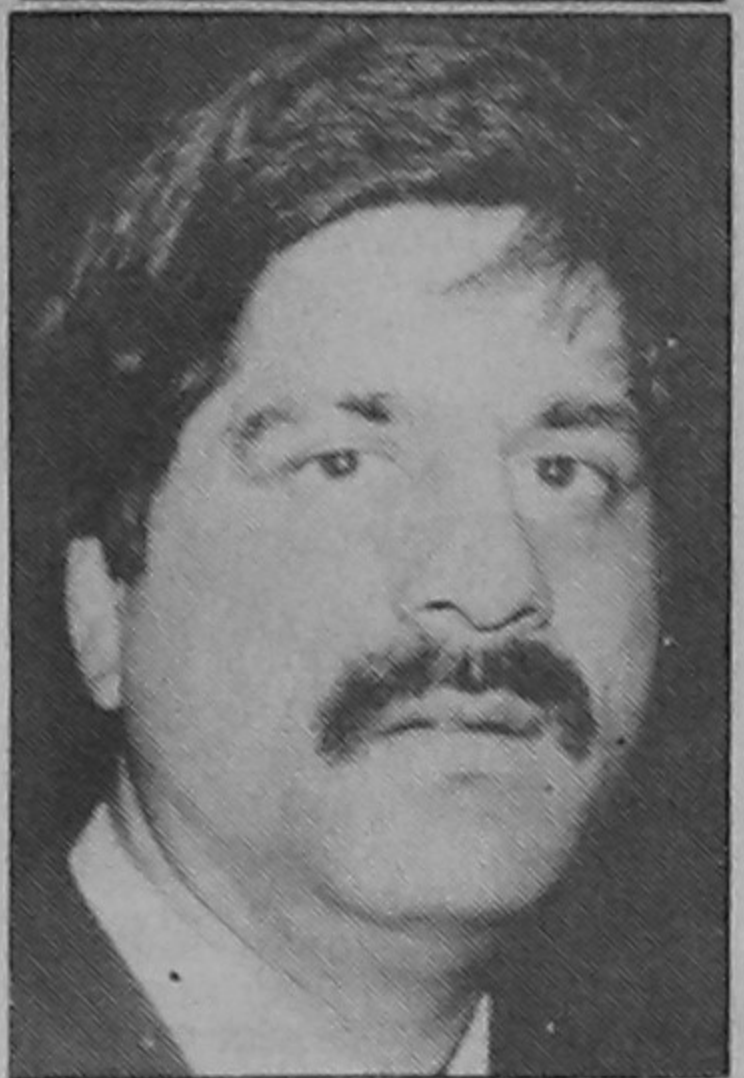


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Kris Srikanth
(Former Indian batsman)
"When it comes to offering excuses, this Indian is second to none."

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 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?
Ronaldo Raul Viet
- Who is the captain of Bimani cricket team?
Anwar Faruque Afiaz

Name: _____
Class: _____ Roll No.: _____
School Address: _____
Phone: (if any) _____



3rd ODI today

Sports Reporter

Battle-weary South Africans take on India in the third match of the five-game one-day international series at Faridabad today.

Trailing the hosts 2-0, the Proteas must win the remaining games if they wish to depart the country as conquerors in both Test and limited-overs series.

Doodarshan Sports channel will provide live coverage of the match starting from 9:30 am BST.

Reefat maintains solo lead

Sports Reporter



5TH UNITED INSURANCE INTERNATIONAL MASTERS CHESS TOURNAMENT 2000

International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar of Biman maintained his solo lead in the fifth United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament on completion of the tenth round yesterday.

In the round Reefat drew with Htun Lynn Kyaw of Myanmar and raised his tally to 7.5 points from 10 matches.

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib is in the second position with 7 points. Rakib beat Suvrajit Saha of India.

Another International Master Ziaur Rahman, International Master Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan, Htun Lynn Kyaw and Emanuel Hossain Rajib are in the third position with 6.5 points each.

Rajib beat Kazal Mahmud in the round.

The final round will start at the same venue today at 10 am while the prize giving ceremony will be held at 5 pm in the afternoon.

Tanvir calls for professionalism

This is the second of our three part interview series of top cricket organisers of the country. With the prospect of attaining Test status getting brighter each day, Daily Star Sports (DSS) has felt the need to address certain on and off the field issues.

Test status is not an ordinary honour. It has to be earned through years of hard work, pain and sweat. To become good enough for that level requires even harder sacrifices. But are we prepared to make that giant step forward?

Former national cricketer **Tanvir Haider (TH)**, who is now the chief selector of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the chairman of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) shares his thoughts about Test prospect and other important matters with our senior reporter **Al-Amin**.

DSS: There is a growing optimism that Bangladesh, in all probabilities, will get the Test status in June this year. If that does not happen, do you think it will have a disastrous impact on our cricket?

TH: It would definitely be a real shot in our arms if we get the Test status. But that doesn't necessarily mean that we will be down in the dumps if we don't get it. We already have the ODI status and can always look forward to the next World Cup.

DSS: Do you think that at present, Bangladesh is ready to face the tough challenges of Test cricket?

TH: You can't tell unless you have appeared at that level. However, the signs are very positive. We were not sure how we were going to fare when the national team went to England for the World Cup. But our boys performed remarkably well in the tournament where we defeated a cricket super power like Pakistan. Besides, our players have shown good adaptability and promise against visiting teams like the West Indies, England A and the MCC especially in three and four-day matches. I have tremendous faith on the players and I believe they are very much capable of playing Test cricket.

DSS: Do you think that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) itself is adequately prepared?

TH: Well, I don't think we are professional enough. Most of us work in the board on a temporary basis. This is not an era for part timers or honorary positions, we should realise that. The board must appoint full-time officials. Only that can ensure responsible behaviour and accountability. But first of all we need to change our mentality.

DSS: It is in the air that the ICC is not happy with the way the BCB is being run at the moment. They have suggested professional management for development of cricket here. Does the board have any plans of going professional?

TH: We must become profes-

sional. We must know our responsibility. Without a professional attitude you can not flourish. There must be at least three paid executives in the board—a chief executive, a general secretary and a marketing executive. And they must have a clear idea of what is required of them.

DSS: Under a professional set-up, what sort of changes would you like to bring in?

TH: The structure of the board has to change automatically. Otherwise, you would not be able to put the right persons in the right places with enough authority.

DSS: An international standard ground is a pre-requisite for any aspiring Test nation. But the Board does not have a single venue of its own. How do you plan to fulfil this very basic requirement?

TH: We have an internationally recognised cricket stadium in Dhaka but I admit that the Bangabandhu National Stadium is still a multipurpose venue. However, I have a gut feeling that it will be handed over to cricket permanently in near future as the game has brought more fame for the country than other disciplines.

DSS: Critics claim that the BCB has given a false impression about the existing infrastructure of our cricket. Do you have anything to say in defence?

TH: The ICC officials who came here a couple of months ago are not babies. They played at the highest level of cricket and know many things better than we do. They have gone to many places, carefully observed different venues and the existing facilities. And I think they believed what they wanted to believe. But I can assure you that they were convinced about our seriousness and sincerity.

DSS: A sense of distrust exists between players and officials in our country. The organisers don't seem to have the mentality to treat players pro-

fessionally. The same problem can be seen in the attitude of the players. In recent times, the cricketers have gone for serious movements to press their demands. How do you feel about it?

TH: Players' movement is nothing new. It happened in Australia, England, South Africa and recently in the West Indies. But what happened here was a misunderstanding.

DSS: Time and again we have heard that the national players would be brought under



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

the board's payroll. But that has not happened. When do you expect the contract to be signed?

TH: The BCB today or tomorrow must get 25 or 30 national cricketers under their payroll and provide them with a substantial amount of money. Since that hasn't happened yet, the clubs are bearing the responsibility of providing them with the financial support.

DSS: Many feel we should get rid of the club cricket culture in the interest of the future of the game. But the clubs in Dhaka have tremendous influence and players also earn their livings playing for them. Is there any way in which we can strike a balance?

TH: The structure here is different than that of other Test playing nations. Our cricket is club oriented. This club culture is years old. It is not possible to ignore the healthy presence of the clubs since they have over the years been playing the pivotal role behind betterment of our cricket.

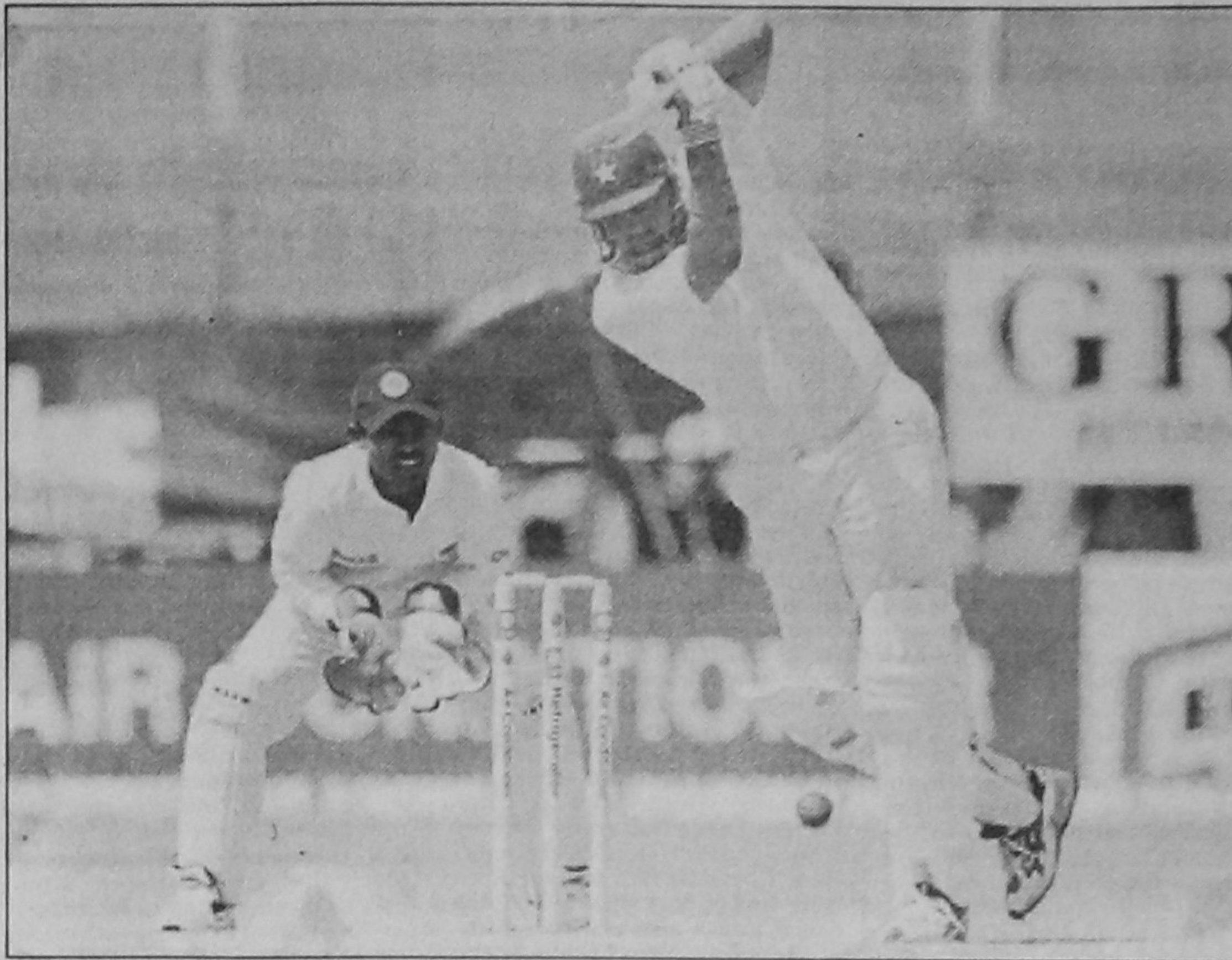
But the idea of parting with club cricket or diminishing its influence is not that bad an idea.

However we must appreciate the effort and monetary support the clubs have provided to the cricketers over the years when there was little support from government. If they are the devil then give the devil its rightful share of appreciation.

DSS: Gordon Greenidge had a rather inactive stint as director of coaching due to improper planning of the board. Is his successor Eddie Barlow travelling in the same direction?

TH: Eddie Barlow is a seasoned campaigner. He was the main architect behind South Africa's reinstatement into international cricket. The most pleasing aspect about Barlow is that he understands our problems. I think he will succeed in taking Bangladesh to greater heights.

DSS: Thank you for your time.



ON SONG INZY: Pakistani middle-order batsman Inzamamul Haq plays an exquisite on-drive against Sri Lankan off-spinner Muralitharan on his way to a superb 138 on the third day of the third Test at Karachi yesterday. — AFP photo

Inzamam guides Pakistan

KARACHI, Mar 14: Top-up Inzamamul Haq guided Pakistan to a commanding position on the third day of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka here Tuesday, reports AFP.

At stumps Pakistan were 375-7 and enjoyed an overall lead of 404 with skipper Moin Khan batting on 51 and Waqar Younis on 18 on a day carried by Inzamam and dominated by the Pakistan batsmen.

The home team seemed poised to restore their dented pride after losing the one-day series 3-0 and the first two Tests to Sri Lanka and to maintain their unbeaten 33-Test run at Karachi's National Stadium.

Pakistan gained the upper hand for the first time in the series through a brilliant knock of 138 by Inzamam and a fine 61 by Younis Khan. Inzamam was finally caught at long off on a miscued lofted drive off Muralitharan after a 335-minute stay at the crease. He faced 243 balls and in all hit 17 boundaries and a six.

"My team needed these runs and I am happy that my innings lifted the team's position," he said. He wisely used his feet off the dangerous Muralitharan to nullify his turn and completed his ninth hundred in 243 minutes off 180 balls carting 13 boundaries and a six.

"There was a plan to hit Muralitharan and use feet against him," he said. Inzamam, who scored a polished 86 in the first innings, found a perfect ally in Younis and both added a record 124 runs for the sixth wicket cutting down to size the Sri Lankan bowling attack on a easy paced pitch.

Inzamam, a well-built batsman from Multan, had one bluish in what was only his second hundred on home turf, when he was let off in the slips

by Tillekeratne Dilshan off Chaminda Vaas when on 56.

The 30-year-old Inzamam achieved a personal milestone during the innings when he reached 4,000 runs in Test cricket, the fifth Pakistani to do so.

He joins the ranks of Javed Miandad (8,832), Salim Malik (5,768), Zaheer Abbas (5,062) and Mudassar Nazar (4,114).

He also completed 1000 runs against Sri Lanka in 12 Tests and celebrated his appointment as vice-captain for the first time.

Younis was a fitting partner to Inzamam and both built up commanding positions.

Younis, who hit a debut century in the first Test, reached his first 50 in 102 minutes off 84 balls smacking seven fours and a six off captain Sarfraz Jayasuriya.

Jayasuriya took the second new ball in an attempt to break the deadlock in the 82nd over but his bowlers failed to keep a probing line and length.

At tea Pakistan were 273-5, adding 113 runs in the second session without losing a wicket.

Younis was finally out hooking at Pramodya Wickremasinghe and was caught by wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana after spending 136 minutes at the crease gliding in eight fours and a six.

The Inzamam-Younis stand beats Pakistan's previous sixth wicket record against Sri Lanka of 100, forged by Imran Khan and Zaheer Abbas in Lahore in 1981.

Moin Khan notched his 14th half century hitting six fours to put the tourists under further pressure of a big target.

Resuming at 88 for three Pakistan lost two wickets in the first session for 72 runs.

Nightwatchman Shoaib Akhtar failed to open his account for 42 balls and was adjudged leg before off Vaas without scoring.

Yousuf Youhana never

looked in command during his 11-run innings although he helped Inzamam add a valuable 53 runs for the fifth wicket.

Inzamam reached his half century in 128 minutes, consuming 92 balls and hitting six fours and a six off Muralitharan.

Ravindra Pushpakumara had Youhana caught behind off a wide delivery with the total at 153.

Muralitharan took 3-97 taking his tally in the series to 25 wickets.

Pakistan scored 256 in the first innings. Sri Lanka replied with 227.

The tourists savour an unbeatable lead of 2-0 on after their narrow two wicket win in the first Test and 57-run victory in the second Test in Peshawar.

SCORECARD

Scorecard at close on the third day of the third and final cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 256 (I.Haq 86, S.Afridi 74, M.Muralitharan 4-89)

SRI LANKA: First innings 227 (R.Arnold 48, R.Kaluwitharana 42, S.Akhtar 3-52)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 58-3)

Naved Ibw b M'tharan 27
Afridi b P'kumara 34
Ijaz c Dilshan b M'tharan 3
Inzamam c Wsinghe b M'tharan 138
Akhtar Ibw b Vaas 0
Younis c K'tharana b P'kumara 11
Younis c K'tharana b Wsinghe61
Moin not out 51
Waqar not out 18
Extras: (lb-15; nb-17) 32

Total: (For 7 wks in 121 overs) 375
Fall of wickets: 1-70; 2-70; 3-84; 4-106; 5-159; 6-283; 7-320.

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Vaas	30	8	55	1
P'kumara	18	3	58	2
W'singhe	23	7	67	1
M'tharan	37	6	97	3
J'suriya	9	1	28	0
Arnold	4	0	15	0

(Note: The four byes credited at tea were later ruled as four leg byes by umpires).

Cricket tri-series Bangladesh A go to KL tonight

Sports Reporter

A 14-member Bangladesh 'A' cricket team, led by all-rounder Naimur Rahman, leaves the capital for Kuala Lumpur tonight to take part in a three-nation tournament in Malaysia which starts on March 17.

In the inaugural match of the two-tier first round Bangladesh will take on Malaysia on March 17 at the Kial Aman Ground in the capital. They will face Namibia, the third participating side in the week-long meet, in their next match the following day. The final is on March 23.

Bangladesh Cricket Board member Mohammad Jalal Yunus will be accompanying the team as manager which will be coached by Nazmul Abedin. Physio Gavin Benjafield will also travel with the team. The team is likely to return on March 24.

The squad: Naimur Rahman (captain), Mehrob Hossain, Sajid Hasan, Nahidul Hoque, Sanwar Hossain, Mushtaqur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman (wicketkeeper), Mohammad Rafique, Sabbir Khan, Monjurul Islam, Bikash Ranjan Das, Ahmed Kamal, Rajin Saleh and Mohammad Ashraf.

FIXTURES

- Mar 17 Bangladesh v Malaysia
- Mar 18 Bangladesh v Namibia
- Mar 19 Malaysia v Namibia
- Mar 20 Bangladesh v Malaysia
- Mar 21 Bangladesh v Namibia
- Mar 22 Malaysia v Namibia
- Mar 23 Final

Shafiq clinches Nett C'ship

Sports Reporter

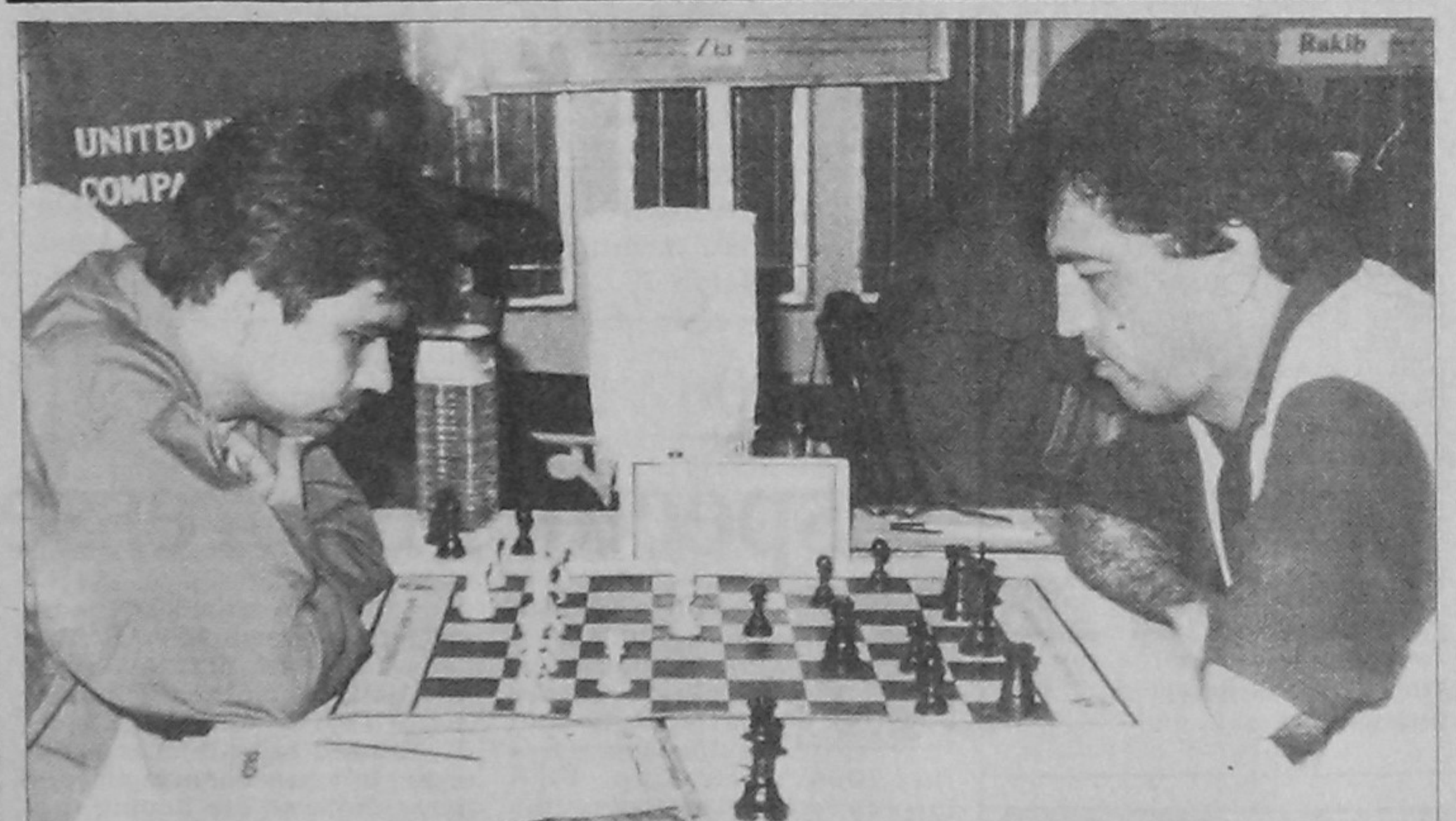
Shafiqul Islam of Kurmitola Golf Club clinched the Nett Championship in style recently at the Bhatiyar Golf and Country Club course in Chittagong.

A record number of golfers from Korea, Japan, India and host Bangladesh took part in the two-day meet - the biggest annual event of the club.

Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Works Engineer Mosharrar Hussain handed over the prizes as chief guest.

OTHER WINNERS

Best Gross: Shimuzama.
1st day Best Gross: SS Rahman.
1st day Best Nett: Mujibur Rahman.
Ladies Best Gross: Shirin Is-pahani.



International Master Ziaur Rahman (L) of Bangladesh looks on as his Uzbek counterpart Vakhidov Tahir contemplates his next move in the tenth round of the 5th United Insurance International Masters Chess tournament yesterday. — Star photo

Sarwan shihes again

POINTE-A-PIERRE, Trinidad, Mar 14: Teenager Ramnareesh Sarwan scored a second century for the West Indies Cricket Board President's XI to secure a draw against Zimbabwe on the final day of their four-day first-class cricket match at Guacara Park on Monday, reports AFP.

Sarwan scored 111 to follow his first innings 100 as the President's XI, who trailed by 45 runs on first innings, were bowled out for a second innings 417 before the match was called off ahead of the final 15 overs.

Rawl Lewis with an innings of 62 and Sylvester Joseph with a knock of 51 gave Sarwan essential support to erase any possibility of an outright win for Zimbabwe, whose bowlers toiled on a benign pitch.

Sarwan batted for close to four hours, faced 178 balls and struck 16 fours and two sixes before being adjudged lbw to be one of three wickets for fast-medium bowler Henry Olonga.

Overnight 118 for three, the President's XI reached 231 for four at lunch. They lost Test batsman Daren Ganga early in the morning period bowled by Olonga for 41.

Striking the ball with crisp assurance, Sarwan and Syl-

vester, who also scored a century in the first innings, posted a century stand for the fifth wicket before lunch.

Both batsmen flourished after the interval to share an enterprising 140-run stand before Joseph was removed by Grant Flower's left-arm spin. The Leeward Islander batted close to three hours and struck seven fours and one six.

Captain Courtney Browne lbw to leg-spin bowler Brian Murphy for nought to raise Zimbabwe's hope, but the President's XI gave their opponents a taste of their own medicine as the lower-half of the batting rallied. Positioned at 320 for six at tea, the President's XI lost Sarwan shortly after the break, after he and Lewis added 62 for the seventh wicket.

Olonga had Marlon Black adjudged lbw first ball, but Cameron Cuffey avoided the hat-trick, then proceeded to add 58 for the ninth-wicket with Lewis and 28 for the last wicket with Goldwyn Prince.

The match was Zimbabwe's final dress rehearsal before the opening Test against West Indies at Queen's Park Oval in the capital, Port-of-Spain, starting on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the final day

of the four-day first-class cricket match between the West Indies Cricket Board President's XI and Zimbabwe at Guacara Park on Monday:

WICE XI: First Innings 349 (S. Joseph 100, R. Sarwan 100, B. Strang 4-36)

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 394 (A. Campbell 158, M.Black 4-87)

WICE XI: Second Innings (overnight 118 for three)

Wallace run out	14
Ganga b Olonga	41
Rampersad lbw b Murphy	34
Sooklal c Gripper b Murphy	0
Joseph c Goodwin b G Flower	51
Sarwan lbw b Olonga	111
Browne lbw b Murphy	0
Lewis c Goodwin b Murphy	62
Black lbw b Olonga	0
Cuffy b G Flower	37
Prince not out	2
Extras: (b-28; lb-1; w-2; nb-34)	65
Total: (All out in 108.3 overs) 417	
Fall of wickets: 1-38; 2-104; 3-108; 4-128; 5-268; 6-269; 7-331; 8-331; 9-389	

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Olonga	23	1	98	3
Strang	28	12	60	0
Blignaut	14	0	83	0
Johnson	12	1	47	0
Murphy	23	8	71	4
G Flower	8.3	2	29	2

Result: Match drawn.

Next match: First Test, Queen's Park Oval, March 16 to 20

Fingers crossed for Aussies

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Mar 14: A helicopter has been called in to try and keep alive a history-making bid by Australia's cricketers in the first Test against New Zealand at Eden Park here, reports AFP.

The match hangs in the balance after the fourth day was washed out following heavy overnight rain which left surface water across the ground.

A helicopter was used late

Play was expected to start after lunch before the weather again turned, bucketing down rain as the umpires walked out to inspect the ground.

Minutes after play was abandoned, the ground was drenched in sunlight, but Australia will need extra help to press on to their record-equaling eighth consecutive Test win on Wednesday's final day.

A helicopter was used late

Tuesday to dry a section of outfield which remained in the shadow of the new northern stand but it would be useless if more predicted showers arrived Wednesday.

If the weather improves, New Zealand will resume their second innings at 151 for five, needing another 130 runs for a remarkable win, while Shane Warne will also continue his bid to break an Australian Test record.

Warne Monday joined Dennis Lillee on 355 Test wickets and the odds have shortened that the leg-spinner's long wait will continue into the second Test in Wellington.

The rain threatens to sabotage what has been a gripping Auckland Test, during which New Zealand crawled back from the dead to throw down a genuine challenge to Australia.

New Zealand coach David Trist Tuesday admitted the tourists held the upper hand but he was quietly confident.

"Australia is slightly ahead, as they have been throughout the game to date, but New Zealand goes into this fifth day now with a reasonable expectation of winning," Trist said.

"Eden Park holds a lot of moisture and that has made fielding around the boundaries quite challenging.

"I think the pitch will ease slightly, as it has done, but it will still take turn."

Craig McMillan (57 not out) and Chris Cairns (20 not out) hold the key for the Black Caps, helping them recover from a disastrous 43 for four late on Monday's third day following a three-wicket burst from off-spinner Colin Miller.



Minister for Civil Aviation, Tourism and Works Engineer Mosharrar Hussain handing over the champion's trophy to Shafiqul Islam, who won the 11th Bhatiyar Golf and Country Club Nett title held in Chittagong recently.