

MITT

DHAKA FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

TOSHIBATV

For best picture quality buy only TOSHIBA Colour TV with BLACK STRIPE PICTURE TUBE

MRANGS GROUP

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-115

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Baily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm May 7, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach? Stewart When England last hosted cricket

World Cup? 1987 1983 Umpire Steve Bucknor is a

Guyanese Jamaican Trinidadian 4 The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at Edgbaston Lord's The World Cup match between

Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in Edinburgh Belfast Cardiff

............

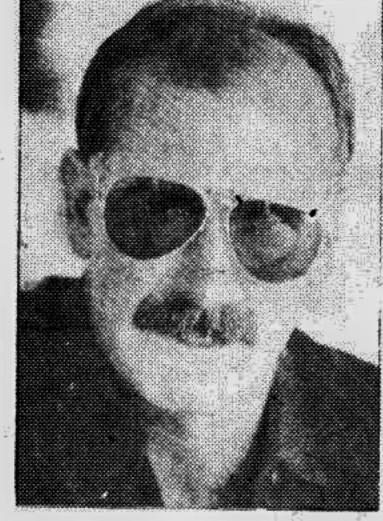
Name

Class Roll No. School Address

..... Phone: (If any)

> POWERED WITH ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Dennis Lillee

(Australian Test icon) "He has done it in, or against, all countries now and keeps on doing in consistently. If his career ended right now, he would go down as one of the greats.

Barring injury, he still has a lot of bowling in him."
On Glenn McGrath

Biman Cup soccer



Joypurhat and Rajshahi won their respective matches in the Biman Cup under-14 national football tournament at the Joypurhat Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Hosts Joypurhat beat Patuakhali 3-1 after leading the first half 1-0.

Sumon put Joypurhat ahead in the 19th minute while Arif equalised in the 53rd minute. Ripu doubled the margin in

the 57th minute while Rabiul completed the tally in the 65th minute. In the day's other match,

Rajshahi defeated Narayanganj 2-1. The first half ended 1-1. Dalim put Narayanganj ahead while Aziz levelled in the

32nd minute for Rajshahi. Aziz scored the winner for Rajshahi in the 55th minute.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Apr 29: Provati Sangha and Friends Sporting Club won their respective matches of Rajshahi First Division cricket league today. In the first match at Ra-

jshahi Stadium Provati Sangha defeated Willow Krira Chakra by 96 runs.

Batting first, Provati Sangha scored 144 for all in 44.5 overs. Sanchoy collected the highest 35 followed by 21 of Rownak. Jarek and Litu captured three wickets each. In reply, Willow made only

48 runs losing all the wickets in 19.2 overs. Prince and Tarek scored the highest 10 runs each. Bhola captured three and Jem four wickets.

In the second match at Rajshahi Divisional Stadium, Friends Sporting Club defeated Baikali Sangha by two wickets.

Maldives, Nepal play for 3rd place today

Bangladesh in SAFF final, meet India tomorrow

Al-Amin writes from Margao Bangladesh attack. Bangladesh advanced into the

final of the Coca-

Cola 2nd SAFF

defeating Nepal by

Championship

the odd goal in three in the sec-

ond semifinal at the Nehru Sta-

After a barren first-half.

striker Alfaz Ahmed fed his at-

tacking partner Mizanur Rah-

man Don for the first goal and

then went on to head home the

match-winner in the 62nd

minute to help Bangladesh set

up a final clash with defending

India had earlier scored an

identical margin victory over

Maldives in the first semi-fina

with local hero Bruno Coutinho

firing home the decider six

ALFAZ AHMED

Saturday.

at 3.00 pm. (BST)

minutes from the final whistle.

The final will be held on

Losing semifinalists Mal-

dives, runners-up in the first

edition in Nepal two years back.

and Nepal will play for the

third place at the same venue

Friday. The match will kick off

two quick goals after the break

to confirm their place in the fi-

nal, the boys of Samir Shakir

were a pale shadow of their pro-

lific selves. Bangladesh were

lucky enough not to concede a

goal in first session, where the

extensive defensive ploy of

Samir almost brought about his

shave in the 36th minute when

Naresh Joshi failed to negotiate

a right-flank cross from a

their game in the second ses-

sion, but not before Samir

brought his two experienced

midfielders -- Zakir and Rakib

Monwar and Parvez respec-

-- into the attack in place of

Bangladesh, however, lifted

hand-shaking distance.

Bangladesh survived a close

Although Bangladesh scored

dium here Thursday.

champions India.

Bangladesh ended the evening's duck in the 55th minute when a shrewd Zakir took a quick free-kick, which allowed Alfaz to break through the Nepalese defence. The dark and dapper striker dodged past a defender before executing a neat minus, which Mizanur made no mistake in clipping home past a hapless custodian.

Upendra Man Singh. With Zakir playing like a spring chicken, Bangladesh struck again seven minutes later. Zakir set up an over-lapping Munna with a defence-slicing through and the latter duly obliged with a gem of a cross from the left that travelled over the Nepalese defence to an unmarked Alfaz, who did the simple task of nodding the ball home.

Alfaz was later declared the Coca-Cola MVP and got a cash award of Rs. 10,000. This is the second time that he won the award. But he was a doubtful starter in the crucial match due to illness. Alfaz was taken to a hospital last night after complaining of severe stomach pain. He was taken back to his hotel on Thursday morning.

"I was very sick yesterday. But I decided to play for my country," said Alfaz after the match.

Back to the match, Bangladesh got a real scare when Maharajan pulled one goal back in the 74th minute. But, with the defence bellowing the Nepalese attack like an accordion, Jewel and his boys ran away with the slender lead.

"I'm disappointed the way our boys played in the firsthalf. True we were a bit more cautious in the first 45 minuets. But that was a tactical approach to burn out the opponents' stamina", said the Iraqi coach of the national team, Samir Shakir, a student in the school of thought that preaches defence as the best offence.

"But we made two changes in the second-half to accelerate the attack. And it eventually paid off", said an euphoric Samir.

"Football is a game of goals. You may play attractive football and create half a dozen chances. But, if you fail to capitalise on those, you are still a loser. We have come here to win and I don't care at what expense", said Samir, a member of the Iraqi World Cup team in

While Samir looked extremely happy after the match. the players in the dressing room were on cloud nine after the announcement of Rs 20,000 from manager Khairul Anwar. "We are very happy because

The double substitution changed the complexion of the we made it to the final. But, by game, as Zakir and Rakib promaking it to the final, we have vided the cutting edge in the also got the opportunity to end

the jinx in the regional meet", said captain Jewel. Bangladesh are yet to lift a regional football

"Since we have come this far, we want to utilise the opportunity to beat India and win the Cup for the whole nation." said the Jewel.

Yellow cards: Mizanur Rahman Don (Bangladesh) and Basanta Thapa (Nepal).

TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Aminul Haq. Rajani Barman, Prodip Poddar, Jewel Rana, Hasan Al Mamun, Iqbal Hossian, Mustafa Anwar Parvez (Rakib Hossain). Manwar Hossain (Zakir Hossain). Motiur Rahman Munna, Mizanur Rahman Don and Alfaz Ahmed.



MIZANUR RAHMAN

NEPAL: Upendra Man Singh. Bal Gopal Maharjan, Deepok Amatya, Hari Khadka, Dev Narayan, Naresh Joshi, Deepok Rana Magar, Rakesh Shrestha, Sandesh Shrestha (Ramesh Buda), Basanta Thapa and Kumar Thapa (Basantha Gauchan). Referee: Michael Andrews

(India) UNB Adds: Earlier, in the day's first semi, India also struggled hard to beat Maldives

Indian wonder boy Baichung Bhutia put the host team ahead in the 30th minute by an angular left-footer amid cheers from the local fans.

Mohammad Wildhan, who scored the second goal for Mal dives against Nepal in the previous match, silenced the home crowd by scoring the equaliser in the 42nd minute after dodging past two defenders.

Indian skipper Bruno Coutinho, the soccer hero of Goa, scored the match-winner in the 83rd minute by a cannonlike shot off a minus by substitute Sabir Pasha and the home crowd burst into thunderous cheers.

1 M Vajayan of India was cautioned with yellow card.

Bangladesh beat Herts XI

Bangladesh beat Hertfordshire Invitation XI by 47 runs
in a practice match at Bishop S
Cricket Club ground in England
on Wednesday, reports UNB.
Batting first, Bangladesh
World Cup squad scored 254 for
seven with middle-order Min-

hazul Abedin hitting an unbeaten 54.

All-rounder Enamul Haque made 41 and opener Mehrab Hossain 39.

In reply, Herts Invitation XI scored 207 for five in 50 overs with opener N Pothas making 92 and S Burrow 42.

Medium-pace bowler Shafiuddin claimed two wickets for 34 runs in 10 overs while Sujon. Enamul and Akram took one wicket each.

BRIEFSCORES

BANGLADESH: 254/7 (Nannu 54 n.o., Moni 41, Opee 39, Bidyut 23, Sujon 17, Akram 15, Faruque 7, extras 33) HERT'S ELEVEN: 207/5 (Pothas 92, Burrow 42, Fry 19; Babu 2/34, Sujon 128, Moni 1/31, Akram 1/36)

Big win for Motijheel High

Eight teams won their respective matches in the ANZ Grindlays Bank 17th national schools cricket championship at different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

Motijheel Government Boys High crushed Civil Aviation High by 10 wickets at the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground.

Hammadia High defeated Islamia Government High by 89 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Motijheel Model High beat Gulshan Model High by 4 wickets.

At the Kalabagan Club ground, Kadamtala Purbo Basabo High beat Khilgaon Government High by 1 wicket. St Joseph's High beat Green Herald International by 17 runs at the City Club ground. Government Laboratory

High defeated Natun Kuri Shikkhalaya by 5 wickets at the Orient Club ground. At the Kalindi Club ground, Wari High defeated Nawabpur

Govt. High by 35 runs. Udayan Bidyalaya earned an impressive 7-wicket victory against University Laboratory at the Uttara Friends Club

PM's congrats

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated the members of Bangladesh lootball team, coach and officials for reaching the final of the SAFF championship now being held a Goa, India, reports

The Prime Minister greeted them for their outstanding feat and wished their streak con-

Meanwhile, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader has also congratulated the national football team yesterday.

days to go Australian master leg-spilling pose after capturing a wicket. Australian master leg-spinner Shane Warne in a familiar -Star file photo

tiar Sport World Cup Cour

Warne at WC crossroads

SYDNEY, Apr 29 (AFP/ Internet): Only a few weeks ago a bitter Shane Warne was talking of retirement after being "kicked in the guts" by Australia's selectors.

The greatest spin bowler of his generation, the 29-year-old had been dropped from the Test side for the first time in seven years.

him his place. The other selectors, however, pointed at his record since returning from a shoulder operation - just four victims in four Tests. Warne's bruised ego, however, soon recovered from the

slight. His form returned during the one-day series against the West Indies and he was confirmed as vice-captain in the Australian World Cup squad. selected ahead of rival leg spinner Stuart MacGill.

World Cup, holds happy memories for Warne. His first ball in Test cricket in England went down in legend.

pitched outside leg stump but turned almost at a right angle to clip the off stump of the England batsman, who had opted not to play a shot. Gatting's look of pure disbelief before departing was a picture.

The team's chances of winbowler in the world.

For Australians Warne, his hair streaked blond and sporting an earring, has been the talisman of the national game since his less-than-distinguished Test debut figures of one for 150 against India in Sydney in 1992.

He thought 317 wickets in 71 Tests should have guaranteed

World Cup ENGIRUD GO England, which hosts the

His loosener to Mike Gatting

ning the tournament will rest largely on whether Warne can recapture the fluency that has made him the most feared

His breakthrough was to come against the West Indies. Playing in the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. he bamboozled them in the second innings, taking seven for

52 off 23.2 overs. He has never looked back. bowling Australia to countless wins on wearing pitches.

No leg-spinner before him has ever succeeded in combining such accuracy with such prodigious turn. Wrist spinners, indeed, were considered too erratic to be risked in the one-day game until Warne's emergence. The years, however, have taken their toll. First he needed

a finger operation, then his

shoulder began to give way. In India last year, Sachin Tendulkar was in full cry and Warne, bowling in pain, was savaged. He sent down more than 1,000 balls in the three Tests, for 10 wickets which cost 540 runs.

A shoulder operation was needed to rectify the damage. There was no guarantee of success and the convalescence was tedious and slow. He didn't come back into the

Australian side until the fifth Ashes Test against England in Sydney last January, by which time MacGill, who took 27 wickets in the series, had become the star turn. Both, however, went to the

Caribbean, the selectors envisioning a two-pronged leg-spin attack that would mesmerise the West Indians.

Instead, Brian Lara mauled them both, leading to Warne's axing at the hands of his captain Steve Waugh and coach Geoff Marsh.

"It takes a lot out of you and when you get dropped and been kicked in the guts, it's up to you whether you want to bounce back and say 'well, I'll show you blokes how good I still am'," he

"Or you can go the other way and just ... retire, do the easy op-

Warne is now fighting back. The World Cup - and England. where he took 58 wickets in the two Ashes tours of 1993 and 1997 - should provide an ideal

Lady luck on Border's side



29 (AFP): The 1987 World Cup, the first to be held outside England, was event packed with superlatives, including the closest finishes in tournament

history, a world record score ... and the worst stroke of them Australia, extraordinarily, benefited in almost every case,

as they became the third side to lift the trophy. Captain Allan Border must have realised the gods were with

him from day one. Australia's opening group A fixture, in Madras in India group B was staged in Pakistan ended in a one-run victory, the closest margin in World Cup

India, chasing 270 for six. were dismissed on the penultimate ball for 269. A week later, in a rain-re-

New Zealand by three runs - the cup's second closest run margin The final saw them defeat England by seven runs - no final has ever been more hotly

duced match, they edged past

contested - after winning their semi-final by 18. If Australia emerged as the big winners of a tournament which included the same sides as in 1983, the West Indies were

the major losers. Looking for their third title. they not only failed to reach the World Cup final for the first time but also did not even manage the semis.

Twice they were defeated in the last over, first by England, then by Pakistan. Their only consolation? A

total of 360 for four off 50 overs, 181 of them coming from the bat of Vivian Richards, against Sri Lanka at Karachi, a record which was to stand for almost a decade. At the semi-final stage, a dream final of India versus

Pakistan, a match which would

have packed Calcutta's Eden

Gardens to the ratters, looked likely.

India, however, topping group A with Australia with five wins out of six, fell to England and a Graham Gooch century in Bombay. Pakistan, who has also

topped their group with five victories, at one stage looking set for victory with Imran Khan and Javed Miandad well en-



ALLAN BORDER

trenched, were squeezed out by Border's men, David Boon's 65 and Craig McDermott's five for 44 the key performances.

England, in front of 70,000 fans, went into the November 8 finale as favourites. The portly Boon, however whose shape and liking for beer earned him the unforgettable

sobriquet of "Keg on Legs" -

came good again with 75 as the

Australians recorded 253 for five off their 50 overs. In reply, the English recovered from losing a wicket to it is still open, but it's up to me Craig McDermott's third ball and looked well set, Bill Athey's -

58 helping them to 135 for

Then came Mike Gatting's famous rush of blood. With England gradually taking command, Gatting, on 41, responded to Allan Border's first ball by trying an audacious reverse sweep down to third man.

The ball from the Australian

captain, little more than an oc-

casional slow left-arm spinner,

ballooned off the back of Gatting's bat and straight into the hands of Greg Dyer at slip. That blunder all but settled the 1987 final. A final flourish by Phil DeFreitas left England needing 19 off 12 balls but Steve Waugh lived up to his "Iceman" nickname by removing him

the 49th over. Gatting, always a controversial figure, was never forgiven by English fans.

and conceding just 2 runs off

Richards mulls coaching offer

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 29 (Reuters/ Internet): Former West Indies captain Vivian Richards has been asked by the team to help out during their World Cup campaign.
The Barbados Advocate

newspaper reported on Wednes-day that Richards, who retired from test cricket in 1991 after never losing a series as captain. confirmed the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) had asked for his assistance. Richards is expected to be technical co-ordinator and bat-

ting coach.

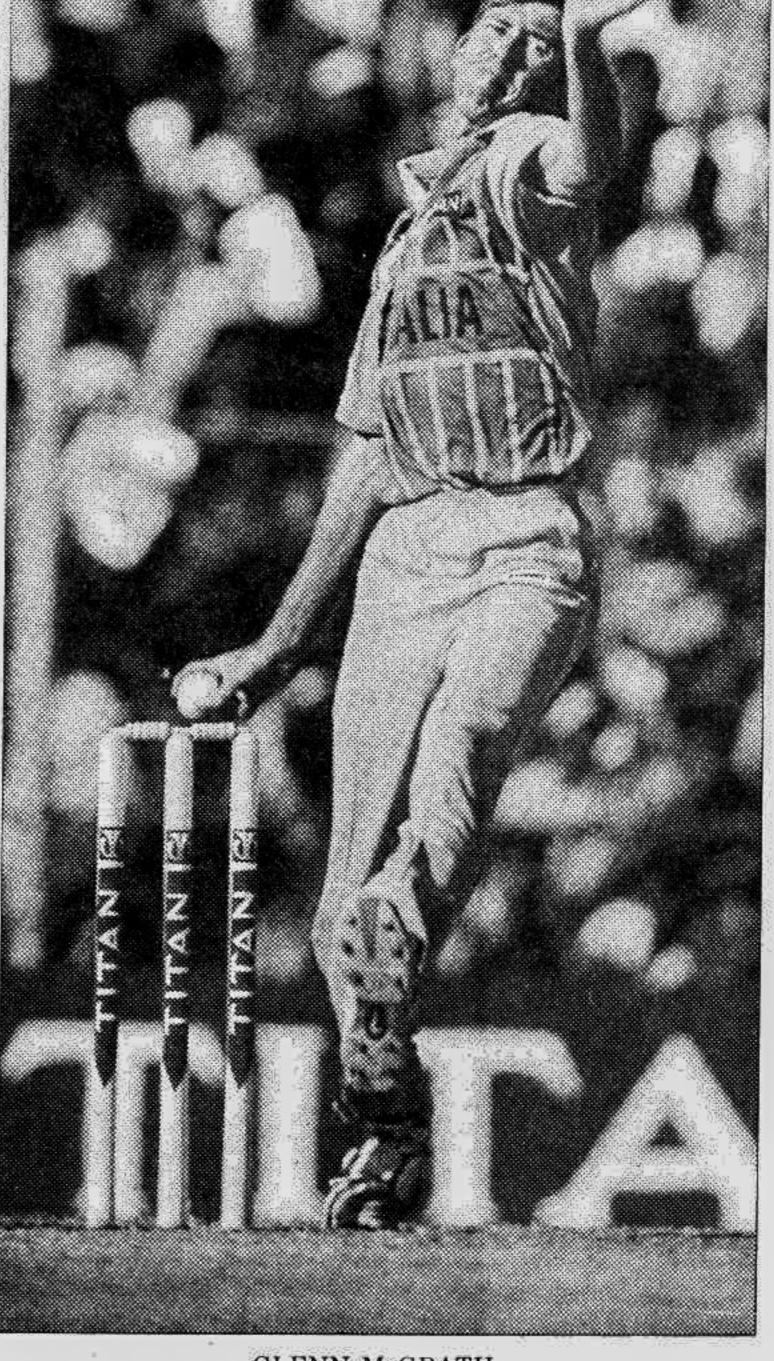
Richards as saying.

to make the decision."

Richards wanted to see a contract with terms and conditions before accepting the offer for the limited overs tournament starting in England on May 14. "There was an offer made and I was to let them know the score," the paper quoted

"It is a proposal for six weeks dealing with the World Cup and

However, the paper said that



GLENN McGRATH

Lean, mean McGrath

29 (AFP/ In-

ternet): Aus-

tralia's 'Pige-

on', alias Gle-



un McGrath, heads for the World Cup with his career reaching its

McGrath, who picked up the uncharitable moniker because of his thin legs and splayed-out feet, emerged as Australia's hero in the drawn West Indies Test series in April, ending with 30 wickets in four Tests at just 16.93 runs apiece.

The performance was made

all the more remarkable since McGrath was left to carry the attack as leg spinner Shane Warne struggled with his form. For many, the 29-year-old New South Welshman already ranks as a cricketing great. Few before him has gone to the West Indies, the home of the most intimidating strike bowlers for the past 20 years, and given them a taste of their own medicine.

Four times McGrath took five wickets in an innings and once claimed 10 wickets for the match. His overall tally left him three short of the Australia-West Indies record. Opposing captain Brian Lara to lead the accolades.

"His performance was some thing to behold, it was just a tremendous effort," he said. Australian captain Steve Waugh thinks there is more to

"He's getting better every game," he says. "He just doesn't bowl any loose balls, he loves bowling and you can't get the ball out of his hand, even if he's injured or tired."

McGrath now has 232 wickets in 49 Tests at 22.60. His oneday economy is almost as good with 122 wickets at 25.28. Barring injury and burn-out, he is on the threshold of a recordbreaking Test career.

That's certainly how Australia's fast bowling icon Dennis Lillee sees it.

"He has done it in, or against, all countries now and keeps on doing it consistently," says Lillee, Australia's leading Test wicket-taker with 355 victims in 70 Tests between 1970-

"If his career ended right

now, he would go down as one of the greats. Barring injury, he still has a lot of bowling in Spotted as a potential talent by former Australian Test star Doug Walters, McGrath began

made his mark in club cricket, leading to his breakthrough into the New South Wales side. McGrath's stock ball is an off-cutter. His great strength,

his career living in a Sydney

caravan with his mother as he

however, is the pressure he creates with nagging accuracy. Opposing batsmen frequently say that he offers no free hits, forcing them to play every ball. He also throws in the occasional rearing delivery and a recently-developed slower

In the Lillee tradition, Mc-Grath also has plenty of aggression, a trait which sometimes

gets him into trouble. Match referee Raman Subba Row reprimanded him for spitting on the penultimate day of the fourth Test against the West Indies. McGrath thus had to pay a suspended fine of around 1,575 US dollars after sledging England's Alan Mullally during the 1998 Melbourne Boxing Day

in a mid-pitch altercation with Lara during the third Test in Barbados. It may be unsavoury, but it's part of the make-up which has

McGrath was also involved

helped him develop into a genuine world-class front-line bowler. Let the World Cup be his witness.