

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-121

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Competition closes at 8 pm
Oct 15, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

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

Name
Class Roll No.
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EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

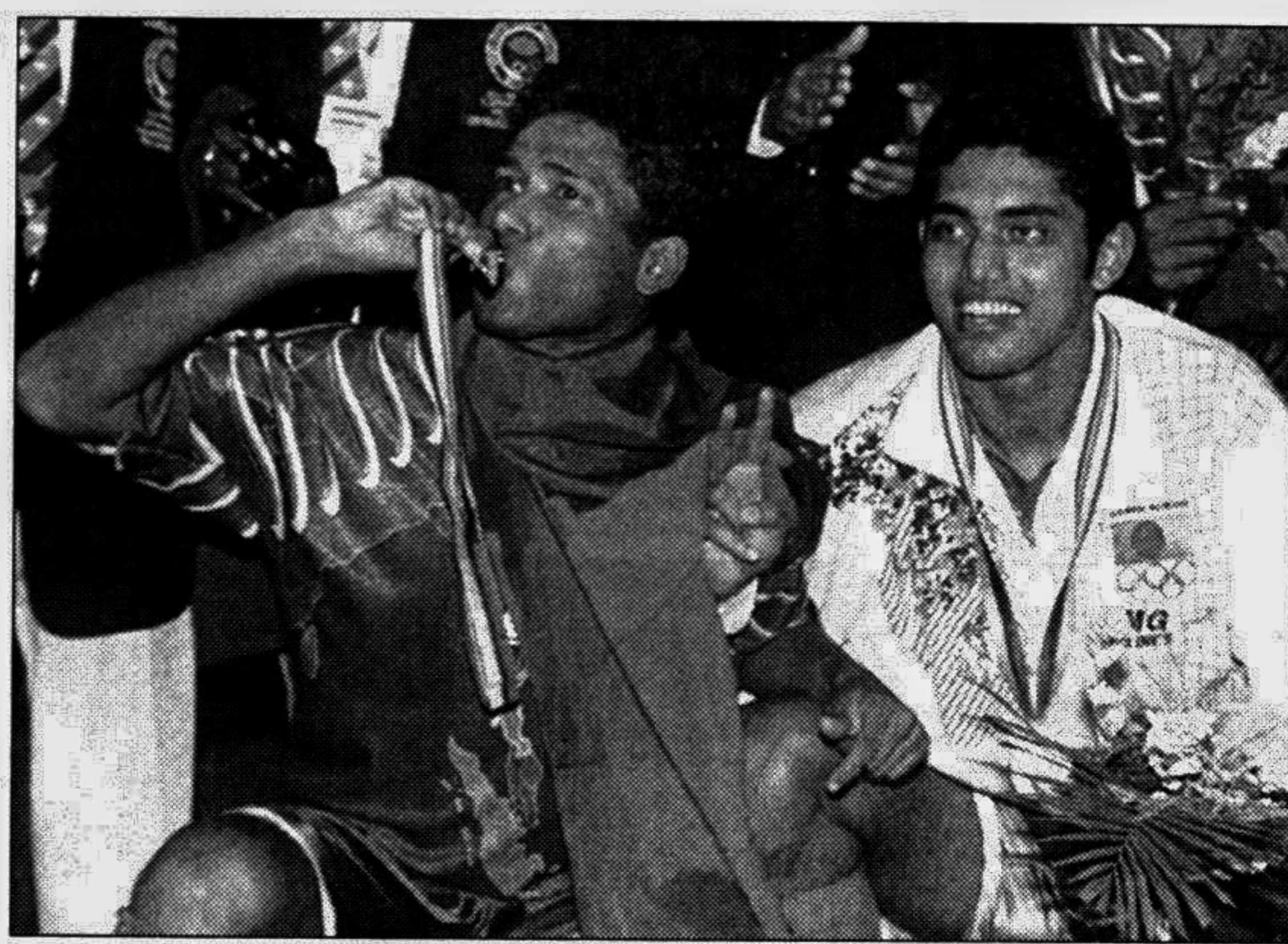


John Toshack

(Real Madrid coach)
"Anelka is like a butterfly and stings like a bee."
Comparing his French international striker Nicolas 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 to 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

Nol 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 Dashed 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-half lead.

There is so much uncertainty, and life and butts 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.

for speaking their mind to the press. A ribbon holding on to a precious metal disk has wiped off all the acrimony in the team.
I dare not speculate what would have happened if we had faltered for the fifth time in a SAF football final. So bitter would have been the ambience in the football circle that even fate swung to our side. Otherwise why should an open net Nepal opportunity return off the crosspiece? That is not to take anything from goalkeeper Biplob Bhattacharjee, who once again stood firm under the bar.

So, 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 has enjoyed its time and season? Do we dig trenches where the likes of Lara and Powell have just completed their pilgrimage? Do we consider that the ultimate has been achieved and return to the Mohammedan-Ahahani rivalry, a childish discord that has caused more harm to national sporting interests than lack of grounds, organisers and talent? Or do we start to see sense from here on.

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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Jewel bids bye to football

Party time at Kathmandu

From Hasan Masood

KATHMANDU, Oct 4: Bangladesh supporters here sunk in a sea of unprecedented euphoria immediately after their footballers broke the decades long SAF jinx to clinch the seven-nation regional gold for the first time today.

Captain Shamir Sakir was all smiling while talking to a host of Bangladesh reporters after his team's historic 1-0 win over hosts Nepal in the final. While captain Jewel Rana chose the finest moment of his life to call it quits from the international football.

Captain cool Jewel, who handled the Bangladesh fort with great aplomb against an all-out Nepal, fought hard to hold back tears while talking to the press.

The tall central defender congratulated his teammates for their heroic performance and also termed it as the best show of his life.

"I played three finals—two in SAF Games and the last in SAFF Championship, but never saw a success. This time our dream has come true."

This is a great victory for us having been failed for the last 15 years. But we should not be carried away with this win. Football in Bangladesh will not stop at this point. This victory will inspire future generations to play better football than us," said Jewel, whose international career spanned over more than a decade.

"After this sweetest victory I don't want to get the bitter experience of losing any more. That's why I have decided to hang up my boots," added Jewel, for whom it was the fifth SAF appearance.

Shamir, the former Iraqi World Cupper who went down in the history of Bangladesh football by inspiring them to taste the long-cherished gold, ex-

pressed his gratitude to the Jewel Rana and Company for playing a magnificent match.

"I'm glad for being the coach of the side which won the first gold for Bangladesh. Alhamdulillah. But I will give full credit to my players for the biggest achievement of Bangladesh football," said Shamir, who was surrounded by his beaming pupils.

"I don't want to mention anybody in particular because everybody played well today. If you press me further, I think... it was Biplob who played the best match of his life."

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"The Nepalese were in pressure. And, I knew, if we can take the lead first, according to our game plan, my defence would be able to keep the lead," said Shamir.

"I don't have much words to say because I'm very tired now. Bangladesh needed this gold badly for the cause of their football. I think the whole nation is celebrating the victory back home. My congratulations to all Bangladeshis," concluded Shamir, who took over the demanding job only eight months back, prior to the second SAFF

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Games end at Kathmandu

From Sports Reporters
Kathmandu, Oct 4: Curtain fell on the 8th SAF Games at the Dasharath Rangashala late today with India becoming the runaway leaders of the seven-nation meet.

King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev was present during the two-hour long closing ceremony where some eight thousand people from different ethnic groups of Nepal took part.

More than one thousand athletes from seven SAARC countries participated in the 10-day long meet where 162 golds in 12 disciplines were up for grabs.

The next SAF Games will be held in Peshawar, Pakistan in 2001.

India won 102 golds, hosts Nepal came second with 31. Sri Lanka was third with 16 and Pakistan fourth with 10.

Bangladesh, with two golds, finished fifth. It was however rather a poor show by the Bangladeshis who bagged seven golds in the 7th SAF Games held in Madras four years back.

Bhutan won their first ever gold in the regional meet in taekwon-do.

Maldives meanwhile finished at the bottom with only four bronzes.

FINAL MEDALS

Country	G	S	B	Total
India	102	58	37	197
Nepal	31	10	24	65
Sri Lanka	16	42	62	120
Pakistan	10	36	30	76
Bangladesh	2	10	35	47
Bhutan	1	6	7	14
Maldives	0	0	4	4

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Aravinda back in one-day fold

COLOMBO, Oct 4 (AFP): Sri Lanka, on Monday, reinstated sacked vice captain Aravinda de Silva to the one-day squad for the Coca Cola trophy, starting in Sharjah from October 11 to 23.

Dashing batsman De Silva was dropped from the one-day series against Australia last month but was included in the three-Test series against Australia.

De Silva is included in the squad as a top order batsman under skipper Sanath Jayasuriya.

SQUAD

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Mahela Jayawardena (vice captain), Aravinda de Silva, Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Suresh Perera, Indika Gallage, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Chaminda Vaas, Chamara Silva, Indika de Seram and Nuwan Soya.

Nicholson in for Muller

SYDNEY, Oct 4 (AFP): Matt Nicholson was Monday summoned to replace injured pace bowler Scott Muller for Australia's cricket tour of Zimbabwe this month.

Nicholson is expected to leave on Wednesday to join the squad, giving him a chance to add to his one-Test career.

The 25-year-old West Australian claimed four wickets in the Boxing Day Test against England last year coming into the national side after only a short first-class career.

Nicholson will remain with the Australian squad until the end of the tour, which includes one Test and three one-day matches.

Muller arrived home Monday after damaging the ring finger on his left hand during fielding practice before the third day of the drawn third Test in Colombo.

He had been called into the Australian squad to replace injured Jason Gillespie.

Bangladesh walk heads high against the West Indies

Al-Amin



Bangladesh cricketers generated a respectable performance on the opening day of the three-day match against the mighty West Indies at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Appearing in their maiden first-class match against any Test-playing team Bangladesh performed far better than the expectations of many a cricket critic when they scored an impressive total of 229 before being all out with about nine overs to spare in the day's play. The West Indies were left

with only four overs, which the Barbados pair of Sherwin Campbell and Adrian Griffith negotiated safely without scoring any runs before stumps were drawn for the day.

The day was also to be remembered as a special occasion for our sporting existence. While the cricketers demonstrated their capability of playing the longer version of the game, their footballing brothers won the SAF gold in Kathmandu, ending a long-standing jinx of 15 years.

Although skipper Aminul Islam did hardly anything for the cause of his side apart from calling the coin correctly in the morning, his decision to bat on a placid wicket provided the launching pad for two excellent half-centuries from Javed Omar and Khaled Masood.

A brave Javed, who fought gallantly against the West Indies pace attack, laid the foundation of a fighting total with a polished 53 while wicketkeeper Khaled Masood remained unbeaten on a chancy, yet very useful, 59.

Coming in to bat at number three after opener Mehrab fell for a duck and Bangladesh yet to open their account, Javed not only played the sheet-anchor role to steady the boat, but also showed the matured determination to face the firebrand West Indies attack with aplomb.

Although Javed was a confident man in the middle, Bangladesh experienced an inexplicably poor start when they were reduced to 27/3 in the first hour of the morning session.

Young Mehrab lasted only eight deliveries against the much-vaunted pace attack before Reon King, who opened the bowling with Mervyn Dillon, ended his misery with an express delivery that uprooted the off-stump.

The other opener Shahriar Hossain lived dangerously for a while before being caught brilliantly by Shivanine Chandrapaul at second slip off left-arm pacer Pedro Collins.

A tall Mervyn Dillon was also not to be denied a wicket in the morning session, which solely belonged to the visitors, when Aminul Islam fended an out-swing into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs.

It was yet another disappointing day for Aminul. Starving for runs for a long time, Aminul could score only five before becoming the third batsman to fall in quick succession.

Naimur showed signs of an inspiring start with some delicate cuts against off-spinner Nehemiah Perry, but the West Indies off-spinner had his Bangladesh counterpart caught and bowled with a looping delivery.

Bangladesh went into lunch with no appetite at 57/4. But they returned with a different frame of mind with Javed and Khaled Mahmud taking the attack to the West Indies.

Although Javed played in a more orthodox fashion, nudging and pushing for singles, and punishing the odd deliveries across the rope, Khaled Mahmud was in an aggressive mood right from his arrival at the crease.

Vice-captain Mahmud got off the mark with a straight drive off occasional leg-break bowler Chandrapaul, but Mahmud was particularly unfriendly to Pedro Collins against whom he clubbed three fours including an outstanding bowler's back-drive.

But Mahmud, who featured in a lively 75-run stand with Javed for the fifth wicket, paid

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Umpire S B Chowdhury talks to Bangladesh skipper Aminul Islam while Brian Lara listens before the toss yesterday. —Star photo

BANGLADESH-WINDIES SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first day of the three-day match between the West Indies and Bangladesh on Monday:

Standard Chartered

BANGLADESH: First innings
Shahriar c Chandrapaul b Collins 11
Mehrab b King 0
Javed b King 53
Aminul c Jacobs b Dillon 5
Naimur c & b Perry 8
K Mahmud c Griffith b Perry 40
K Masood not out 59
Enamul c Jacobs b Perry 32
A Kamal c Jacobs b Chandrapaul 3
Shafiqul c Powell b Perry 1
Manzurul c Lara b Perry 0
(Extras: (lb-2, nb 15) 229
Total: (All out in 80.3 overs) 229
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-17; 3-27; 4-40; 5-115; 6-131; 7-218; 8-224; 9-229; 10-229.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dillon	13	7	16	1
King	12	4	19	2
Collins	14	0	61	1
Perry	25.3	3	84	5
Chandrapaul	10	2	27	1
Lara	6	0	20	0

WEST INDIES: First innings
Campbell batting
Griffith batting
Total:
Bowler
Manzurul
Enamul

O	M	R	W
2	0	0	0
2	0	0	0

Reactions

Three shine on Day 1

Rabeed Imam



After a trying time on the field, three players came out with distinction at the end of the opening day of the three-day match between the West Indies and Bangladesh yesterday.

For Bangladesh, one-day batsman Javed Omar played an excellent innings of 53 while wicketkeeper Khaled Masood displayed his determi-

nation and courage in remaining unbeaten at 59.

Jamaican off-spinner Nehemiah Perry proved his worth by claiming five wickets for 85 in his first match since returning from an injury.

For Javed, who was making a comeback to the national team, this was an opportunity to show his temperament for the longer duration game and the right-hander did impress in his chanceless polished knock.

"I tried to stay at the wicket and play a holding game. I should have carried on, but still I am pleased with the innings," said Javed.

Asked whether he was over-awed by the presence of world-class fast bowlers like Mervyn Dillon, Reon King and Pedro Collins, the confident batsman replied: "I didn't take notice of who was bowling. Rather I concentrated on looking at their

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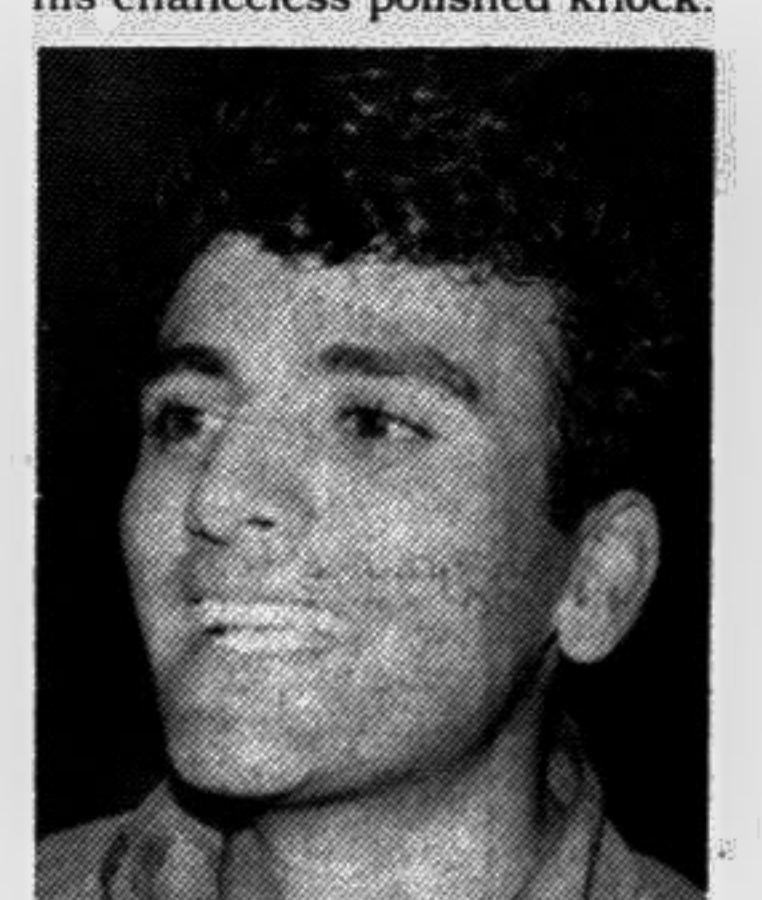


A section of the Bangladesh supporters watching yesterday's SAF Games football final.

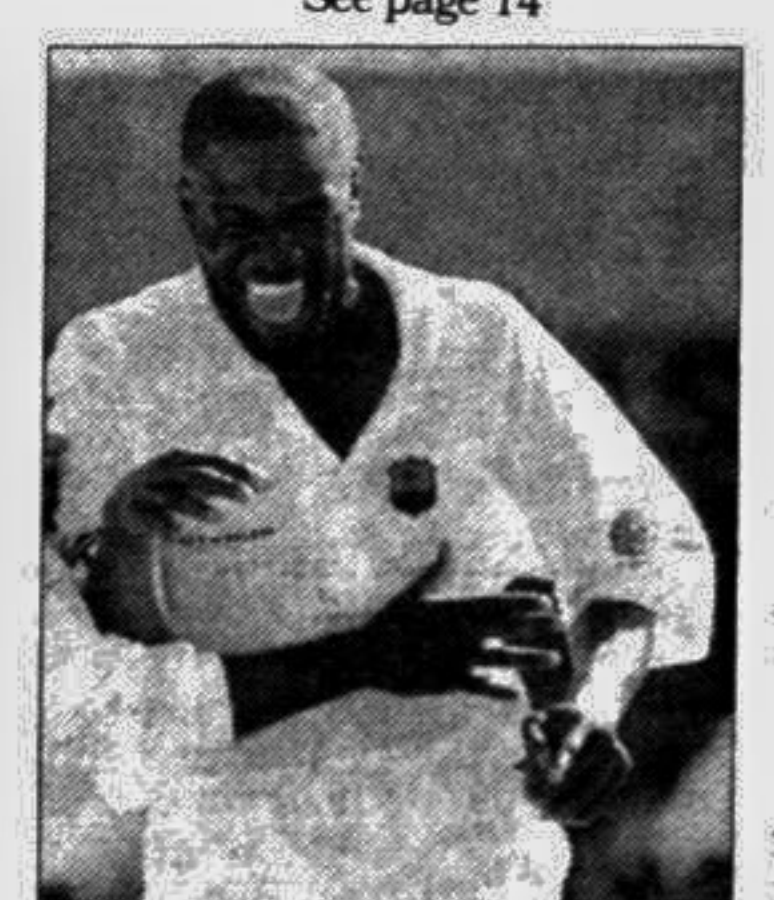
—BPJA photo by Amran Hossain



KHALED MASOOD



JAVED OMAR



NEHEMIAH PERRY