

## Column One SPORTS TALK



**Syed Kirmani**  
(Former Indian wicketkeeper)  
"An opener is a specialist batsman and having makeshift openers never helps."

**BOOST sports**  
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COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-127

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Competition closes at 8 pm  
March 24, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who won the tri-series down under?  
India Pakistan Australia
- How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test?  
49 50 51
- What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthews' father?  
Jack Stephen Bill
- Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?  
Rivaldo Raul Vieri
- Who is the captain of Bimani cricket team?  
Amrul Faruque Akbar

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
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### Premier League Cricket holiday

The Premier Division Cricket League will enjoy a two-week break from today for the Eid-ul-Azha. This was decided by the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) in a meeting last night. The League will resume on March 28. Meanwhile, yesterday's both Premier League matches were postponed because of soggy outfield caused by overnight rain. Mohammedan Sporting Club were scheduled to meet Surjo Tarun Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Brothers Union were due to face City Club at the BKSP ground.

### Warne levels with Lillee

AUCKLAND, Mar 13 (AP/Internet): Shane Warne joined Dennis Lillee as Australia's most successful Test bowler but he was forced to wait for his record-breaking moment as New Zealand fought back in the first cricket Test. Warne took his 355th wicket, equalling paceman Lillee's record, when he bowled Nathan Astle for 35, but he was unable to get another wicket in his final six overs on a gripping third day. Warne produced a beautiful behind-the-pads leg-break to spearhead Astle's stumps at Eden Park. Warne was not available to discuss his feat, but wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist said: "It was another of his great deliveries, one of those balls that had drift, pitched in the rough and turned back, one where I lose sight of it momentarily and then hear the thud. It was a great ball." Steve Waugh brought on Warne in the 17th over of NZ's second innings, by which time Glenn McGrath and Colin Miller had reduced the Black Caps to 3-31. Warne was as nervous as a kitten and went for 11 runs in his first over. He beat Astle with a wrong'un, but Waugh watched him for five overs and replaced him.

# Ashrafal for major soup-up

Bangladesh cricket is now going through a crucial period. Country's cricketers, organisers, fans are bubbling with the exciting prospect of getting Test status in the June meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) at Lord's. Standing in between and between of the world cricket, it is very significant for us to set the modus operandi before we are baptised as the tenth Test playing nation. Although the general feeling was that things would be adjusted and adopted in the process of growing-up of cricket. But for those, who consider the game as a medium to a world of possibility, we need to take some major decisions before we enter the real and fiercely competitive cricket world. It is true that Bangladesh had performed reasonably both on and off the field. They have reigned supreme against mediocre teams but have also proved a point or two against established forces of cricket. Still, to survive at the highest level of cricket we face a monumental challenge in future. Recently, our Senior Reporter Al-Amin had a lengthy talk with BCB general secretary Syed Ashrafal Haq, who is well known to the cricket world as Ash. Following is the excerpt of that interview:

**DSS:** You are very confident about Bangladesh getting the Test status in June. Do you think we are ready to take up the challenge at the moment?  
**Ash:** I think we have got a better team to face Test matches than what Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka had when they played their first Test. Some people believe that we had better teams and better players than the present set. But to me Aminul Akram, Mehrab, Shahriar are hundred times better than what we had in the past. I was a player and I still remember how badly we lost to Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe. There was a time when we struggled for survival against teams like MCC even. But now things have changed and our present generations are taking the attack to all their opponents.

**DSS:** You require a qualified ground to play Test matches. But presently the Board does not have a single venue of its own. Critics claim that the Board has given a false impression to the ICC inspection team about the existing infrastructure of our cricket. Do you have anything to say in defence?  
**Ash:** When Sri Lanka were awarded Test status, they had a lone stadium in Colombo. We have an established Test venue in Dhaka, which has already hosted nine Test matches. And, I'm confident that the 10th Test match will be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Some may argue but I think this is a cricket stadium. If you bring two separate ICC and FIFA inspection teams to give their independent verdict, I'm sure that both parties would declare it as an ideal cricket ground. Besides, we can also play Test matches at the BKSP in Savar.

**DSS:** You were talking about the players. But do you think that the BCB itself is adequately equipped to face the challenge?  
**Ash:** The present Board is a most successful one as far as our achievement in international arena is concerned. I have total respect to all the present Board members. But once we get the Test status our involvement and accountability will become ten times more than what we have now. And to respond gallantly to that we need to have a professional attitude for running cricket. We are desperately in need of three executives to run the Board smoothly. You can not think of running a Board professionally without a chief executive, a development director and a marketing and finance director. And they must have enough authority.

**DSS:** It means that you want three paid executives in the Board. But do you think that the trio would be able to work independently under the existing constitution of the Board?  
**Ash:** It is true that the existing constitution would not permit them to run independently. Rather they will be glorified administrative officers, which I think would not be healthy for our cricket.

**DSS:** In that case do you suggest a change in the Board structure or are you in favour of only the restructuring of characters in the Board?  
**Ash:** It is a competitive world. If we want to survive at the highest level of cricket we must recast the constitution. I'm always in favour of election, but the Board should be concise and I'm against more than 15 representatives in the executive committee (EC). We can take the queue from ICC

and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB). It would be better if the EC consists of six representatives from the six divisions, a maximum three from Dhaka based clubs, a representative from the universities, the three executives and a government nominated president.

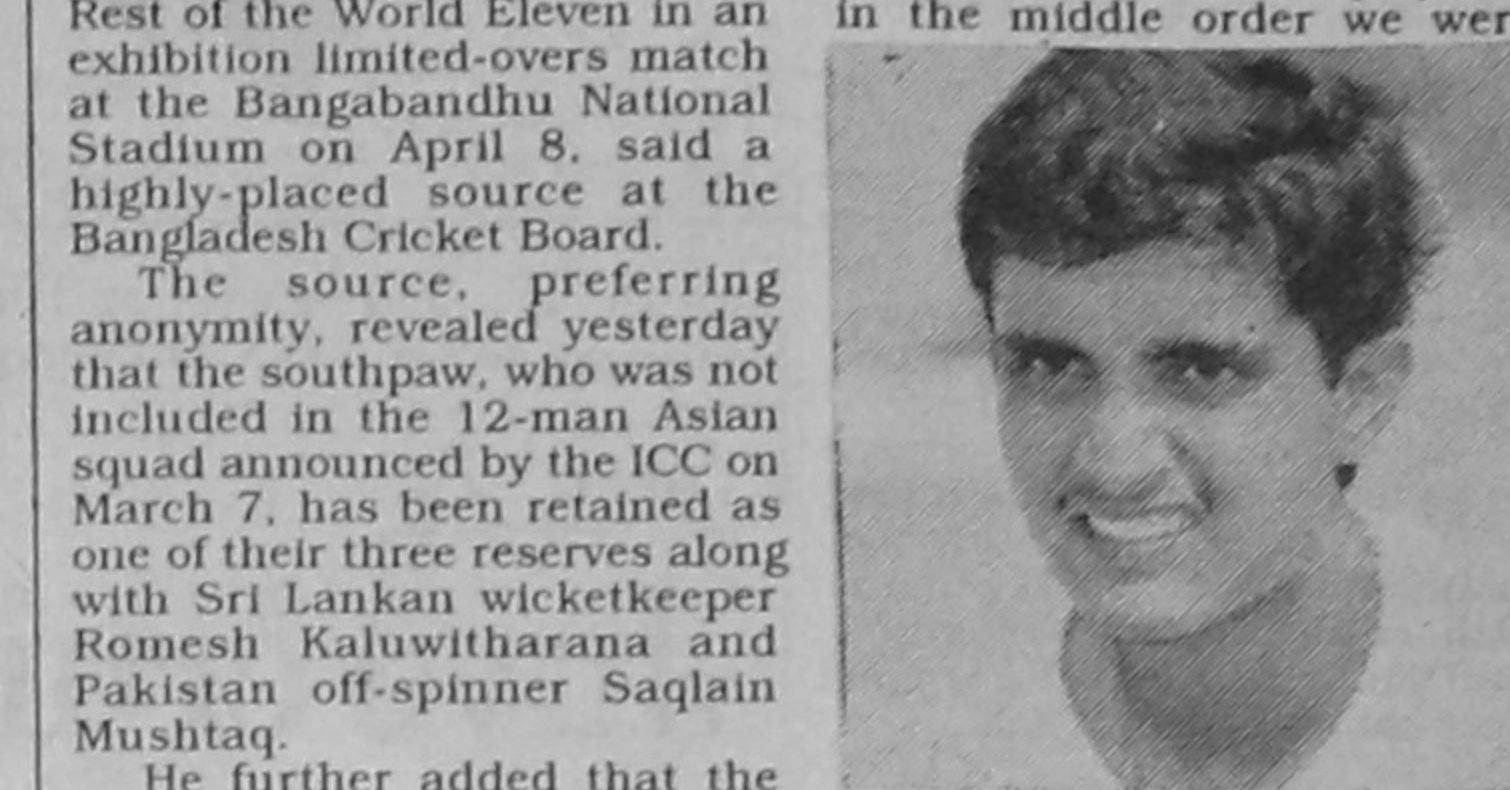
*The Daily Star Sport has met three top-notch cricket organisers of the country in a bid to know their opinions about some burning issues that need to be addressed immediately. Their views will appear in the Star Sport in phases. We want our knowledgeable readers to let the organisers know about their observations on the betterment of the game. We therefore request you (readers) to contribute your views, advises and criticisms by just sending a write-up or an e-mail to dssports@bdonline.com. —Star Sport*

**DSS:** It seems that you are against the existence of a general secretary, a treasurer and a vice-president in your desired board. If so, how do you see things running in the Board?  
**Ash:** During the World Cup we failed to get a reasonable sponsor for our national team. But if we had a professional marketing man that time I believe he could have fared much better. I'm not an ideal general secretary, I have my own business to run, so are the other members in the Board whose involvement in cricket is a love affair rather than a professional responsibility.

**DSS:** In most of the Test playing nations, a healthy relationship exists between players and organisers. But our cricket recently has seen a very sad confrontation between the or-

# Saurav selected for Dhaka tie!

Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly may play after all in the Asia Eleven which will take on Rest of the World Eleven in an exhibition limited-overs match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 8, said a highly-placed source at the Bangladesh Cricket Board.



The source, preferring anonymity, revealed yesterday that the southpaw, who was not included in the 12-man Asian squad announced by the ICC on March 7, has been retained as one of their three reserves along with Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana and Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq. He further added that the 'Prince of Calcutta' might find himself in the final eleven if Sri Lankan master batsman Aravinda de Silva does not make himself available. De Silva, who developed hamstring problems, did not play in the ongoing third Test against Pakistan in Karachi. The Asian Eleven will be led by former Pakistan captain and one-day cricket's highest wicket-taker Wasim Akram while ex-West Indies skipper Brian Charles Lara will lead the World.

The match is a part of the International Cricket Council's 'Cricket Week' which will be observed worldwide in April. Earlier Saurav's inclusion kicked up an uproar in the Indian media, with the Calcutta himself publicly expressing his shock. It was reported that even though Sunil Gavaskar wanted him in the side, the other four selectors felt that Saurav did not deserve a place in the side. Gavaskar's proposal was turned down by 1-4 votes by Ian Chappell, Mike Procter, Asif Iqbal and Tony Greig.

The convenor of the selection meeting Ravi Shastri tried his best to include Saurav in the side stating that his inclusion would be an added attraction at Dhaka. Shastri however did not have the necessary powers to enforce Ganguly's selection.

Our Calcutta correspondent added that Ganguly was not included simply because of his slow strike rate compared to

that of Sanath Jayasuriya or Saeed Anwar. "We had talked about Ganguly at length in the meeting. He deserved a place in the Asian XI. However, as we cannot play him in the middle order we were forced to leave the opener out," said one of the selectors to this correspondent.

**SQUADS**  
**ASIA ELEVEN:** Wasim Akram (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya (vice-captain), Moin Khan (wicketkeeper), Saeed Anwar, Sachin Tendulkar, Aravinda de Silva, Ajay Jadeja, Abdur Razzak, Robin Singh, Anil Kumble, Muttiah Muralitharan and Shoab Akhtar.  
**REST OF THE WORLD ELEVEN:** Brian Lara (captain), Mark Waugh (vice-captain), Adam Gilchrist (wicketkeeper), Jacques Kallis, Michael Bevan, Neil Johnson, Lance Klusener, Chris Cairns, Daniel Vettori, Curtly Ambros, Allan Donald and Andrew Caddick.

### Premier Division matches washed away

Two Premier Division cricket league matches which were scheduled to be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium and BKSP grounds respectively yesterday, were postponed because of over night rain. Mohammedan Sporting Club were scheduled to meet Surjo Tarun Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium while Brothers Union were due to meet City Club at the BKSP ground.

# Hosts slightly ahead

KARACHI, Mar 13: The third and final cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka was evenly poised after the second day's play at Karachi's National Stadium Monday, reports AFP. With the series already out of reach, Pakistan were 88 for three at stumps, derailed after they looked set to build a winning lead. Pakistan are ahead by 117 runs with seven wickets intact. Inzamamul Haq had 12 and nightwatchman Shoab Akhtar was yet to score on a day when Pakistan's bowlers produced their best performance of the series by dismissing Sri Lanka for 227 in their first innings. Pakistan had a brisk and confident start to their second innings with Shahid Afridi and Naveed who put on a stand of 70. Pakistan's best in the series. But then the home team lost three quick wickets and with it the initiative. The openers reached 50 in just 8.2 overs with Afridi in his typical attacking mood. He was caught off a no-ball from Pramodya Wickremasinghe when on 21 but that did not curb his instincts. At 70, Afridi missed the line of a Pushpakumara delivery and was bowled for a 34 which included six fours. Naveed became off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's 250th Test scalp when he fell before wicket for 27. Muralitharan, who is playing his 51st Test, then won a bat pad decision against Ijaz Ahmed for 3 when the ball looked to have beat the whole face of the bat. Earlier resuming at 10-0, Sri Lanka lost four wickets in the first session adding 90 runs. Paceman Waqar Younis struck twice by sending Marvan Atapattu (3) and Mahela Jayawardene (1) in his first spell of the day. In between expressman Shoab Akhtar removed skipper Sanath Jayasuriya when the batsman failed to keep a cut



Debutant Pakistan paceman Irfan Fazil (C) being congratulated by teammates after getting his first Test wicket [Russel Arnold (R)] in Karachi yesterday. — AFP photo

### Nitol-Tata League Farcical finish at Rajshahi

The last first round match of the Nitol-Tata National Football League between Abahani Krira Chakra of Dhaka and Sylhet Chaturanga Sangha ended abruptly yesterday at the Rajshahi District Stadium as the latter refused to play protesting a penalty kick decision awarded against them. Chaturanga were leading 1-0 through a 26th minute goal. But they staged a walk-out as soon as the referee rewarded Abahani with a 78th minute spot-kick. Bangladesh Football Federation later announced Abahani the winners 2-0 according to the bye-laws of the League.

### Reefat extends his solo lead

International Master Reefat Bin Sattar of Biman remained ahead of the race in the 5th United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament maintain although he drew with Suvrajit Saha of India yesterday. On completion of 8th round, Reefat managed 7 points. Other two IMs of Biman, Ziaur Rahman and IM Abdullah Al Rakib, International Master Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan, Htun Lynn Kyaw of Myanmar and Suvrajit are sharing the crowded second spot, having collected 6 points each. Suvrajit however earned a 0.5-point norm. Enamul Hossain Razib and Dipanjan Das of India meanwhile occupying the third position with 5.5 points each. In the 9th round-- Zia beat Sakil, Kyaw beat Roktim, Razib beat Ebenerger Joseph, Pollab beat Saifuddin Lovlu, Aung beat Aminul Islam, Poljab, Monazzaman Khan beat Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu, Rezaul Haque beat Monir Hossain and Abul Kashem Bhuiyan beat Syed Ejaz Hossain while Rakib drew with Tahir. 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