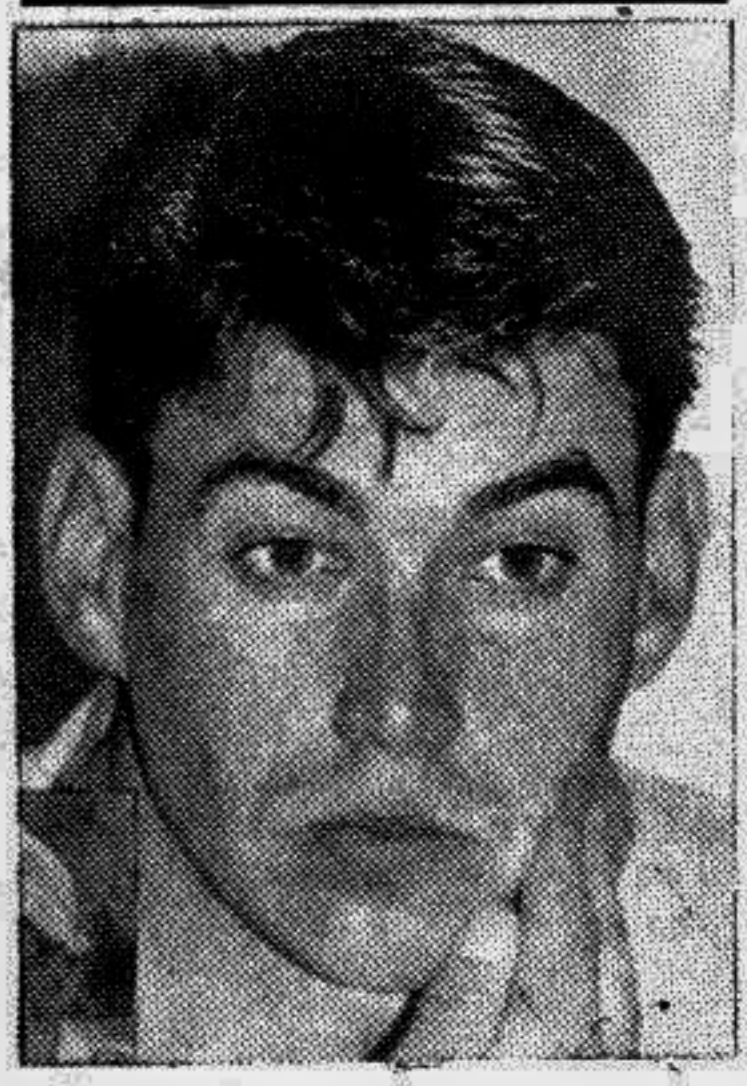


Star Sport

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One SPORTS TALK



Stephen Fleming
(New Zealand cricket captain)

"Our batting was not very great in England. We have to bat very well against the Indian spinners who are expected to be the main wicket-takers."
On the tour of India.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-120
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to the Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 1, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who won the Singapore Cricket Challenge?

Zimbabwe	W	India	India
----------	---	-------	-------
- Who lifted the 2nd Bangladesh Cup?

Brazil	Ghana	Japan	Japan
--------	-------	-------	-------
- Who was the man-of-the-series in the Alwa Cup?

Jayasurya	Gilchrist	Dravid	Gilchrist
-----------	-----------	--------	-----------
- Where will the next ICC mini World Cup be held?

Kenya	Canada	Sharjah	Sharjah
-------	--------	---------	---------
- Who will captain Bangladesh football team in the SAF Games?

Jewel Rana	Alfaz	Masud Rana	Masud Rana
------------	-------	------------	------------

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Powered by
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Rajshahi chess

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI. Sept 28: Mohammad Kawser Ali clinched the title of the 9th Open Active Chess tournament organised by Rajshahi Chess Development Association.
Kawser managed four points. Abul Kaosar Tuhin became the runner-up. He achieved three points.
Probr Chandra Shaha placed the third position with two points.
A total of 14 players took part in the competition.

Kapil seeks more spin

CHENNAI. Sept 28: India's new cricket coach Kapil Dev yesterday stressed the importance of spin bowling and said it was high time that the Board gave thought on starting a foundation to unearth quality spinners in the country, reports PT.
"For the last 15 years we have produced more and more fast bowlers and not given thought of developing spinners," he said at the award presentation function of the MAC Sports Foundation for spin bowling.
"Lauding the work put in by past spinners like V V Kumar, coach of the MAC Foundation Dev said "I hope we will be able to produce world class spinners soon."
"We had so many great spinners," he said referring to the era of the spin quartet, Bishen Singh Bedi, Erapally Prasanna, B S Chandrasekar and Venkataraghavan.
Earlier, Kapil Dev awarded the MAC Sports Foundation spinner-of-the-year award to Indian Railways' Karthik Murali, a young and upcoming leg-spinner. Murali also received 50,000 rupees.
A C Muthiah, president, Board of Control for Cricket in India, who also spoke, lauded the India's victory against South Africa in the Nairobi four-nation tournament. "It was a great day for India and a victory for spin bowling," he added.

See pages 1/12 for more sport news

Bangladesh play Sri Lanka today for a SF spot

Coach certain of winning, unveils alibi, just in case

From Hasan Masood



KATHMANDU, Sept 28: After a dismal performance in the first match, Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka in the second and last Group B encounter of the 8th SAF games at the Dasharath Stadium tomorrow afternoon. The match will kick off at 5:15 BST. Although Bangladesh lost the first match to Maldives 1-2 yesterday, a mere draw will see Jewel Rana and Company through to the last four. But Coach Shamir Sakir said his team was going to win this time.

"It was a bad day at the office which you don't experience everyday. What has happened has happened. Tomorrow I'm expecting a better show," Sakir added.

About yesterday's match, Sakir said none of his two wing-backs Masud Rana and Hasan Al-Mamun played up to the expectations.

"They are the main men in our attack through the flanks, but both looked physically and mentally tired," Sakir said.
Besides, Sakir also mentioned that he got the team in Bangladesh for only 22 days before coming here which was not good enough for preparing the team for such a big event.
"Maldives were much more prepared than us. They were preparing themselves for the last six months, including a 15-day conditioning camp in Thailand, before arriving here."
"Moreover, our boys seem to have lost their stamina after

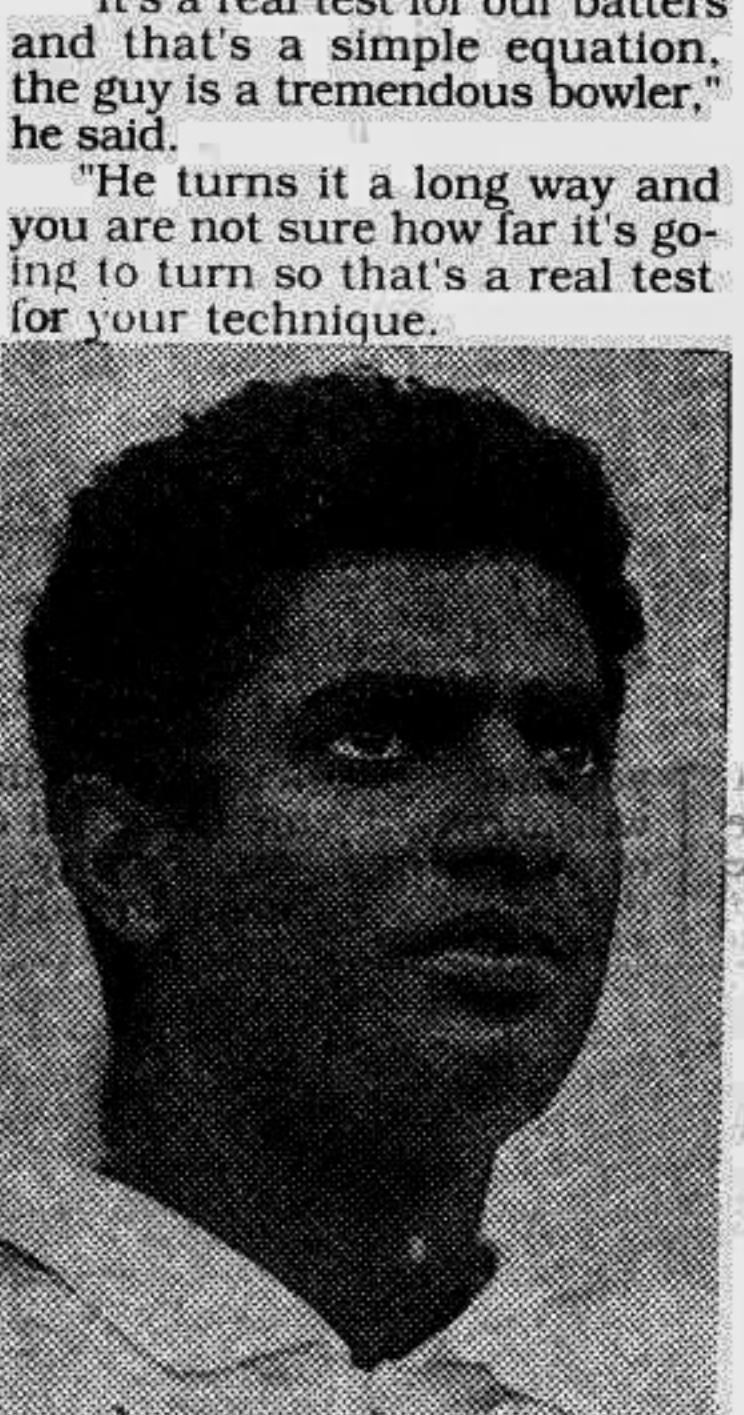
playing football in Dhaka for only three months. They should be able to play the game for at least six months in a year," said Sakir.
The Bangladesh coach also blamed the players for not playing sincerely.
"In club football they play good but not when they are in the national team. It shows they are lacking in commitment," Sakir added.
When asked about the team management, Sakir made a cautious remark saying that only the players and the coach were not part of the team; the manager and his assistant were too.
"Football is not cared for in Bangladesh. The game needs a lot of care from the officials because they are responsible for future planning and other things."
"They give very little to football and want too much from the game," concluded Sakir.

Tame Murali or lose Test



COLOMBO, Sept 28 (Internet report): Australia must counter rampant off-spinner Murali Muralitharan or lose Sri Lanka as losers, captain Steve Waugh said today.
Waugh rates Muralitharan as the danger man who could bowl the Lancans to their first Test series triumph against the Australians in the decider starting on Thursday.
Muralitharan has claimed 12 Australian scalps in three innings to propel the buoyant host nation into the final Test with a 1-0 lead.
The off-spinner was set to be Sri Lanka's trump card on a spinning final day pitch in Galle on Sunday, but torrential rain consigned the second Test to a draw.
In Australia's sole innings in Galle, the tweaker, known simply as Murali, took five wickets in a riveting 13-over spell to set Sri Lanka on course to prove its first Test victory against Australia in Kandy was not a fluke.
Australia's batsmen have joined the ranks around the world to be bamboozled by Murali's spin and unable to pick his shrewdest of top-spinners and variations.
"He's a dangerous bowler," Waugh said.
"The guy's a world-class bowler and turns it more than any other spinner going around at the moment."
"I guess we are facing something like the opposition face with Shane Warne over here."
The Australian skipper predicts Murali will be greeted by another turning track at the

Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo for the series decider but that simply was a challenge the visitors must overcome.
"It's a real test for our batters and that's a simple equation, the guy is a tremendous bowler," he said.
"He turns it a long way and you are not sure how far it's going to turn so that's a real test for your technique."
"I thought the first Test we played him OK when he picked up the tail-end wickets and in Galle he got the top order so he's got his confidence high."
"In Test cricket you can turn that around really quickly, if you get too carried away then soon your form can lapse."
"We have just got to fight hard and get back in there, we have got to play good cricket, there's nothing else we can do, there's nowhere to hide."
Waugh believed Muralitharan was a far better bowler in Sri Lanka than in Australia, where he has been no-balled for throwing by Australian umpires Darrell Hair and Ross Emerson.
"Murali feels a bit more confident playing in Sri Lanka versus Australia for obvious reasons," he said.
"He's more at ease here and his natural game is coming through."
"Plus players can't be on top of their game all year round. Sometimes you are going to have down periods and our batters are having it now, we have just got to come out of it."



MURALITHARAN

"We have got to make sure we really play him well and if we can keep him out. We know we are going to post a big score."
Waugh, who has warned Australia's batsmen their Test positions are at stake in the third Test, said Murali was proving difficult to pick.
"I went in there and for the first 20 minutes I didn't know what the hell was going on," the veteran skipper said of the

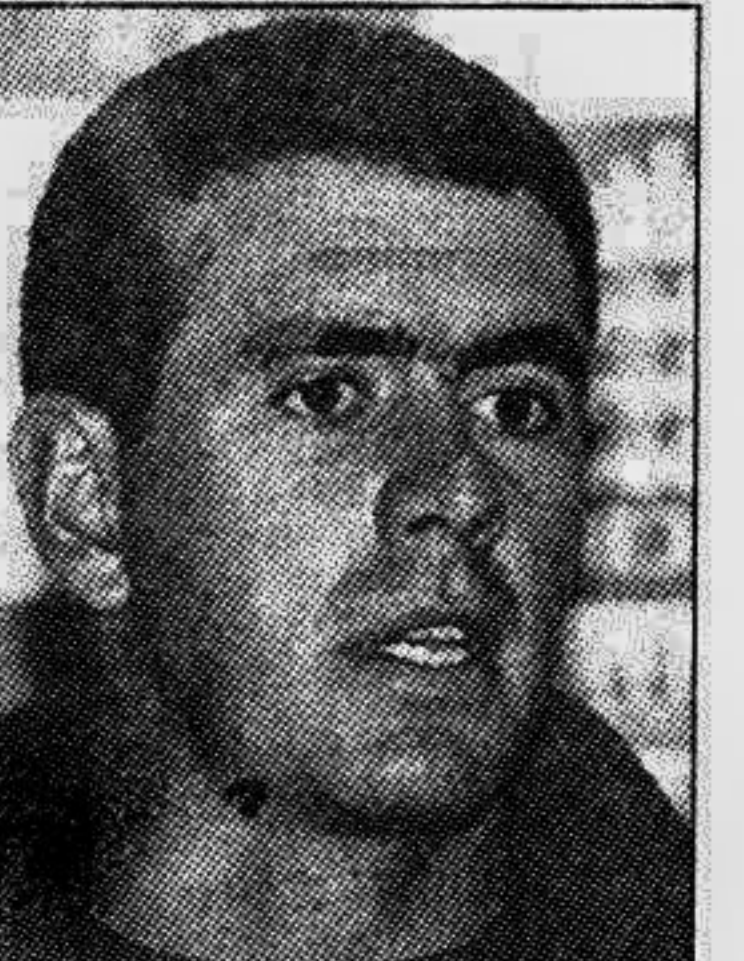
Cronje wants 400pc



NAIROBI, Sept 28 (Internet report): South African skipper Hansie Cronje is looking for a 400 per cent improvement from his team after their humiliating eight-wicket defeat to India at Nairobi Gymkhana Club in Kenya on Sunday.
Cronje highlighted rustiness and their poor playing of spinners as the team's main problems, but he remained upbeat about SA's chances of regaining the kind of form that made them favourites at the start of the World Cup in May.
"We've just come out of a three month break and we looked a bit rusty out there," Cronje told journalists after the game.
"We didn't bat with as much vigour as we hoped and I think on those conditions the Indians have always had the better of us... We'll have to improve by 400 per cent."
Left arm spinner Sunil Joshi claimed five wickets for six runs in his 10 allotted overs -- and he was brilliantly supported by off-spinners Nishikanta Chopta (10-0-26-3) and Vijay Bhardwaj (10-3-16-1).
Between them, they took nine wickets for 48 runs from their 30 overs. "Our record against spinners hasn't been great. That's one area we have to work on. We've recognised some of these problem areas."
"We can take some positive things out of the game," he added. "Like the way some of their top players played. But I think we also read a little bit too much into the wicket and we were too scared to express ourselves in the batting."
While SA struggled to their total of 117 all out off 48 overs, the Indians were simply rampant as they hunted down victory in just 22.4 overs.
Cronje's men managed one six and six fours in their knock, with top scorer Jacques Kallis

scouring for his 38 runs off 110 balls.
India blasted a total of 18 boundaries, with Sabagoban Ramesh slamming 36 runs from 33 balls and fellow-opener Sourav Ganguly matching Kallis' 38, but from 51 deliveries.
The captain, who turned 30 on Saturday, did not think his decision to bat first after winning the toss had been wrong, especially considering Saturday's tournament opener when

The final is the thing that counts. Obviously to win this tournament is going to take a huge Yamb and we've got to make sure we improve our performance by 400 per cent."
India's stand-in skipper Ajay Jadhava agreed that the conditions suited the Indians more.
"They (SA) are more comfortable with bounce and pace than spin. With us, it's the other way round."
The wicket was more spin friendly, he said, but added: "You have to play on all wickets. You just hope a wicket suits your team more than the other side (and) our batsmen showed that it's also a good wicket."
Jadhava praised Joshi for his feats -- the most economical bowler against SA ever, surpassing the 5/16 by Pakistan's Wasim Akram in East London in 1992/93.



HANSIE CRONJE

Zimbabwe struggled to notch up the 200 runs required for victory over hosts Kenya.
"I got more and more difficult (yesterday). If we get 150 today I'm sure we could have defended it. It's just a case of getting enough runs on the board."
"It's not an easy wicket to score on, but it's also not that difficult. If you can get a score of 180, 200, you can certainly defend that with the bowling that we've got. But 117 is almost impossible."
At the rest of the tournament, Cronje said SA had been in plenty of competitions where they had won every match except the final.
"It (today) is only one game."

"He's hard to pick, there's no doubt about it."
"You can't see the seam he's really hard to pick and it does take 20 minutes, half an hour to get used to him."
"It doesn't matter how many videos you have watched, he's just got a different action where the ball comes out a bit delayed so it will take time."
"He's a good bowler, you can't deny that - he's taken 12 wickets in three innings and has been the danger man, but I know we can play him better as well."
"I thought the first Test we played him OK when he picked up the tail-end wickets and in Galle he got the top order so he's got his confidence high."
"In Test cricket you can turn that around really quickly, if you get too carried away then soon your form can lapse."
"We have just got to fight hard and get back in there, we have got to play good cricket, there's nothing else we can do, there's nowhere to hide."
Waugh believed Muralitharan was a far better bowler in Sri Lanka than in Australia, where he has been no-balled for throwing by Australian umpires Darrell Hair and Ross Emerson.
"Murali feels a bit more confident playing in Sri Lanka versus Australia for obvious reasons," he said.
"He's more at ease here and his natural game is coming through."
"Plus players can't be on top of their game all year round. Sometimes you are going to have down periods and our batters are having it now, we have just got to come out of it."

SA thrash Zimbabwe
NAIROBI, Sept 28: Crushed by India in their opening match, South Africa bounced back to score a convincing nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the LG Cup quadrangular tournament here on Tuesday -- spearheaded by a century from Lance Klusener, reports AFP.
The powerful pinch-hitter, who was the man-of-the-series in the World Cup, smashed 101 off 104 balls which included four sixes to easily overhaul the target of 217 and gain revenge for their defeat at the hands of the Zimbabweans in the World Cup. The left-hander was adjudged man-of-the-match for his brilliant effort.
India meet Kenya in tomorrow's match.

SCOREBOARD				
Scoreboard of the four-nation LG Cup one-day international between Zimbabwe and South Africa on Tuesday:				
ZIMBABWE:				
Johnstone	b Crookes	35		
G Flower	c b Kallis	71		
Campbell	c Gibbs b Klusener	7		
Goodwin	c Boucher b Dawson	27		
A Flower	b Dawson	6		
Rennie	not out	20		
Carlisle	c Pollock b Dawson	0		
G Whittall	c and b Adams	10		
P Strang	c Boucher b Adams	0		
A Whittall	b Pollock	2		
Mutendera	lbw b Adams	1		
Extras	(lb-5, w-11, nb-1)	17		
Total	All out in 47.4 overs	216		
Fall of wickets:	1-99; 2-124; 3-170; 4-172; 5-186; 6-186; 7-196; 8-207; 9-213.			

Bowler:
Pollock 9 2 30 1
Dawson 9 1 36 3
Kallis 9 1 35 1
Klusener 7 0 30 1
Crookes 5 0 37 1
Adams 6 4 0 43 3

SOUTH AFRICA
Gibbs retired hurt 48
Klusener not out 101
Kallis b G Whittall 25
Cronje not out 32
Extras: (lb-4, w-5, nb-3) 12
Total: (For one wicket in 35 overs) 217
Fall of wicket: 1-174.
Did not bat: M Boucher, J Rhodes, D Benkenstein, S Pollock, D Crookes, A Dawson, P Adams.
Bowler:
Johnson 4 0 26 0
Mutendera 4 0 26 0
A Whittall 10 0 46 0
G Flower 5 1 35 0
G Whittall 10 0 46 0
P Strang 2 0 34 0

Result: South Africa won by nine wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Lance Klusener
Lankan athlete alleges
COLOMBO, Sept 28: The scandal-hit Sri Lankan sports establishment received yet another jolt with star woman hurdler and athletics team captain Siriyani Kulawansa alleging harassment by a sports official during a sports official of her country at the SAF Games and announcing her immediate return home, reports FTI.
Kulawansa, who claimed her fourth straight Games 100 metres hurdles gold yesterday with a new meet mark, broke down during a press meet in the Nepalese capital while charging that a woman official of the Sri Lankan contingent was harassing and victimising her.
The hurdler alleged that the official Badra Gunawardene was trying to foster disunity among teammates and said she was also contemplating leaving Sri Lanka in the near future.
"After I won, Badra came to congratulate me. But I told her I do not want to shake hands with a person who is always out to get me, she said, and alleged she was not even given her running shoes till the last minute by Gunawardene.

Gilchrist on standby

SYDNEY, Sept 28 (AFP): Limited overs international Adam Gilchrist has been placed on standby for Test wicket-keeper Ian Healy who is in doubt for the third cricket Test against Sri Lanka starting in Colombo on Thursday.
Healy strained a high muscle at training Tuesday and will have a fitness test early Wednesday, Australian Associated Press reported Tuesday.
Gilchrist, who captained Australia A in their recent one-day tournament in Los Angeles, will leave Perth on Wednesday for Sri Lanka if Healy is ruled unfit.
Gilchrist joined Australia's tour of the West Indies in April to cover for Healy, who had fitness doubts before the final Test in Antigua, but was not required when the Queensland veteran passed fit.

Photo robs Mahubb's gold

From Sports Reporter
KATHMANDU, Sep 28: Kismet prevented ace sprinter Mahubb Alam from retaining his 200m title in the 8th SAF games at the Dasharath Stadium track here this afternoon.
Mahubb, who won the 200m gold at the Madras SAF Games, finished with Pakistan's Masood Ahmed on equal 21.15 seconds. But he was declared second in the 'photo finish' after a half-an-hour study by the technical committee. Masood Ahmed, who seemed to have dipped first at the finishing line, won the gold.
Ajay Raj Singh of India bagged the bronze with a timing of 21.16 seconds.
Mahubb, a Petty Officer of Bangladesh Navy, made a brilliant start on lane 7 and was running quite well until the curve where he seemed to slow down a little. However, he ran the last 25 metres like an express train to finish at par with the gold medalist.
"I had pulled a muscle at the curve in the heat. That's why I slowed down there in the final," said a demoralised Mahubb, who nevertheless bettered his own timing.
At the 7th SAF Games, Mahubb won the gold in 21.22 seconds.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh athletic officials said they would ask the technical committee to allow them to see photos of the finish.

LG Cup

SA thrash Zimbabwe
NAIROBI, Sept 28: Crushed by India in their opening match, South Africa bounced back to score a convincing nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the LG Cup quadrangular tournament here on Tuesday -- spearheaded by a century from Lance Klusener, reports AFP.
The powerful pinch-hitter, who was the man-of-the-series in the World Cup, smashed 101 off 104 balls which included four sixes to easily overhaul the target of 217 and gain revenge for their defeat at the hands of the Zimbabweans in the World Cup. The left-hander was adjudged man-of-the-match for his brilliant effort.
India meet Kenya in tomorrow's match.

SCOREBOARD				
Scoreboard of the four-nation LG Cup one-day international between Zimbabwe and South Africa on Tuesday:				
ZIMBABWE:				
Johnstone	b Crookes	35		
G Flower	c b Kallis	71		
Campbell	c Gibbs b Klusener	7		
Goodwin	c Boucher b Dawson	27		
A Flower	b Dawson	6		
Rennie	not out	20		
Carlisle	c Pollock b Dawson	0		
G Whittall	c and b Adams	10		
P Strang	c Boucher b Adams	0		
A Whittall	b Pollock	2		
Mutendera	lbw b Adams	1		
Extras	(lb-5, w-11, nb-1)	17		
Total	All out in 47.4 overs	216		
Fall of wickets:	1-99; 2-124; 3-170; 4-172; 5-186; 6-186; 7-196; 8-207; 9-213.			

Bacher for bigger WC

NAIROBI, Sept 28: Ali Bacher, chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Development Committee, said yesterday the number of teams at the 2003 World Cup in South Africa should be increased from 12 to 14, reports Reuters.
Bacher said Test-playing countries had to support the development of cricket among ICC associate members to ensure the survival of the game which has been losing support in some of its traditional bastions.
"At this point of time, cricket is too narrowly based and there are too few countries playing at the highest level," he told Reuters in an interview.
"We need to give incentives to more and more associate member countries."
"I think we should follow the example of other sports like soccer where recently there were 16 countries competing (in some major competitions) and now there are 32," he said.
Bacher, who is also managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said Kenya and Bangladesh,

SAF management under fire

From Hasan Masood in Kathmandu

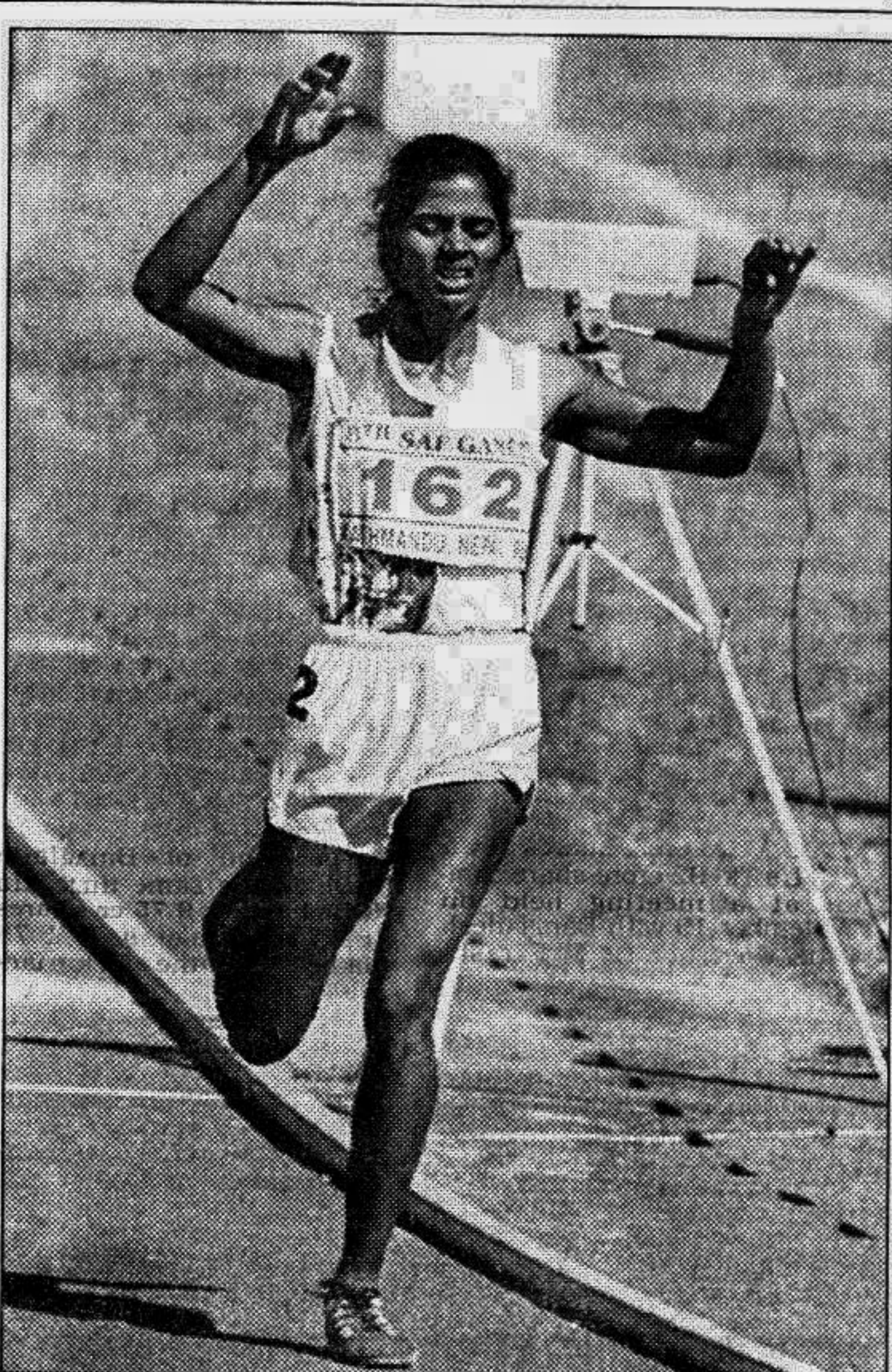
Sep 28: Bangladesh footballers made known the grievances they held against manager Abdul Gaffar and assistant manager Jahangir Alam.
This surfaced when this correspondent met the members of the team, including skipper Jewel Rana, at their hotel room this morning.
The players said they had to buy their drinking water for the last ten days since arriving in the Nepalese capital on September 17.

"We are getting free drinking water only from yesterday. Before that we had to buy water on our own account and neither the manager nor his assistant looked into the matter," said captain Jewel Rana.
"Unlike other teams, we were deprived of water and soft drinks during our practice sessions," said Jewel.
"When we asked for laundry service the manager advised us to do it ourselves. Have I come here to wash my clothes or play football? This is not the way

you deal with the players in an international meet," said a visibly dejected Jewel.
"They use their political influence to get the post without having the experience of how to do the managerial job. As long as this practice continues we will never have good football management," Jewel said.
Defender Masud Rana, forward Alfaz and goalkeeper Ponir were also present at the time.
"Three of us are sharing a double room here. Two are sleeping on the bed while the other on the floor. On the other hand, the manager is staying in a suite. Can you imagine such a thing at this international level?" asked Masud Rana.
Goalkeeper Ponir looked very much annoyed. He revealed that only two sets of jerseys were given to the three goalkeepers.
"Biplab and I got our jersey while the other keeper Rakib Mahmud (Apel) is yet to get anything. When I asked the manager he told me to sacrifice my jersey. How can Apel use my jersey when the number and the name is written on the back?"
"This shows how much they know about football," said Ponir.
"I feel pity for Apel because this is his first national assignment and he is yet to get his outfit," added the soft-spoken Ponir.
Striker Alfaz added that they were facing a lot of problems with the food and it was the duty of the manager and his deputy to look after the matter and provided us with some Bangladeshi food for at least one day," said Alfaz.
"We don't want to make all these sound as the excuse for our loss to Maldives, but it affects the team morale in some way," said the four booters.
Neither the manager nor his assistant was available at the hotel for their immediate comment.

"We are getting free drinking water only from yesterday. Before that we had to buy water on our own account and neither the manager nor his assistant looked into the matter," said captain Jewel Rana.
"Unlike other teams, we were deprived of water and soft drinks during our practice sessions," said Jewel.
"When we asked for laundry service the manager advised us to do it ourselves. Have I come here to wash my clothes or play football? This is not the way

you deal with the players in an international meet," said a visibly dejected Jewel.
"They use their political influence to get the post without having the experience of how to do the managerial job. As long as this practice continues we will never have good football management," Jewel said.
Defender Masud Rana, forward Alfaz and goalkeeper Ponir were also present at the time.
"Three of us are sharing a double room here. Two are sleeping on the bed while the other on the floor. On the other hand, the manager is staying in a suite. Can you imagine such a thing at this international level?" asked Masud Rana.
Goalkeeper Ponir looked very much annoyed. He revealed that only two sets of jerseys were given to the three goalkeepers.
"Biplab and I got our jersey while the other keeper Rakib Mahmud (Apel) is yet to get anything. When I asked the manager he told me to sacrifice my jersey. How can Apel use my jersey when the number and the name is written on the back?"
"This shows how much they know about football," said Ponir.
"I feel pity for Apel because this is his first national assignment and he is yet to get his outfit," added the soft-spoken Ponir.
Striker Alfaz added that they were facing a lot of problems with the food and it was the duty of the manager and his deputy to look after the matter and provided us with some Bangladeshi food for at least one day," said Alfaz.
"We don't want to make all these sound as the excuse for our loss to Maldives, but it affects the team morale in some way," said the four booters.
Neither the manager nor his assistant was available at the hotel for their immediate comment.



India's Sunita Rani crosses the finish line to win the women's 10,000 metres gold in Kathmandu yesterday. — AFP photo

Hosts, India in last four Vijayan hits three again

From Sports Reporter
KATHMANDU, Sept 28: IM Vijayan scored his second successive hat-trick in the 8th SAF Games football competition to propel India to a 3-0 win over Bhutan in their second Group B match at the Dasharath Stadium here this evening.
The winners led the first half 2-0.
In the other match of the night, hosts Nepal posted a 3-1 win over Pakistan.
Vijayan, the skipper of the Indian team, followed up his brace against Pakistan on Sunday by putting his side ahead just 12th seconds into the match. The tall striker doubled the margin in the 8th minute and then completed his hat-trick three minutes after the break.
Nepal went ahead through an own goal in the 44th minute but Pakistan levelled the early in the second half.
However, it was Nepal who made a brilliant rally after conceding the equaliser adding two more to their account with forward Hari Khadka scoring in the 61st minute and Bal Gopal in the 76th minute.
Nepal's win means that both the hosts and India are now ensured of their semi-final spots.
The group championship will be decided on September 30 when the two leaders face each other in their last group match.

Hosts, India in last four Vijayan hits three again
From Sports Reporter
KATHMANDU, Sept 28: IM Vijayan scored his second successive hat-trick in the 8th SAF Games football competition to propel India to a 3-0 win over Bhutan in their second Group B match at the Dasharath Stadium here this evening.
The winners led the first half 2-0.
In the other match of the night, hosts Nepal posted a 3-1 win over Pakistan.
Vijayan, the skipper of the Indian team, followed up his brace against Pakistan on Sunday by putting his side ahead just 12th seconds into the match. The tall striker doubled the margin in the 8th minute and then completed his hat-trick three minutes after the break.
Nepal went ahead through an own goal in the 44th minute but Pakistan levelled the early in the second half.
However, it was Nepal who made a brilliant rally after conceding the equaliser adding two more to their account with forward Hari Khadka scoring in the 61st minute and Bal Gopal in the 76th minute.
Nepal's win means that both the hosts and India are now ensured of their semi-final spots.
The group championship will be decided on September 30 when the two leaders face each other in their last group match.

Schools b'ball final today

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protsishan (BKSP) will meet St Gregory's High School in the final of the Tom McCarthy Schools basketball tournament today at 3:30 pm at the Dharmadokki Basketball Gymnasium, reports UNB.
Prime Minister's Adviser for Establishment Ministry Khandaker Asaduzzaman will be the chief guest on the occasion while director general of Bangladesh Television Salahuddin Zaki will be present as the special guest.
Earlier, on Monday night, BKSP reached the final eliminating BAF Shaheen School 103-72.

Hosts, India in last four Vijayan hits three again

From Sports Reporter
KATHMANDU, Sept 28: IM Vijayan scored his second successive hat-trick in the 8th SAF Games football competition to propel India to a 3-0 win over Bhutan in their second Group B match at the Dasharath Stadium here this evening.
The winners led the first half 2-0.
In the other match of the night, hosts Nepal posted a 3-1 win over Pakistan.
Vijayan, the skipper of the Indian team, followed up his brace against Pakistan on Sunday by putting his side ahead just 12th seconds into the match. The tall striker doubled the margin in the 8th minute and then completed his hat-trick three minutes after the break.
Nepal went ahead through an own goal in the 44th minute but Pakistan levelled the early in the second half.
However, it was Nepal who made a brilliant rally after conceding the equaliser adding two more to their account with forward Hari Khadka scoring in the 61st minute and Bal Gopal in the 76th minute.
Nepal's win means that both the hosts and India are now ensured of their semi-final spots.
The group championship will be decided on September 30 when the two leaders face each other in their last group match.

Schools b'ball final today

BKSP reached the final eliminating BAF Shaheen School 103-72.

England's home cricket schedule for 2000

LONDON, Sept 27 (AFP): England international cricket programme for the year 2000 announced on Monday including their first ever home floodlit internationals:
TESTS
May 18-22: 1st Test England v Zimbabwe, Lord's
June 1-5: 2nd Test England v Zimbabwe, Trent Bridge
June 15-19: 1st Test England v West Indies, Edgbaston
June 29-July 3: 2nd Test England v West Indies, Lord's
August 3-7: 3rd Test England v West Indies, Old Trafford
August 17-21: 4th Test England v West Indies, Headingley
September 4-8: 5th Test England v West Indies, The Oval
ODIs
July 6: West Indies v Zimbabwe, Bristol (Day/Night)
July 8: England v Zimbabwe, The Oval
July 9: England v West Indies, Lord's
July 11: West Indies v Zimbabwe, Canterbury
July 13: England v Zimbabwe, Old Trafford (Day/Night)
July 15: England v West Indies, Chester-le-Street
July 18: West Indies v Zimbabwe, Chester-le-Street
July 20: England v West Indies, Edgbaston (Day/Night)
July 22: Final, Lord's

Khulna soccer

KHULNA, Sept 28: Khulna Newsprint Mills Club moved into the final of the Meghna Cement 12th DSA Cup football tournament defeating Ulka Club by solitary goal at the local stadium on Monday, reports BSS.
The all important goal came in the 37th minute through Rokonzaman on a rain soaked ground.
Six of the Newsprint Mills players and one Ulka player were shown yellow card.
Newsprint Mills Club will meet Winners' Club in the final on October 2.

JPC sports from Oct 12

An 11-day sports competition, organised by Jatiya Press Club (JPC) to mark its 45th founding anniversary, will begin on October 12, reports BSS.
The events include spade trump (Oct 12 to 14), chess (Oct 16 and 17), ludo for lady members (Oct 16), table tennis (Oct 18 to 20) and mini-marathon of different age group (Oct 22).
Intending club members have been requested to enroll their names at the club reception counter by October 7.