

Column One SPORTS TALK



Darren Gough
(England fast bowler)
"Andrew Coddick has always been a better bowler than me. I have never denied it."

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 16, 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?

Klusecner S Waugh Dravid

4. Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?

Athens Seattle 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

Junior tennis Indians rule the day

RAJSHAHI, Feb 15: Indian boys and girls dominated on the second day in the Rajshahi International Junior (Under-18) Tennis Championship at the local tennis complex today, reports UNB.

After the second day, eight boys and 16 girls reached the second round in the singles. In the girls' singles, Radhika Tulpuli, Liza Pirira, Nandita Chandrashekar, Samita Shekhar, Hasal Sul of India won their respective matches while Nishila Reddi got walkover.

Chani Skirar and Karin Kutji of South Africa also reached the second round of the singles.

In the boys' singles, Sunil Kumar, CS Muhanti, S Binod, P Chatur, V Javeri, N Bijoy Murari, H Sharma of India won their respective matches.

B Julian, M Radu, L Rajan of Romania, S Spener (Denmark), DA Taras (Ukraine), A Joya (Malaysia), H Sifian (Armenia), Anuwat (Taipei) reached the second round while C Vasutara of Thailand also moved into the second round getting walkover.

Asian TT 16 paddlers for trials

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation named 16 players for trials for the forthcoming Asian Table Tennis Championship to be held in Doha, Qatar, reports UNB.

Selected players are: Mahbub Billah, Mustafa Billah, Manos, Rochi, Hemlet, Edison, Kachi, Sadi, Pappu, Goutom, Shahed, Ripon, Monir, Rakin, Tuhin and Babon.

The qualifying competition will be held on March 1-5. The player have been requested to report on February 29 at the federation office. Meanwhile, the federation executive committee chalked out different tournament schedules on their February 10 meeting.

Biman against the wind



Bangladesh Biman seem to be the odd force for any title race in the domestic cricket after Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra. The national airline outfit has not only been constantly posing a major threat to the dominance of the country's two proven giants but also carrying the unsteady flame of once prosperous office teams.

Premier League

Although they are not a motivating force in terms of drawing crowd, hearts of whom surprisingly go out for either Abahani or Mohammedan, Biman have over the years earned the reputation of being a team that always matters.

They proved their supremacy last year when they lifted the coveted Premier League title with former national captain Faruque Ahmed at the helm. Biman will put their title on the line when the League begins in the city from February 22.

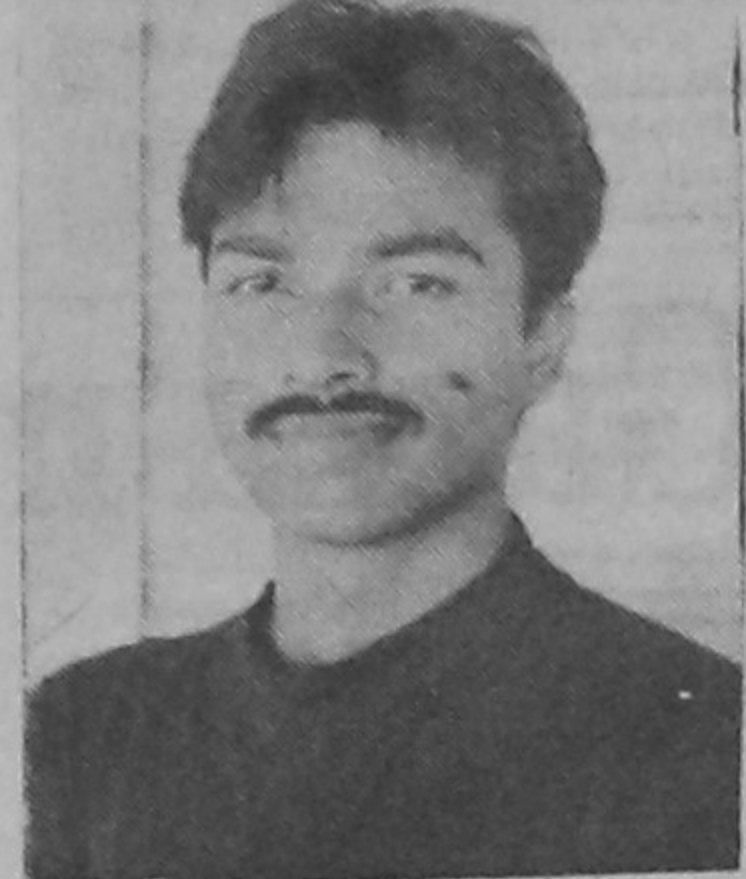
They have kept faith in most of their old warriors with Faruque retaining his job and Pakistani Manzoor Akhter, instrumental for Biman's success story last year, flying in the capital shortly.

Biman get another cylinder to thrive on as another Pakistani Wasim Haider, a thinking cricketer who can still bowl faster and hit the ball harder, has returned under its wings.

Although Sadrul Anam Khan, the Biman coach, was not sure of a third Pakistani recruit

but he felt that his side need a quality fast bowler to produce a balanced side. While talking to the Daily Star Sport after the team's practice session at the Dhanmudi Cricket Stadium yesterday, Sadrul appeared optimistic to retain the League title but in the same breath said that the foreign players would decide the fate of the championship this year.

The Biman coach however



FARUQUE AHMED

claimed the local guns of his team are equally impressive. Habibul Bashar, the most in-form batsman, Faruque Ahmed, Javed Omar and national captain Aminul Islam will form the solid top order while the Pakistani trio will give more steel in the batting.

"Faruque will open the innings with Javed", said Sadrul. Sadrul however is not quite sure of his captain's preference.

Faruque has been keeping a low

profile since his retirement from the international cricket after the World Cup. Besides, the right-hander had hardly opened the innings in his career spanning over fifteen years.

Javed with limited strokes up his sleeves considered as a very slow starter.

But Sadrul is confident about his one and two-down batsmen—Bashar and Aminul. "The two are the match winners. Bashar is playing his best cricket at the moment and an on-song Aminul has the ability to destroy any attack", said Sadrul, who served Biman in the capacity of a player for thirteen years.

Although the Biman batting looks solid, the bowling department has left with a lot to be desired. Aminul Islam Ghola is the only local seamer to be a chance in the regular eleven while Talha and veteran Jahangir Talukder are likely to be considered as fringe players. Their spin department consisted of slow left-armed Saifulah Gem, Shariful Haq, Ziaur Rashid and Saleh Ahmed Sohel. But, of the quartet none has graduated as a quality spinner.

Sadrul admitted that they have a lot of things to work out. But the soft-spoken Biman coach said that they require more than a good show on the field to beat all the odds including poor ruling from umpires.

"Being an office team we are the worst victim of poor umpiring. It is true that we do not have any crowd pressure but we always suffer the consequences of those unfair rulings over the years", rounded off Sadrul.



Peruvian Abel Lobaton (R) is about to lose his balance after a sliding tackle from Jean Darguenave of Haiti during their CONCACAF Gold Cup fixture in Miami on February 14. — AFP photo

Pakistan's back against the wall



GUJRANWALA, Feb 15: Fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar will play Wednesday against Sri Lanka in the one-day international series following a one-day suspension

Akhtar's absence on Sunday cost Pakistan dearly when Sanath Jayasuriya's men beat Pakistan by 29 runs in the series opener in Karachi. All-rounder Azhar Mahmood also returns to the Pakistan side after missing the first match because of groin problem.

Pakistan's batting lineup is minus experienced Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamamul Haq.

"We are rebuilding the team and it will take some time," said Saad Anwar, who took over the captaincy of Pakistan from Wasim Akram.

"We know Wednesday's match is crucial for us because it's a do or die match. We have to win it to keep the three-match series alive," said Anwar.

Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya will be playing his 200th international on Wednesday.

"We know Pakistan's ability to fight back, but if we play as we did in Karachi, I think we could even go on and win the series 3-0," said Jayasuriya.

Jayasuriya said that his team is better in the field than Pakistan.

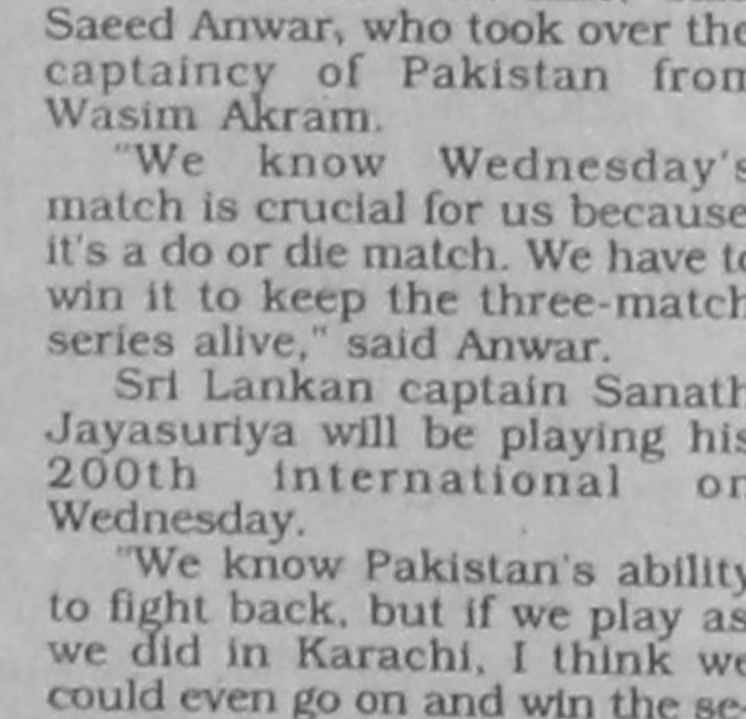
The final match of the series will be played in Lahore on Feb 19. The three-Test series will begin on Feb 26.

TEAMS

Sri Lanka (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Romesh Kaluwitharana, Marvan Atap-

attu, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, Indika de Saram, Tilakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Chamara Silva, Nuwan Zoysa, Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Pakistan (from): Saad Anwar (captain), Aamir Sohail, Imran Abbas, Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Shoaib Akhtar, Younis Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik, Faisal Iqbal, Shahid Nazir, Imran Nazir, Abdur Razaq.



SANATH JAYASURIYA

dika Gallage, Muthumudalige Pushpakumara.

Pakistan (from): Saad Anwar (captain), Aamir Sohail, Imran Abbas, Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Shoaib Akhtar, Younis Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik, Faisal Iqbal, Shahid Nazir, Imran Nazir, Abdur Razaq.



Acting DG of Bangladesh Rifles Brigadier Shah Md Mohiuddin decorates a winner with a medal at the end of the Rifles School and College inter-house sports competition on February 14.

Reefat overtakes Zia

Sports Reporter

International Master Reefat bin-Sattar leapfrogged his fellow Bangladeshi IM Ziaur Rahman defeating GB Joshi of India in the ninth round of the Goodricke International Open chess tournament at the Gorki Sadan in Calcutta on Monday.

Playing with white pieces, Reefat adopted the Scotch opening against his Indian opponent and won the board after 55 moves.

Reefat raised his tally to five points, half a point more than Zia who drew with Indian Vargese Koshi in the same round.

American Grand Master Gregory Kaidanov is leading the table with seven and a half points.

BFF announces Munna charity programme

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation has planned three matches and a colourful cultural show at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 19 as part of the charity programme organised to help former national football captain Monem Munna.

Munna, once a gifted defender who played for Abahani, with distinction for a nearly decade, but presently is suffering from a kidney disorder in both kidneys that requires an immediate transplant.

The programme kicks off at 4:30 pm with a one hour exhibition match between ex-players of Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club. Followed by 30 minutes of fun between officials of BFF and BCB.

The highlight of the programme is the clash between present stars of the popular Dhaka giants.

Players on both sides will try for 90 minutes to please the crowd at the big bowl in the spirit of friendly competition.

A cultural show at 8 pm rounds off the programme.

According to BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy, the federation will announce the rate of tickets tomorrow.

Inter-varsity cricket RU crush JU

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI,

Feb 15: Hosts Rajshahi University and Islamic University won their respective matches in the inter-iversity cricket championship here today.

At the Central Sports ground, the hosts whitewashed Jahangirnagar University by seven wickets.

Chasing a paltry Jahangirnagar total of 105 in 40 overs, the home side reached 106 for three in 29.3 overs with Shakil hammering a half-century. He was later named man-of-the-match.

Earlier, sent into bat, the visitors were bundled out for 105 in 36.2 overs. Sabbir contributed 32 while Sajal added 30 runs.

Islamic University posted a thrilling 14-run win over Khulna University at the Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall ground.

Batting first, Islamic University scored 165 all out in 39.2 overs. Sumon scored 25 while Shahin hit 18 runs.

In reply, Khulna were restricted to 151 in 38.1 overs after inspired bowling by Wahid who captured four for 18.

CONCACAF Gold Cup Honduras blank Jamaica

MIAMI, Florida, Feb 15: Honduras, with a penalty from Carlos Pavon and a header from Jorge Caballero, defeated 10-man Jamaica 2-0 here Monday in a Gold Cup Group A football match, reports AFP.

Caballero sealed the victory in the 86th minute, heading in the cross by Jairo Martinez to put the match out of the Jamaicans' reach.

Pavon had made it 1-0 in the 51st minute, when he fired his penalty attempt into the right of the goal as Jamaican keeper Warren Barrett went the opposite way.

The penalty was awarded after midfielder Milton Tyson Nunez broke free on the right side and was brought down inside the area by the desperate Barrett.

Trans-Tasmanian rivalry



WELLINGTON, Feb 15: Australia and New Zealand are the two in-form lineups in world cricket but for one of the southern hemisphere arch rivals, the winning run must come to an end when they go head-to-head over the next seven weeks, reports AP.

Both teams have new coaches and both are defying comprehensive series wins



STEVE WAUGH

against powerful opposition in the buildup to the six-game limited-overs series starting Wednesday in Wellington.

John Buchanan, who succeeded Geoff Marsh after Australia's World Cup-winning campaign and subsequent tour of Sri Lanka last year, has guided the Aussies to six successive test wins and nine wins in 10 limited-overs internationals against Pakistan and

India. On a nine-game winning stretch, the Australians are targeting the record 11 consecutive victories in limited-overs internationals, set by the West Indies in 1984-85 and matched by England in 1991-92.

But Australian skipper Steve Waugh said he was confident but wouldn't take the Black Caps lightly in the one-dayers or the three-match test series which follows.

"I believe we have a side that can play in any conditions, on any type of wickets against any opposition," said Waugh on arrival in New Zealand.

"If we're good enough, we'll win the (Test) series and the one-day series — I'm confident of playing well."

Batsman Ricky Ponting was a late withdrawal from Australia's 13-man limited-overs squad and was replaced by Queensland opener Matt Hayden. Ponting is expected to recover from an ankle injury in time for the Test series.

New Zealand defeated Australia in a World Cup group-phase match last year before being eliminated in the semi-finals by Pakistan, the eventual runners-up.

Waugh said the New Zealanders always lifted their performance level for a trans-Tasmanian series and their recent series whitewash of the West Indies would make them even more dangerous.

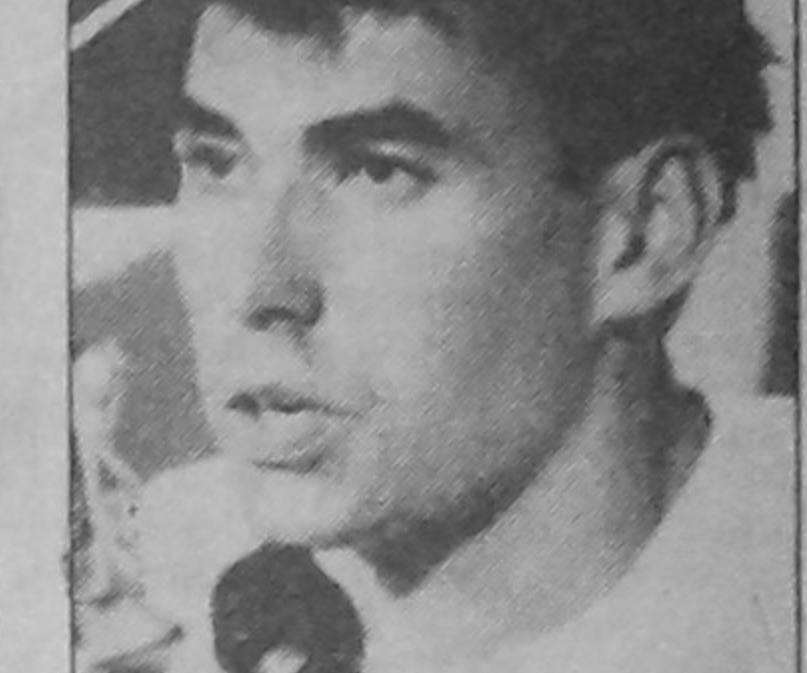
New Zealand coach David Trist replaced Steve Rixon following New Zealand's World Cup campaign and a subsequent test-series in England. He steered the team to a Test series win and one-day series thrashing of Brian Lara's West

Indies. "We've done all the preparation we need to do for Australia at this point," said Trist. "There is no better challenge in cricket and I feel we are positioned at the right time in the right place."

Rain in Wellington forced New Zealand to abandon their scheduled training session Tuesday. Australia were set to practice later Tuesday.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming (captain), Nathan As-



STEPHEN FLEMING

tle, Craig Spearman, Roger Twose, Chris Cairns, Craig McMillan, Chris Harris, Adam Parore, Scott Styris, Daniel Vettori, Simon Doull, Warren Wisneski.

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Mark Waugh, Matthew Hayden, Michael Bevan, Damien Fleming, Andrew Symonds, Shane Lee, Ian Harvey, Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath.

Foreigner at home



LONDON, Feb 15 (Internet report): Graeme Hick returned to his native Zimbabwe for the first time as an England player, and expects no rough ride from the cricketing public who watched him grow up with a very bright future.

That future was, of course, devoted to the Three Lions - and he has no regrets after playing his entire senior international cricket for his country of qualification since 1991.

After all, when he packed his bats and dreams to leave Zimbabwe in 1984, they seemed a distance away from being granted Test match status.

Now, having made his 'homecoming', Hick is looking to the less demanding, but more familiar, stages of Bulawayo and his birthplace of Harare to reverse the disappointing form of the higher profile leg of the tour in South Africa.

"I think the ones who are not forgiving will be in the minor-

ity," believes the new Worcestershire captain. "If you take a



GRAEME HICK

look at the situation when I left it didn't seem that Zimbabwe were going to play international cricket.

"I have no regret about what's happened. I've still got a lot of friends here. I'm sure they are looking forward to seeing me do well, but for Zimbabwe to win."

And if there is some stick for Hick? "I'll have received far worse than I get here. I didn't come on England's tour to Zimbabwe three years ago and although this is a one-day series to come here in England colours is something special."

Hick's unproductive trip has so far brought him just 62 runs in six innings, and that's for a man rated as vital to England's one-day planning.

It bears a pale comparison to his output in Australia last winter when he thrashed three centuries in four innings of that triangular tournament.

The four one-day matches in Zimbabwe, packed into eight days, will hopefully give Hick the opportunity to reverse his run of few runs.

Kaif, Das impress Ganguly



CALCUTTA, Feb 15: Saurav Ganguly does not think that for former Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin makes a return to the team he will have to move back to his previous place, at number six.

Ganguly indeed is reading about the possibility of Azhar's another comeback, but he does not think it will change his order in the line-up. The left-hander made it quite clear that he would like to bat at number five in the ensuing Test series against South Africa. "I would prefer to bat at number five," said Ganguly after the end of the practise session at the Eden Gardens today. "In fact, I have also decided that I would inform skipper Sachin Tendulkar of my preference," said the vice captain of India.

Ganguly seemed to have recovered sufficiently from his hamstring injury as he took part in short sprints today. For the last two weeks he had been busy attending various social functions and obligations. Apart from inaugurating blood donation camps, holding talk shows, he has also watched some of the matches of the Challenger Trophy at Ahmedabad.

"Two cricketers have im-

pressed me. They are Mohammed Kaif and Shibsundar Das. I will not be surprised if they find a place in the 14 for the Test squad. They have availed of the opportunities that they have got," said Ganguly.

have to win," is however, the only comment he is ready to make on the tough series ahead.

Warwick's remind Donald of deal

LONDON, Feb 15 (Internet report): Warwickshire have slapped a 'hands off' notice on their South African pace man Allan Donald today.

South Africa want Warwickshire to release Donald to play in two one-day international series against Australia in April and August, but Warwickshire want Donald to honour the commitment he made to them last month to play a full season of county cricket.

"From our point of view we are not prepared to release him from his contract," said Warwickshire's chairman of cricket Andy Lloyd.

"The agreement we have with him is only a verbal one at the moment but it is that he makes himself available for all of our matches."

"Obviously I'm batting here with my Warwickshire hat on but four weeks ago South Africa didn't pick Allan in their one-day international squad because they said they were building for the next World Cup.



Pro Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University M Shahadat Ali (3rd from L) declares the annual sports competition of Bangabandhu Hall open at the Central Playground of DU yesterday.