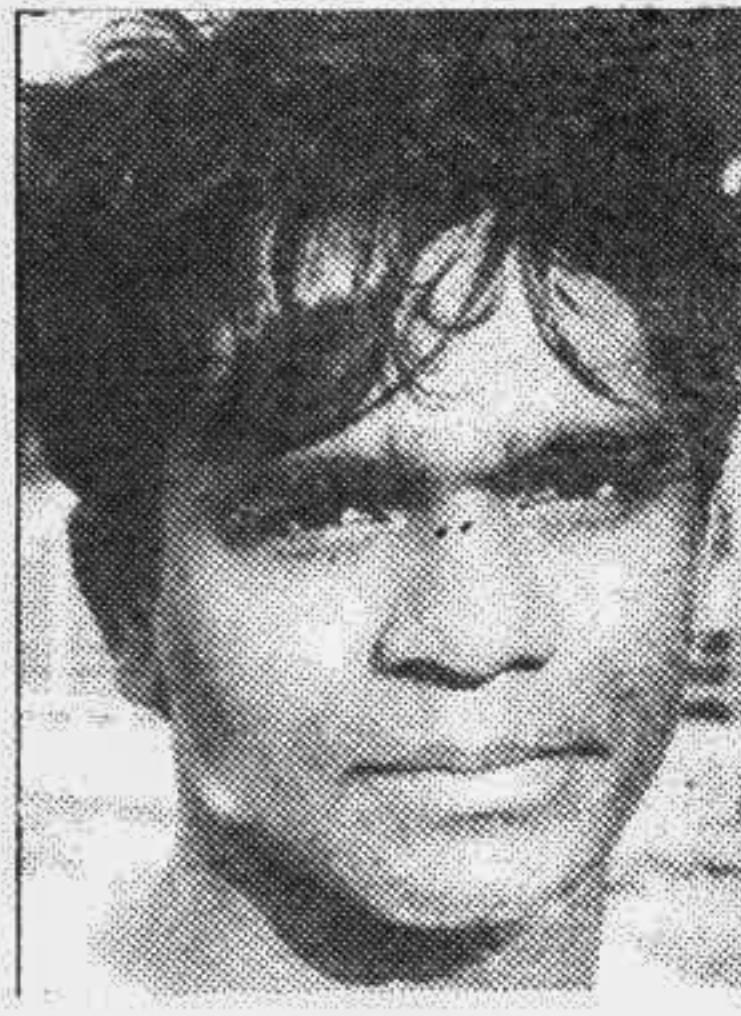


DHAKA WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One SPORTS TALK



Aminul Islam

(Bangladesh cricket captain)
"You see, one-day games are like a lottery. The team playing better on a particular day will be the winners. So you cannot write off an upset."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-115

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 14 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach?
Ford	Stewart
2	When England last hosted cricket World Cup?
1975	1987
3	Umpire Steve Bucknor is a Guyanese Jamaican Trinidadian
4	The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at Edgbaston
5	The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in Edinburgh

Name
.....
Class Roll No.
.....
School Address
.....
Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
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National schools cricket finals from May 15
Sports Reporter

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

The final round of the ANZ Bank 17th National School Cricket Championship will begin from May 15.

Sixteen teams, split into two zones - Dhaka and Tangail - will take part in final round.

The winners of each zone will face each other in the final which will be held at Tangail.

The following 16 schools have qualified for the final round.

Dhaka zone: Nabakumar Institution, Pirojpur Govt Boys' High School, Willes Little Flower School, Mymensingh Zilla School, Narayanganj High School, Govt Laboratory School, Segun Bagicha High School and Scholastica.

Tangail zone: Tangail Bindubashini Govt Boys' High School, Kushtia Dinnomini Madhyamik Bidyalaya, Chandpur Hasan Ali High School, Chaudanga MA Bari Madhyamik Bidyalaya, Comilla Zilla School, Dinajpur Maharaja GN High School and Sylhet's Aided School.

Tendulkar finds his feet

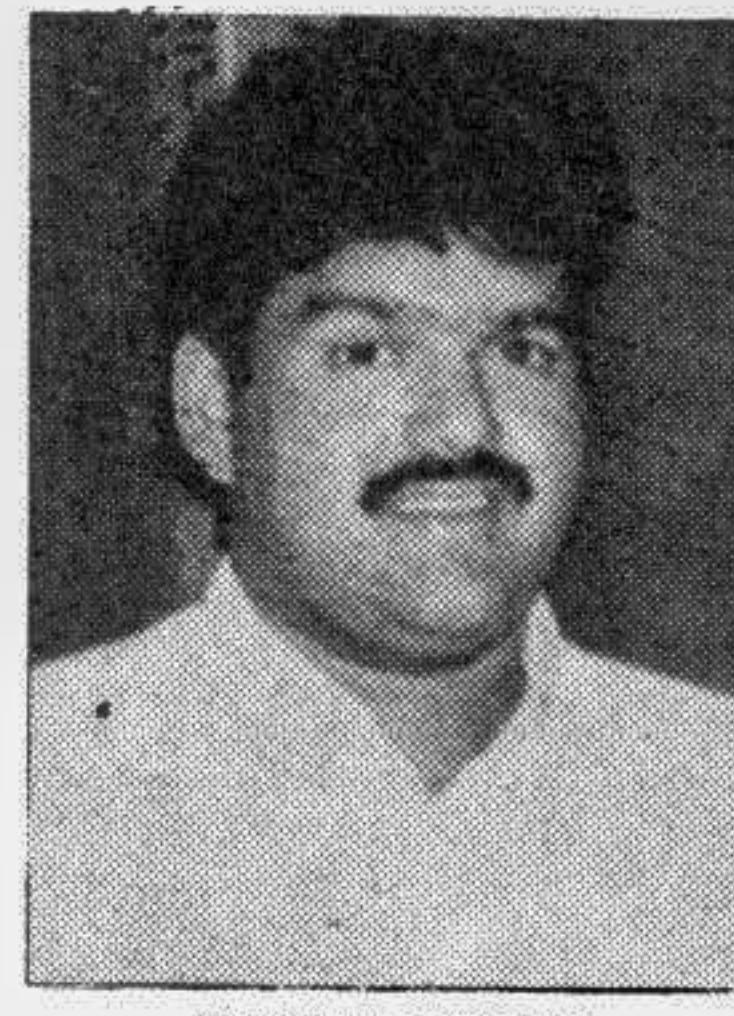
TRENT BRIDGE, May 11: Sachin Tendulkar warned World Cup rivals he was back in business after injury with a sparkling 91 in India's warm-up game against Nottinghamshire here today, reports AFP.

Rahul Dravid chipped in with 89 as India, celebrating their chance at the crease after two frustrating wash-outs, scored 245 for five in 44 overs.

Tendulkar, regarded as the world's top batsman, and Dravid added 155 runs for the second wicket after opener Saurav Ganguly had fallen for two.

Nottinghamshire were set a revised target of 247 in 44 overs due to a rain interruption at the start of India's innings.

Bangladesh: So far so good



AKRAM KHAN

of the country. A year later, he was sacked, along with skipper Akram Khan after a dispute with officials.

But Greenidge was too valuable to be ignored for the World Cup and his positive outlook has rubbed off on his wards.

"It's refreshing to see them going for their shots," Greenidge said. "For too long they have been uncertain of their own capabilities. They are coming out of it now."

The last-minute inclusion of veteran Minhazul Abedin - after the selectors were sacked following an outcry in parliament - has added solidity and experience to the squad.

A victory over Scotland on May 24 - or even an upset over one of the fancied teams - will light up the Dhaka streets and add to the growing influence of cricket.

Even if they lose to Northamptonshire on Wednesday, Bangladesh will be confident of doing themselves justice when the tournament starts on Friday.

Bangladesh are under no illusion about their World Cup chances in group B. But they want at least one victory, over their fellow newcomers Scotland.

"New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan and the West Indies are way ahead of us," skipper Aminul Islam conceded. "They have more experience and better skills than us."

"But if Kenya could beat the West Indies in the last World

Cup, anything can happen, especially in England."

The weather could prove to be a great help to the smaller teams."

The squad came to England in mid-April, ahead of any of their rivals, in an attempt to acclimatise.

The inspiration comes from their coach, former West Indian great Gordon Greenidge, who played in three World Cups and scored 5,134 runs in 128 one-day internationals.

When Bangladesh won the ICC Trophy in 1997, Greenidge was made an honorary citizen

The ready-reckoner

each set of stumps.

For the remaining overs only five fielders are allowed outside the semicircles.

Also in the first 15 overs of each innings there must be at least two fielders within a 15-yard inner circle centred on the batsman on strike. The two fielders may only stand deeper than 15 yards if they are at slip, leg slip and gully.

At no time must there be more than five fielders on the leg side.

No bowler may bowl more than 10 overs per innings.

A bowler will be no-balled if ball passes or would have been above the shoulder height of the batsman on strike.

Umpires have been instructed to "apply a very strict and consistent interpretation" of the laws governing negative bowling.

White balls and black sight-screens will be used.

POINTS: Two for a win, one for a tie.

If teams finish on equal points in group matches, entry into the Super Six phase will be decided on the following criteria (in order of priority):

- most wins in the group

- winner of head-to-head

match where only two finish on equal points.

- if more than two teams finish on same points, winner of most matches involving these teams will proceed.

- if still equal, run rate in matches played against other Super Six qualifiers will decide order of teams.

White balls and black sight-screens will be used.

PLAYING CONDITIONS: Innings are 50 overs. Minimum of 25 overs a team will constitute a match. In case of bad weather, matches can continue until 2000 local (1900 GMT).

Each match will have one reserve day in case of bad weather. Final will have two reserve days.

For first 15 overs of each innings only two fielders are allowed outside semicircles drawn 30 yards (metres) from

the wicket.

For five and a half weeks starting on Friday the sport's most prestigious event brings together the nine Test-playing teams and three qualifying sides for 42 matches in 18 British towns and cities as well as Dublin and the Dutch venue of Amstelveen.

Even given the hugely unpredictable character of limited overs cricket, there can be little argument with South Africa being made the early favourites.

Their great strength is in having so many players who can operate as all-rounders, providing batting in depth and ideal balance. Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener and captain Graeme Smith are the key trio in this respect.

With outstandingly athletic fielding led by Jonty Rhodes and potent fast bowling from Donald and Shaun Pollock, South Africa have a resourceful and resilient squad to give outgoing coach Bob Woolmer a Cup-winning farewell.

Steve Waugh's Australia are not far behind South Africa in the early betting to lift the trophy at the Lord's final on June 20. They have developed a specialist one-day side who during the past six months have won series in Pakistan and at home as well as drawing in the West Indies.

Skipper Waugh epitomises the mental strength which makes the Australians such formidable opponents in a crisis, and the World Cup is likely to be won by the team who best respond to such a situation.

Waugh's men had to confront a Lara-inspired West Indian re-

vival during their recent tour, prompting hopes of a repeat of the Super Six second stage.

England captain Alec Stewart has acknowledged the demanding early nature of their challenge.

"One of the hardest aspects is getting through our first round group," he said. "It is important we start well against Sri Lanka (at Lord's)."

The incentive to win group games is underlined by the fact that the points scored against the two other teams who qualify will be carried forward into the Super Six stage.

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Waugh's men had to confront a Lara-inspired West Indian re-

Donald focused on himself only

LONDON, May 11 (AFP): South African strike bowler Allan Donald refused to be drawn into a head-to-head pace duel with Pakistan star Shoaib Akhtar here today, saying winning the World Cup was more important, reports AFP.

"I'm not bothered about who is the quickest bowler in the World Cup. I'm just here to do a job and do it well," said Donald.

Akhtar has been labelled the fastest bowler in the world, with speculation that he could break through the 100 mph-per-hour mark during the tournament.

But Donald, who at 32 is nine years older than his rival, added: "If I'm in the final on June 20, I won't be bothered about who is the fastest bowler in the world."

Akhtar was recorded as bowling at 96 mph in Sharjah recently. Donald clocked 93 mph in last summer's Test series in England.

Donald added: "I played against Akhtar in Durban and he's the quickest thing I've seen.

"I don't think people know much about him and that's in his favour, but they will certainly find out what he's about. He's very quick through the air. Good luck to him."

Donald has one significant advantage over Akhtar - experience. That included a long stint with county side Warwickshire. He also showed his worth when taking 33 wickets at less than 20 runs apiece in the five Test series in England last season.

"I know the English conditions," he said. "The wickets are very slow and you have to bowl an English length. That can take some time to find."

"One-day cricket also demands a lot more variation. There's more to it than running up and bowling a length."

"It's a batter's game. I don't care what anybody says, but good bowlers can win you one-day games."

Mullally, Hick inspire hosts

SOUTHAMPTON, May 11: Alan Mullally and Graeme Hick gave England a timely boost in their last World Cup warm-up game here today as Hampshire were routed by nine wickets with almost 30 overs to spare, reports AFP.

Left-arm paceman Mullally took four wickets for 20 as Hampshire were dismissed for 91. Hick then smashed a run-a-ball 65 not out, hitting boundaries off the last two deliveries as England raced past the target off 20.2 overs.

There was also a lift for skipper Alex Stewart. His partnership with Nick Knight failed again as the left-hander fell for a duck, but the out-of-form Stewart hung around to end on an undefeated 20.

Stewart said: "Today I was very impressed with the way we bowled. We wanted to chase a total but when you bowl like that you're not going to have go."

"As for Graeme Hick, he's on fire."

England, after winning the toss, made the first breakthrough via the accurate medium-pace of Ian Austin, who found movement off the wicket as he trapped Giles White leg before wicket.

Austin also removed former England batsman Robin Smith to end with two for eight off eight overs.

Left-arm Mullally, held back as first change, then took over. His best delivery, angled across John Stephenson, cut away off the seam and clipped the off stump.

Hampshire were all back in the pavilion after 38.2 overs, with all the front-line bowlers getting among the wickets.

When England responded, Knight, under pressure to keep the opener's slot from Nasser Hussain, was caught behind off an attempted cut.

The headlines began.

Against Kenya at Kandy, he made 44 from an opening stand of 83 off 40 balls. Against England in the Faisalabad quarter-final, he obliterated the bowlers, with 82 off 44 balls, 22 of

them off a single Phil DeFreitas over.

England captain Michael Atherton was so shell-shocked

that he declared this was not cricket and suggested that new rules limiting the number of out-fielders during the first 15 overs should be revised.

"Jayasuriya's innings I wouldn't go as far as to say it was a great innings but it was a fine knock," he moaned. "It's difficult to bowl when someone bats like that."

They play the first 15 overs as if they were the last 15. I think Sri Lanka have taken the game to new levels."

True, the World Cup wickets were flat. And true, the likes of Mark Waugh and Sachin Tendulkar were crafting even big scores.

But Jayasuriya's approach, as Atherton conceded, was radically different, scoring so fast and furiously that he seized the initiative for his side from the start.

Few won it back. Whenever Jayasuriya failed, there was bat-biting enough behind him to pick up the pieces.

Against India in the semi-finals at Eden Gardens, Sri Lanka lost two wickets in the first over but still won. Significantly, Jayasuriya still contributed with three wickets.

By the time Sri Lanka won the World Cup, Jayasuriya had been voted the most valuable player of the tournament.

Tendulkar, regarded as the world's best batsman, says: "He is exceptional. He plays out-of-the-book shots ... Sometimes he has the luck, but a batsman of his skill, ability and capacity ... to play tremendous shots all-round the wicket does not need luck. He was simply brilliant."

A new star had been born and a new term - "pinch-hitter", borrowed from baseball - adopted to describe the Jayasuriya phenomenon.

Every other leading side in the world had since experimented with pinch-hitters - top-order batsmen given carte-blanche to throw the bat from the start.</p