

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

1	Who won the tri-series down under?	India	Pakistan	Australia
2	How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test?	49	50	51
3	What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthew, father?	Jack	Stephen	Bill
4	Who is FIFA's world player of the year?	Ronaldo	Raul	Vieri
5	Who is the captain of Biman cricket team?	Aminul	Faruque	Athar

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



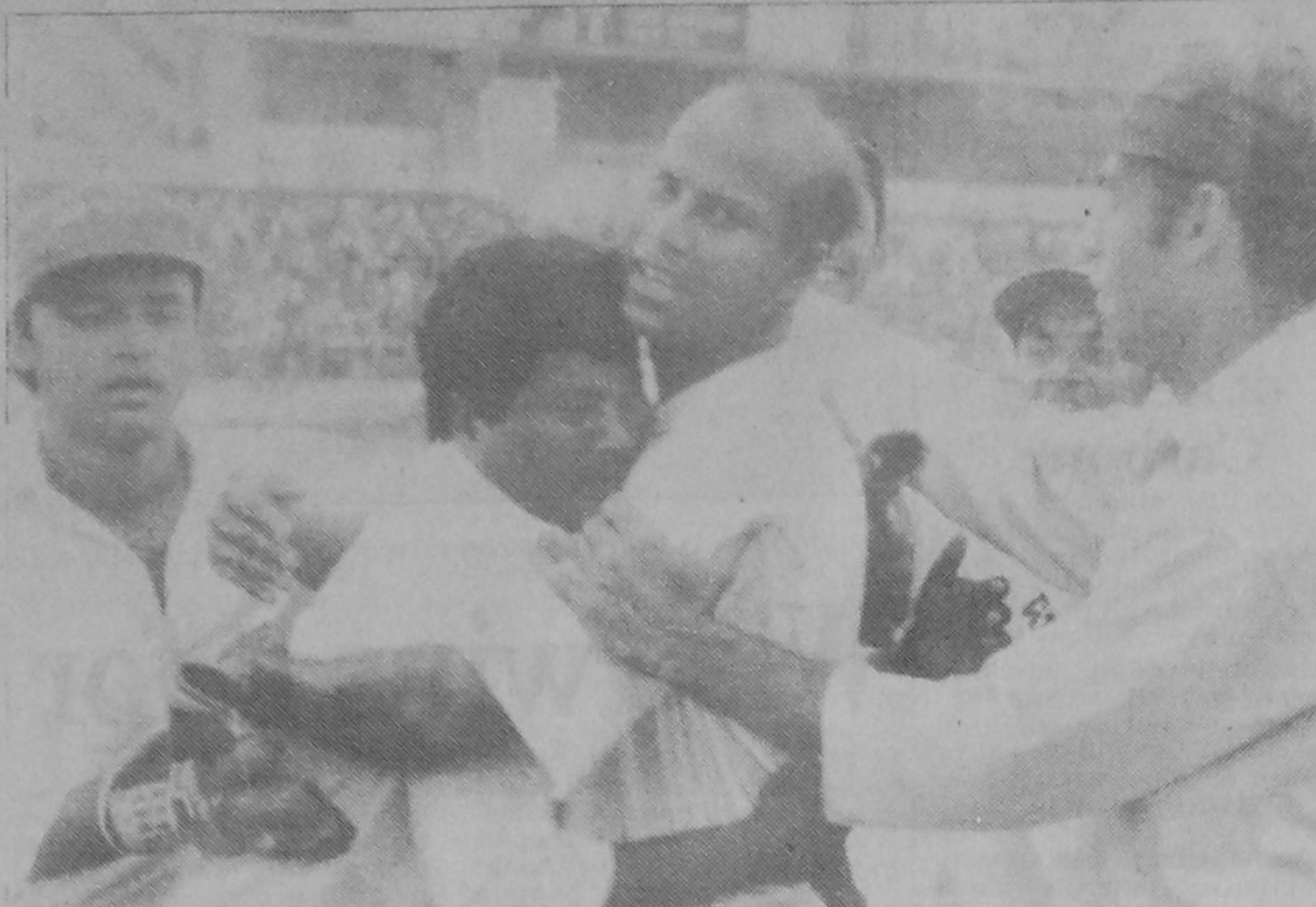
Yevgeny Kafelnikov
(Russian tennis star)
"I don't have two faces. What people see with Yevgeny is what they get."

Viv, Richie to team up

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Mar 9: Former West Indies captains Sir Viv Richards and Richie Richardson are to line up for a West Indies Masters XI against English county side Northamptonshire later this month, reports Reuters.

BBC, ECB strike new 5-yr deal

LONDON, Mar 9: The future of BBC Radio's Test Match Special, a long-established feature of the English cricket season, has been secured with a new five-year deal, reports Reuters.



An Abahani official (2nd from L) embraces Iqbal Hossain after their victory over Kalabagan in the Premier Cricket League yesterday. —Star photo

Abahani owe Mustadir one

Premier League
AKC vs Kalabagan

Abahani Krira Chakra pulled off a memorable victory against Kalabagan Krira Chakra in the last ball of an eventful Manakantha Premier Division cricket league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The crucial clash of the neighbouring outfits climaxed a nail-biting escape act of Abahani as Kalabagan needed four runs from the last six deliveries, with five wickets in hand. But the new levitarians in local cricket could only manage three runs in the nerve-tugging last over where Abahani's Iqbal Hossain, who was out to prove that cricket is a funny game, kept his cool against all odds. And Kalabagan tasted their first defeat after four consecutive wins in a bizarre fashion.

Needing a single from the last ball to achieve the revised target of 188, Kalabagan helplessly watched Mustadir Litu gently push the ball to mid-off and then refuse to take the winning single. Ishtiaq ran from the other end in a way as if his shirt was on fire but only to experience the wonder of life in cricket.

The ignorance of Mustadir, who was wised up by the team management about the winning score, eventually had enabled Abahani run away with an unprecedented win. With Mustadir refusing to move an inch from this crease, Abahani skipper Akram Khan, running to his right, picked up the ball and hurled it into the waiting hands of Iqbal, who dislodged the balls at the non-striker's end to spark a wild celebration in the middle.

But apart from the last six-ball drama where a never-say-die Abahani kept their head with Iqbal putting up a brave face against Kalabagan onslaught and Biplob, at mid-off, saving a certain four diving to his right, it was Kalabagan who reigned supreme throughout the match.

Shot Abahani out for 207 in

Series lost in Murali maze

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Mar 9 (Reuters/APP): Spin king Murali Muralitharan captured six for 71 as Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by 57 runs today in the second cricket Test to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Playing his 50th Test, he finished with match figures of 10 for 148 as Pakistan, resuming at 222 for eight and chasing 294 for victory, were bowled out for 236 in just nine minutes on the fifth and final day.

Muralitharan's last victim was Arshad Khan, who had earlier denied the spinner a hat-trick.

Number ten Arshad survived the unfinished over in which Muralitharan had dismissed Younis Youshan and Waqar Younis on the fourth day.

Saeed Anwar then hit a straight boundary off the first ball of the second over before holding out in the covers off Chaminda Vaas after making 36, four more than his overnight score.

Last man Shoaib Akhtar also hit Vaas for a four but Muralitharan wrapped up the match in the next over by dismissing Arshad caught at silly mid-off by Mahela Jayawardene for 5.

It was the third time Muralitharan has claimed 10 wickets in a match. His performance earned him the Man-of-the-Match award.

"I just tried to tie down the batsmen and knew wickets would come. That was the plan



and it worked tremendously well," Muralitharan, who now has 18 wickets in the series, said.

Anwar, who had a terrible collision with umpire Nazir Junior on Wednesday evening, was the first to be dismissed when he mistimed a drive to be caught at mid-on by Pramodya Wickremasinghe off Chaminda Vaas, who finished with three for 69.

He added four runs to his overnight score of 32.

It was Pakistan's fifth straight defeat after suffering a 3-0 loss in Australia and it was their fourth home defeat since losing 2-1 to Sri Lanka in 1995.

"There are no excuses for the defeat. We played poor cricket and were outclassed by Sri Lanka in every department of the game," Pakistan captain Saeed Anwar said.

"But we had fitness problems. But I believe we didn't get caught in the first innings. The batsmen played bad shots against some disciplined bowling."

Sanath Jayasuriya said it was an allround performance.

"Murali Atapattu batted well in the first innings and Russel Arnold showed his class in the second. But I believe Muralitharan's bowling was the turning point of the match."

"Muralitharan has been the most consistent bowler in the world," he said.

Pakistan, with coach Inshab Alam threatening to resign after being replaced and Anwar not sure about his post, the team looks in disarray.

Alam has said he will resign after the Test here.

Injuries to key bowlers Wasim Akram, who missed this Test and wicketkeeper Moin Khan further compounded

NFL Rajshahi leg from today

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Mar 9: Title aspirants Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club will take on Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra in the first match as the first round's third leg of the Nitol-Tata National Football League begin at the Rajshahi Stadium tomorrow.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof. Jinnatunnesa Talukder will formally inaugurate the final leg as chief guest while BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid, MP, will also be present during the ceremony.

Six matches of the meet will start at 3:30 pm. Eight participating teams in the inaugural national league have already arrived in this western divisional headquarters.

A press conference in this connection was held here today which was attended by Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) joint-secretary and league committee secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu.

Bangladesh Television will show all four matches.

FIXTURES

Date	Match
Mar 10	Dhaka Mohammedan SC v Chittagong Abahani KC
Mar 11	Muktijoddha Sangsad v Netrokona Mohammedan SC
Mar 12	Khulna Abahani KC v Rajshahi Abahani KC
Mar 13	Dhaka Abahani KC v Sylhet Chaturanga Sangha

IM's Chess Rajib, Rakib joint leaders

Sports Reporter

Enamul Hossain Rajib registered his third win in the 5th United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament defeating Ye Win Aung in the fourth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Playing with white pieces, Rajib made a Park opening against his Myanmar opponent and checkmated him after 33 moves.

With the win Rajib is now sharing the top spot along with International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib both of whom have 3.5 points.

In yesterday's round, Rakib beat Saifuddin Lovellu. Two International Masters, Ziaur Rahman and Reefat Bin Sattar, and two Indian players -- Roktim Bandyopadhyay and Dipanjan Das -- are in the crowded second position with 3 points each.

Zia beat Ebenzer Joseph of India, Raktim beat Arifuzzaman Shikder while Reefat drew with Dipanjan.

Htun Lynn Kway of Myanmar, Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan, Savrajit Saha of India, Taibur Rahman Sumon, Sawkat Hossain Pallab, Aminul Islam Palash and Lovellu are in the third spot with 2.5 points apiece.

The fifth round was in progress till filing of this report last night.

Ijaz, Mushtaq back in Pak side

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Mar 9: Pakistan cricket selectors recalled batsmen Ijaz Ahmad and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmad for the third and final cricket Test starting in Karachi on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Wasim Akram and Moin Khan, who missed the second Test which Pakistan lost by 57 runs, were also named in the 16-man squad after recovering from groin and knee injuries respectively.

But there was no place for former captain Amir Sohail who has been dropped following a poor run of scores in the first two Tests.

Sohail, the former captain, scored 0, 24, 22, 0 in the four innings. Also left out was wicketkeeper Atiqur Zaman who made his debut in the second Test.

Yawar Saeed, director of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said Saqlain Mushtaq was not considered because he is leaving for England on Saturday for medical checks.

Ijaz Ahmad was overlooked for the home series after the tour of Australia where Pakistan lost three Tests and six out of 10 one-day internationals.

Mushtaq Ahmad's last Test for Pakistan was in the first Test against Australia at Brisbane three months ago.

TEAM

Saeed Anwar (Captain), Imran Nazir, Ijaz Ahmad, Younis Yuhana, Inzamamul Haq, Younis Khan, Wasim Akram, Shahid Afridi, Arshad Khan, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis, Wajahatullah Wasti, Irfan Fazi, Mohammad Akram, Mushtaq Ahmad and Moin Khan.

A day to remember for wrong reasons

Sports Reporter

The 'history of Dhaka cricket is littered with unusual incidents. But what happened at the Bangabandhu National Stadium during a crucial Janakantha Premier Division cricket league match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Kalabagan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday surpassed the wildest of imagination.

HASIBUL KNOCKS ZAHOOR, HIMSELF OUT!
The drama kicked off with a

Zahoor and floored him with a series of punches. The untoward incident evoked an all too familiar rowdism in the stands.

"I have never seen such violent behavior among players in all my days of watching cricket," remarked a veteran cricket fan.

Zahoor, who had been hero-worshipped by Kalabagan followers for his crafty batting, turned into a villain for his sudden emotional outburst and now faces a disciplinary action against him. Hasibul, who bowled only three overs, was carried off the ground after the fight and could not return for the rest of the match.

strictions would be applicable upped the 12th over and a bowler could bowl a maximum of 8 overs. However it is clearly written in the playing condition manual, which Suru had in his pocket, that the restrictions will remain upto the normal 15 overs for the side batting second in such a situation and Abahani bowlers would enjoy the same liberty that Kalabagan bowlers had in the first innings. Surprisingly, neither Abahani nor Kalabagan protested his unlawful ruling.

"This is a stunning revelation that the organisers, the players, the official do not have the slightest knowledge of the game's rules", quipped a curious on-looker.

Suru tried to defend his position to the press after the match by looking into the law book but the unconvincing attempt totally backfired and brought more humiliation upon him.



Hasibul Hossain is being chaired off the field after he was injured during the Kalabagan-Abahani match at the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

heated exchange between Kalabagan's Pakistani recruit Zahoor Elahi and Abahani's national paceman Hasibul Hossain.

Zahoor threw his bat in disgust after being caught off the bowling of Hasibul. The bat struck the celebrating bowler on his left knee resulting in an injury. A fuming Hasibul, losing his composure, attacked

He too faces a ban for his act.

CONFUSED MATCH REFEREE

Match referee Golam Faruque Chowdhury Suru made a mockery of the by-laws by giving a pitiful account of his weird wisdom. The former national paceman while announcing the revised target for Kalabagan, ruled that the field re-



Akram Khan comforts Zahoor Elahi after the brawl with Hasibul Hossain. —Star photo

Bacher stands by Bangladesh

Star Sport Monitor

South Africa's cricket boss Ali Bacher reaffirmed his intention to rally behind Bangladesh, who are expecting that the ICC (International Cricket Council) would grant them the elusive Test status in its June meeting at Lord's.

Being interviewed by the CricInfo in Mumbai, Bacher denied that the quality of the game would be diluted in a drive to globalise the game.

"Not at all. They (Kenya and Bangladesh) are inexperienced sides. They will take time. But no, we are definitely not diluting the pool," said Bacher, who is widely tipped to be the next president of the ICC when the tenure of Jagmohan Dlamini expires.

"Globalisation is definitely on the top of the ICC agenda. In the next World Cup you are going to see 14 teams participating in 2003. Kenya and Bangladesh will get automatic selection. The other three berths will be taken by teams which will top the selection tournament (ICC Trophy) which is to be held in Canada," said Bacher, who has recommended time and again that Bangladesh be awarded Test status right now.

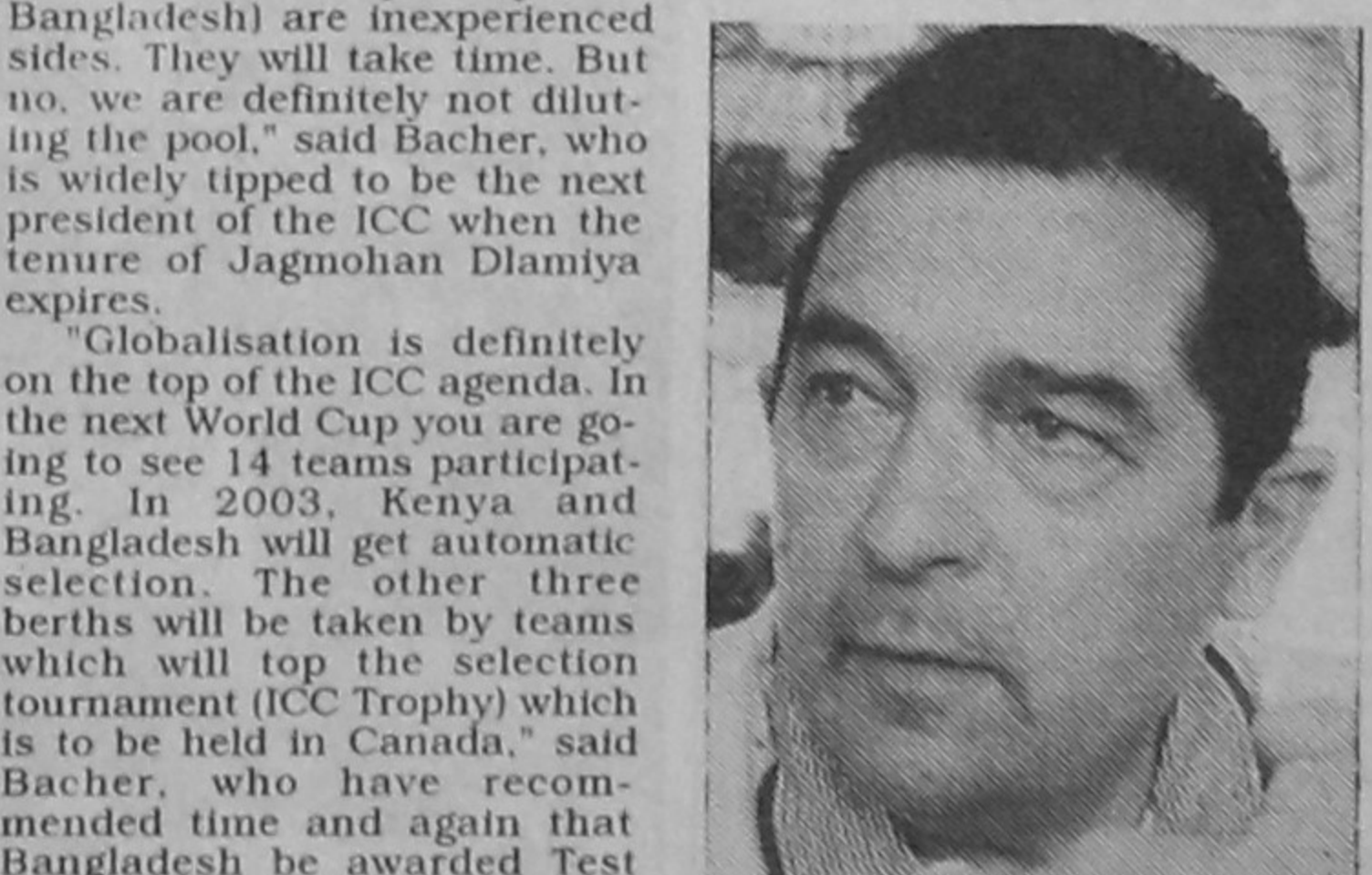
When his attention was drawn to the miserable results of Bangladesh's tour matches against provincial sides of New Zealand where they lost two out of three games convincingly, Bacher said, "Eddie Barlow (the Director of Development of the Bangladesh Cricket Board) as

market in Bangladesh.

"I've been to Bangladesh twice. I've seen the conditions there. They're perfect. You have capacity crowds at games. There is a cricket culture in Bangladesh. There is a passion associated with the game. That's what we need," Bacher said.

About the prospect of giving official recognition to events like the Super Sixes and Max Cricket, he said, "Well, we need different products for different markets. Test cricket is still very strong in South Africa, India, Australia, England and the West Indies. However, other markets need other forms of cricket. Take Canada or Holland or Denmark. They would never get Test status. Though there is talent and interest in these regions, Test cricket would never be sustainable there."

On the call for more representation from varied communities in South Africa, the devout cricket organiser said, "The future looks very good. There are black cricketers in the (South Africa) A team. And this is without any kind of quota system. At the national level, there is no room for a quota system. Players have to be selected on merit. In domestic cricket we have a rule that ensures that there is at least one coloured player in every team. However, we don't believe that such a policy is warranted at the national level. The difference is simple, the national team should be a team of colour, whereas a provincial team must be a team of colour."



ALI BACHER kept waiting for few more years. "Why should we wait? It's inevitable that Bangladesh will get Test status."

SHEER STUPIDITY

The players' pathetic lack of knowledge about the game cost Kalabagan the match. In case of revised targets there is no option for a tie. Whatever target is set has to be scored. Losing fewer wickets than the side batting first is not a criterion for a win.

But this simple equation was beyond the intellect of Mustadir Litu, who stood his ground defying the pleas of his non-striking partner Ishtiaq for a single off the last ball thinking that by virtue of losing five wickets less, his side had won the match with the score on 187. Alas! The revised target was 188.

"(He Litu) was shouting wait, wait, wait while Ishtiaq was scampering for the single," said a visibly amused Abahani captain Akram Khan after the match.

Ban slapped on Zahoor

Sports Reporter

Kalabagan's Pakistani batsman Zahoor Elahi has been slapped with a four-match ban in the Premier Division cricket league for his unbecoming behaviour during their eventful match against Abahani yesterday.

Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), the organiser of the league, came to the decision last night after evaluating report of match referee Golam Faruque Suru.

Besides the ban, Zahoor was also fined Tk 10,000.

Apart from Zahoor, Abahani opener Mehrab Hossain has been suspended for a match and medium pacer Iqbal Hossain has been fined Tk 5,000 for their controversial roles in the scuffle between the Paistani and Abahani pacer Hasibul Hossain. Surprisingly though, Hasibul escaped unpunished.

The CCDM has also decided to send Abahani skipper Akram Khan a letter of appreciation for his sporting intervention during the incident.