

Star Sport

DHAKA TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-121

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 15, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1	Who won the DMC Cup in Toronto?	India	W Indies	Pakistan
2	Where will the next SAF Games be held?	Maldives	Pakistan	Bhutan
3	How many Test wickets has Kapil Dev taken?	432	433	434
4	Who is the fastest man in South Asia?	Anil	Bijayan	Bimal
5	What is the name of Tendulkar's daughter?	Diva	Sarah	Nisha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



John Toshack

(Real Madrid coach)

"Anelka is like Ali: He floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee."

Comparing his French international striker Nicholas Anelka to legendary boxer Muhammad Ali.

ODIs scared Whatmore!

COLOMBO, Oct 4 (AP): Sri Lankan cricket coach Dav Whatmore, credited with the team's 1996 World Cup victory, Monday tempered the celebration over their recent Test win over Australia and said the limited-overs performance was "a scare."

Sri Lanka won a Test cricket series against Australia 1-0 beating the visitors in the first Test by six wickets. The second and third Tests were washed out due to rain.

Whatmore, who quit in 1997 following differences with some influential cricketers, was recalled two months ago to coach the Sri Lankans.

He sounded caution over the team's success in the tour in which Sri Lanka's 1-0 series triumph was preceded by two wins in five limited-overs games in a three-national tournament that also involved Australia and India. Sri Lanka still claimed the trophy.

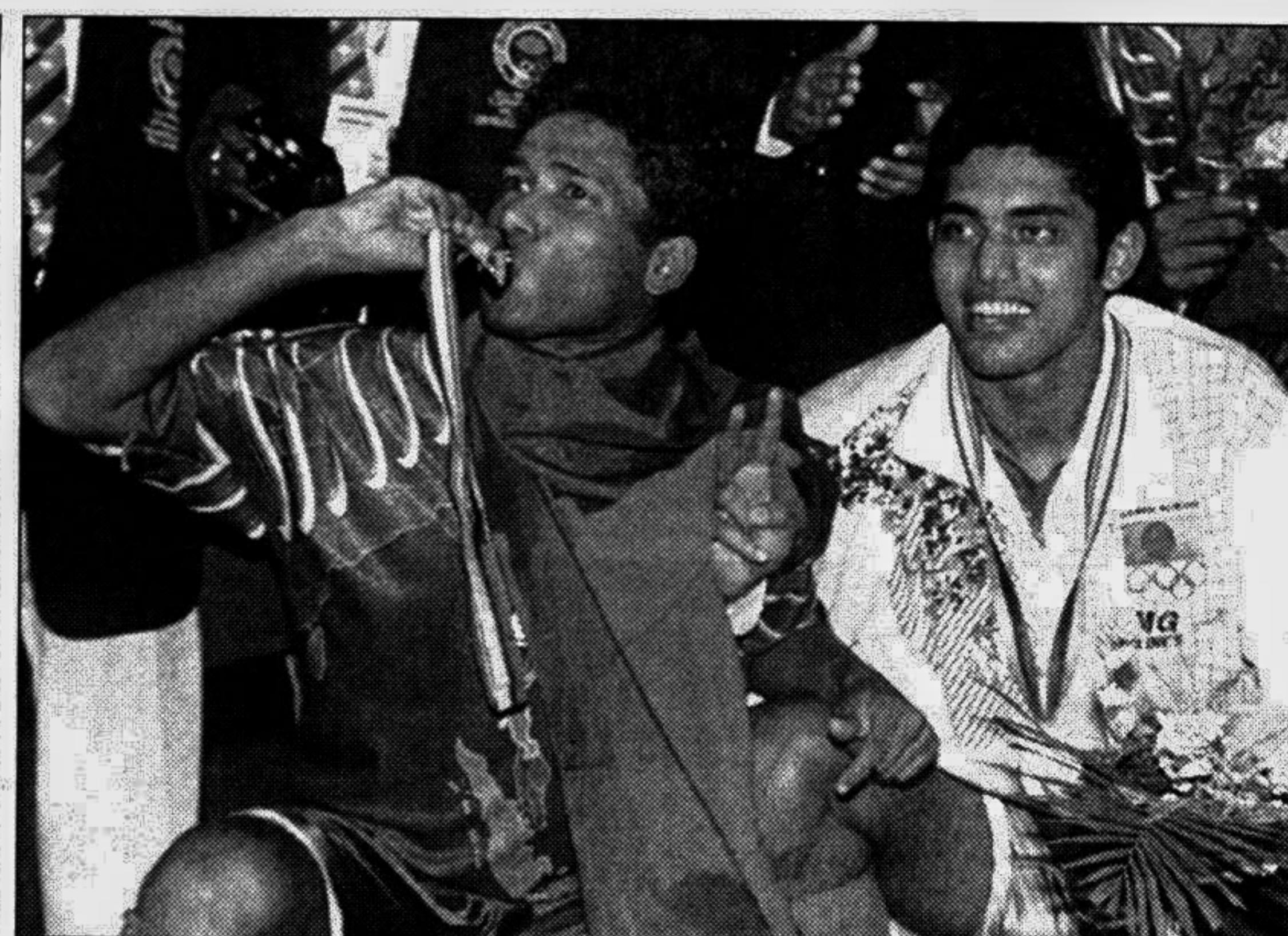
"If you analyse closely you find that we won two one-day matches out of five and that me represents a bit of a scare," Whatmore told reporters.

"It was probably for them (the public) that this means a huge amount of joy," he said. "But... there is still a lot of room for improvement and so too with the test matches, we certainly have got things to work on."

On Monday, Whatmore, a Sri Lankan-born former Australian Test batsman, was cheered by cricket officials and cricket lovers in the tiny island nation off India's southern coast.

"I'm a little bit surprised to be honest. It was a series that was always a daunting task," Whatmore told reporters. "When you compare the opposition that we had to play with, it was pretty much an uphill battle but it's very pleasing."

Whatmore, 45, joined Lancashire in 1997 for two years and guided the county to a one-day double of the NatWest Trophy and AXA League in 1998 and took them to second place in the Championship. He was even short-listed to succeed David Lloyd as England's coach.



SAVOURING THE SUCCESS: Bangladesh hero Alfaz Ahmed takes a bite at his medal.

—AFP photo

Feelings

The nation should be bigger than a club!

Nizamuddin Ahmed

No! I would not have written this piece if Bangladesh had not won. Nor would we have seen manager Abdul Gaffar and captain Jewel Rana rejoicing at the Dashrath Rangashala. After all there is no success like success.

Fate was once again prepared to rob Bangladesh of its first SAF football gold in 15 years. But for a goal mouth melee opportunistic goal by Alfaz, we would not have gone to suck lemon and sip tea in the comfort of the psychological advantage of a first lead.

There is so much uncertainty and ifs and buts in any game that I don't believe there is anything called expert comment before a match. Take for instance our semi-final against India. Coach Samir Sakir had given up, captain Jewel Rana had no high hopes and one can only imagine in what abyss the rest of the team was. The open-air combat between the captain and the manager over drinking water and laundry service did not help Bangladesh's cause before the semi-final.

But, presto! Look what the unexpected 1-0 win against India brought us - confidence, self-belief, looking ahead, and forget and forgive. I hope, between Gaffar and the players. There will now be no talk of the poor managerial side of the SAF games, nor of any punitive measures against the players

I write this on an evening when my right arm is resting on the cushion of a very honourable innings against the West Indies in our first first-class match and my left on the cushion of a SAF gold. Today we

can plan together for both cricket and football, and not ignore one because the other has been more international success lately.

Both the cricket board (BCB) and the football federation (BFF) must set their priorities right. In this age of sports nationalism, it does not help a nation if its national team gets knocked off in the first round or when 172 athletes disembark at ZIA with only two gold medals. We have to succeed internationally. We have no choice.

We have to forget looking at club interests above national commitments. We have to see the national team as THE most important team. Presently it is not. Almost every national sports organiser has his puppet strings pulled by his mother club. Even if common sense tells him to think this way, his club pulls him the other way. That sort of attitude does not strengthen his club, but for sure it hurts the nation.

We have to let club competitions continue when players are engaged on national duty. Otherwise we are squeezing our options, limiting our opportunities. The County cricket championship in England continued, dare I say often with greater passion, than the Cricket World Cup in England. No team, even those vying for the prestigious title said, "Sorry we can't play because four of our

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we have the SAF football gold. What do we do next?

Do we make a beeline to the PM's office, trophy in hand, and ask for the Bangabandhu Stadium once cricket had enjoyed its time and season?

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