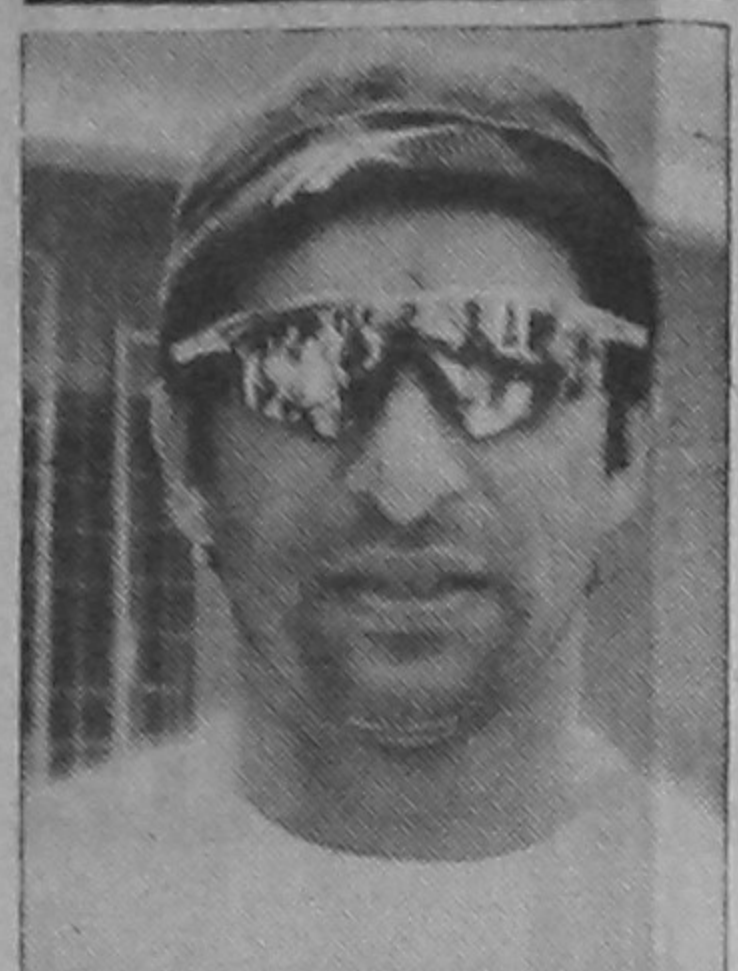


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram
(Pakistan cricket captain)
"It's always fun playing India and when we play India, we always bounce back."

Boost sports

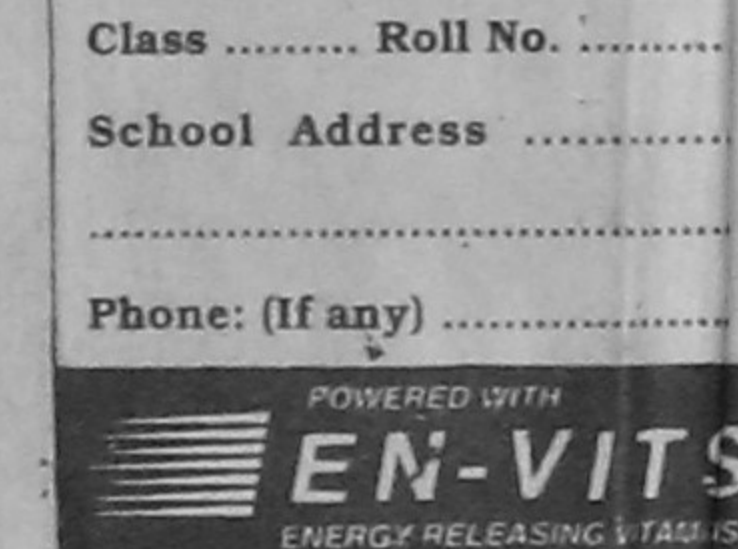
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 4, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One Two Three
2. Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?
Lazio Barcelona Man United
3. Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Kluseener S Waugh David
4. Who did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens Seattle Thonika
5. Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Hair thrown out of finals

PERTH, Jan 31: Leading Australian umpire Darrell Hair has been overlooked for the triangular tournament finals between his country and Pakistan due to concerns he had "jeopardised the perceived independence of umpires", reports Reuters.

Local media quoted in Australian Cricket Board (ACB) spokesman on Sunday as saying Hair's role in a document signed by Australia's five international umpires earlier this season had counted against him.

The document was presented to team managements before this month's limited-overs triangular series involving Australia, Pakistan and India. With Hair seen as its instigator.

Reports said the umpires requested the India and Pakistan team managements confirm allegations of racism or bias against their players or "hold your peace", after a Test season spiced with umpiring controversies.

"In selecting the umpires for the finals, we had to assess the total performances of all umpires involved," an ACB spokesman told local media.

"In Darrell's case, with the actions he took, there was concern that he had jeopardised the perceived independence of the umpires."

He said Daryl Harper and Simon Taufel have been appointed for the first of the best-of-three finals between Australia and Pakistan in Melbourne on Wednesday.

Steve Davis and Peter Parker will control the second final in Sydney, and Harper and Davis will umpire the third final, if required.

The umpires' document followed a Test series against Pakistan earlier in the season in which doubts were raised about the legality of fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's action. He was subsequently banned from Test matches by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Foreign guns: Bane or boon?

Al-Amin



Cricket connoisseurs heaved a big sigh of relief when the (CCDM) Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan and the CWAB (Cricketers Welfare Association of Metropolitan) buried the hatchet over inter-club players' transfer a week back. But, as soon as the crisis had ended a new worry descended upon the cricket arena.

CCDM, the organisers of Dhaka cricket, kicked up a controversy by increasing quota of foreign players from two to three in the Premier League this season. It's true that CCDM has had a vital role for the development of the country's cricket. Ideally, CCDM should run the Dhaka cricket including the most glamorous Premier League and look after the welfare of the city-based clubs. In fact, it has dominated the structure of domestic cricket by organising extremely entertaining events. Over the years, cricketers earned their bread and butter playing only for these Dhaka clubs.

But this pioneer promoter of cricket and cricketers in this country however brought itself into a very delicate position as its latest decision drew severe criticism from both in and outside the organisation. The Daily Star Sport was surprised to find that even most of the CCDM members were not personally happy with the decision, let alone the reaction of the players.

While different club officials were very straightforward in expressing their views Eddie Barlow, the Director of Coaching and Planning of a country aspiring for crickets ultimate goal—the Test Status, appeared quite diplomatic.

There are two schools of thoughts. One school of thought believes in hiring overseas players. Presently, England is the only Test-playing nation who is preaching the idea. But England apart, the other eight Test-playing nations have taken a stand against hiring any overseas player," said the South African coach of Bangladesh.

After being associated with the English County cricket for more than a decade both as a player and a coach, Barlow seemed to be very critical about a system, which, he feels, adversely affected the England cricket eventually.

"They hired a captain, a fast bowler or a top quality batsman from abroad. The outcome was obvious. Presently, they are in need of a good captain, they do not have quality batsmen at the top and they do not have a real fast bowler," Barlow said while talking to this correspondent on Sunday.

"There was a time when South Africa played foreign players in the domestic cricket. But that was a different situation (during apartheid period). I'm not in a position to say which is good for Bangladesh," Barlow said admitting that he has just come here and yet to get the feel of Dhaka cricket.

Although he carefully refrained from showing his inclination towards any of the two schools of thoughts, the soft-spoken Cape Town-based did not try to blur his opinion completely on the issue of foreign recruits.

"The only thing I believe is to make the best possible use of your local resource," said the former Test cap adding that any act that discourages the local players to show their talents should be corrected immediately.

While Barlow banked on his vast experience about weighing the burning issue, the chairman of the CCDM, Tanvir Haider however is all for foreign players.

"As the CCDM chairman my job is not to improve Bangladesh cricket or to introduce a system. My job is to run the Dhaka Leagues smoothly and finish it on time. The clubs desired to play three players. They said, there will be less financial involvement if they field more foreign players," said Tanvir.

A former national cricketer and the chief selector, Tanvir however personally feels that it cannot be permanent arrangement.

"I had a preconceived notion to bring less foreign players and give more opportunity to our local players. Now we are thinking that if we bring more quality foreign players our playing standard will improve. We can carry on with the idea for another two or three years and then cut it down to one the way England did," said Tanvir, who is also a senior vice-president of BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board).

But many other CCDM members opposed Tanvir's notion of temporary arrangement. "I do not support even the idea of playing two foreign players. I had vowed to reduce it to one. Unfortunately, I was not present in the last CCDM meeting. Had I been there, I would have strongly opposed it," said Jalal Younus, the cricket secretary of Abahani Limited.

"If you field three foreign players it means the trio will play most of the 50 overs depriving our local players," Jalal said.

National captain Aminul Islam, like all the players, is worrying about the consequences of the CCDM decision, which he said, "I'm surprised. The previous year 24 local players were deprived of

playing the Premier League. Now that the foreign quota has been increased, 12 more local players would be deprived of playing in the Premier League."

"I might not be affected by the decision. But I'm really feeling sorry for those 36 players," Syed Amanul Haq Mamun of Surja Tarun Club also voted against the idea. "This will not help of our cricket. The decision will only deprive our cricketers."

"I was there in the meeting when it was agreed to play three overseas players. But mentally I can not support it. There was a time when we hired foreign players to improve our cricket. But for the last couple of years our cricket has improved a lot. I saw the boys playing in the First Division League and they showed a lot of improvement both mentally and technically," said AFM Ziauddin, the manager of Aghori Bank.

The office secretary of Brothers Union Abid Hossain however is all for foreign players. "Foreign players helped our cricket a lot. Our player got the courage to face the big teams in the world cricket by playing against cricketers like Wasim Akram, Ajay Jadhava, Arjuna Ranatunga and Sanath Jayasuriya in the Dhaka League. The presence of quality foreign players also increases the glamour of Dhaka League," claimed Abid.

The Brothers official however said: "If our young players can prove their worth in the coming season then it would be wise to curb the quota of foreign players."

Alam Chowdhury, the general secretary of Kalabagan, meanwhile feels that this is not a bad idea at the moment. He however admitted it would have a negative impact on our cricket in the long run. "There are a lot of things happening this year. The Board is planning to take 20 players for an uninterrupted preparation of the national team. On the other hand, the clubs are not willing to allow their players to involve in other place during the League. So, to fill the void we need foreign players to form a winning team," said Alam.

It seems that the clubs are distinctly divided over the controversial CCDM step. Even those who supported the idea at the CCDM meeting got confused the next moment while looking above the club interests. Now the ball is in the court of BCB, who will give the final verdict in its next meeting, where the CCDM decision would be produced for the green signal.

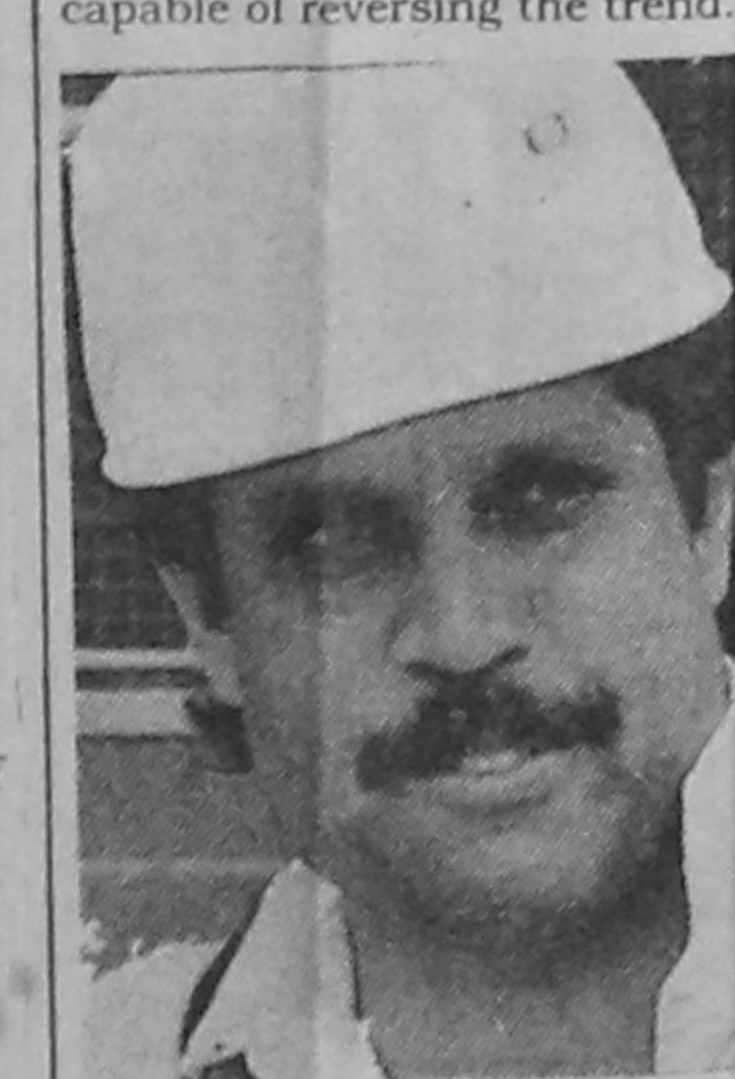
Cricketers and the cricket-lovers will be waiting until then to know our final destination. Should we let our cricket be jewelled with foreign pearls? Or, shouldn't we produce our own gems?

Kapil, Sachin call for patience



MELBOURNE, Jan 31 (AFP/AP): Be-leaguered captain Sachin Tendulkar received a vote of confidence from coach Kapil Dev on Monday as India returned empty-handed from their Australian tour of woe.

"Sachin will continue, he is the right man for the job," Kapil said before the Indians flew home after one of their most disastrous overseas tours in recent times. The Indians not only lost all three Tests and seven of the eight one-day internationals during the two-month tour, they never seemed capable of reversing the trend.



KAPIL DEV

Tendulkar's lone century on the tour blemished his reputation as one of the game's great batsmen, reigniting fears that the burden of captaincy was taking the toll on his batting.

"Sachin! Sachin! Save Sachin!" screamed the headlines in one cover story of an Indian news-magazine, although Tendulkar has already been appointed captain for the entire season till April.

Kapil backed Tendulkar, blaming the defeat instead on his young team's inexperience at playing the rising ball on fast wickets.

"Frankly, Australia were much stronger than us and Pakistan had the advantage of five regular bowlers in every match," Test cricket's leading wicket-taker said.

grew up on wickets where the ball comes shin high. "Then they go abroad and suddenly find the ball buzzing round their ears. For them it's a new ball game, something they find difficult to adjust to."

"The only solution is to make fast wickets at home and play our domestic cricket on lively tracks. The change must come now."

Tendulkar admitted his team fell well short of the mark, but believed they are on the right path if it can learn from the losses.

"When we go back we've got a few things to talk about," he said. "We lost the Test series and didn't play well in the one-day series also, so it was very disappointing."

"But we are trying to build up a new team, with so many youngsters, and we were playing two of the top sides in the world, so it was always going to be difficult."

"The youngsters tried their best and we need to give them a chance to prosper. Even rather than shuffling them around. We should persist with these guys and give them more confidence."

India have won just one Test match abroad since 1986, even though they have not lost a home series in the same period on doctored wickets that assist spinners almost from the start.

It is unlikely the Indian wickets will change their colour so soon when South Africa arrive in early February.

Several of the Indian players are expected to take some time off, although the first Test against the visiting South Africans is only three weeks away. India play two Tests and five one-day matches against South Africa.

Kapil said it was obvious they needed to develop more fast bowling options, with Javagal Srinath in the veteran category and Venkatesh Prasad generally disappointing in Australia.

Dev tipped a bright future for 22-year-old Ajit Agarkar and said there were several promising young quick bowlers in the Indian team that last week won the under-19 World Cup.

and echoed the thoughts of Tendulkar.

"They've just got to work hard and show some faith in these guys," Waugh said.

Even the nucleus of the team is expected to remain the same, despite the lacklustre performance over the last two months.

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin's hopes of a recall appeared remote after Kapil indicated the best available team was selected for the Australian tour.

"There are not many people we left behind when we came to Australia," he said. "This is a young team which needs to be given more chances. You cannot



SACHIN TENDULKAR

discard people after one bad tour."

Azharuddin, 36, was reportedly not wanted in Australia by Tendulkar and Kapil, and there is little to suggest there has been a change of heart by the team management.

"When I took over in October, I was surprised to find that Azhar was not very popular among his teammates," Kapil said. "Having good team spirit is very important, and I want it to stay that way."

It remains to be seen whether the dismal batting performance, especially by the younger players in the team, will force the selectors to have a rethink on Azharuddin.

Seasoned batsman Ajay Jadhava is, however, certain to return after missing the Australian trip.

Cricket WC '99

Big success for England

LONDON, Jan 31: Last year's Cricket World Cup made a profit of 30 million pounds (48.71 million dollars) and attracted a television audience of 2.3 billion people in 129 countries, the England and Wales Cricket Board said today, reports Reuters.

According to an ECB survey, the cumulative domestic audience for the competition, staged largely in Britain, reached 116 million with 553 hours of coverage.

The Board said sponsorship income was less than anticipated but the shortfall was largely made up in increased ticket sales.

It said England's failure to progress past the first round diluted the impact on the domestic public but the tournament had boosted cricket's popularity among ethnic minorities in Britain.

The survey also showed interest in cricket had increased among women.

"The ECB achieved most of its principal objectives in delivering a well-organised and profitable event that left a lasting legacy for the game both in this country and around the world," the Board quoted tournament director Terry Blake as saying.

Early predictions that the scheduling of the event would lead to delays and abandonments because of bad weather proved to be unfounded.

Weather determined the result of just one of 42 matches and only one extra day was required to achieve a result.

McGrath 1999's Aussie cricketer

MELBOURNE, Jan 31: Brilliant fast bowler Glenn McGrath has been named Australia's cricketer of 1999, reports AFP.

McGrath, 30, was awarded the inaugural Allan Border medal at a glittering black-tie dinner organised jointly by the country's cricket board and the players' association.

The ceremony, co-hosted by television personality Eddie McGuire and former Australian captain Richie Benaud, was televised live around the country.

Votes for the medal were cast by Australian players and select umpires and journalists after every Test and one-day international games on a 3-2-1 basis.

Voting started from the first Test of Australia's 1999 West Indies tour and ended with the preliminary league of the current tri-series against Pakistan and India.

McGrath secured 97 points, followed by captain Steve Waugh (87), Ricky Ponting (77), Shane Warne (75) and Mark Waugh (71).

"It's a pretty big buzz to be rated the best in such a great team," McGrath said after receiving the medal from Border, a former Australian captain.

"I would probably be pushed in a wheelchair to play 156 Tests, which AB (Border) has done."

"It's a great honour and very proud of it," McGrath, who became a father last week, added.

The medal will be presented annually to Australia's most outstanding cricketer with players, umpires and the media casting votes on their selection.

Border played more Tests (156) and scored more runs (11,174) than any player in the world and led Australia in 93 Tests.

The gutsy left-hander also played 273 one-day internationals, scoring 6524 runs.

How it all happened

MANCHESTER, England, Jan 31 (AP): This was combination punching Mike Tyson style.

Right uppercut — knockdown.
Right and a straight left — knockdown.
Left hook to the body — knockdown No 3.
Right to the body and uppercut to the head — knockdown No 4.

Right to the body — fifth knockdown and end of fight.
Julius Francis' ordeal ended 63 seconds into the second round and Tyson was back on the victory trail. And this time there was not even a whiff of scandal, disqualification or protest.

"I was in a really destructive mood," Tyson said. "I didn't expect him to get up."

Tyson's efficient overpowering of an opponent clearly out of his class was just what he and his backers wanted.

But this was before 21,000 fans in England with a pay-per-view audience in Britain. Now all he has to do is convince a still skeptical American public, who said it delayed on Showtime, that he is a serious contender to get his world titles back.

"My next couple of fights will be in Europe," said Tyson, although the next one is expected to be in New Jersey March 25.

NFL kicks off Feb 9

D MSC-K AKC opener



Premier Division football league champions Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Khulna Abahani in the inaugural Group One match as the first round of the Nitol-Tata National Football League that begins at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong from February 9. Bangladesh Television is expected telecast the game from 4:30 p.m.

This was formally announced by Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday.

A total of eight teams will be split into two groups for the first round. Two from each group will qualify for the final round. The team collecting highest points on completion of both rounds, will emerge as champions of the inaugural national league.

Rajshahi and Chittagong Abahani make up the first group.

Dhaka's other two heavyweights— Abahani Krira Chakra and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra—have been placed in Group Two along with Sylhet Chaturanga Sangha and Netrokona Mohammedan Sporting Club.

The first four games will be held in Chittagong from February 9 to 12 while the next four will be played in Khulna. The last four encounters will be held in Rajshahi.

The dates of the Khulna and Rajshahi have not been fixed yet.

BFF joint-secretary and league committee secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu said that those dates would be decided after getting clearance from BT.

He however, added that the 12 preliminary fixtures would be completed before the second week of March.

The final round will be held in Dhaka.

Following are the first four matches

Date	Match No	Teams	Venue
Feb 9	1	Dhaka Mohammedan v Khulna Abahani	Chittagong
Feb 10	2	Muktiyoddha Sangsad v Sylhet Chaturanga	Chittagong
Feb 11	3	Chittagong Abahani v Rajshahi Abahani	Chittagong
Feb 12	4	Dhaka Abahani v Netrokona Mohammedan	Chittagong



ANURA ROHANA

DSS: When did you take up golf and why?

AR: I started playing at the age of 13. I came fourth in my debut tournament held in Colombo in 1986.

After that success I continued to train very hard even though the country was engulfed in a bloody civil war. Moreover my family was struggling to survive, so I took it upon myself to see that we overcame the hardship.

DSS: Why do think your game improved dramatically following the SAARC Championship? How did you prepare for playing in Dhaka?

AR: My putting was a major letdown during the SAARC Championship. I couldn't read the green so well. In fact, at first it seemed pretty slow. Still, I managed to become runner-up behind India's Ashok Kumar in the individual category.

I really didn't do anything special except make a promise to my wife that I'd try and return with the SAARC Trophy. The thought of getting the Bangladesh Amateur Championship never crossed my mind.

DSS: Was the course difficult to negotiate? In what respect is it different from ones back home?

AR: Some of the holes were quite difficult. The most treacherous being number 15. The fairways here are similar to those in Sri Lanka but the greens are faster in Dhaka. May be that's because of the grass.

Back home we have three courses. Two are in the capital Colombo and the third is in Kandy. I play in the capital.

DSS: Have you played in other countries?

AR: Besides Bangladesh, I have visited six other countries. They are India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and

Nat'l Women's Chess

Tanima rocks Rani Hamid

Sports Reporter
Reigning chess queen IWM Rani Hamid was upended by Tanima Parveen in the 21st national women's championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the fifth day of the nine-day long meet, Tanima, who joined Rani and Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa at the top on Sunday, played with black pieces against the Ravi Lopez opening of the 12-time champion and duly won the board after only 35 moves.

The defeat pushed the veteran Rani down to second place with three and a half points. Tanima shared the lead with Nipa. Both players having four and a half points.

Nipa outplayed Firoza Haque Chowdhury. Nipa adopted a Catalan opening and checkmated her opponent after 40 moves.

In the day's other match, Syeda Afana Parveen Nira defeated Afroza Haque Chowdhury.

The matches between -- Zakia Sultana versus Masuda Begum and Nazrana Khan against Jahanara Haque Runi—were in progress.

The sixth round starts today at 2:30 pm

Rohana Asia's next Tiger

R A Anura Rohana has had to work his way up the ladder of success. From humble beginnings, he is now a familiar name on the Asian amateur circuit. The 27-year-old Sinhalese recalls that his fascination with games and sports goes back to his childhood days. He started out as a tennis player before his father, a retired caddy at a Colombo golf club, decided to let the teenager enter his domain. The youngest among three brothers Anura didn't have to wait long before tasting success. Playing in a minor event in the Lankan capital he scored 101 to claim fourth place. Golf has had a strong influence over the boys. The eldest son is a steward while the other is a caddy. Anura's mother is the odd one out. She is a housewife. The civil war at home forced Anura to travel abroad. In 1991 he was invited to the Pakistan Amateur open and finished fourth. The following year he fell to fifth but bounced back in 1993 claiming third position. Last year was a hectic one for the rapidly rising Sri Lankan. He began by lifting the amateur championship in his own backyard. Then proceeded to clinch individual honours at the inaugural SAARC Championship in Bangalore as well as the Malaysian Amateur title. Excellent performances in Singapore, and Thailand underlined his status as Asia's answer to Tiger Woods. He is seen a follower of developments across the globe. High on his list of sporting idols is the veteran Englishman Nick Faldo. Happily married with a child, Anura Rohana (AR) who won the 15th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship last Saturday, spoke to Lenin Gani of the Daily Star Sport (DSS) the day after his moment of glory.

Taiwan respectively. All the courses were pretty good. My best result was in Malaysia.

DSS: Is golf a popular sport in your country? Explain reasons why.

AR: Although it's true that cricket is the number one sport in Sri Lanka but golf is trying to catch up. It's a new sport like in Bangladesh but in time it will gain popularity.

DSS: What are the drawbacks of the sport? Make suggestions to improve it.

AR: I don't think there are any disadvantages. Essentially one needs a healthy mind.

DSS: Share your funniest moment.

AR: Being carried on the shoulders by my fans after winning the BACG is definitely something I'll want to remember for a long time. Since it's never happened to me before.

DSS: Are there any other pastimes that interest you?

AR: Occasionally I enjoy watching cricket matches especially when Sri Lanka is involved. Winning the World Cup made me feel very proud. And that's the only time I wasn't playing at my home course.

DSS: Did you always want to be a golfer?

AR: Yes. I owe my success to my father who taught me everything there is to know about the game.

DSS: In what ways does golf differ from other sports?

AR: Unlike other sports that require a great deal of physical effort, half the battle in golf is won in the mind.

DSS: What advice would you offer to our aspiring local golfers?

AR: To learn the ropes one ought to start at bottom of the ladder like I did. By that I mean becoming a caddy.

DSS: What is your ambition in life?

AR: Someday I hope to play on the professional tour in the USA.

England's retaliation



KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Jan 31 (Reuters/AP): Mark Ealham claimed a world record five lbw decisions and England's best one-day international bowling figures as they gained revenge over Zimbabwe with a crushing eight-wicket win on Sunday.

England overtook Zimbabwe's palty 161 for nine with almost 18 overs to spare.

It was some compensation for their dismal 104-run thrashing by Zimbabwe only two days earlier and in the process improved their net run rate enough to go top of the standings in the triangular series which also involves South

Africa. Medium pacer Ealham, who bowled his 10 overs from umpire Dave Orchard's end, took five for 15 as Zimbabwe managed a run rate of only just over three an over in their 50 overs.

See page 14

STANDINGS