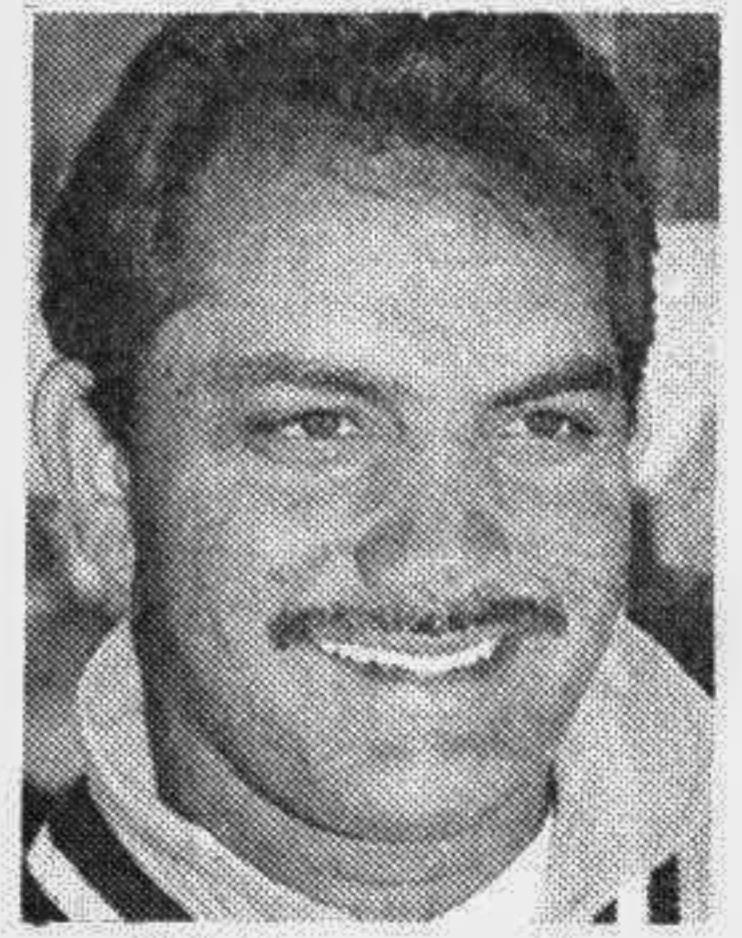


SPORTS TALK

**Mohammad Azharuddin**

India cricket captain
"I have never been abused so much in my life, it appears the whole world against me."

While commenting on calls for his resignation from captaincy by Indian supporters whom he termed so-called.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID**COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-116**

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
June 4, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who was the man-of-the-match in the opening match of the 1999 cricket World Cup?
Stewart | Jayasuriya | Ranatunga

2 How many runs did Aminul Islam score against New Zealand?
14 | 15 | 16

3 Who won the cricket World Cup in 1979?
Australia | W Indies | Canada

4 Who are the current ICC runners-up?
Kenya | Scotland | Germany

5 Who is the vice-captain of the Bangladesh cricket team?
Mahmud | Minhaz | Nafir

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Adams pulls out of Euro qualifiers

LONDON, May 26 (AFP): England Tony Adams defender has pulled out of upcoming European 2000 qualifying matches with a back injury, news reports said Wednesday.

The Arsenal defender is reported to have aggravated a long-standing back problems on the Gunners' recent off-season trip to Asia.

Increasing the pace

NOTTINGHAM, England, May 26 (AFP): It's been a long time since England have been proud of their strike bowling, but Darren Gough and Alan Mullally are fast putting that right at the cricket World Cup.

Against Zimbabwe on Tuesday, they made the early breakthrough, shared four wickets and gave just 40 runs away between them during 20 high-class overs as the Africans were restricted to 167 for eight.

Not since Bob Willis and Ian Botham, and John Snow and Geoff Arnold before them, have England had fast bowlers to brag about.

Gough and Mullally make an odd couple. Gough, 'Dazzler' to his team-mates, is broad, brash and cheerful, all hustle and bustle, bellowing in a heavy Yorkshire accent.

The Southend-born Mullally, at 6ft 5 ins, is wiry and so laid-back that his teammates give him the occasional prod to make sure he is still awake. His voice betrays his Australian upbringing. 'Possum' would suit him as a nickname. On the cricket field, however, they complement each other perfectly.

Mullally, at 6ft 5 ins, is wiry and so laid-back that his teammates give him the occasional prod to make sure he is still awake. His voice betrays his Australian upbringing. 'Possum' would suit him as a nickname. On the cricket field, however, they complement each other perfectly.

Gough, the right-arter, has taken nine wickets for 141 runs in his four World Cup matches to date. Against Kenya, he took four for 34 and two for 33 against South Africa. Mullally, a left-arter relying a little less on outright pace and more on swing, has eight wickets for 122, at an economy rate of just over three an over. His best came against Sri Lanka when he took four for 37. On Tuesday against Zimbabwe there was little to choose between them.

The Southend-born Mullally, coming on as first change behind the line-and-a-half length Angus Fraser, won on points by conceding just 16 runs, the tightest 10-over spell of the tournament to date.

Both his victims, pinch-hitter Paul Strang and Murray Goodwin, fell to conventional slip catches.

Ian Botham, the former England all-rounder, believes Mullally, who failed to impress when first selected in 1996 and who was surprisingly left out of England's provisional World Cup squad, is the most improved player in the side.

Gough, meanwhile, accounted for Neil Johnson and Stuart Carlisle. Johnson fell to a superb delivery that swung sharply back into the former Natal left-hander and knocked back his middle and off stumps.

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