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Did U Know?

The cricket ball is hard, made of cork and string and covered with leather. The leather covering is joined in two hemispheres. The seam is thus like an equator, and the stitching is raised slightly. The circumference is between 22.4 and 22.9 cms (8.81 to 9.00 inches), and the ball weighs between 156 and 163 grams (5.5 to 5.75 ounces). Traditionally the ball is dyed red, with the stitching left white.

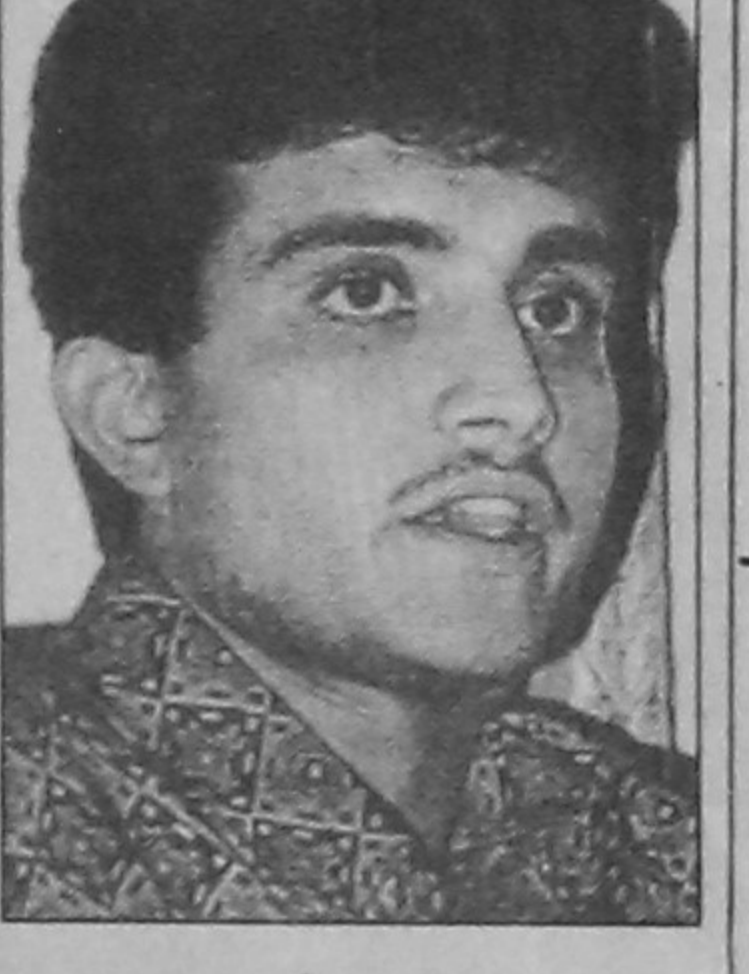


What to Watch

- ESPN
New Zealand vs Pakistan
Fourth one-day international
Live at 3:25 am
- New Zealand vs Pakistan
Fourth one-day international
Repeat at 5:00 pm
- English Premiership
12:00 pm
- Serie A
3:00 pm
- UEFA Champions' League
1 hour weekly highlights
9:00 pm
- Arsenal vs Man United
English Premiership
10:00 pm
- Star Sports
NSW vs Tasmania
Sheffield Shield Cricket
6:30 pm
- Futbol Mundial
2:30 pm
- Primera Liga
3:00 pm
- Primera Liga
Live at 1:00 am (Monday)



Talk Turkey



Saurav Ganguly
(India cricket captain)
"It feels great to be honoured in such a way in my city. I may be the skipper of the Indian team, but in the heart of hearts, I belong to Kolkata."
When the 'Prince of Calcutta' was crowned as the 'King' by the West Bengal Umpires' Association.

Sports Whizz Kid

Competition 145
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 2, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Bangladesh beat Mongolia in the 2002 World Cup qualifier
2-0 3-2 3-0
- Who clinched the Paris Indoor Open title?
Huber Hings Mauresmo
- Sri Lanka won the one-day series against New Zealand
3-2 5-0 4-1
- How many Tests will Bangladesh play in five years?
34 35 36
- Who lifted the national under-19 cricket crown?
Chittagong Rajshahi BKSP

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

Hear cricket's cry

BY ED ASHFAQUI HAQUE

Bangladesh cricket has plunged into deep crisis of late over the February 25 election of its Board of Directors (previously members). Politics, wrong people and power of muscle and money are set to spoil the polls of the Board, president of which is preaching in vain for professionalism to help Bangladesh grow up in the tough world of Test cricket.

Observers along with the true and tested organisers of the glorious game were at a total loss to see opportunists teaming up to take over the most prestigious sports body in the country. A show-off of arms at the Board on Wednesday blew off the last hope of an optimist for a fair election.

Board president Sabir Hossain Chowdhury might not think even in his wildest of dreams that his campaign for professionalism would bring about all sorts of trouble.

It all started with the amendment to the constitution at the big-spending annual general meeting of the Board in Cox's Bazar in September last year. In a bid to decentralise cricket, the AGM opted for an increased representation from district level. The new constitution has enabled districts to gain runaway majority in the 120-member council. Sabir hoped then that these 68 council-

ors from districts along with 40 from Dhaka-based clubs would elect a 29-member Board of Directors to run the board professionally and skillfully.

But the young cricket chief woke up in the rude world of Bangladesh reality when political dons, on the strength of the district numbers, reached a consensus about their allotted 12 posts of directors, most of whom are totally unknown to the cricket fraternity. Thanks to their political clout, money and loopholes in the constitution, a number of persons with no cricketing background at all got their way in to the most affluent sports body.

Saber's worry has turned into an absolute nightmare with district councillors poised to determine the fate of 16 directors from the Dhaka clubs. The sheer irony of it is that the 40 councillors from Dhaka clubs can no longer choose directors of their own.

After serving Bangladesh cricket for decades, renowned organisers like Syed Ashrafur Huq, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam, Tanjib Ahsan Saad and Rafiqul Alam now need to woo the hearts of district councillors to remain a part of its future.

In fact, the district councillors might not be able to take a step without the nod of Jafar Imam (the secretary-general of Bangladesh Olympic Association), Harun-ur-Rashid, MP (general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation) and Sheikh Nizamuddin, an

BCB goes to polls today

SPORTS REPORTER

One hundred and twenty councillors would pick 16 more directors in the 29-man panel for the next three years as the elections of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) starts today.

The polls will start at the National Sports Council at 9 am and will continue up to 3 pm.

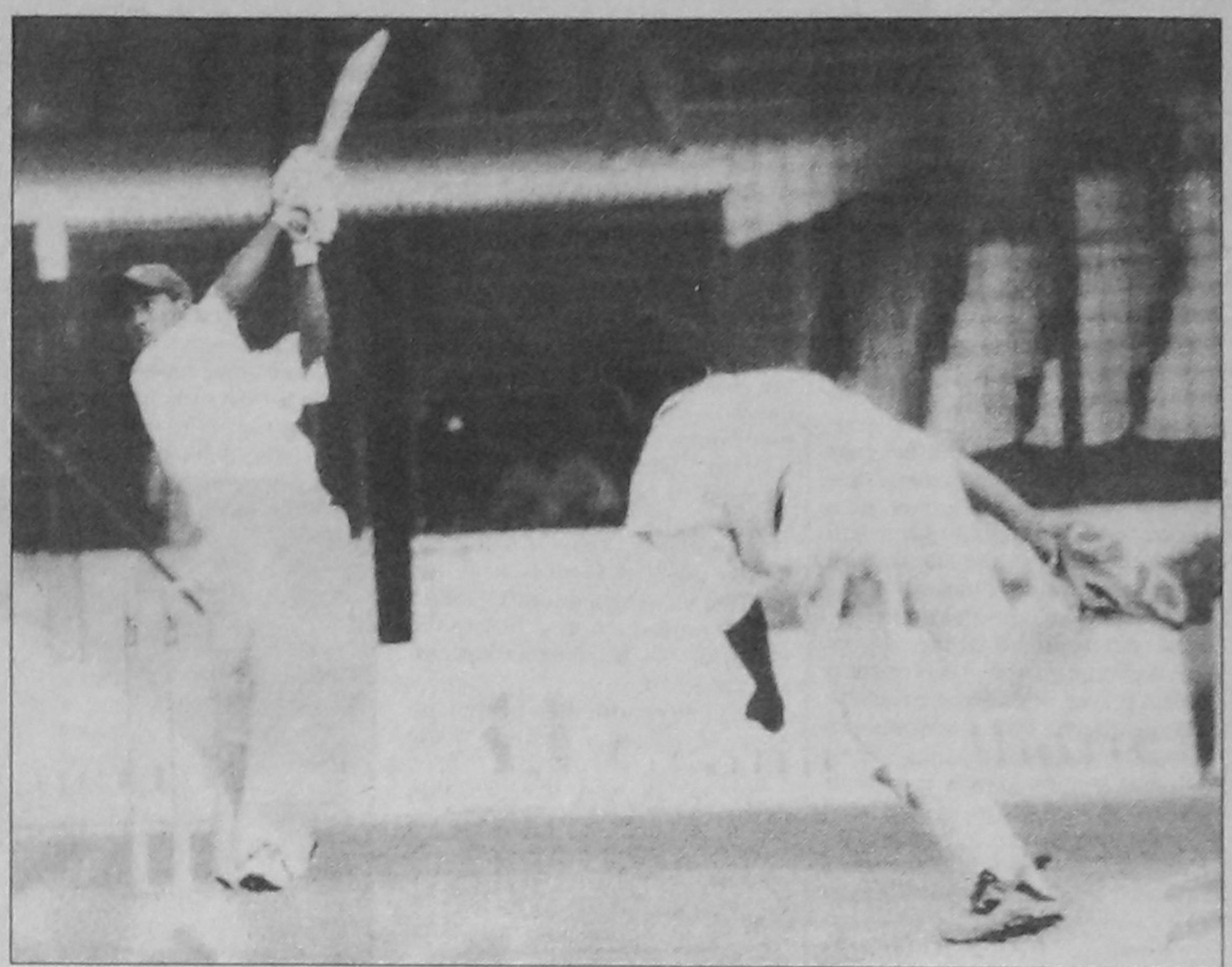
The other 13 candidates - twelve from district quota and one from educational institution and services - have already been elected uncontested.

Although the four-party opposition alliance has called a countrywide dawn to dusk hartal today, observers feel that excitement would not be short supplied centring the polls.

But the fight among the 27 Dhaka-based candidates vying for the 16 posts might turn into a mock battle if the councillors comply with an undisclosed panel formulated by the powerful pact of district representatives. Among the 120 councillors, only 40 are from Dhaka clubs and 68 from districts.

An unconfirmed source disclosed that a blueprint has already been drafted to elect sixteen candidates. Following is the list: Syed Ashrafur Huq, Mahmud-Ul Huq Manu, Tanvir Haidar, Mahamub Anam, Aziz Al Kaiser, Alzal Rahman Sinha, Ashraf Kadir, Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, Ali Khair Chand, Golam Dastagir, Jalal Younus, GS Hasan Tamim, Chanchal, Mobasser Hossain and Tanvir Mazhar Islam.

However, cricket should come first to the councillors. And for the good of the game they must vote for right men, persons who are educated in the school of cricket. Let the future of our cricket be dictated by the people of cricket.



Bangladesh opener Mohammad Ashrafur in full flow on way to scoring an enterprising 89 off 85 balls against India in the GrameenPhone Under-17 Asia Cup final.

King Kumar rules

Golf

SPORTS REPORTER

Vijay Kumar came, saw and conquered the Kurmitola Golf Course yesterday.

The robust Lucknow golfer who for the past three days was head and shoulders above the rest, finished with a score of eleven

under par 277 to win the Inaugural Dutch Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open. Second place went to Mukesh Kumar on ten under 278 while Indrajit Bhalotia occupied third place on five under 283.

Although Kumar ended the final round on one over par, his excellent scores in the previous three rounds enabled him to collect the top money prize of 3,000 dollars.

As soon as the 33-year-old professional putted the 18th hole, he was given the traditional winner's toss in the air by a group of enthusiastic caddies.

He began the day with a birdie on the first hole and finished level par for the front nine and on the back nine he birdied the 12th and 11th hole but bogeyed the 13th, 15th, 18th hole.

Mukesh had many opportunities to put pressure on the runaway leader, but was let down time again with poor putting. However, he took some solace from a birdie on the 18th.

A late Bhalotia rally in which he scored two under 34 on the front nine and one under 35 on the back nine, helped him the best score of the round - three under 69.

Young Mohd Rezaul Karim finished with a score of three over 291 to finish fifteenth among the top fifty.

Deepak Magar of Nepal with an aggregate score of 313 qualified for the lucrative money round as he just made the required cut in 50th position.

On the other hand there was no luck for KPS Sekhon. He was disqualified after ignoring the penalty stroke that he got when his ball landed up in an environmentally sensitive area, and submitting in the process a wrong scorecard.

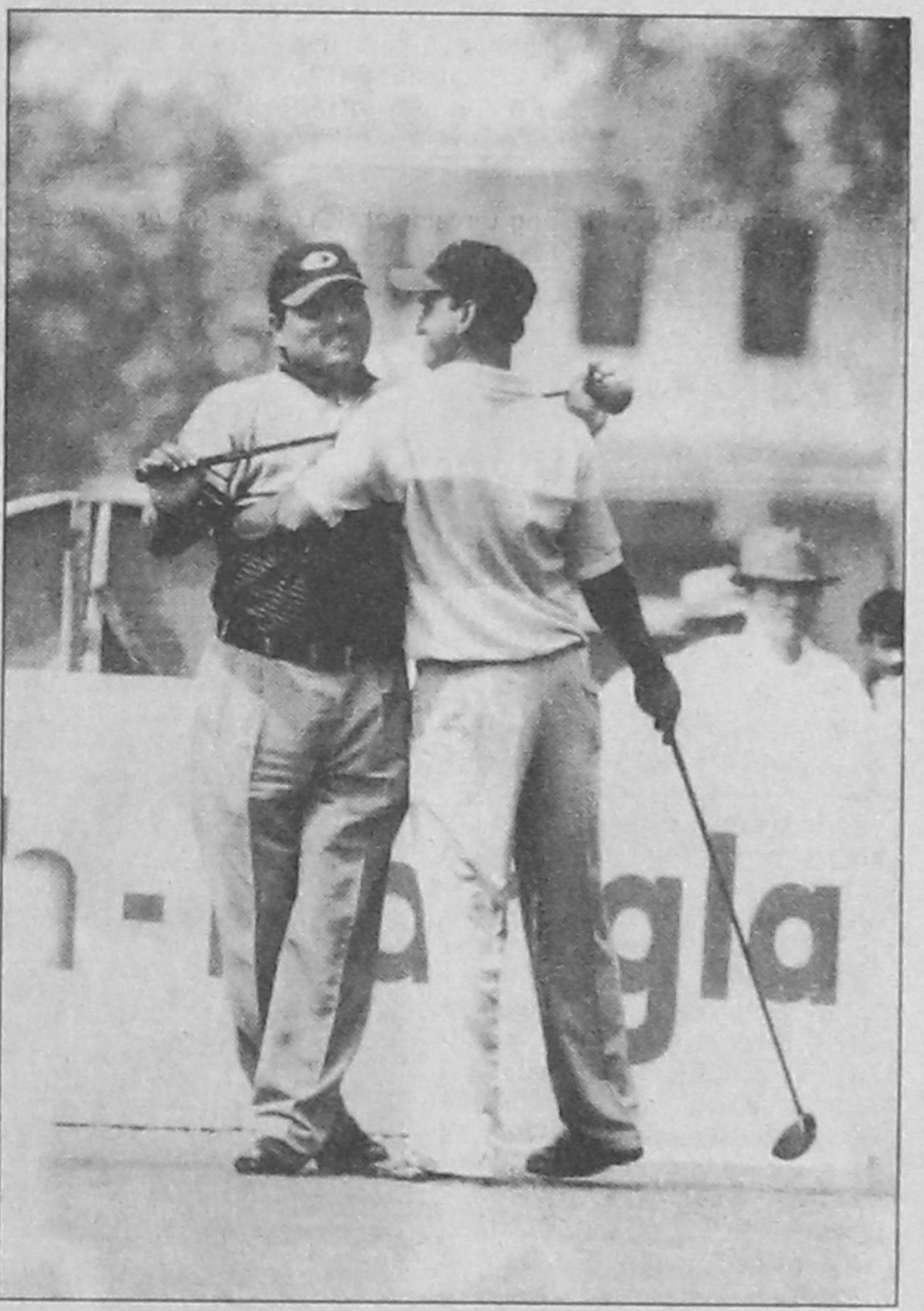
Mohammad Milon captured the amateur division.

Following are the scores after 72 holes:

- 277 - Vijay Kumar (67,67,70,73)
- 278 - Mukesh Kumar (68,68,71,71)
- 283 - Indrajit Bhalotia (73,70,71,69)
- 286 - Harmeet Kahlon (69, 67, 75,75)
- 287 - Feroz Ali (75,70,70,72)
- 288 - Sanjay Kumar (69,75,72,72)
- 289 - Vinod Kumar (67,72,76,74)
- 289 - Vishal Singh (68,70,77,74)
- 289 - Uttam Singh Mundy (68,70,72,79)
- 290 - Amish Jaitha (74,74,69,72)

AMATEURS

- 297 - Mohd Milon (72,72,77,76)
- 304 - Mohd Hussain (79,77,75,73)



Indian Vijay Kumar (L) being hugged by his compatriot Mukesh Kumar after he won the Dutch-Bangla Bank Bangladesh Open golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Mukesh finished runner-up.

Marcus' maiden ton

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Marcus Trescothick, the 25-year-old Somerset opener scored his maiden Test hundred as England made a bold bid towards reaching Sri Lanka's imposing total of 470 for five declared in the first cricket Test played here Saturday.

Trescothick made full use of a dropped caught and bowled chance at 27 to score an unbeaten 119 and take England to a total of 202 for four wickets by the close of the third day.

The left-hander held the England innings together as Marvan Atapattu had done for Sri Lanka on the first two days of the Test.

Trescothick was fortunate early in his innings when Muttiah Muralitharan failed to hold onto a difficult caught and bowled chance. For the rest of the day he made Sri Lanka pay dearly for the lapse by going onto hit 12 fours in a stay of 389 minutes.

When Trescothick completed his maiden century with a single to point off Sanath Jayasuriya he leaped in the air waving his bat at the pavilion where his teammates applauded his magnificent effort under trying circumstances.

The century took him 307 minutes and came off 265 balls with 12 fours.

SCOREBOARD

Atherton surviving a confident lbw against Chaminda Vaas at 19 and a bat-pad chance to Mahela Jayawardene off Muralitharan at 28, was dismissed in the third ball after lunch for 33.

Vaas finally found favour with the umpire for another lbw dismissal that found Atherton only half forward.

Muralitharan struck twice soon afterwards by trapping Nasser Hussain lbw for three when he went back to a ball that spun in, and by having Graham Thorpe caught by Tillakaratne Dilshan at second slip for seven.

Thorpe pushed forward at a ball which hit his boot and took the edge of his bat on its way to Dilshan.

Stewart defied the Sri Lankan bowlers for 140 minutes scoring 19 runs and was unlucky to be given out lbw to Jayasuriya shortly before the close. TV replays showed the ball pitching well outside leg stump before spinning back to hit him on the left thigh.



England captain Nasser Hussain on way to the pavilion after being adjudged lbw to Muttiah Muralitharan on the third day of the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and England on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 470-5 declared (M Atapattu 201 not out, K Sangakkara 58, A de Silva 106, M Jayawardene 61)

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 27-0)
Atherton lbw b Vaas 33
Trescothick not out 119
Hussain lbw b M' tharan 3
Thorpe c Dilshan b M' tharan 7
Stewart lbw b Jayasuriya 19
Croft not out 0
Extras: (lb-2, lb-2, nb-17) 21
Total: (for 4 wks in 106 overs) 202

Fall of wickets: 1-83, 2-93, 3-117, 4-197.
To bat: G Hick, C White, A Giles, D Gough, A Caddick.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	18	4	34	1
M' tharan	41	10	56	2
D' Sena	22	6	51	0
Fernando	2	0	10	0
Jayasuriya	20	5	42	1
De Silva	3	2	7	0

REEFAT SHOCKS GM EHLVEST

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Reefat-binsattar pulled off an upset win over Estonian Grand Master Jhan Ehlvest in the sixth round of the Fifth United Insurance Grandmasters Chess tournament at the NSC Conference Room yesterday.

Reefat, playing with white pieces against the Sicilian defence of the highest rated players in the meet, won after 42 moves. The victory improved Reefat's collection to three points.

But it was another disappointing day for norm-seeking IM Ziaur Rahman. The 27-year old continued his losing streak with a defeat against Russian Grand Master Alexander Volzhin, who is now leading the table with five points.

Volzhin played with black pieces and won after 49 moves.

Niaz Murshed, the lone GM of Bangladesh, drew with his Latvian counterpart Igor Rausis in this round. Following a Queen's gambit decline game, Niaz settled for a draw after 23 moves.

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib scored a creditable draw with English Grandmaster Nigel Davies. FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Razib also drew with Indian International Master Sandipan Chandra.

Another Indian IM GB Prakash drew with GM Alexic Barov.

Hooper, full of hope

Cricket

AP, Barbados

It is almost two years since Carl Hooper walked off Kensington Oval and announced to the West Indies team that, after 12 years in the game, he was retiring from international cricket.

Now, age 34, Hooper is back, seeking to regain the place in the West Indies team for the upcoming series against South Africa that starts with the first Test in Georgetown on March 9.

He is fit and in form. He has set a new batting record in the domestic Busta Cup tournament and led Guyana to the semifinals of the Bista International Series.

He is being widely hailed throughout the Caribbean as the saviour of a West Indies team recently trounced in five Tests and six one-day internationals in Australia and with a recent history of 18 defeats in their last 20 overseas Tests.

When Hooper quit in April 1999, he left with the World Cup in England less than two weeks off, upsetting the balance of the team. He withdrew to Adelaide with his Australian wife and their young son, playing a season of club cricket in Melbourne.

Hooper's exit was undignified.

His had become overweight and sluggish and admitted his heart was not in it anymore.

"I just felt flat, there was no emotion in me, nothing," he said at the time.

An unsympathetic crowd that had once adored him for his effortless style, if not his inadequate record, jeered him for his decline.

The mood has changed. Support for Hooper's recall and his elevation to the captaincy over the incumbent Jimmy Adams has originated from the highest office in the land to the most humble.

"I think Carl Hooper has demonstrated that he should be part of the West Indies team and I urge the West Indies Cricket Board and the selectors panel to include Carl Hooper in the next Test match," President Bharat Jagdeo of Guyana, Hooper's homeland, told the media.

"I think this is a call that all Guyana should rally behind and I think his inclusion in that team and the skills he has and the leadership qualities that he has demonstrated would serve to raise the standard of West Indian cricket once again," the president added.

Their confidence is in spite of Hooper's modest record. In 80 Tests between 1987 and 1999, he averaged 33.76 as batsman and 47.01 as an off-spin bowler.

Not everyone wants Hooper back.

Those who don't want him back now, his underachievement and his age. If he is recalled, they claim, he would likely take the place of one of the promising, young players who had just come into the team, like Ramnaresh Sarwan and Marlon Samuels.

Others point out that when he was made West Indies captain, at the Hong Kong Sixes tournament in 1997, he refused to play because of a disagreement with the organisers.

On the 1995 tour of England he was fined for leaving the team without permission. In 1998, he defied instructions from manager Wes Hall and coach Malcolm Marshall to play for Guyana against the touring Englishmen.

BUET sports

SPORTS REPORTER

The annual sports competition 2001 of the BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) emerged champions, clinching 69 points.