

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-127

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm March 10, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the tri-series down under?

India	Pakistan	Australia
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- How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test?

49	50	51
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- What is the name of Sri Stanley Matthew, father?

Jack	Stephen	Bill
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- Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?

Ronaldo	Raul	Vieri
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- Who is the captain of Biman cricket team?

Aminul	Faruque	Athar
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Name

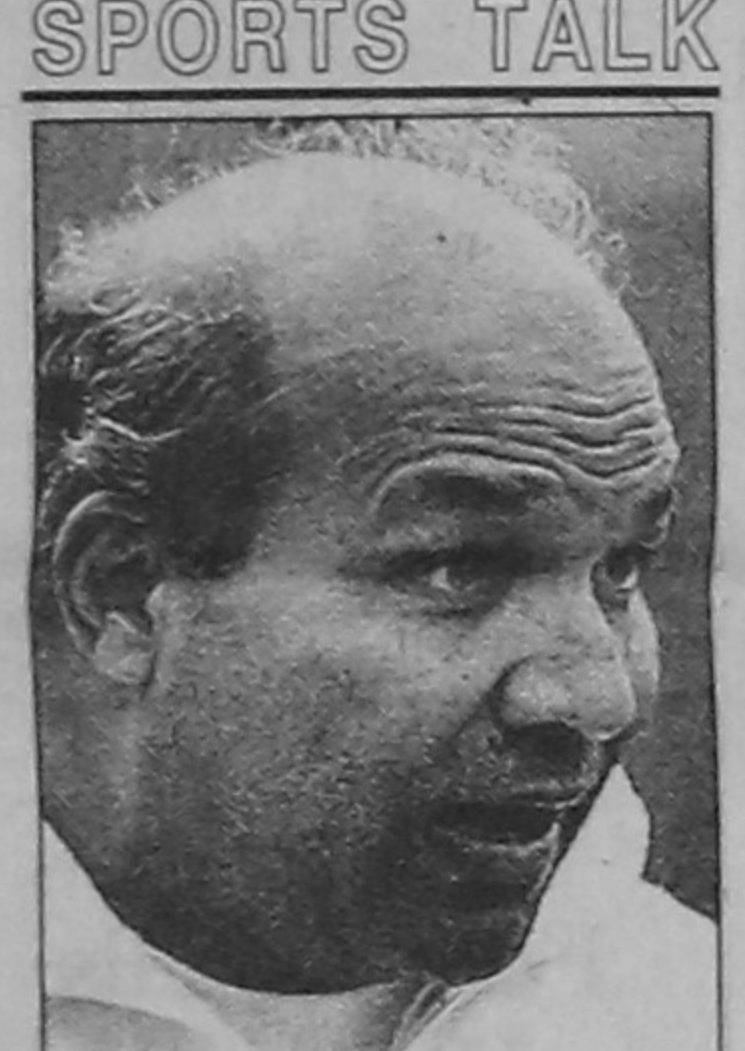
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POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Intikhab Alam

(Pakistan's outgoing cricket coach)
"I am not like a captain of a ship who jumps in the sea if his ship is having problems but I was forced to do so."

Arjuna goes down under for surgery

COLOMBO, Mar 8 (AP): Former captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who fractured his left thumb while playing against Pakistan, left for Australia on Wednesday for surgery, a cricket official said.

Tests here have revealed that he has suffered four fractures on his left thumb and needs corrective surgery, Chandrisan Perera, the Sri Lanka Cricket Board spokesman, said.

Ranatunga is expected to spend 10 days in Australia and stay away from the game for four weeks.

Ranatunga was hit by a delivery from fast bowler Waqar Younis during the first cricket Test. He retired hurt but came back to bat with his side needing 43 runs for victory with two wickets in hand.

Ranatunga and wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwitharana took their side to a dramatic win.

UK museum buys oldest football book

LONDON, Mar 8 (Reuters): The Football Museum in Preston, northern England, said on Wednesday it had bought what is said to be the world's oldest book about the game.

"We paid 48,000 pounds for a collection of historic football items including this book," spokesman Kevin Moore told Reuters. The money was provided by the national lottery, he added.

The Italian book, written in 1580 by Giovanni da Bardi, is entitled "Discourse on the game of football" (Discorso sopra il gioco del calcio).

"It's about the mediaeval Italian version of football, one of the roots of the modern game," Moore said.

"But for me the most amazing item in the collection is a jersey from the first ever international game - England versus Scotland in Glasgow in 1872," he said.

The game ended 0-0.

City make titans sweat

Sports Reporter

Premier League

MSC vs City Club



Mohammedan Sporting Club recorded their third win in the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League but not before the babes City Club gave them a real scare at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The popular Motiheel outfit, defending an unimpressive 227 in 50 overs, almost had their heart in their mouth when the left-right opening combination of Rehan Rafique and Sajid Hasan piled up 125 runs off 31 overs. But, Hasan Tillekeratne saved their blushes when the Sri Lankan Test discard gave Mohammedan the much-needed breakthrough bowling Sajid for 55. City Club were eventually bundled out for 209.

Put into bat, Mohammedan suffered an early blow when opener Rashedul Haque edged right-arm pacer Rezwanul Haque to the safe hands of wicketkeeper Nuruzzaman in



NASIRUL ... 90

the first ball of the day's second over.

One-down Nasirul Alam and Hannan Sarkar, who replaced injured captain Athar Ali Khan at the opening slot, repaired the initial damage with a 54-run stand from 11 overs.

Pakistani off-spinner Saifullah Makst broke the partnership when he had Hannan

Sarkar leg before for 26.

After four overs, Sri Lankan Ruwan Kalpage joined Hannan at the dressing room, leaving Mohammedan shakily placed at 63 for three in the 17th over. Tillekeratne then joined Nasirul to share a 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Much to the disappointment of Mohammedan supporters, Nasirul got himself out when he was just ten runs short of what could have been a deserving century.

The talented right-hander tried to loft left-arm Pakistani spinner Wasim Nayeem over long-on rope but ended up caught at the boundary line by Jewel Hossain. In his 125-ball knock, Nasirul smashed ten spectacular boundaries.

Neyamur Rashid, cracking 33 off 28 balls, then helped Mohammedan cross the 200 mark. But after the departure of Neyamur at 212, Mohammedan could manage another 15 runs in the next 3.4 overs available from their quota at the expense of three more wickets.

Albert Tillekeratne never lived up to his reputation but he was the only consistent customer among the Sri Lankan

See Page 14

Onkar upset Khelaghar

Sports Reporter

Brief Scores

Khelaghar SKS: 239 all out in 49.2 overs (Rana Sr 79, Islam 68, Shamsul 24, Shahin 3/48)
Lalmatia Club: 241 for 5 in 47.3 overs (Onkar 80, Raju 55, Antu 31 n.o., Lalu 28, Raju 2/38)
Result: Lalmatia Club won by five wickets.

Lalmatia Club handed Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha a five-wicket defeat in a Super League clash of the First Division cricket at the Dhammond Cricket Stadium yesterday. Chasing a commanding Khelaghar total of 239 in 50 overs, Indian middle-order Onkar hit a magnificent 80 as Lalmatia reached 241 for five with more than two overs to spare.

After Lalmatia lost their second wicket on 54 in the 11th over, Onkar came in the middle and shared a crucial 96-run stand for the third wicket with Raju. Onkar, in his 111-ball stay at the crease, hit eleven boundaries before he became a victim of left-arm spinner Mohammad Lal.

After Onkar's departure, Raju put on 49 runs for the fourth wicket with Lalu. Raju faced 80 balls, hit five fours to score 55.

Among others, Lalu scored 28 while Antu chipped in with an unbeaten 31 off just 20 balls.

Earlier, sent into bat, Khelaghar were all out for 239 in 49.2 overs with Rana (Sr) hammering his 79 off 110 balls. Opener Islam, with a 111-ball 68, was the other notable scorer for Khelaghar, who suffered their second defeat in three Super League matches. On the other hand, it was the first win for Lalmatia from their three outings.

Lalmatia, with their eight over-all wins, raised their tally to 16 points from 14 matches. On the other hand, Khelaghar, the Damal Smriti champions, remained glued to their previous collection of 18 points, two points adrift of leaders Dhammond Club and Young Cricketers.

World XI-Asian XI match Dalmiya hopes for Lara's presence

Sports Reporter

Champion West Indies batsman Brian Lara, who has taken a three-month break from all forms of cricket, should be available for leading the Rest of the World XI against the Asian XI in a one day match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 8.

"I expect him to be in Dhaka for the fixture", said International Cricket Council (ICC) President Jagmohan Dalmiya during a press conference on Tuesday.

The game will be the high-point of the ICC's Cricket Week celebrations.

Dalmiya added that the entire meeting of the selection panel which picked the teams, has been recorded and will be shown on TV during the Cricket Week.

The five-man panel consisted of former Test stars Sunil Gavaskar, Tony Greig, Ian Chappell, Asif Iqbal and Barry Richards. Ravi Shastri was the moderator of the group.

Inti to face the music

PESHAWAR, Mar 8 (Reuters): Intikhab Alam has been asked by the Pakistan Cricket Board to explain his criticism of the board's decision to replace him as national coach by Javed Miandad.

PCB director Yawar Saeed said board chairman Lieutenant-General Tauqir Zia would meet Intikhab in Lahore on Friday instead of Karachi where the meeting was initially planned.

"...he will definitely be asked to explain his criticism and press statements that fall in the breach of contract he has signed with the board," Saeed said.

The PCB said on Sunday that Miandad would replace Intikhab at the end of the current three-Test home series against Sri Lanka.

Intikhab said he felt humiliated by the way the PCB had handled the announcement of Miandad's appointment as his replacement for the tours of Sharjah, West Indies, Dhaka and Sri Lanka.

He said he would resign after the second Test against Sri Lanka currently being played in Peshawar.

"First, we want to talk to him before we decide if the new coach has to resume charge of the team from the Karachi Test or he (Intikhab) agrees to complete his assignment," Saeed said.

"An announcement will be made on Friday afternoon." The third Test starts in Karachi on Sunday. Pakistan trail 1-0.

Welcome win for Gopibagh

Sports Reporter

Premier League

Wari vs Gopibagh

Division Cricket League match at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

The promotes in the elite 12-team league celebrated their first win after three consecutive defeats when they, defending a fighting total of 196 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs, bowled out Wari Club for 192 with four balls to spare.

A new-look Wari, who in an unimaginative move has parted with most of their utility Pakistani duo of Aamir Wasim and Tariq Mehmud this year, endorsed their fourth successive defeat when number ten batsman Montu ran himself out after scoring a quick-fire 18.

Montu had ushered a spectacular turn around by adding 29 runs for the last wicket with Zakir before a superb piece of fielding dashed Wari's hopes.

Montu was the fourth Wari batsman to be run out after opener Rawnak, Sri Lankan Mapatuna and Sajib Das.

Although the traditional giant-slayers had enjoyed the services of former Pakistani pacer Ataur Rahman, who captured four wickets for 41 runs, Wari's batting lacked the fire-power in the absence of a quality batsman.

Former national middle-order Mahabubur Rahman and captain Halim Shah, the most experienced campaigners in the side, could not live up to the occasion.

Mahabub scored only 18 and Halim continued with the peculiar reputation as a player for 30's. The right-hander scored 33, the highest score from bat in the Wari innings.

Halim's Gopibagh counterpart Salim Shahed however proved a point against his former Mohammedan mate.

Shahed scored a skipper's knock of 60 to guide Gopibagh to a reasonable total which at one stage had looked unlikely. The stylish right-hander hammered seven fours in his polished 89-ball innings before becoming the third victim of Ataur Rahman.

Shahed produced 51 runs for the second wicket with opener Farid Hossain, who scored a quick-fire 39-ball 32 studded with half a dozen fours.

Shamsul, who latter shone with the cherry, scored an unbeaten 36. The offiee, who ripped through the Wari lower order, finished with three for 43 runs in his 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League match between Gopibagh Friends and Wari Club at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sajal	9	2	33	1
Gurmeet	8.2	2	29	1
Ripon	10	1	26	0
Sohel	10	0	33	1
Samsul	10	1	43	3
S Shahed	2	0	16	0

Result: Gopibagh Friends won by 4 runs.

GOPIBAGH

Kiron c Rawnak b Ataur 15

Farid c Rawnak b Zakir 32

S Shahed c Rawnak b Ataur 60

Gurmeet c Halim b Mapatuna 8

Asif c Rawnak b Nasim 6

Topu c b Mapatuna 0

Sohel b Ataur 5

Shamsul not out 36

Sajal b Ataur 5

Anwar not out 4

Extras: (b-5, lb-2, nb-4, w-14) 25

Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs) 196

Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-74; 3-115; 4-126; 5-127; 6-134; 7-149; 8-164.

Bowler: O M R W

Ataur 10 0 41 4

Zakir 10 1 42 1

Montu 10 0 28 0

Halim 10 0 8 0

Mukul 4 0 13 0

C Mapatuna 10 0 34 2

Nasim 10 1 23 1

WARI CLUB

Rawnak run out 2

Mukul c sub b Sajal 12

Mapatuna run out 18

Mahabub c Farid b Gurmeet 4

Sajib run out 24

Halim c Anwar b Samsul 33

Ataur c Topu b Samsul 15

D Ramanyak b Soheli 11

Nasim b Samsul 14

Montu run out 18

Zakir not out 18

Extras: (b-1, lb-11, nb-1, w-10) 23

Total: (All out in 49.2 overs) 192

Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-18; 3-25; 4-54; 5-78; 6-119; 7-137; 8-141; 9-163.

Bowler: O M R W

Sajal 9 2 33 1

Gurmeet 8.2 2 29 1

Ripon 10 1 26 0

Sohel 10 0 33 1

Samsul 10 1 43 3

S Shahed 2 0 16 0

Result: Gopibagh Friends won by 4 runs.

SA, India start ODI affairs

Zulu may only bat today



COCHIN, Mar 8 (Internet report): Shaun Pollock joked with local fans on Wednesday that Lance Klusener had returned home, but the hard truth is that South Africa's master-bowler all-rounder will probably be unfit to bowl in the first one-dayer against India in Cochin on Thursday.

The 1999 World Cup hero, who twisted his left ankle in practice before the second Test last week, still spent ages in the

When the gathering became too large and too pushy, however, they were diplomatically ushered away by team management.

The scores of enthusiasts who remained in the stands called for autographs and even just acknowledgement from the players.

After the final knocks in the nets, the South Africans gradually disappeared into their dressing room one by one, leaving only Pollock and a few others.

"Where's Klusener?" shouted one spectator.

"He's gone home," retorted Pollock. "He's retired."

"Klusener's not here?" questioned the fan. "Indians are very lucky."

Groundsman Puthucode Ramachandran is promising a batting wicket that will offer at least 270 runs.

nearly 600.

In that match, Ajay Jadeja scored a century and Sachin Tendulkar took five wickets.

SA's assistant coach, Corrie van Zyl, is stressing the importance of good bowling in these conditions.

"The key on the sub-continent, when the ball is new, is to get a few quick wickets. You need to swing it and to do that you have to get it up to them."

"When the ball gets older, you must place it just back of a length."

With veteran Allan Donald already home, Van Zyl still believed

in the second Test, bowing on to post SA's top score of 97.

Wednesday's four-hour practice session, with the Indian team going through their paces on the same field, drew hundreds of supporters.

Some fans who strayed on to the pitch executed lightning-quick movements to have themselves photographed with SA players taking occasional breathers in heat well above the 30-degree Celsius mark.

A cluster would crowd behind a stationary cricketer while their designated cameraman dashed in front to steal the snap.

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Groundsman Puthucode Ramachandran is promising a batting wicket that will offer at least 270 runs.

The only other limited-overs international at this venue was between India and Australia in 1998, which produced a total of

Without Klusener bowling, See Page 14



Sri Lanka's upcoming star Russel Arnold cuts during his knock of 99 at Peshawar yesterday. — AFP photo

Murali puts SL on velvet



PESHAWAR, March 8 (AFP): Magician Muttiah Muralitharan snared five wickets to bring Sri Lanka back on track to victory against Pakistan on the fourth day of the second cricket Test here Wednesday.

Pakistan's chances of an improbable win were severely jolted by the off-spinner with his glaring eyes who put an end to a magnificent innings of 88 by Younus Youhana in the dying minutes to bury the home team.

When bad light curtailed play by five overs Pakistan were 222 for eight with captain Saeed Anwar fighting on 32 not out, the home team needing another 72 runs to level the series.

Earlier Sri Lanka were dismissed for 222 on the stroke of lunch in their second innings with left-hander Russel Arnold making 99.

Youhana in company with debutant Atiqur Zaman added 63 for the sixth wicket and 45 with Abdul Razzak for the fifth wicket to raise victory hopes from a precarious 103 for four.

The 25-year-old played fluently and hit glorious shots to all parts of the ground, sending a vociferous crowd of 8,000 to their feet.

Muralitharan though had the last laugh when he trapped Youhana leg before wicket for 88, ending a spectacular 171-minute innings spiced with three sixes and eight fours.

The Sri Lankan off-spinner had Waqar Younis next ball for ought to bring his 18th five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

"I enjoyed bowling and hopefully will get 10 wickets in the match tomorrow but I am more concerned about the win than any personal achievement," he said.

"The new ball helped me a lot to gain extra bounce but there was a fright when Youhana batted so positively. At one stage we thought we were losing."

Pakistan, chasing 294 to win with the session and a full day's play left, were given a rousing start of 59 by Shahid Afridi and Anwar, who both played positively in the run chase.

Afridi, who holds the record for fastest century in one-day

internationals, hit two fours and two sixes in his 31 but was stumped in his attempt to hammer Muralitharan out of the attack.

Muralitharan dismissed Inzamam-ul-Haq in his seventh over, caught bat-pad for nine.

Pakistan lost its third wicket in the last over before tea when Sanath Jayasuriya forced Amir Sohail to edge to silly mid-off for naught leaving the home team struggling at 82-3 at tea.

Soon after the interval the home team received a cruel blow when captain Saeed Anwar collided with umpire Mohammad Nazir while completing a sharp single.

Anwar, who was 30 not out, badly hurt his neck and was rushed to hospital for a medical examination. Nazir, who turned 54 Wednesday, remained unhurt.

Younus Youhana posted Pakistan's 100 with a rasping cover drive to the boundary off Chaminda Vaas but the pacer avenged by dismissing Younis Khan for six.

Muralitharan returned in his second spell and with his first ball trapped Razzak leg before wicket for five, leaving half the side back at 142.

Youhana threw caution to the wind by taking on the bowling and when on 45 completed his 1,000 runs in his 17th Test.