

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Imran Khan**

(Pakistani cricket legend)  
"I would never cry. I can understand somebody becoming angry but I cannot understand Kapil's crying."

On Indian great Kapil Dev's behaviour in a recent television interview with BBC.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

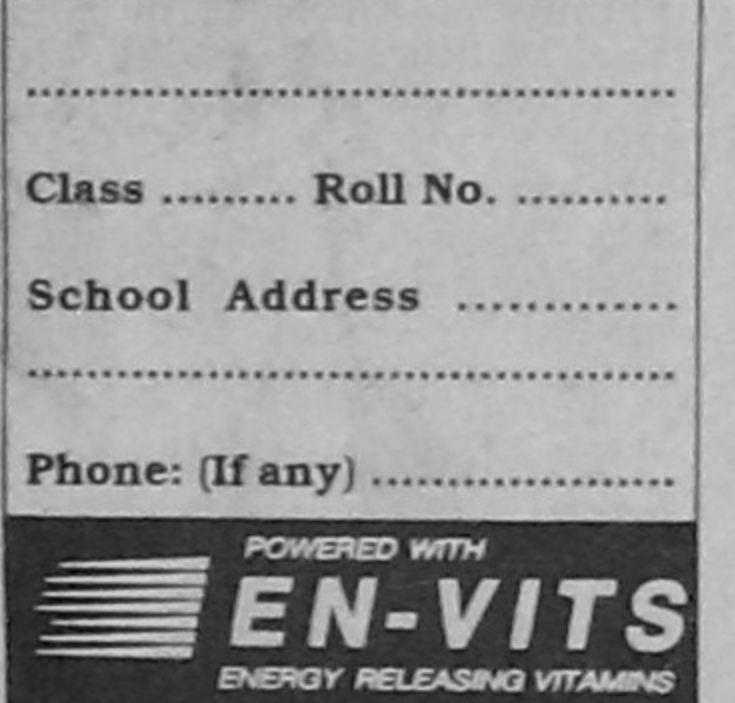
### Competition-130

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
May 26, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

- Who replaced David Lloyd as England cricket coach?  
Fletcher    Woolmer    Richardson
- Which country will host the Euro 2004 Championship?  
Portugal    Germany    Spain
- Which Kiwi batsman hit 214 on his last Test debut against West Indies?  
Sindhu    Fleming    Crowe
- Which country won the four-nation football tournament in Maldives?  
Sri Lanka    Bangladesh    India
- Who won the national chess title this year?  
Rifat    Zia    Tipu

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



## BKSP, IU Boys in group final

## ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

MYMENSINGH, May 17: BKSP and Islamic University Boys High of Tangail qualified for the Group 'D' final in the ANZ Grindlays Bank National schools cricket tournament here today, reports BSS.

BKSP beat Prince Aga Khan High of Khulna by two wickets at the Circuit House ground. Aga Khan were all out for 94 in 27 overs with Raju making 27 and Sajib 18.

Mithun and Shafiq took four and three wickets respectively for 18 and 17 runs. BKSP in reply, made 95 for eight in 31 overs with Iftekar scoring an unbeaten 34 and Sabbir 20.

Raju got three for 16. In the other match of the day at the Mymensingh Stadium, Islamic University Boys High defeated Latif Municipal Missionary School of Patuakhali by five wickets.

Municipal, batting first, were all out for 95 in 26.1 overs with Selim scoring 30. Sanjoy and Shaon took three wickets each for 10 and 18 respectively. The Islamic University Boys scored 98 for five in 22.3 overs with Sanjoy scoring an unbeaten 24, Razzak 21 and Rashed 15.

Selim took three wickets for 32. The group final will be held on May 19.

## Sirajganj cricket

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, May 17: Rahmatganj Young Association beat Sirajee Smriti Sangha by eight wickets at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium today.

Winning the toss Sirajee bat first and collected 106 runs losing all the wickets in 40 overs. In reply, Rahmatganj scored 109 runs for 2 wickets in 24 overs.

## Bangladesh get Aussie nod

### Saber salutes men down under

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh's bid to become the tenth Test playing nation got a real shot in the arm when the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) threw its weight behind the aspiring nation yesterday.

ACB, the most influential and efficient organisation among the nine full members of the International Cricket Council, has made the sensational announcement in a joint declaration with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) at 3pm.

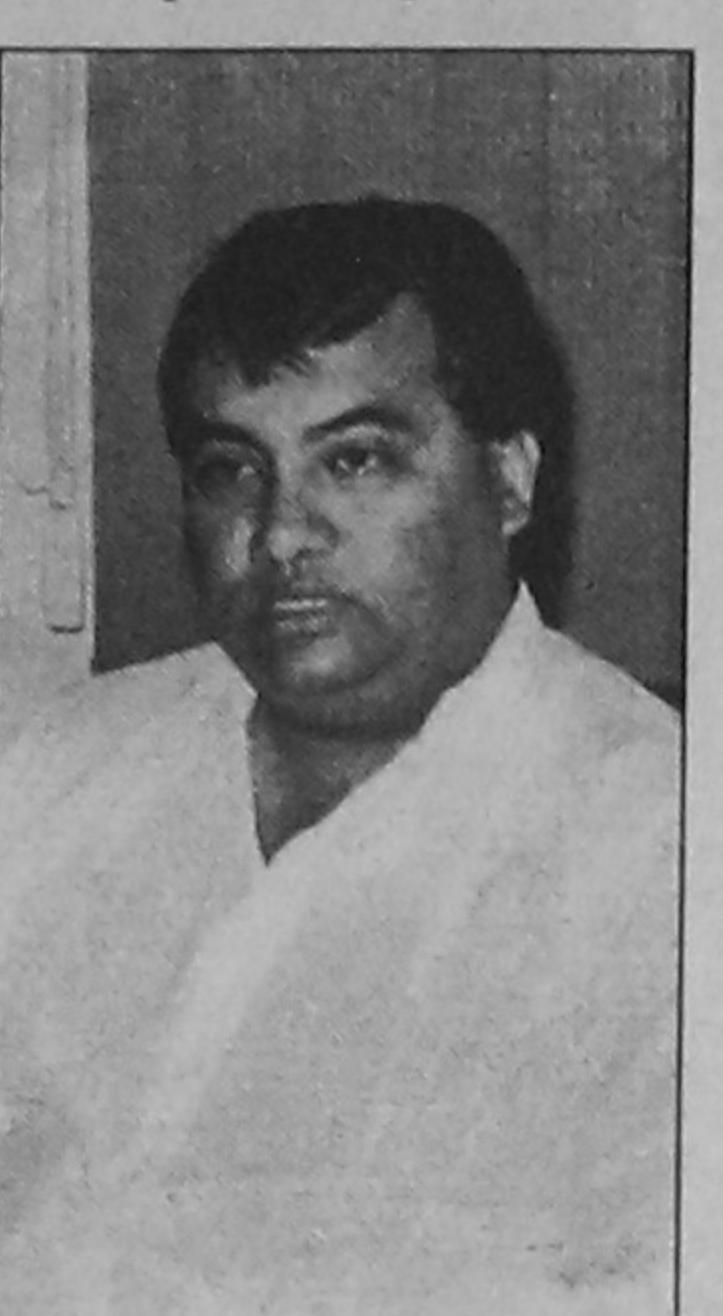
"Bangladesh has earned the right to become the tenth Test Match playing nation and the Australian Cricket Board will be pleased to support its application for Full Membership of the ICC and to assist in future development of the game in Bangladesh," said the ABC chairman Denis Rogers.

With this unequivocal support of the world's top cricket-playing country, Bangladesh's bid gathered a decisive momentum ahead of the ICC meeting at Lord's in June where they need to win the vote of confidence of at least seven out of the nine permanent members to earn the Test tag. ICC however rewarded Bangladesh with the one-day status along with Kenya.

Applied for Test status in 1998, Bangladesh bagged five votes in the ICC meeting at cricket's headquarter in London last year. Interestingly though, Australia was one of the four aristocrats of cricket who considered it was too early for Bangladesh to earn a promotion to the Ivy League of Test cricket.

But the change of hearts of a highly conservative Australia was the result of a relentless effort made by the BCB president, Saber Hossain Chowdhury. The dynamic BCB boss had recently visited Australia as part of Bangladesh's campaign for Test status.

"These major decisions follow a presentation by BCB president, Saber H. Chowdhury MP, to the ACB Board of Directors



**SABER HOSSAIN**

on 12th May 2000 at Avers Rock Resort, Northern Territory that detailed BCB case for admission as a Full Member of the ICC," read the joint declaration.

The ACB has also pledged to assist in the overall development of the game in Bangladesh with a particular emphasis on cricket administration and marketing.

"The Bangladesh Cricket Board is to be congratulated for the cricket infrastructure now in place in Bangladesh, for further steps and measures currently being taken in developing this further and also for the recent competitive performances of its national team," said Rogers.

In their maiden appearance in the World Cup in England last year, Bangladesh won two games, cruising to victory over Scotland and pulling off the biggest upset in the history of the tournament by beating eventual runners-up Pakistan comprehensively.

While Rogers' message travelled across the world through

different media, Saber took the rightful opportunity to thank the people down under in a fitting way.

Clad in his trademark white pajama-panjabi, an extremely elated Saber said the Australian gesture for the cause of our cricket "will remain as part of the proud history of Bangladesh".

"This is as great an achievement as that of the victory in the ICC Trophy," said Saber to the journalist while disclosing the joint declaration at the BCB office yesterday. "This is the most crucial hurdle we have crossed in our pursuit of gaining the Test status," he added.

A man with vision Saber however said that "this is not the final hurdle" and it would not be wise to take the Test status for granted before the ICC meeting.

"We are hopeful that South Africa will support our plea," said Saber adding, he is working out a way to involve South Africa with our youth development plan.

South Africa, who will take its decision at the Board meeting Wednesday, is likely to give a nod to Bangladesh's case. "I hope they will also support us," said Saber, who visited South Africa last month along with Obaidul Quader, the State Minister for Youth and Sports.

However, Ali Bacher, the Managing Director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), has already recommended strongly Bangladesh's Test application in his capacity as the Chairman of the ICC Development Committee.

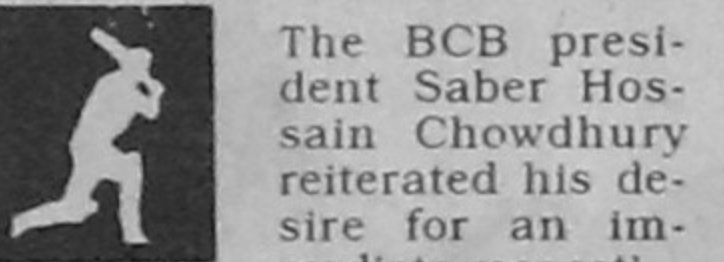
"I also have had cordial discussions with the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) chief executive Tim Lamb and John Edensor of New Zealand," said Saber.

Both England and New Zealand voted against Bangladesh in 1999 ICC meeting at Lord's.

Zimbabwe was the last nation to gain full member status of the ICC.

## Unflinched about changes

Sports Reporter



The BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury reiterated his desire for an immediate reconstitution of the country's cricket despite protests from his board members in their last meeting.

"I believe in progress through disagreement," said Saber adding that he is ready to encounter any challenge to implement "the strategic development plan".

Working on an ambitious plan to take Bangladesh near the elite of world cricket in 10 years time, Saber faced opposition from most of his 32 strong army of members over the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the board.

While Saber wanted an immediate appointment of a CEO, the first step to give a professional look in the board-his confused members, desired to go for a council first before making any changes in the present set up.

But an adamant Saber, who was critical about the 'unbecoming behavior of first accepting the concept and then opposing it', said that a CEO

would be appointed soon. The members had earlier indicated that they would support Saber's cause.

"We have got a lot of applications," said Saber. It was

## BCB boss positive about Barlow

Sports Reporter

Eddie Barlow's involvement in Bangladesh cricket is far from being over believes BCB supremo Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Saber gave this opinion yesterday at a press conference on his return from an official trip of Australia and New Zealand.

"He (Eddie Barlow) is improving fast in Singapore and hopefully he will return to South Africa soon," said Saber adding that the left leg of the BCB's Director of Development, which was paralysed after he suffered a self-inflicted infarction last month, was now responding.

"I strongly believe Eddie will gradually recover and return to his job again," said Saber.

learnt that about 20 applications have already been dropped and the written examination would be held in the last week of this month.

The appointment of the CEO will mean redefining and redistributing the present set up, which has evoked fear among the members about their respective positions.

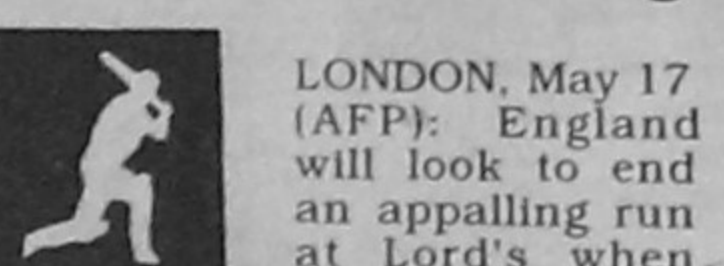
"A sense of insecurity might be there but being the president of the BCB I'm not here to promote individuals", Saber said, adding that he would prefer the right combination for the best interest of cricket.

Elaborating his 10-year plan, masterminded by South African Director of Development Eddie Barlow, Saber said that it has two phases.

"The first phase our target is to be among the top five in five years. We then aim to be right at the top in ten years. I'm also entertaining the prospect of hosting the 2111 World Cup in Bangladesh", Saber said.

Replying to a query Saber said that he has no reservations regarding bringing to light the full details of the 'strategic development plan' in public.

## Lord's jinx inspires Zim



**NASSER HUSSAIN**

LONDON, May 17 (AFP): England will look to end an appalling run at Lord's when they face Zimbabwe in the first Test which starts here on Thursday.

England have won just one Test at the 'home of cricket' in the last 10 years, against West Indies in 1995. They have lost six of the other nine games and drawn three.

Zimbabwe, playing their first Test match in England, will hope that the thrill of playing at cricket's most famous

ground inspires them as it has done for other touring sides.

Players such as fast bowler Heath Streak and middle-order batsman Guy Whittall are just two tourists who have relatives living and working on 'white-owned' farms, the very properties that have come under severest attack in the latest episodes of political violence.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe captain, admitted "there are other (non-cricketing) matters that are on people's minds."

As well as these problems, the tourists have been unhappy with their low pay levels brought about by the weak Zimbabwe dollar.

On the field poor weather and lacklustre performances have not helped build morale. Opening batsmen Grant Flower and Trevor Gripper have both been struggling for form.

But it would be unwise to underestimate Zimbabwe, who will face England in a second

and final Test at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, in a fortnight before participating in a triangular one-day series with England and the West Indies.

They have a useful habit of becoming more than the sum of their parts in really important matches. In Streak, the only Zimbabwean to have taken over 100 Test wickets, they have a genuinely threatening bowler.

Flower said after his players had practised on Tuesday at Shenley Cricket Centre, a few miles north of London: "Heath



**ANDY FLOWER**

## Ganguly hopes to do well in Dhaka

From Our Correspondent



CALCUTTA, May 17: The captain of the Indian cricket team, Sourav Ganguly has stated that in spite of all the controversies surrounding cricket, the Indian team has the capacity to do well at the Asia Cup Tournament in Dhaka later this month.

In an interview over the phone from Durham to the daily Ananda Bazaar Patrika, Ganguly has said, "Is our team bad? I do not think so. We have all played at Dhaka before and we are acclimatised with the conditions there. I do not want to comment on what is happening outside the cricket field. But we will go to Dhaka with the intention of winning the tournament."

The Indian team takes on Bangladesh on May 30 in the quarter-final tournament. Ganguly has also stated that he is a bit agitated at the way things are being played in his mouth. "I am far away from India. So how can I comment on what is happening there. I have not passed any remark that the team will be under pressure because of allegations against our coach."

"I will call him up and clear up the entire matter. Otherwise, as the coach of the team he may make a different meaning out of this statement. I will reach Pune on May 21. Before that I will clear up the entire issue with him. I do not want him to misunderstand me."

Ganguly was referring to his interview to a cricket web site early this week after his innings of 73 against Durham, where he had stated that every member of the Indian team and the coach felt the pressure of these allegations. He had said: "I know every member of the national side is thinking on the same lines. And to assist us, let there be a full stop to these immature comments and baseless allegations. These not only affect the alleged cricketer, but also the national team. It's bad for the credibility of the game too."

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## Rajshahi v'ball

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, May 17: Nabarun Sangha and Bright Star Club won their respective matches of the Hassan Imam and Ali Imam Pintu Smriti First Division Volleyball league at Rajshahi Stadium today.

Nabarun Sangha beat Bandhan Kiria Chakra by 3-0 (25-13, 26-24 and 25-16) sets and Bright Star defeated Modern Boxing Club by 3-0 (25-7, 25-4 and 25-14) sets.

Ambagan Club will face United Sporting Club and Jagrata Sangha will take on Morning Star Club tomorrow.

## DIV II CRICKET

Jubo Cricket School and Habib Uddin Smriti Sangha won their respective matches of the Rajshahi Second Division qualifying cricket league played at local stadium today.

Jubo Cricket beat Danger Sporting Club by six wickets in the first match.

Danger were all out for 79 in 21.3 overs. In reply, Jubo reached the target of 80 runs losing four wickets in 12.3 overs.

Habib Uddin Smriti Sangha beat Al-Amin by 36 runs in the other match of the day. The winners collected 127 for eight in allotted 22 overs.

In reply, Al-Amin were bundled out for 91 in 21.1 overs.

## Services golf held

Sports Reporter

Lt Col (Retd) Gvas Uddin Chowdhury and Mrs Ayesha Farid became champions in the men's and women's sections respectively in the first Services golf tournament held at the Kurmitola Golf Club Course yesterday.

Golfers from Army, Navy, Air Force and govt officials took part in the tournament. Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman inaugurated the tournament.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral MA Taber and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed were present.

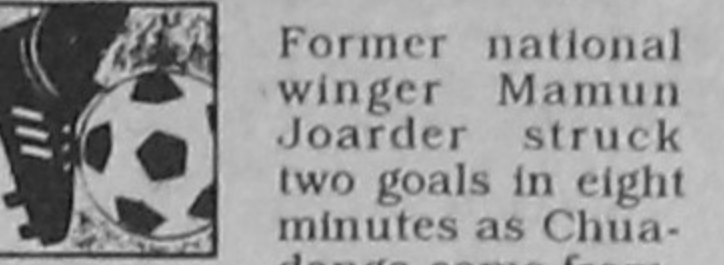
## OTHER WINNERS

Super Sailor: Maj Gen (Retd) M Hasan; Senior Winner: Col Eric Rozario; Runner-up: Brig S Anam Khan; 2nd Runner-up: Gp Capt Aminul Haque; 3rd Runner-up: Brig (Retd) Salim Khan; Front Nine Winner: Brig M A Rob; Back Nine Winner: Maj Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury; Matching Score: Gp Capt Rashidul Haque; Best Point Per 3 Hole (3 par): Maj Gen M Kamal Uddin; Best Point Per 4 Hole (4 par): Brig Mohitaram; Best Point Per 5 Hole (5 par): Brig Anwar Farid; Nearest to Pin (Hole No 10): Brig (Retd) Jahangir Hosain; Nearest to Pin (3 short Hole No 7): Shawkat Uz Zaman; Longest Drive: Air Cdre T A Zeatari Ali; Best Point in one Hole: Brig (Retd) Imtiaz A Chowdhury.

## 21st Sher-e-Bangla nat'l football championship

### Chuadanga owe Joardar one

Sports Reporter



Former national winger Mamun Joardar struck two goals in eight minutes as Chuadanga came from behind to register a 2-1 win over hosts Bagerhat in the inaugural match of the zonal qualifying round of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla national football championship at the local Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Trailing 0-1 after Hasan of Bagerhat had found the net in the 26th minute, Mamun, the Muktioddha Sangsad booter, leveled the match in the 36th minute and then put the visitors ahead just before the breather to help his side get maximum points.

Seven districts, split into two groups, are taking part in the Bagerhat zone qualifiers. Top teams from each group will play the zonal final on May 25.

Chuadanga will take on Narail on May 20 before meeting Meherpur on May 22 in their last group match. The other group comprises Khulna, Magura and Satkhira.

Narail will face Meherpur in today's match. In Moulavi Bazar, the match between Sylhet and Comilla ended in a 2-2 draw.

Nasir and Liakat scored a goal apiece for Sylhet in the 20th and 71st minutes while

Kakan and Pintu struck for Comilla in the 30th and 67th minutes. A total of five districts, also featuring Habiganj, Sunamganj and hosts Moulavi Bazar, are participating in the zonal qualifiers in a single league.

Habiganj will play against Sunamganj today. Two Noakhali zone matches in Majdee also ended without any result.

## Nat'l tennis

### 2nd leg begins

The second leg of the national tennis circuit, organised by Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF), began at the National Tennis Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

BTF president Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury inaugurated the meet.

135 players including under-13 boys and girls from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Natore, Bogra, Bhola, Rajbari, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Meherpur and the BKSP will take part in six events — men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, boys under-13 singles and girls' under-13 singles.

The matches will start today.

In the first fixture, Chittagong and Rangamati shared a goalless draw while the other game between Bandarban and Cox's Bazar was tied 1-1.

Anwar put Bandarban ahead 35 minutes into the first half while Jalal equalised for Cox's Bazar in the two minutes from time.

Eight teams have been divided in two groups for the Noakhali zone. Fenl, Chandpur, Laxmichari and Khagrachari, slated in group A, are the other four districts.

Fenl will take on Laxmipur in today's first encounter while Chandpur and Khagrachari are scheduled to lock horns later.

Rai washed out the Pirojpur-Jhalakathi game in the Barguna zone. The match has been rescheduled for today.

Meanwhile, the Dinajpur zonal round begins today at the Dinajpur Stadium. A total of eight teams will feature in this zone in two groups.

Lalmohirhat, Panchagarh, Joypurhat and hosts Dinajpur have been pencilled in Group A while the other group consists of Rangpur, Kurigram, Pabna and Thakurgaon.

Dinajpur will meet Lalmohirhat in today's first match while Panchagarh will face Joypurhat in the next.

## Fickle foes set for crucial clash

### Much on minds of Windies, Pakistan



**JIMMY ADAMS**

BRIDGETOWN, May 17 (AFP): West Indies and Pakistan would have had much to consider about their team selection on the run-up to the pivotal second cricket Test starting at Kensington Oval here on Thursday.

Rain having ruined the gripping opening Test in Georgetown a fortnight ago, the series has been virtually reduced to a two-match contest and so both will be looking for a win.

show his stuff alongside Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose and Reon King.

The batting and right-handedness of teenager Ramnaresh Sarwan however, will make the selection panel scratch their heads a bit when they sit down to decide upon the final 11 for this Test.

Sarwan, 19, is a young batsman of rich potential. He batted with aplomb for the West Indies A team in the preceding four-day match against "the" Pakistan on the weekend, where he had scores of 32 and 75.

What was noticeable about his batting in the match was the way he used his feet and wholly positive approach against the spin bowlers, something which the other batsmen in the senior side have not demonstrated.

From as far back as the preceding tri-nation 2000 Trophy limited-overs series, leg-spin bowler Mushtaq Ahmed in particular has spun a web around the leaden-footed West Indies batsmen and it was no different in the first Test.

Add the string of left-handers in the West Indies line-up from two to eight, and a strong case can be made for Sarwan's inclusion. At whose expense would be the only question though.

There are three possible candidates. Opening batsman Adrian Griffith, Wavell Hinds and Chris Gayle. All are relative newcomers, have batted purposefully, if not productively, and the "drop" could shatter their confidence.

If Griffith goes, Gayle would be called upon to open the innings like he did successfully in this year's Busta Cup West Indies first-class championship for his native Jamaica, the eventual champions.

Should either Hinds or Gayle be left out, it would be a matter of a "cabinet reshuffle" in the middle-order and deciding upon whom gets the key job of batting at three.

The unadventurous selection panel however, is expected to ignore the foregoing and stick to what worked for them in Georgetown.

Trying to predict Pakistan's final 11 is more a lottery than anything else. A knowledgeable journalist accompanying them have warned of their policy of picking sides only minutes prior to the toss, so the mystique which has always surrounded them remains.

One of the biggest puzzles of the Pakistan side at the mo-

ment is Shoaib Akhtar. The Rawalpindi Express has only played one match and bowled seven overs in the seven weeks he has spent in the Caribbean.

The combination of a groin injury and then a side strain has prevented him from playing. Every time the Pakistan team management has indicated he will play, he has not. And when he was not expected to appear, he did in the last of three finals against West Indies in the 2000 Trophy Series.

Although West Indian cricket fans would not want to

see him ravaging the brittle batting of their side like a Category Five hurricane would during the Atlantic storm season, they would still like to see what all the fuss is about Shoaib.

There were reports that he was to be released and returned to England, where he is contracted to play for Nottinghamshire in this year's English county championship.

His departure has been delayed though, and once again the team management was speaking about getting him ready for the Test. Only time will tell if he gets his chance.

Shoaib's selection would fortify Pakistan's varied bowling attack which boasts of Wasim Akram, one of the top ten bowlers in the world, Abdur Razaq, one of the most promising all-rounders in the game, along with highly-rated spin twins, Mushtaq and Saqlain Mushtaq.

Now that another mystery has been settled and opening batsman Saeed Anwar, the former captain, is almost certain not to visit the Caribbean,

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Participants of the Services golf tournament which was held at Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.