopra run out	20			
Srinath c Akram b Afridi	3			



Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, pulls one over the square-leg boundary during yesterday's Pepsi Cup encounter against India at Jaipur.

— Internet photo

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one-day three-nation series match between India and Pakistan on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN:
Anwar c Mongia b Dravid 95
Afridi c Chopra b Kumble 38
Ijaz c Mongia b Chopra 29
Inzamam b Kumble 43
Yousaf b Kumble 1
Moin b Srinath 22
Akram c Srinath b Kumble 1
Mahmood b Agarkar 22
Razzaq c Chopra b Srinath 4
Arshad not out 5
Akhter not out 0
Extras: (lb-11, w-1, nb-6) 18
Total: (For nine wks in 50 overs) 278

Kumble not out 4
Extras: (w-6, nb-5) 11
Total: (All out in 36.1 overs) 135
Fall of wks: 1-23; 2-33; 3-48; 4-53; 5-88; 6-96; 7-96; 8-124; 9-131.

Bowler:
Akram 6 0 33 0
Shoaib 5 1 10 2
Arshad 7 0 22 3
Afridi 6 1 0 28 2
Razzaq 6 0 27 2
Mahmood 6 1 15 0

Result: Pakistan won by 143 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Saeed Anwar.
Next match: Pakistan v Sri Lanka, March 27.

Positive signs from defeat

Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed

How much would it cost Bangladesh to opt out of the World Cup? Although barely fifty days away, this was perhaps the most likely way out most Bangladeshis were considering after last night's defeat of the home team by visitors Kenya.

Playing on home ground, on wickets on which they have played two-day 80-over matches, playing to a cordial crowd that included their friends and relatives, with their own officials around, our own television crew, the journalists and cameramen are ever so friendly, even they know the ghugniwala, playing in familiar weather conditions, if this was the best that our boys can deliver, should not some benevolent chaps warn them about the dreaded English weather, the hostile crowd in some Essex ground, unknown faces...?

My hope was definitely raised this morning on reading that Aminul Islam thought we were better than the Kenyans. I believed him because he is the expert.

Hopes were raised at half-time (we are already beginning to talk in non-cricketing lingo, and perhaps rightly so) when our bowlers did pretty well to restrict the Kenyans, okay the MIGHTY Kenyans, to under 250. Having been licked in the past and in consideration of my self-certified reputation of not being a fanatic fan, I edged myself unnoticed into the gallery to the resounding chants of 'Akram, Akram'. My heart missed a beat. Had he scored a century? The electronic scoreboard's 'chamatar' reassured me that it was his well-deserved fifty. It then dawned on me that our

cricketers had only to produce a molehill to earn mountains of love from the people.

The same people left the ground absolutely dejected after an hour or so. It's one thing losing a match and another being shown the candy and not getting your tongue to it. If we cannot score 232 runs against, pardon my expression, one of the weaker sides in the World Cup, how will we open the face of our bat against the might of Australia, Pakistan, West Indies and New Zealand? We have this far gained the expertise to even turn cats into tigers and, who knows? Scotland may also prove to be our burial ground.

Our repeated and consistent poor performance since the luke win at ICC could not culminate at a worse hour. We have chosen to take our performance to the lowest possible ebb at a time when the Bangladesh Cricket Board is toiling ceaselessly to gain Test status. Many now believe there are other better ways of becoming a laughing stock.

A child asked me the other day, "Uncle, can the Test status be bought?" I told off the illiterate infant, saying that only big boys play cricket.

In the biting English weather, where fielders find their knuckles frozen, I dare not to think what our present lot of cricketers are capable of doing. Looking at 230-plus, we were short by plus-seventy on home ground.

Many 'experts' that I talked to last night said that this was our standard. Someday we might lose by 73 runs, on another day by eight wickets. We might score 150 or 175. We are just not good enough for the big league.

But there is hope. We might end up the most liked team in the World Cup, for helping all the others create record after record. Who said Bangladesh was useless? We shall continue to serve cricket. And serve only.

Another positive sign: Bangladeshis are gradually getting used to losing. In future the furor after a defeat will be even less.

A Mohammedan attempt at the Abahani goal during the Green Delta Insurance Premier Division hockey league fixture at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo by Amran Hossain

Lloyd to quit after WC

LONDON, Mar 24:

David Lloyd is to stand down as England cricket coach after this year's World Cup, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Lloyd, who took over from Ray Illingworth in 1996, decided to go after failing to obtain a guarantee that his contract would be renewed after the World Cup, which takes place in England in May and June.

"It was important for me to have a clear picture of what my future holds," said Lloyd. "Now that the matter is settled this means the team can focus exclusively on the World Cup."

The ECB said that the departure had been agreed in amicable circumstances and that Lloyd fully understood that the ECB was unable to give him the assurance he wanted.

ECB chairman Lord MacLauring said: "We owe David a huge debt for the job he has done. He introduced many innovations that mean we are now world leaders in several aspects of our approach to the game at international level."

"It would be a fitting send off for him if we could lift the World Cup for the first time this summer."

ECB chief executive Tim Lamb added: "David has done a magnificent job for England, including delivering our first five Test series victory for 12 years (against South Africa last season)."

Former Lancashire batsman Lloyd was hugely popular with the players, whom he defended rigorously whatever their results.

Current England captain Alec Stewart said he was disappointed but said it had been a real pleasure to work with "bumble."