

Star Sport

DHAKA SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2000 Email: dssports@donline.com

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-126

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Feb 12, 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?

Klusener S Waugh Dravid

4 Where did Maurice Green break the 100m world record?

Athens Seville Toronto

5 Who lifted the National Cricket League title?

Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name _____

Class _____ Roll No. _____

School Address _____

Phone: (If any) _____

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Steve Waugh

(Australian cricket captain)
"It's been a great end to a great season."

After winning the Carlton and United tri-series.

Shoaib seeks time from Notts

UNDATED, Feb 5 (Internet report): Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar has set a deadline with Nottinghamshire for deciding his fate at Trent Bridge as mindful Chris Cairns is waiting in the wings.

The Pakistani paceman has asked the club to give him until February 20 to find out whether his international commitments will prevent him fulfilling his contract this summer.

If Shoaib is chosen for all four Pakistani tours, he will only be available for five County Championship matches and Notts will turn to all-round Cairns as his replacement.

Notts chairman Albert Bocking said: "Shoaib wants to come to Trent Bridge but the bottom line is that Pakistan have first call on him."

"If they pick him for all four tours we would probably want to come to some agreement to terminate his contract."

Ossie fears for Diego

TOKYO, Feb 5: World Cup-winning Argentine Ossie Ardiles said on Saturday he feared for the life of his former international teammate Diego Maradona, who is undergoing drug rehabilitation in Cuba, reports AFP.

Maradona, who played alongside Ardiles at the 1982 World Cup and then led Argentina to glory four years later, was admitted into a hospital in Uruguay last month after suffering heart problems brought on by cocaine and alcohol.

Ardiles felt the troubled former player might not have much time left to sort out his problem.

"He is a very ill man really," said Ardiles, who is back in Japan as the new manager of Yokohama F Marinos.

"He's found it very difficult to kick the habit but he must do because this is probably his last chance."

"It's not going to be easy for him, though, as a lot of things need to change for that to happen and I don't know if he's prepared to do that," Ardiles said.



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING! Faruque Ahmed (R) deposits his token to Biman official Ali Ahsan Babu (L) while Aminul Islam (2nd from R) looks on at Gazipur yesterday. Both Faruque and Aminul played for Biman last year. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Inter-club players' transfer on

No surprise from stars

Sports Reporter

Star cricketers stayed out of the inter-club cricketers' transfer as the three-day bourse began in a dreary fashion at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Conference Room yesterday.

Although almost all the leading cricketers paid courtesy visit, none of them showed the enthusiasm and excitement of a transfer that offered lots of speculation and drama previously.

At the onset of the bourse, the 12 Premier League clubs of Dhaka reached an off-hand deal, dubbed as gentleman's agreement, for not to chase after the bracketed top four players of each team.

Forty-eight cricketers collected their tokens on the opening day and thirty-nine participated in the transfer business so far.

The only notable incident on the day, highlighted by the presence of mediocre players, were the signings of national captain Aminul Islam and his predecessor Faruque Ahmed on commission. Words were on the air that the controversial agreement of the clubs might be sabotaged by some ambitious teams as Aminul and Faruque headed off to a secret place to settle a surprise deal.

But the duo made a fuss out of nothing as they eventually preferred to stay with their old club - Bangladesh Biman. Biman had a little doubt about its bracketed player Aminul. But as there was no 'don't touch' sign over Faruque, the national airliners were very skeptical about the allegiance of their captain. The former Bangladeshi captain however put the growing speculation of moving to Mohammedan Sporting Club to rest by submitting his token to Biman officials yesterday.

Apart from the two big deals, the defending champions ensured the services of other three pool players - Habibul Bashar, Javed Omar, Belim and Saiful Islam Khan. Besides, the holders also roped in two young players including right-arm seamer Aminul Islam Bhola, who played for Surj Tarun.

Like Biman, Surj Tarun Club, Brothers Union and Kalabagan also came to the BCB office accompanied by their star players. But Abahani and Mohammedan, the two most crowd-pulling outfitts in the country, did not show up in the transfer market yesterday.

Brothers Union stirred some sensation in an otherwise mundane market when they signed up Pakistani Shahed Mehmud. The Lahore-based leg-spinner, who played for Mo-

hammedan last year, took all by surprise when he took an amazing haul of 54 wickets in only seven matches for Chittagong in the National League. The Gopibagh club also obtained the token of Abahani pacer Ahmed Kamal.

Surj Tarun, a new force in Dhaka cricket, also had a happy hunting on the day. They secured the jobs of Mohammedan's right-arm seamer Morshed Ali Khan, Victoria's young opener Imran Ahmed and Agrani Bank's left-arm spinner Suja Erfan. Al-Amin of Victoria also joined Surj Tarun.

The transfer will resume at 5pm today.



Pakistani Shahed Mehmud (L), who played for Mohammedan last season, shakes hands with his new club mate Shahriar Hossain of Brothers Union after completing transfer formalities yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

The 39 players who were involved in the bourse on first day of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer yesterday:

Name	Previous Club	Present Club
Habibul Bashar	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Hasanuzzaman	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Saiulah Gemb	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Javed Omar	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Salahuddin	Bangladesh Biman	Bangladesh Biman
Humayun Rashid	City Club	Bangladesh Biman
Aminul Islam Bhola	Ajax	Bangladesh Biman
Zakir Hasan	Victoria SC	Bangladesh Biman
Munirul Haq Moni	GMCC	Bangladesh Biman
Mazharul Haq Mridul	Orient SC	Bangladesh Biman
Omar Sharif Khan	Ajax	Bangladesh Biman
Lablu Rahman	Agrani Bank	Bangladesh Biman
Md. Salahuddin	Wari Club	Bangladesh Biman
Tanvir Ahmed	Wari Club	Bangladesh Biman
Mizanur Rahman	Wari Club	Bangladesh Biman
Jamaluddin Babu	Orient SC	Bangladesh Biman
Mofizul Islam	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Ali Nishan	Agrani Bank	Bangladesh Biman
Morshed Alam Senth	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Ahmed Kamal	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Mokter Siddiki	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Morshed Ali Khan	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Imran Ahmed	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Suja Erfan	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Al-Amin	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Shahed Mehmud	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Tarquqil Hasan	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Mustadur Litu	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Ashfaq Ali	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Rafiqul Islam	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Murad Khan	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Rajin Saleh	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Emran Farvez	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Bikash Ranjan Das	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Biplob Sarker	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Sajid Hasan	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Masudur Rahman	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Mahabubur Rahman	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman
Towhid Hossain	Brothers Union	Bangladesh Biman

Ctg ready for NFL opener

Chittagong Jila Krira Sangstha (CJS) is now ready to host the first-ever National Football League at MA Aziz Stadium, officials said yesterday, reports BSS.

Post and Telecommunications and Home Minister Mohammad Nasrin will inaugurate the tournament on February 9. Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and officials of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be present.

The tournament is expected to generate much enthusiasm among the football loving people in the district and adjoining areas and the CJS officials have been working round-the-clock to make it a grand meet.

The stadium has been readied and decorated properly to welcome the football heroes of the past and present, acting general secretary F H Khan Fazal said.

He said, "We have organised successfully a three-day cricket match between England 'A' and Bangladesh late last year and we are capable of hosting the four scheduled matches of the League smoothly."

Tournament secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu, who is also BFF joint secretary, and another BFF joint secretary Badal Roy are now in Chittagong to oversee the preparations.

Eight teams split into two groups will take part in the tournament on league basis.

The teams are Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club, Dhaka Abahani Krira Chakra, Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Chittagong Abahani, Khulna Abahani, Sylhet Chaturanga, Rajshahi Abahani and Netrokona Mohammedan.

Dhaka Mohammedan will take on Khulna Abahani in the inaugural match.

Akram's advice

SYDNEY, Feb 5: Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram wants his country's officials to review the way they approach the game after another promising tour of Australia ended in defeat, reports Reuters.

Akram, speaking after his side crashed to a 152-run defeat in the second one-day final at the Sydney Cricket Ground, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) needed to change the way it ran the game if it was serious about wanting to challenge teams like Australia.

"We always come to Australia and get hammered. It's not the first time," Akram said.

"We have to get our standard higher in Pakistan cricket. Tafent's not enough."

"It can be enough if you want to win once in five games or maybe on the subcontinent, but if you want to win in Australia or in South Africa you have to have a very good structure and very good back-up as well."

Pakistan were beaten 3-0 in their three-match test series with Australia after coming here with high hopes of success.

They beat Australia in the first preliminary match of the triangular series which also included India but failed to beat them again, losing their next five clashes including the two finals.

Akram, who needs just 17 wickets to become only the fourth man in history to take 400 test scalps, said it was unlikely he would get the chance to tour Australia again as his career draws to a close but said he hoped the PCB would listen to his advice on how to improve their chances of winning."

"I'll go back and find out the reaction there from the cricket board," he said.

"I always go back with ideas. It depends how many people want to listen."

L'pool squad's scary landing

LONDON, Feb 5: English Premiership giants Liverpool were involved in a terrifying plane ordeal after a club trip to Malta, goalkeeper Sander Westerveld reported Saturday, reports AFP.

Westerveld said: "It was the worst flight I have ever experienced. I was scared stiff."

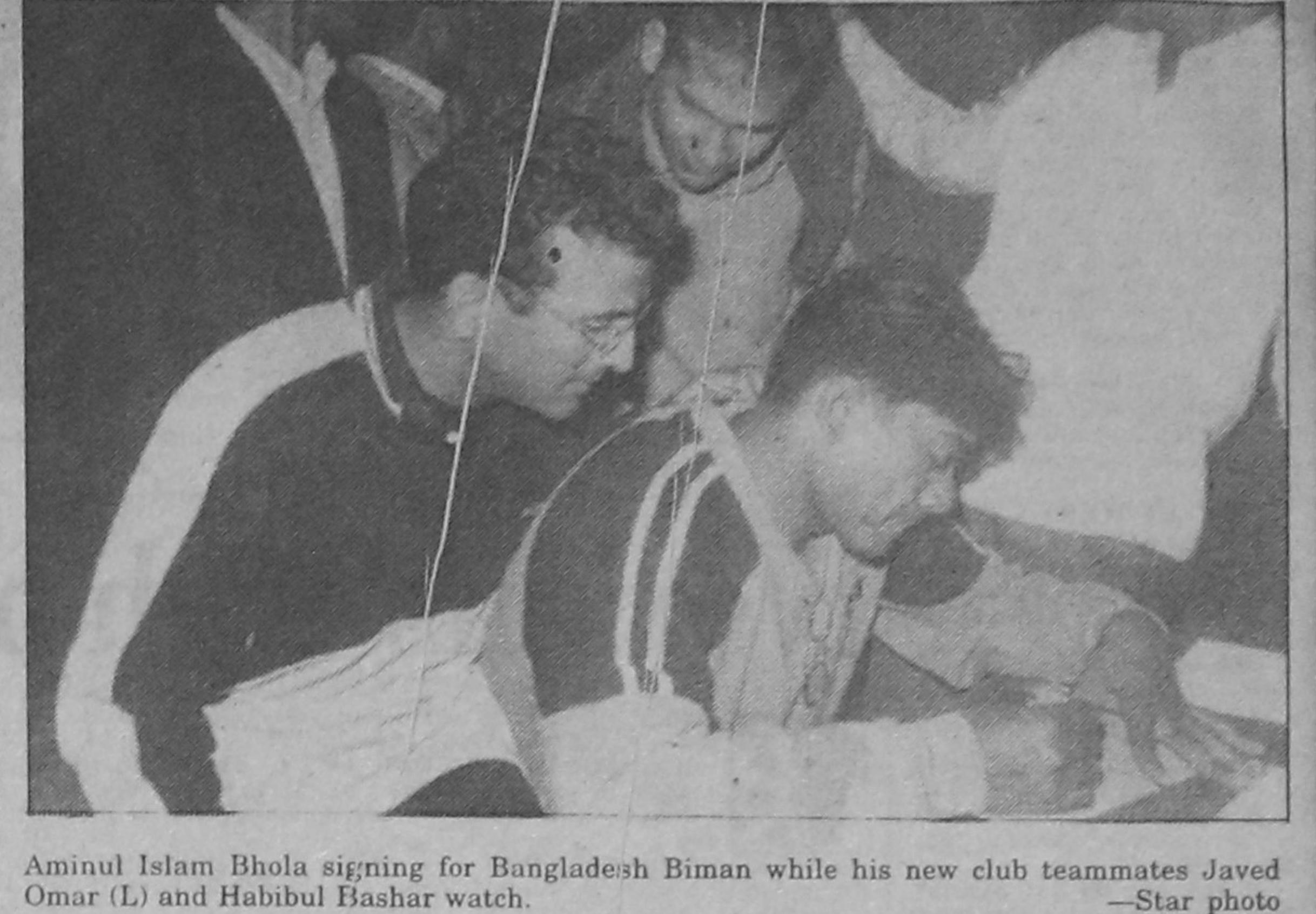
"I must have been in 100 aeroplanes but I had never come across a landing like this before. It was unbelievable."

"The only thing the plane didn't do was go into a loop. There was so much turbulence that the plane was going from left to right, up and down, and it was also shaking."

"We even bounced on the tarmac as we came in to land, I was really sweating, so you can imagine how relieved I was when we finally got all the wheels down on the ground."

The incident happened last Saturday as the team returned from a mid-season trip to the sunnier island.

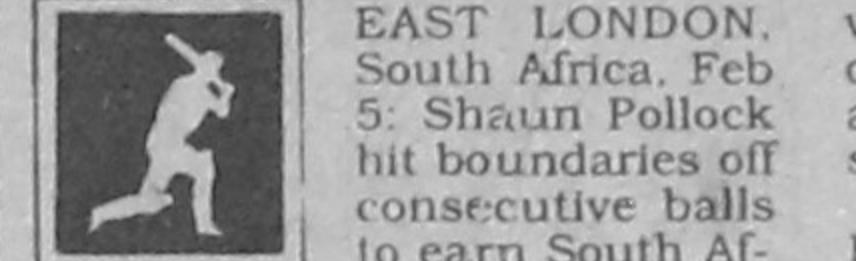
Liverpool's opponents in the Premiership Saturday, Leeds, also suffered a horrifying air ordeal two years ago when an engine fire caused their jet to crash-land just after take-off at Stansted - the Yorkshire party also escaped injury.



Aminul Islam Bhola signing for Bangladesh Biman while his new club teammates Javed Omar (L) and Habibul Bashar watch.

—Star photo

Pollock pilots Proteas



EAST LONDON, South Africa, Feb 5: Shaun Pollock hit boundaries off consecutive balls to earn South Africa a two-wicket win with two balls to spare over England in a one-day international on Friday, reports Reuters.

Pollock hit the toss and elected to field, replied to England's 231 for six with 233 for eight in 49.4 overs to keep alive their hopes of

winning the match.

The home side, who won the toss and elected to field, replied to England's 231 for six with 233 for eight in 49.4 overs to keep alive their hopes of

winning the match.

Alleyne scored 53 to help England to their useful total.

Number six Alleyne, missed on caught by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, drove a ball from fast bowler Pollock to Kallis at cover in the 49th over having faced 67 balls and hit five fours and a six.

Most of Alleyne's runs were scored in a sixth-wicket partnership of 74 which he shared with Ealham, who was 29 not out.

England slumped to 61 for three in the 15th over but opener Nick Knight kept the tourists heads above water with 64 runs struck off 112 balls and including six fours before he was fifth out in the 36th over when he popped a simple return catch to left-arm spinner Strydom.

Alleyne