

SPORTS TALK



Stephen Fleming

(New Zealand captain)
They somehow manage to lure batsmen to their doom and can perform the incredible on these (English) wickets."

On his all-rounders Gavin Larsen and Chris Harris.

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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 31 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach?	
	Ford Stewart Marsh	
2	When England last hosted cricket World Cup?	
1975	1987	1983
3	Umpire Steve Bucknor is a Guyana/Jamaican/Trinidadian	
4	The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at Edgbaston Lord's Oval	
5	The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in Edinburgh Belfast Cardiff	

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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Big win for

GOVT Lab

Government Laboratory High earned an impressive 6-wicket victory over Narayanganj High in the ANZ Grindlays Bank national school championship at the Kalindi Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat first, Narayanganj scored 95 for 8 in curtailed 20 overs with Tariqul Islam adding 17 runs. Kabir picked up three wickets for 15 runs.

In reply, Government High made 99 for 4 in 19.1 overs with Sajid Hasan scoring an unbeaten 23 runs. S Mahmood also made 23 runs.

Afzali the aggressor

UNDATED (AFP): If there's one thing that everyone agrees about Shahid Afridi, it's that he doesn't mess around.

The 19-year-old Afridi is a young man in a hurry in whatever he does, a hasty approach that earns him some criticism. Yet Afridi likes to prove people wrong.

"They have always said I cannot survive longer but I am here to stay and am meeting my challenges," he said. "After our win in India we are now focussed on the world cup and it will be something special for me."

Afzali is anxious to prove wrong his detractors who predict a total failure for his airy fairy batting style in English conditions.

"When Pakistan won the 1992 World Cup I was a small kid and at that time I had dreamt to be a part of Pakistan team the next time they win the cup. I have this opportunity and definitely I will not waste it."

Afzali has come from being an unknown teenager to one of the country's most popular cricketers almost overnight. Afzali was playing an under 19 series in the West Indies when an SOS went out for him to join Pakistan at the four-nation



tournament in Kenya.

Like a witch's broom, Afzali wielded his willow against the Sri Lankan attack, recording the fastest one-day century off just 37 balls. He also hit eleven sixes, another record shared with Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya. Some of his shots went like scud missiles, noted Indian commentator Ravi Shastri.

Afzali is a member of the

tribal Pushtun family of North West Frontier Province whose inhabitants hate to lose a battle. So, too, Afzali who wants to dominate bowlers all the time.

After his exploits in Kenya, some fans expected the same of Afzali every time he walked to the crease. This he failed to do, and some critics immediately wrote him off as a one-day wonder and believed he might never play a Test.

Afzali proved them wrong, making his Test debut against Australia in Karachi last October where he came through with flying colours by grabbing five wickets. Then in his second Test in Chennai he hit a century in a thrilling contest that Pakistan won by a narrow 12 runs.

When Javed Miandad took charge as coach he brought a sense of sanity in Afzali's batting.

Afzali said Miandad asked him to keep his head down. "I am taking this as another challenge and I am confident that one day I will be able to mix aggression and defiance," Afzali said.

"I want to do more and more in cricket and want to create more records. I want my name and my country's name on the cricket map."

Understanding Simpson

LONDON, May 15 (AP): Bobby Simpson's position is safe in cricket history, having shaped the destiny of Allan Border's Australian team that lifted the World Cup in 1987.

The former Australian captain and coach is now seeking to become the first man to steer two countries to the one-day

This has changed the boys' approach ... the effect is amazing. The training has been designed to produce better all-round cricket."

He's guiding India's resurgence as the squad's technical advisor, which makes him a crucial cog in the team management besides coach Anshuman Gaekwad.

Simpson's arrival to the Indian camp last year completely altered the team's outlook and his recipe has instilled a focused sense of purpose in a side which tended to fade away from winning situations.

Returning to the venue of their title triumph in 1983, India are among the leading six World Cup contenders. Simpson has managed to curb the easygoing attitude in the immensely-talented side to give it an "attitude."

"The spirit and enthusiasm in the Indian team is simply fantastic," says Simpson. "It's a naturally gifted side and all they need is to remain focused."

"Take my word, the boys' have acquired an attitude. They won't throw away the matches any more."

And the change has come from just getting the basics right.

"All they need to do is to stay with the basics and success will follow," says Simpson, who has a firm belief that orthodox methods can reap a rich dividend even in this age of tactical innovation.

The most visible effects of Simpson's influence on the Indian team is shaking it out of its tendency to surrender winning situations and the drastically improved fielding. Indifferent fielding has been one for India's major drawbacks for

long, but not any more.

"Bob (Simpson) is very, very particular about fine tuning the fielding," says coach Gaekwad. "His innovative ideas have evoked the boys' interest by making the fielding training sessions interesting."

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