

See pages 11-12 for more sport news.

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)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK



Ajit Wadekar

(Former Indian cricket selector) "At the moment what we lack is fitness and good fielding, that's exactly what Kapil will harp on."

Quota cricket in S Africa

CAPE TOWN, Oct 8 (AP/Internet): South Africa's cricket season began on Thursday and marked a critical step forward in the nation's efforts to integrate once all-white sports - each team must now include a player of colour under the new racial quota system.

Thirteen players of colour took the field at the start of four four-day games.

The head of Professional Cricket for the United Cricket Board, Imtiaz Patel, said the chief executive officers of all the 11 provincial teams had set themselves an 'informal target' of an average of two players of colour per team, with at least one in each team, starting this season.

"With some provinces able to field three or more such players, rather than the one we require, I am sure we will achieve our goal," he said.

Cricket came in for severe criticism and pressure from government officials last year when the national team fielded few non-white players during a tour by the West Indies. The government even threatened to propose legislation requiring speedier integration.

In response, the United Cricket Board undertook to ensure that no provincial team, from which the national team is drawn, would be all white.

South Africa's national team has two players of colour assured of places at Test and one-day international during the opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs and leg-spinner Paul Adams.

Up-and-coming fast bowler Victor Mphahlele has played two one-day internationals, while Test and one-day fast bowler Makhaya Ntini has been sentenced to jail for rape.

Up-and-coming players who are being watched with interest this season include left-arm wrist spinner Goolam Bodi, who is playing for Kwazulu-Natal, and Thami Tsoelike of Western Province, a talented wicketkeeper-batsman who has captained South Africa at under-19 level.

CAUGHT BEHIND!

The West Indies wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs will make his exclusive appearance in The Daily Star Sport tomorrow.

In King Curtly's court

Ever since making his debut against Pakistan in 1987-88, Curtly Elconn Lynwall Ambrose has arguably been the most feared fast bowler in international cricket. The six feet seven inches giant from Suetes village, Antigua, has been the architect of many a famous West Indies victory.

For years he has terrorised batsmen all over the globe with his steeping bounce, ferocious pace, hostility and undisputed wisdom. So far in his distinguished career Ambrose has spelt the doom of 369 batsmen in Test Cricket and bagged 220 wickets (before the Biman Millennium Cup first one-day international match) in ODIs. Ambrose has an astonishing economy rate of 2.37 in Tests and an equally commendable 3.54 in the abridged version of the game. Talk about class!

At an age when most fast bowlers are well into their retirement, there seems to be no stopping this 'mean machine'.

Rabeed Imam of Daily Star Sport met the charming gentleman after practice last Thursday at the Bangabandhu Stadium, one day after his arrival in Dhaka to join the West Indies team on tour in Bangladesh.

Daily Star Sport (DSS): You are now in your 12th year in international cricket. You are 36 years old. What is your secret of longevity?

Curtly Ambrose (CA): There is no secret really. In order to play long in this game, you need to condition your mind, stay fit, healthy and most importantly you have to perform.

DSS: What is your impression of the present crop of West Indies fast bowlers?

CA: I am sure in the future they will do well. I began the same way, I started like them young and inexperienced. The more they play, the more experienced they will become.

DSS: Do you think the West Indies have the talent to get back to the top of World cricket again?

CA: Of course! Every team goes through a period when they don't do too well. But we are still not doing that badly. We drew the Test series against Australia, who are supposed to be the world champions, and now they have just lost to Sri Lanka. That's cricket.

We are passing a period when we are grooming youngsters. I'm sure in a couple of years time, these players will come through and take West Indies back to the top of world cricket.

DSS: You have already captured well over 350 Test wickets. Have you set yourself any new target?

CA: No, not really. I have always been a strong believer in winning for my country. My personal performances are important but they are secondary. Taking the West Indies to the top of the world and winning is more important to me.

DSS: The West Indies Cricket Board has introduced a new policy of rotating you and Courtney Walsh in one-day matches. How do you look at that?

CA: Walsh and I have been partners for a very long time. We bowl well together. But the policy of rotating is not at all a bad idea. Especially with the amount of one-dayers we are playing these days, it's very taxing. We are not so young anymore and it's good for the youngsters who need the exposure. Maybe by this rotation policy, we might last a bit longer.

DSS: How long do you see yourself playing?

CA: It's difficult to say. As long as I keep ahead of the young feet, keep performing and do well for the country, I'll just keep on playing. But for how long, no one knows.

DSS: Do you still have the same enthusiasm left for cricket like you had when you started?

CA: Yes, still very much the same. Otherwise I would not be playing. I'm feeling pretty OK. I'm still holding my own among the youngsters in world cricket. I am not doing that badly.

The fire is still burning inside me. Whenever that fire will go, I will go.

DSS: Looking back at your career, have you achieved all that you wanted?

CA: Even though I always preferred basketball, I got involved in cricket and the rest is history. I have no regrets. I think I have done well over the years. I have experienced some good days and some bad days but came through it all, and it has been an honour to represent the West Indies.

DSS: You have over 1000 runs in Test cricket. Do you take your batting seriously?

CA: Of course! I am a strike bowler and I am expected to take wickets, but at the same time it is a team thing. I take pride in my batting. I like to score runs. Whenever I go out to bat, I look to score runs for my team. Just because I am a bowler doesn't mean I am going to sit back and relax, and watch the batters make all the runs. I want to make some runs too.

DSS: Do you have the world Test bowling record at the back of your mind?

CA: Not really! I am a long way off. I am not thinking that far ahead really. As I have said earlier, as long as I keep fit and healthy, and keep winning games for the West Indies, then who knows, no one knows the future. But at the moment I am just taking it day by day.

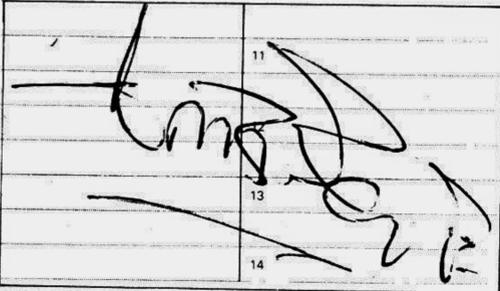
DSS: What have you been doing since the World Cup?

CA: I haven't done much. Took the time off, spent the period with my family. These days you don't have much of a family life. I just relaxed and recharged my batteries. Hopefully I can carry on with my form.

DSS: You have seen the Bangladesh team in the World Cup. What are your impressions



CURTLY ELCONN LYNWALL AMBROSE



"The fire is still burning inside me. Whenever that fire will go, I will go."

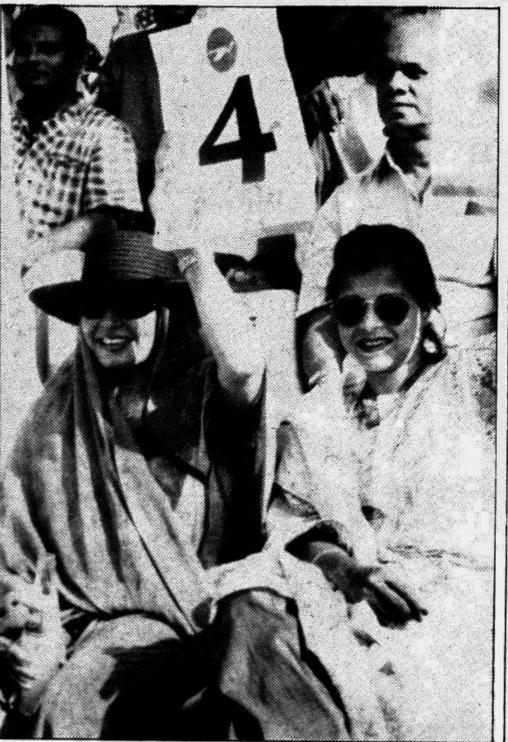
of the team? Do you think they have a realistic chance of attaining Test status?

CA: Bangladesh have beaten Pakistan in the World Cup, so they are not mere pushovers. But by playing one-day cricket, they are not going to get Test status. They have to convince the ICC that they are capable of playing the five-day game. They have to play more, gain more experience. It is not going to

happen overnight. Bangladesh are improving. I'm sure they will be a prime candidate for Test status in the next few years.

DSS: This is your first visit to Bangladesh. What are your expectations from this tour?

CA: I am looking forward to playing here. I missed the three-day game. We are here to help Bangladesh cricket and I am eager to play my part in it.



Spectators enjoying West Indies batting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

Hooper on the comeback trail?

UNDATED (Internet report): Retired West Indies all-rounder Carl Hooper is interested in representing Guyana in regional cricket and could return for the 2000 Busta Cup tournament starting in January, the Caribbean News Agency reports.

The 32-year-old Hooper, who made a shock retirement announcement during this year's Cable and Wireless series against Australia, has indicated that he would also have made himself available for this month's Red Stripe Bowl had it been convenient for him.

The news agency reports Chetram Singh, the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) president as saying that Hooper told his former Guyana and West Indies teammate Shivnarine Chanderpaul of his interest in playing for Guyana during the recent one-day tournament in Singapore.

SL expecting ICC waiver

COLOMBO, Oct 8 (AFP): Sri Lanka, on Friday, expressed confidence that the International Cricket Council (ICC) will drop a demand for legal fees over former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga's spat with an umpire in Australia.

The head of the Sri Lankan Board of Control for Cricket, Rennie Wijetilleke said he expected the ICC to drop the matter and accept the explanation offered by him.

"We have had lengthy discussions on this matter and we have also sent an explanation," Wijetilleke said. "We are confident that the ICC will waive off the amount."

He declined to say how much the ICC had asked Sri Lanka to pay but said it was on a matter of principle that Sri Lanka wanted the matter to be dropped. The fee is reported to run into tens of thousands of dollars.

The issue is to be taken up during a meeting next week of the ICC in Sharjah, Wijetilleke said.

The Sri Lankan cricket board has been asked to justify its challenge to the ICC Code of Conduct that allowed Ranatunga to escape misconduct charges and dissent after he threatened to lead his team off the field in Adelaide.

The successful legal challenge was the first time any cricket nation had refused to accept the decision of an ICC umpire and broke a 'gentleman's agreement' among cricketing nations.

The ICC is still re-writing the code after its shortcomings were exposed by the case.

The new code will legally bind players contracted to a Test country to adhere to the rules.

Ranatunga, who was sacked as captain after the country's dismal performance at the world cup in May, argued angrily with umpire Ross Emerson and held up play for 14 minutes.

The drama went on with discussions with administrators in Colombo by mobile phone after off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was called for throwing in a one-day game against England in Adelaide in January.

Piper stays with Warwickshire

LONDON, Oct 8 (Internet report): Warwickshire wicket-keeper Keith Piper has patched up his differences with the county and decided to stay at Edgbaston.

The 29-year-old was given permission to speak to other counties last month when Warwickshire decided not to offer him an extension to his existing contract which still has two years to run.

But the former England international, who lost his first-team place to Tony Frost for most of last season, has now announced that he intends to see out his career with Warwickshire.

"If I was going to leave Warwickshire I would rather retire than join another county," said Piper.

"I've had a long think about my future and I've decided to stay with Warwickshire, to back my own ability and to try and get my place back from Tony."

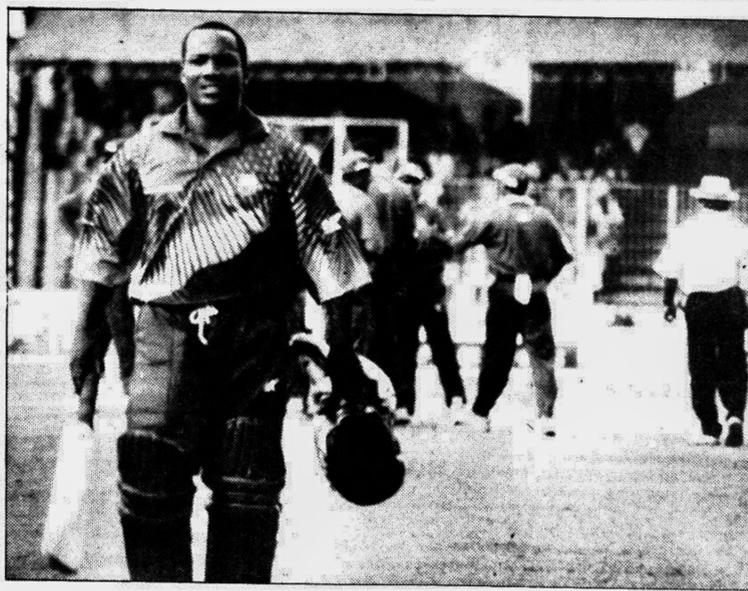
German soccer's noble gesture

BERLIN, Oct 8: The German football federation (DFP) will make a donation of 137,000 dollars (129,000 euros) to help victims of the massive earthquake in Turkey, its president announced Friday, reports AFP.

The two countries meet in a Euro 2000 qualifying match in Munich on Saturday, but DFP president Egidius Braun said there were more important things than football.

"Before the match we mustn't just discuss the possible results and positions in the table, but also think of the unimaginable suffering Turkey has had to endure because of the earthquake," said Braun.

"Every week, Turkish nationals come to our stadiums and are members of our clubs," said Braun, of Germany's large Turkish minority.



West Indies captain Brian Lara returning to the pavilion yesterday.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

BANGLADESH-WEST INDIES SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the West Indies innings in the Biman Millennium Cup first one-day international against West Indies at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Friday:



WEST INDIES					
Brian Lara	c K Mahmud b Manzurul				2
Sherwin Campbell	c Enamul b Hasibul				13
Jimmy Adams	c K Mahmud b Aminul				56
Wavell Hinds	c Habibul b K Mahmud				40
S Chandernepaul	not out				92
Ricardo Powell	c K Masood b Hasibul				34
Nixon McLean	c Aminul b Manzurul				39
Nehemiah Perry	not out				1
Extras (lb-3, wb-9, nb-3)					15
Total (For 6 batsmen in 50 overs)					292

Umpires: BC Coorey (Sri Lanka) and Riazuddin (Pakistan)

ICC meeting Saber off to Dubai

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president and Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Saber Hossain Chowdhury left Thursday night for Dubai to attend the Executive Board meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), reports BSS.

The two-day meeting begins today.

Collins injured

GLASGOW, Oct 8: Scottish striker John Collins, whose penalty guaranteed Scotland a place in the European Championship play-offs, has pulled out of Saturday's match against Lithuania at Hampden Park with a rib injury, reports Reuters.

Collins has returned to his club side Everton for treatment. Scottish team officials said before the Lithuania match, which is of little relevance as Scotland have already made the play-offs and Lithuania cannot qualify.

Malik, Ijaz overlooked



KARACHI, Oct 7 (AFP): Experienced batsmen Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed have failed to regain

their places in the 16-member Pakistan side named Thursday for the Sharjah cup tournament.

Pakistan will enter the tri-nation one-day tournament, starting on October 13, as favourites against the West Indies and Sri Lanka.

Former captain Malik and Ijaz were suspended along with captain Wasim Akram by the Pakistan Cricket Board ad-hoc committee in July on charges of



SALIM MALIK

match fixing and betting, but the ban was lifted last month.

Both had failed miserably in the World Cup in England in May-June this year where Pakistan lost to Australia in the final.

Unable to regain a place in the touring squad is leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed who was dropped from the side that beat the West Indies 3-0 in Toronto, Canada last month.

Mushtaq has been left out in favour of Shahid Afridi, who was dropped by this same selection committee last month.

Pace sensation Shoaib Akhtar and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq have been ruled out through injury for the Sharjah event but are expected to regain full fitness for the Australian tour later this month.

The Pakistan team for the Australian tour will be announced in Sharjah on October 17, officials said.

The team will play three Tests in Australia in November and will participate in a tri-nation one-day series there in January 2000 also involving arch-rivals India.

Shoaib Malik, 17-year-old off-spinner, with a Saqlain look-alike action, is the only uncapped player in the Sharjah squad. He represented Pakistan in the under-14 World Cup in 1996.

The youngster is potentially a fine off-break bowler, a capa-

ble batsman and a fantastic fielder. He played a crucial role in helping PIA reach the final of the Tisoot Cup.

The News daily reported that captain Wasim, who is also a co-opted member of the selection committee, favoured the inclusion of the offie.

SQUAD

Wasim Akram (captain), Moin Khan (vice captain), Saeed Anwer, Wajahatullah Wasti, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Hasan Raza, Abdur Razzak, Azhar Mahmood, Arshad Khan, Shabbir Ahmed, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Akram, Amir Sohail, Shoaib Malik and Waqar Younis.



IJAZ AHMED

Elites in ignored land



BULAWAYO, Oct 8: More than seven years after Australia seconded the motion to include Zimbabwe as the

ninth and most recent Test playing nation, the baggy green cap has finally arrived here.

At least the Australians have been true to their word. Shortly after helping to include the African country in cricket's inner sanctum, then-Australian Cricket Board chairman Col Egar stood under a gum tree during a pre-season camp in Darwin and said Australia supported Zimbabwe in a non-playing sense.

Less than two years later it became clear just how entrenched this policy had become.

When Australia toured the new South Africa in 1994, 24 years after the previous visit, there was an important opportunity to help the development of cricket in Zimbabwe in a

practical way. It would have taken less than a fortnight to slip across the border, play a Test in Harare, a one-day match or two in Bulawayo, and head home.

Instead Australia went for gold, shunning the newly extended cricket family to play another meaningless and instantly forgotten one-day tournament in Sharjah. Allan Border was not amused. He and some other senior players skipped Sharjah and went home.

While some entrenched traditionalists may have dismissed the chance to play in Zimbabwe in the same way the ACB did at the time, Border was saddened by an opportunity lost.

It would have given him the chance to complete the set of Test tours in one of his favourite countries.

While financial considerations heavily weigh the value placed on cricketing nations, which is just as well for

England, it is impossible to believe that Australia could not have done more for cricket's minnows.

The only time Australia have descended to host Zimbabwe was for the one-day series during the 1994-95 Ashes summer.

So highly regarded were Zimbabwe as an opponent that Australia A were also included in the competition to make it quadrangular.

Zimbabwe and England missed the finals but Zimbabwe have improved since then.

In the arrival over the past two years of Murray Goodwin, who played briefly for Western Australia in the hope of playing for Australia, and Zimbabwe-born South African Neil Johnson, who scored a century against Australia in the World Cup and opened the bowling, has added depth to a spirited side. Who that spirit will be tested against is another situation.