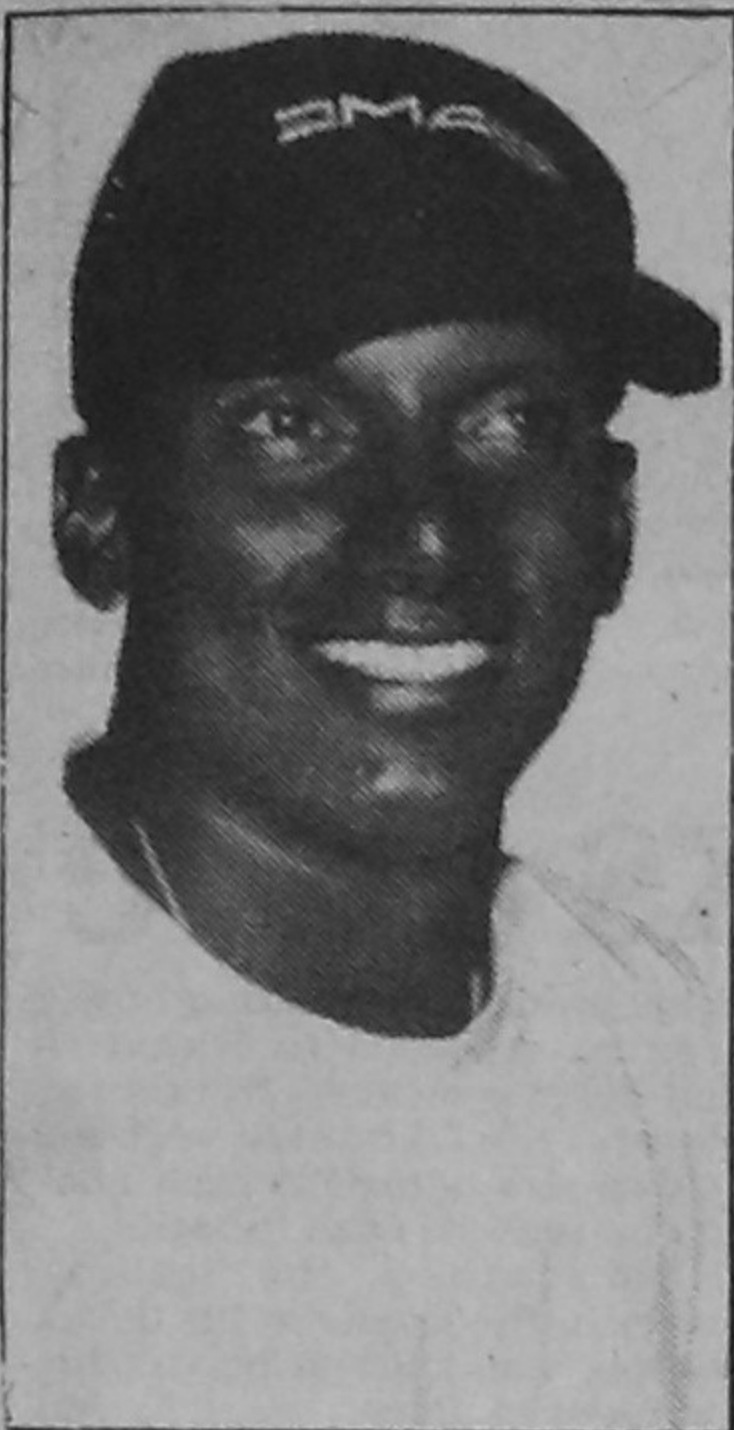


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Aravinda de Silva
(Sri Lankan batting maestro)
"All hundreds are special but this can be rated as one of the best of my career."
On his century in the Rawalpindi Test.

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

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 Matthews' father?	Jack	Stephen	Bill
4 Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?	Rivaldo	Raul	Vieri
5 Who is the captain of Birmah cricket team?	Aminul	Faruque	Athar

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Independence Day kabadi

Bangladesh Rifles beat Bangladesh Army by 55-26 points with three Ionas in the Independence Day kabadi competition yesterday, reports UNB.

In another match Bangladesh Police defeated Dikusha Sporting Club by 70-50 points with three creditable Ionas.

Independence Day b'ball

Dharmketu Club and Bangladesh Navy won their respective matches in the Independence Day basketball competition at the basketball gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB. Dharmketu defeated Bangladesh Police by 88-75 points after leading the first half 50-29.

Navy smashed Bangladesh Army (Green) by 115-65 points after dominating the first half 53-25.

Sirajganj cricket

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: Sirajganj Muktiyoddah Sangsad Ekadash recorded a 25-run win over Ullapara Showkhin Club in a league match at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium here Friday. Batting first, Muktiyoddah put on 226 runs in 40 overs. Showkhin were 201 all out in 35 overs.

Earlier, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim declared the 17-team tournament open.

Our apologia

Due to some technicalities we could not hold the draw of the WHIZZ KID Competition-127 on Friday last. It will now be held on March 31. --SE

Chasers go home cheerfully

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket
Sports Reporter

The second day of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 18th National School Cricket championship proved to be a successful day for the teams chasing a set target as Hammadia High School, Aftab Memorial Academy and Santibagh High School won their respective matches at different venues yesterday.

At the Friends Club Ground, Hammadia High School won a thriller against Nakhalpara Hossain Ali High School. Needing 156 to win, the old town school reached the summit in the penultimate ball of the innings with Alauddin and Shamim producing 32 runs off only 29 balls for the undefeated fourth wicket. Although Alauddin scored a sedate 63-ball 25, Javed's little cameo of 18-ball 25 that included five hits across the rope set the pace of their chase.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Aftab Memorial recorded a six-wicket win over Uttara High School.

In a low-scoring affair, Aftab Memorial, set to score 99 in the allotted 30 overs, reached the target in 11.3 overs with opener Nizam hammering a breezy 28-ball 45.

Earlier, batting first after winning the toss Uttara High School could muster only 98 before being bundled out in 27.4 overs. Extras with 23 were the highest contribution to the Uttara total.

BRIEF SCORES
Titas Gas Adarsha High School v Santibagh High School
Venue: Uttara Police Lines ground
Titas Gas Adarsha: 94 all out in 27.4 overs (Saiful 23; Mousum 3/21, Al-Amin 2/6, Delwar 2/25)
Santibagh: 96 for two wickets in 13.2 overs (Amir 44 not out, Ashraf 27 not out)
Result: Santibagh High School won by 8 wickets.
Uttara High School v Aftab Memorial
Venue: Dhanmondi Club ground
Uttara HC: 98 all out in 27.4 overs (Jafar 15; Joy 4/13, Sabuj 2/14)
Aftab Memorial: 99 for four wickets in 11.3 overs (Nizam 45, Sabuj 10)
Result: Aftab Memorial Academy won by 8 wickets.
Nakhalpara Hossain Ali High School v Hammadia High School
Venue: Uttara Friends Club ground
Nakhalpara HC: 155 all out in 30 overs (Harun 32, Extras 62; Ashraf 3/19)
Hammadia HC: 156 for three wickets in 29.5 overs (Javed 32, Roquibul 30, Shamim 25 not out)
Result: Hammadia High School won by seven wickets.

At the Uttara Police Lines ground, Santibagh High School over Titas Gas Adarsha High School.

The Santibagh boys, who shot Titas out for 94 in 27.4 overs, rattled up 96 for two wickets in 13.2 overs with opener Amir scoring a fine 44 of 51 balls. He hammered five fours and a couple of sixes.

APTECH-Dhaka Club Bridge final today

Sports Reporter

Four teams booked their places in the semifinals of the APTECH-Dhaka Club Independence Day Bridge Tournament as the round robin league phase ended at the hall room of the club yesterday.

The teams are: Dhaka Club Blue, Aces Alpha, Team ABC and Kamal & Partners.

Both of the semifinals and the grand final will be held today. Play is scheduled to start at 11:30 in the morning.

A total of 14 teams, split into four groups, took part in the preliminary round on Friday. Top two teams from each group qualified for yesterday's league phase.

Twin tons lift Aussies

WELLINGTON, Mar 25: Michael Slater and Steve Waugh plundered centuries as Australia established a first innings lead over New Zealand in the second cricket Test at the Basin Reserve here Saturday, reports AFP.

Looking shaky at 51 for four after the loss of two wickets in the first 35 minutes, Australia set up a 20-run first innings lead over the Kiwis at the end of the second day's play.

Slater claimed his 14th Test hundred and Waugh his 22nd as they added 199 runs for the fifth wicket to seize the initiative and put the pressure back on Stephen Fleming's Black Caps with three days to play.

At the close, Australia were 318 for five with Waugh unconquered on 109 and Damien Martyn not out 41. The Kiwis scored 298 in their first innings on Friday.

It was Slater and Waugh's near record partnership which swung the balance after first innings centurion Chris Cairns had removed Justin Langer (12) and Mark Waugh (3).

Slater crashed 22 fours and a six in his 278-minute innings to be finally out when he gloved an attempted hook shot off part-time bowler Craig McMillan and was caught behind by Adam Parore about an hour before bad light stopped play.

The partnership was broken just 14 runs short of the fifth wicket partnership of 213 between the two countries, set 14 years ago by Greg Ritchie and Greg Matthews at the ground.

Slater and Waugh became the first Australian batsmen to score Test centuries in New Zealand since Allan Border's 114 at Christchurch in March, 1986.

"Today was an important century for me as I had been a little anxious and had the last game off to get refreshed and get away from cricket for a couple of days," said Slater, who had not reached double figures in his previous four Test innings.

"It did the trick. It was enjoyable out there today. I got the feet moving and I hit the ball well."

"At 4-51 it was a great opportunity to knuckle down and get going and I definitely rise to the occasion."

Waugh, like Slater looking for a big score after a recent run of outs, passed England's David Gower to become Test cricket's sixth all-time leading run-getter.

He also passed David Boon

and Neil Harvey to become the fourth Australian batsmen with the most Test hundreds behind Don Bradman (29), Allan Border (27) and Greg Chappell (24). India's Sunil Gavaskar has scored the most in Tests with 34.

Waugh brought up his century in 260 minutes with 16 fours.

Upon Slater's departure Martyn came to the crease and continued Australia's scoring momentum to put on an unfinished 68 runs for the sixth wicket in his breezy 41.

New Zealand laboured away

See Page 14



Australia's Michael Slater kisses his helmet after reaching 100 in the second Test against New Zealand at Wellington yesterday. —Internet photo

No change in Pak fate

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Mar 25: South Africa extended their winning streak over Pakistan in one-day cricket to 14 with a tense three-wicket victory in the Sharjah Cup here on Friday, reports AFP.

Lance Klusener grabbed four wickets in 11 balls as South Africa restricted Pakistan to 196 for eight and then survived a top order collapse to win in the 45th over.

The South Africans slipped to 136 for six and then 163 for seven, before tallener Nicky Boje proved the unlikely batting hero with a pugnacious 35 not out.

Boje and his eighth-wicket partner Steve Elworthy (four) defied the depleted Pakistani attack in the exciting final moments to put on a match-winning stand of 36.

It was South Africa's second successive win in the three-nation tournament following their 10-wicket rout of India on Wednesday, and left them well-placed to enter the final on March 31.

The second round of the double-leg preliminary league starts on Sunday after a day's rest with Pakistan taking on India in the return match. Pakistan lost to arch-rivals

India by five wickets on Thursday.

Pakistan, already missing the injured trio of Saeed Anwar, Saqlain Mushtaq and Azhar Mahmood, suffered further blows when fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Shoaib Akhtar pulled out of the match with groin injuries.

But their absence was not felt at the start as veteran Waqar Younis and off-spinner Arshad Khan grabbed two wickets each to slice through the South African batting.

Jacques Kallis made 35 and newcomer Neil McKenzie 31, but Boje was the only other batsman to cross 30 on a good batting wicket.

Pakistan captain Moin Khan said 25 more runs by his batsmen may have turned the game in their favour, but praised the bowlers for fighting till the end.

Klusener proved almost unplayable as Pakistan faltered after a promising start from young guns Imran Nazir and Younis Khan.

Nazir, the 18-year-old opener who played in the recent Junior World Cup in Sri Lanka, slammed three sixes and five boundaries in his 71.

The pair put on 115 for the second wicket to lift Pakistan to 129 for one when Klusener stepped into make it 145 for five.

The all-rounder finished with five for 47.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: 196 for eight (Imran Nazir 71, Younis Khan 48, Abdur Razaq 23; Lance Klusener 5/47, Steve Elworthy 2/43)

SOUTH AFRICA: Kirsten c Inzamam b Waqar 20; Gibbs c Inzamam b Waqar 0; Kallis c Moin b Razaq 35; McKenzie lbw b Arshad 31; Cronje c Malik b Arshad 14; Boucher c and b Afridi 27; Klusener c Moin b Malik 5; Boje not out 35; Elworthy not out 4.

Extras: (b-14; w-8; nb-6) 28
Total: (For 7 wts in 44.3 overs) 199
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-45, 3-69, 4-98, 5-124, 6-136, 7-163.

Bowler: O M R W
Waqar 7 0 28 2
M Akram 7.3 0 44 0
Razaq 10 1 43 1
Arshad 10 2 34 2
Malik 7 0 33 1
Afridi 3 0 3 3

Result: South Africa won by three wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Lance Klusener.
Next match: India vs Pakistan on March 26.

Worry about Pakistan

Sports Reporter

The fixture of the forthcoming Asia Cup, scheduled to begin in Dhaka from May 28, will be finalised in an ACC meeting at Sharjah on March 29.

The date of the four-nation meet, that included India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the ACC champions Bangladesh, was already changed thrice in a bid to orchestrate with other international commitments of the three Asian cricketing giants.

Although the tournament starts on May 28, Pakistan would not be available before May 31. Pakistan will play their third and final Test against hosts West Indies at St. Jones from May 25-29 before arriving in Dhaka.

"We are planning to arrange a charter plane and fly in the Pakistan team on schedule," said BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf ul Haq, who is leaving for the desert kingdom today to attend the ACC meeting. As per the current fixture, Pakistan play their first match of the tournament on June 1 against Sri Lanka.

"Hopefully, there will be no change in the schedule this time. The championship will start on May 28 and the final would be held on June 7," said Ashraf to the reporters at the BCB office yesterday.

He further added that the next edition of the biennial event will be held in Pakistan in 2001 and the date of which would be finalised in the ACC meeting. Besides, the ACC meeting will also announce the dates of the several age-group events in this region.

Cricket Week declaration on Mar 30

Sports Reporter

The official declaration of the ICC (International Cricket Council) Week would be made in India and England simultaneously on Thursday.

But there will be no such notification in Dhaka, which will host a limited-over match between Asia Eleven and World Eleven as part of the ICC's celebration world-wide. The most attractive event will be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 8 to culminate the weeklong cricket programme, starting on April 2.

The ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya will announce the programme in India while his chief executive Barry Richards will disclose the schedule on the same day in London. Syed Ashraf ul Haq, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), revealed this to the local press yesterday on his arrival from India disclosed.

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Goodwin, backing up too far, was run out by Wavell Hinds' sharp throw from mid-wicket to Adams at the bowler's end off

Young lift Div I title

Sports Reporter

Young Cricketers lifted the First Division Cricket League title when the Mirpur outfit thumped down a nine-wicket defeat on Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The final encounter of the six-team Super League petered into an anticlimactic finish when no-hoppers Eskaton were bundled out for only 87 runs in 24 overs.

Young Cricketers, who had earlier confirmed their berth in the elite Premier League along with Dhanmondi Club, raced on

BRIEF SCORE

Young Cricketers v Eskaton Sabuj Sangha
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Eskaton: 87 all out in 24 overs (Kabir 22, Sohag 22; Poltu 3/23, Rajon 3/4)

Young Cricketers: 89 for 1 in 6.5 overs (Rezaul 31 no, Adil 26 no)

to 89 for the loss of one wicket in only 6.5 overs.

Opener Rezaul and one-down Adil led the easy chase with flurry of boundaries. Rezaul scored an unbeaten 31 off 22 balls that included a quintet of fours and a massive sixer while Adil remained not out on a 14-ball 26. Adil hammered half a dozen fours.

Although Rezaul and Adil discovered a batting paradise after the lunch break, Eskaton found runs hard to come by when they elected to bat after winning the toss in the morning.

Only opener Kabir and Sohag, who scored 22 runs apiece, offered some sort of resilience in the face of quality bowling from Young Cricketers duo of Poltu and Rajon, who shared six wickets among them.

Of the two, Rajon returned with fantastic figures of 3-24-3.

With this win Young Cricketers finished a par with Dhanmondi, collecting 24 points. But Young Cricketers pushed Dhanmondi behind in the League standing by virtue of having a better net run-rate.



Feroze Ahmed (2nd from R) and Farooq Sobhan (L) playing for Dhaka Club Blue team yesterday at the APTECH-Dhaka Club Independence Day Bridge Tournament. —Star photo

Goodwin hits hundred



KINGSTON, Mar 24: Murray Goodwin scored his second Test century and shared a vital partnership with his captain

to lift Zimbabwe from deep trouble in the second Test against the West Indies here on Friday, reports AFP.

After choosing to bat on a hard, true Sabina Park pitch, Zimbabwe were confronting danger when 40 for three at lunch, but Goodwin and Andy Flower shared a 176-run fourth-wicket stand to carry them to 220 for five when bad light brought the opening day to a close.

Goodwin prospered after being dropped when on 16 by West Indies captain Jimmy Adams off fast bowler Franklyn Rose to hit a purposeful 113 that lasted nearly 5 1/2 hours.

"You can never underestimate the West Indies' bowlers and it is nice to have made a hundred when they were bowling really well," Goodwin told reporters afterwards.

"It's always tough playing against West Indies in West Indies and I am very happy to be able to play against them."

Flower, fresh from an unbeaten hundred in the opening Test in Port of Spain last week, gave him essential support in a knock of 66 for which he batted just over four hours.

Both Goodwin and Flower, however, were dismissed in a dramatic penultimate over of the day bowled by Rose to bring the West Indies back into the match.

Goodwin, backing up too far, was run out by Wavell Hinds' sharp throw from mid-wicket to Adams at the bowler's end off

the fourth ball of the over. He faced 239 balls and hit 10 fours.

Probably traumatised by the dismissal of the century-maker, Flower badly misjudged the next delivery from Rose -- a good length delivery that moved back -- to lose his off-stump.

Both dismissals were completely out of character from the preceding four hours, during which Goodwin and Flower grinded the West Indies bowlers with purposeful batting.

They had transformed the innings from its lunch-time position after fast bowler Reon King captured two wickets in the final 15 minutes before the interval to set Zimbabwe back.

After batting for nearly two hours, opening batsman Trevor Gripper was caught at mid-on by Courtney Walsh for 11 after he hooked at a slow long-hop from King.

Neil Johnson's wretched tour continued when he was caught at first slip after being squared up by a well-pitched ball moving away in King's net over, the final one before the interval.

By that time, Walsh had drawn level with Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand in second position on the all-time list of leading bowlers.

Walsh made the breakthrough for West Indies in his fifth over when opening batsman Grant Flower was caught by wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs for two to become the fast bowler's 431st wicket in 114 Tests.

After lunch, Goodwin and Andy Flower busily embarked upon rebuilding the Zimbabwe innings. The two batsmen batted through the afternoon period to carry their team to 119

for three at tea.

After the break, they again settled down to the task at hand and did not offer West Indies even the slightest chance of removing them as Adams explored all of his bowling options -- including himself, off-spin bowler Chris Gayle and Shivanine Chandrapaul's modest leg-spin.

By the time the new-ball was summoned, Zimbabwe were sailing along at 203 for three. Goodwin had reached his landmark and Flower also had a half-century to show for his effort.

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE: First Innings
G. Flower c Jacobs b Walsh 2
Gripper c Walsh b King 11
Goodwin run out 113
Johnson c Gayle b King 0
A. Flower b Rose 66
Murphy not out 0
Campbell not out 0
Extras: (b-4; lb-11; w-1; nb-12) 28
Total: (For 5 wts in 85.4 overs) 220
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-40, 3-40, 4-216, 5-216

To bat: Stuart Carlisle, Heath Streak, Henry Olonga, Brian Strang

Bowler: O M R W
Ambrose 18 7 26 0
Walsh 17 6 28 1
King 14 4 29 2
Rose 16 6 43 1
Gayle 9 0 35 0
Adams 9 2 32 0
C Paul 2 0 12 0

WEST INDIES: Sherwin Campbell, Adrian Griffith, Chris Gayle, Shivanine Chandrapaul, Jimmy Adams (captain), Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Reon King, Courtney Walsh.

Umpires: E. Nicholls, Athar Zaidi

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