

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 138

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
 Post to *The Daily Star*

Win attractive prizes
 Competition closes at 8 pm
 Nov 17 2000 and draw
 shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Asia Cup
 soccer title?
 South Africa | Japan | South Korea

2. How many teams took part in the Sharjah cricket series?
 4 | 3 | 5

3. Who lifted the ICC Knockout Trophy?
 South Africa | New Zealand | Australia

4. Which club annexed the Portofino tennis title?
 Dhaka Officers' Club | Gulshan Club

5. Who clinched Kremlin Cup men's title?
 Safin | Agassi | Kafelnikov

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



FRESH TEST STARS FOR A NOBLE CAUSE: A combo picture shows Bangladeshi Test cricketers Aminul Islam (L) and Akram Khan administering polio vaccines to two children at two city booths yesterday, the first round of the National Immunization Day. The second round is on December 17.

Bucknor's workshop on

Sports Reporter

A five-day long workshop for Bangladeshi umpires began at the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday under the tutelage of noted West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor.

Twenty three local umpires are taking part in the workshop which Bucknor will in two phases.

On the first two days, Bucknor will be taking theoretical classes which will be followed by practical demonstration on the last three days.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has given Bucknor the responsibility of assessing the quality of Bangladeshi umpires through this workshop after which the Jamaican will submit a report. Based on that report, the ICC will decide on when to allow Bangladeshi umpires to officiate international matches.

The world governing body gave Bangladesh the ODI status in 1997 and the Test status last June. However, no Bangladeshi umpires have so far been allowed to conduct any international matches including the debut Test against India.

Team collecting highest points from the two rounds will be declared champions.

Four matches will simultaneously start at different venues on November 17. Defending champions Chittagong will take on Birman at the BRSP while Sylhet will meet Dhaka Metropolitan at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium. Rajshahi will host Dhaka at Rajshahi Stadium while Barisal will meet Khulna at the Jessore Stadium.

Like the first round, all matches will be played on home and away basis and points will be shared accordingly.

League now starts from Nov 20

Sports Reporter

plotted, both teams will evenly share the allotted six points.

Top two teams from each group move in to the second round, the format of which would be similar to that of Super Six in 1999 World Cup.

Teams from each group will face the others in a four and one-day matches without a pause.

Like the first round, all matches will be played on home and away basis and points will be shared accordingly.

The league committee has submitted a budget of Taka 1.48 crore for the meet that will take place in two phases this time and involve eight teams. But the finance committee of the Board has not yet approved the budget because of the shortage of funds, source said.

Although the Board did not have a sponsor for the inaugural National League last season, they are learnt to be optimistic about finding a sponsor in the next few days.

However, apart from the six divisional outfits participated in the first edition, two teams -- Birman and Dhaka Metropolitan -- have been included in the fray. Eight teams, split into two groups, will play three, one and four-day matches in the process on home and away basis. Holders Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi have been potted in to Group A and last season's runners-up Sylhet, Barisal, Khulna, and new comers Dhaka Metropolitan form Group B.

In the first round, teams will play two matches -- three-dayer and one-dayer -- without any break. Eight points will be on offer -- six for the three-day affair and two for the one-day match.

The three-day match ends in a draw, team that holds first innings lead will be awarded with four points. In case of a tie or a postponement of play before the first innings is com-

SUPER FOUR SECOND ROUND FIXTURE

Date	Match	Kick off time
Nov 16	Muktijoddha v Rahmatganj	5 pm
Nov 17	Mohammedan v Abahani	4 pm
Nov 20	Muktijoddha v Abahani	3 pm
Nov 23	Mohammedan v Rahmatganj	5 pm
	Mohammedan v Muktijoddha	3 pm
	Abahani v Rahmatganj	5 pm

At the end of the "Super Four", top three teams will move into the Super Three where they will play each other twice for deciding the champion-ship.

Meanwhile two referees from Thailand Tongkhan Satop and Wirat Khantachai are expected to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to conduct the remaining matches of the Super Four and Super Three.

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Abahani v Rahmatganj 5 pm

India call off Pak tour



NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Pakistan threatened to cut off all cricket links with India on Wednesday after the New Delhi government refused to clear a scheduled Test series across the border, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi's government cancelled next month's three-Test series in Pakistan because "the atmosphere was not conducive to play cricket," official sources said.

Pakistan, who stand to lose millions of dollars in sponsorship money because of the aborted tour, threatened to boycott all matches with India in future.

"This puts us in a position where we would like to review our relationship with India and may not play them even in offshore, tri-nation, one-day events," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman General Tauqir Zia said in Lahore.

The first event that could be affected is the Sharjah tri-series between Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka next April, Zia said.

The Indian government had earlier banned all bilateral cricket ties with Pakistan, but allowed contacts at multi-nation events like the ICC Knockout tournament in Kenya in October.

"We will protest officially with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and ask them to include a clause whereby governments of Test playing countries are not allowed to interfere in cricket," Zia said.

India earlier announced it would not allow its cricket team to play a Test tour in Pakistan scheduled to start next month due to hostile relations between the rival neighbours.

It's regrettable because by this decision they have mingled politics and sports, which is unsporting," Musharraf said.

Sports Minister Uma Bharti said he had been told that the government does not want the team to go to Pakistan because the atmosphere was not conducive to play cricket," a source in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told this news agency.

Pakistan cricket authorities had set Wednesday as the deadline for the BCCI to confirm or cancel the tour.

BCCI secretary Jayant Lele said he was unaware of the government's decision, but another member, who requested anonymity, said there had never been any real doubt the tour would be called off.

Senior board members were told by government officials last week that there was little chance of the tour being cleared," the official told.

"Even the players knew they will not be going to Pakistan. But the Indian board kept telling the Pakistanis that we were confident the tour was on.

Given the prevailing atmosphere, the BCCI should have

cancelled the tour themselves, instead of waiting for the government to tell them."

Pakistan were negotiating a 15-million dollar deal with a television network to cover the Indian tour, when news of the cancellation filtered in.

General Zia said Pakistan will honour its commitment to host the Asia Cup next April and the Asian Test Championship in September, irrespective

of when the tour was on.

Ajhar Ali netted the match-winner.

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This is the full text of the article.

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jila Krira Sangstha (CKS) Premier Division and First Division football leagues will begin at the MA Aziz Stadium tomorrow.

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate the league at 2:45 pm as chief guest while Hafizur Rashid, MP, general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will be present as special guest.

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra will take on Shatadal Club at the opening match.

Twenty teams will participate in the leagues.

Musharraf says it's bad sport

KARACHI, Nov 15: Pakistani ruler General Pervez Musharraf Wednesday slammed India's government as a bad sport and accused it of confusing cricket and politics, reports AFP.

India earlier announced it would not allow its cricket team to play a Test tour in Pakistan scheduled to start next month due to hostile relations between the rival neighbours.

It's regrettable because by this decision they have mingled politics and sports, which is unsporting," Musharraf said.

From Staff Correspondent

CELEBRATED West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor addressing a seminar of local umpires at the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo

BD eyeing first series

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh in all probability are going to play their first Test series against Pakistan in January next year.

The issue of Pakistan tour is gaining momentum on cancellation of India's scheduled tour of Pakistan yesterday.

"I have just been informed of the Indian government's decision. But, at the moment, I'm not in position to say the details about the Test series," said Ashraf. He however said that the tour itinerary would be finalised in the next ACC meeting on November 22-23.

Board president Saber Hosain Chowdhury and Ashraf will attend the meeting that would also be attended by Tauqir.

"We would propose Pakistan to play two Tests and as many one-day internationals on home and away basis," Ashraf said.

Bangladesh, becoming the 10th Test-playing nation in June this year, lost to India by

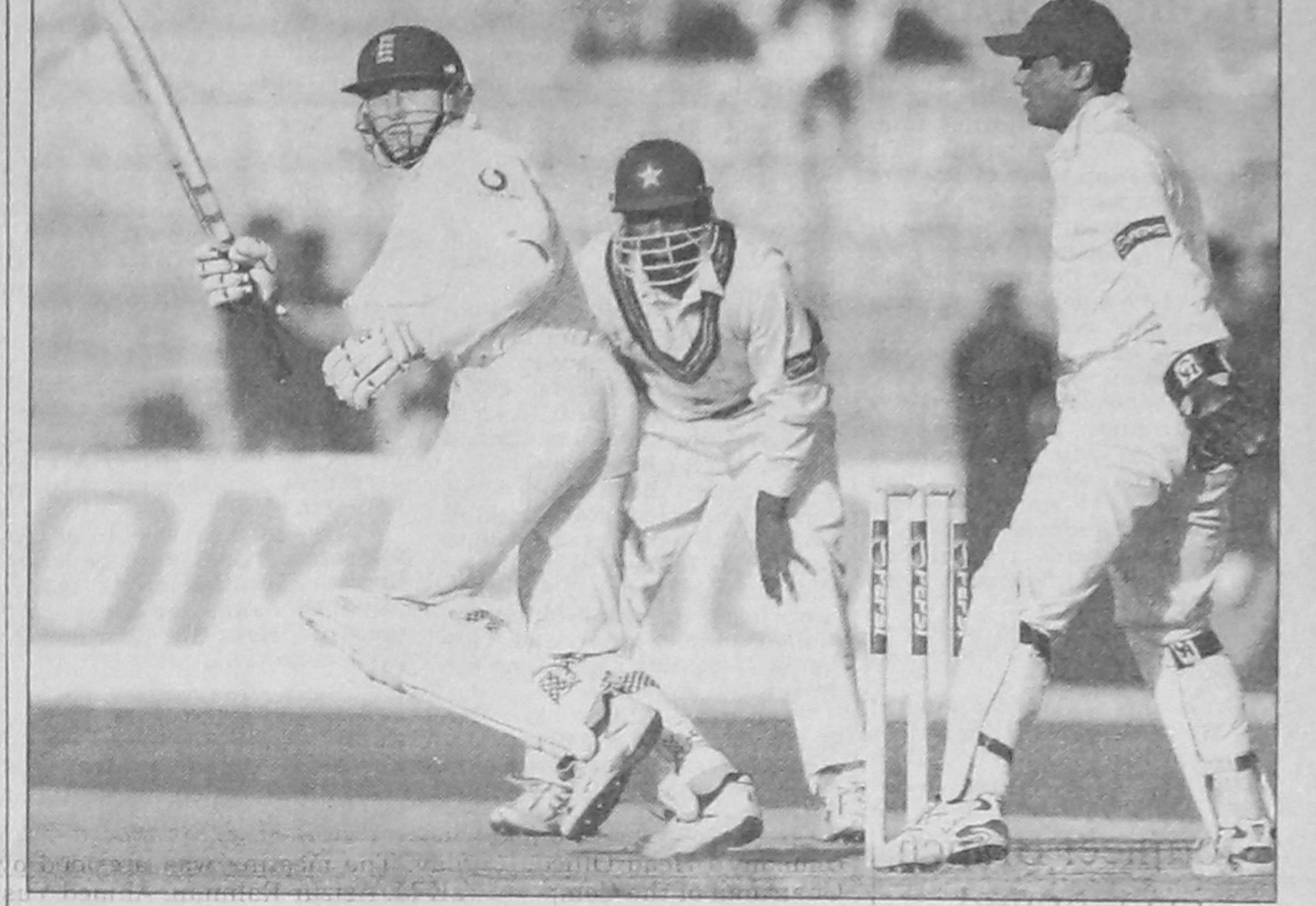
nine wickets in their inaugural Test match a few days back.

Although the Board president said on Wednesday that they were looking for other venues to hold international matches, but Ashraf admitted that they have no alternative to the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) yet.

"If Pakistan agree with Bangladesh's proposal, we will have to turn to BNS, which we will get back on December 1. Besides, I don't think other venues in Chittagong and Rajshahi are ready at the moment to provide facilities of international standard," said Ashraf.

The BNS, an apple of discord over the years between football and cricket, has been taken over by the BFF immediately after the one-off Test match ended.

The Super Four phase of the Premier Division Football League resumes at the all-purpose arena today.



MEMBER OF AN ELITE CLUB: England opener Michael Atherton turns one towards fine leg during his 73 against Pakistan at Lahore yesterday. Atherton during the course of his innings, became the 18th batsman to complete 7000 runs in Test cricket.

— AFP photo

Saqlain's late surge



LAHORE, Nov 15: Pakistan's gamble with spin paid off late in the first day of the first Test against England here Wednesday when Saqlain Mustaq took four wickets for a dream start for the visitors, reports AFP.

The off-spinner brought Pakistan back into the game after England's determined start, with openers Michael Atherton and Marcus Trescothick amassing 134 before the first wicket fell.

At the close of play at Gaddafi Stadium England were 195-4, with Graham Thorpe on 22 and Graeme Hick on six.

England were looking comfortable at 148-1 at tea but lost four quick wickets in the last session thanks to some deft wrist work from Saqlain, who struck in his 24th and 25th overs to remove Atherton and Alec Stewart.

Atherton failed to keep down a sweep and was caught at backward square leg by Younis Youhana for 73. The former England captain batted for 275 minutes and played 190 balls, with only three fours.

Stewart lasted only seven balls before he was trapped leg before wicket for three.

"I am happy that we put up a good opening stand. Reaching 7000 runs is an achievement but what mattered more was the team's position," he said.

"The key was to concentrate

in the middle and it's been a good day for us."

Hussain won a crucial toss and elected to bat on a wicket that has potential to spin and is expected to keep low with time.

England included two spinners, Ashley Giles and Ian Salisbury, in their starting line-up, compared to Pakistan's four.

Pakistan's skipper Moin Khan called in Saqlain as early as the 11th over and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed in the 16th, but they posed few problems in the opening session.

Trescothick was the first to go when he miscued a drive off Saqlain's first ball in his third spell and was caught at backward square leg for 71. The Somerset left-hander hit six fours in his innings of 215 minutes.

Thorpe, promoted up the order to counter the spinners with a right-left combination, was given a life when 18-year-old debutant Qaiser Abbas dropped him off Saqlain when he was on two.

Alimed, who was preferred over 19-year-old leggy Danish Kaneria, failed to take a wicket. His last 12 Tests have bagged him only 26 scalps.

SCOREBOARD
 Scorecard at close on the See page 15

Athers in