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Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?
Most of the sports personalities do have a nickname. But, a few of them possibly know when, why and how they get it? Interestingly, many athletes' nicknames have nothing to do with their sports. Take the case of current golfing sensation Tiger Woods for instance. Eldrick Woods is nicknamed after one of his father's friends, who was a knight soldier in Vietnam. Former Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan meanwhile earned his nickname leaping to the air. This basketball legend could jump so high and far and spends so much time in the air that his fans started calling him Michael 'Air Jordan'. He has his own sneaker line named 'Air Jordans'. While playing the card game of poker, players cannot show any emotion so that their opponents can't guess what they're thinking. On the tennis court in the 1920s, Helen Wills Moody maintained her poise under any circumstances, but only to be called 'Little Miss Poker Face'!

What to WATCH

BTU
Prime Minister Gold Cup
Egypt vs Japan
Third place decider
Live at 11:00 am
India vs Pakistan
Final
Live at 3:30 pm

DD Sports
Australia vs India
Third Test, Day Three
Live at 10:00 am

ESPN
UEFA Champions League
1-hr weekly highlights
8:00 am
Serie A highlights
2:00 pm
English Premiership
4:30 pm
Serie A
9:00 pm

Star Sports
Harsha Online
Cricket Talk Show
8:30 am & 1:00 pm
South Africa vs West Indies
Second Test, Day Four
Live at 8:00 pm
Primera Liga
3:00 pm

Ashrafu, Sharif impress selectors

BCB names team to Zim

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Monday announced the national squad for the tour of Zimbabwe retaining Naimur Rahman as captain.

The selectors made a few changes from the one that played in the historic one-off Test against India in November last year.

The team consists of eight specialist batsmen, five bowlers and two all-rounders.

The notable omissions in the 15-member squad are opening batsman Shahrar Hossain and young left-arm pacer Bikash Ranjan Das. Besides, Rajin Saleh, who was the twelfth man in the inaugural Test, also failed to enthrall the selection panel consisting of BCB president Saber Hussain Choudhury, general secretary Sved Ashrafu Haq and newly appointed national coach Trevor Chappell.

Promising opener Mohammed Ashrafu and young right-arm pacer Mohammed Sharif, who both starred in the recently concluded National League, were the two fresh faces in an otherwise predictable lineup.

The Board took a positive step by appointing Mahabul Anam as manager of the team. The former national cricketer has long been associated with leading clubs of the country in various capacities and is considered as an up-right individual.

"This is the best available selection. It's a well balanced side," said Chappell while talking to a group of reporters at the BCB office.

Chappell, who took over only a few days ago, seemed particularly impressed with the newcomers to the squad.

Ashrafu's batting is quite good. He is also a promising leg-spinner", observed Chappell. He termed Sharif, the sensational find of this year's National League, where he captured 49 wicket for Bangladesh Biman, as a 'nice' bowler and 'quite athletic on the field'.

Chappell's charges enjoyed a day-off on Monday. But the Australian, who has been assigned to run the show till the 2003 World Cup, said that he wanted more net practice before the team leaves for Zimbabwe at the end of this month.

He said that the camp will resume today and the boys will engage themselves in a limited-over match.

Bangladesh finish fifth

Hockey
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh came from a goal down to beat Malaysia 2-1 and clinch the fifth position in the Prime Minister Gold Cup Hockey Tournament in the play-offs at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Monday afternoon.

In a see-saw encounter, forwards Shamsuzzaman Khokon and Ariful Haque Prince scored one goal each for the home side while Boon Huat Chua struck for the Malaysians.

Bangladesh almost grabbed an instant lead when Shamim Reza only needed to place the ball past an advancing Malaysia goalkeeper Azhar Afendi.

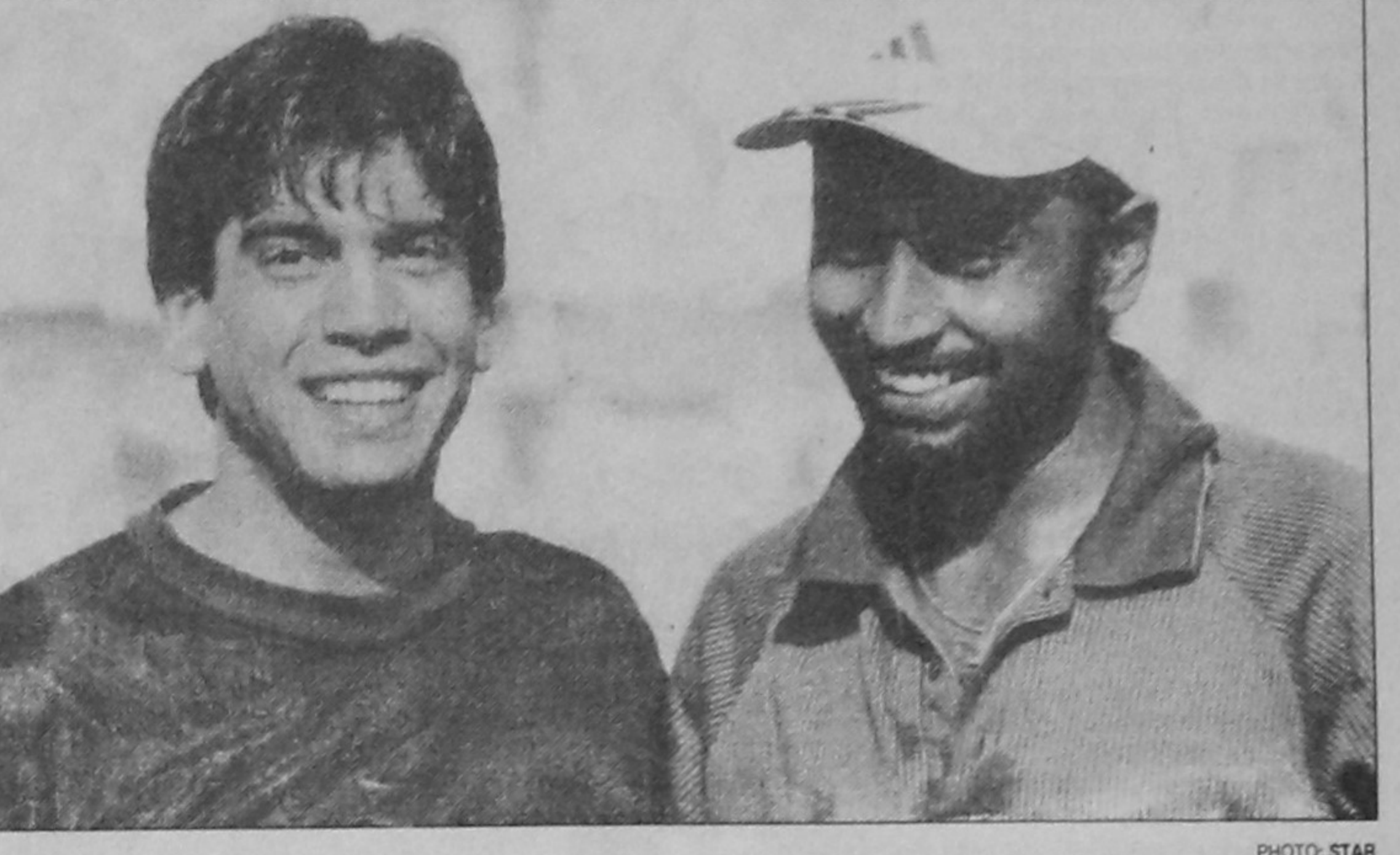
But the young forward lost control and eventually found the angle too difficult to score.

The hosts then earned two short corners in the next ten minutes but failed to capitalise.

Malaysia went ahead in the eleventh minute with Boon flicking a right side Ibrahim cross from the top of the D box.

Khokon levelled the margin for Bangladesh after eight minutes connecting with a Prince pass.

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FRIENDS YESTERDAY, FOES TODAY! Pakistan captain Ahmed Alam (L) and his Indian counterpart Baljeet Singh Dhillon. The two sides face off for the Prime Minister Gold Cup at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium this afternoon.

Battle royale today

Hockey
SPORTS REPORTER

The Maulana Bhasani Stadium will play host to hockey's greatest rivalry when Pakistan and India face each other in the final of the Prime Minister Gold Cup Tournament Tuesday.

India stormed into the final with an 8-0 whitewash of Egypt while Pakistan struggled to overcome Japan (5-3) in the other semifinal on Sunday.

This is going to be the repeat clash of the two perennial foes in Dhaka since their blood and thunder battle in the final of Asia Cup way back in 1985. Held at the then Dhaka Stadium, Pakistan won the final 3-2. The last time the two teams met in the final of any competition was in the 1995 SAF Games in Madras, which the hosts won 5-2.

Pakistan have a considerable edge in their head-to-heads, starting from 1947. Of the 92 times they faced each other, Pakistan have won 44 matches against India's 31. Seventeen other matches were ended in draws.

The arch-rivals played their last nine-match Test series (five matches in India and four in Pakistan) in 1999 where Pakistan proved their supremacy with a win-loss-draw record of 5-3-1.

With history favouring Pakistan, India were exuding confidence following their excellent run up to the final.

Pakistan had a complete rest at the hotel room Monday and were found in relaxed mood in the evening.

"Winning the Cup is our only mission here, and we have already worked out a strategy to achieve that goal," said a confident Pakistan captain Ahmed Alam at the Sheraton Hotel lobby. "It will be a tough match in which both teams have a 50-50 chance. India have lot of talented players. Their captain Dhillon and Dhanraj Pillay are in particular very good players."

Legendary Shahbaz Ahmed, one of the three coaches of Pakistan team, however considered the defence as the weakest area of his team.

"Our defence is not that solid to guard Dhillon and Pillay. They need to work more hard tomorrow (Tuesday)," said the former Pakistan captain. "We will emphasise on the team work and, hopefully, that will pay off against India."

His Indian counterpart Cedric D'Souza meanwhile expressed his guarded optimism about the final.

Talking to reporters following his team's two-hour practice session at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium in the morning, D'Souza declined to any prediction as he thought both team were of equal strength.

"My team is a combination of experienced and young players," said the Indian coach. "I rate Pakistan very highly. They have direct entry to the World Cup while we have to play in the qualifying round."

His captain Baljeet Singh Dhillon looked pretty serious about the final. The tall Indian forward considered Pakistan's penalty corner specialist Sohail Abbas as the main threat for his team.

"He is the man whom we need to stop at any cost," declared Dhillon.



Abahani opener Nafees Iqbal anxiously looks back at Sajjad Kadir as the Agrani Bank wicketkeeper is about to stump him during their Premier Division Cricket League on Monday.

Good Luck Bat in town

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

The 'Good Luck Bat' for the Bangladesh cricket team hits the Dhaka road Thursday to collect messages of fans for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe.

The giant bat, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Far East Ltd, has already completed its travel in Chittagong with enormous success. Coca-Cola is the official sponsor of the Bangladesh team, which will leave for India on April 1 to play their first ever Test after becoming the tenth Test-playing nation last year.

The 'Good Luck Bat' became the centre of attraction of the cricket-crazy Chittagonians with thousands lining up in patience to pen down their good wishes for their beloved team.

For four days, the bat will make brief stopovers at different city points to get the response of the fans from Dhaka. On March 26, the 'Good Luck Bat' will be handed over to the Bangladesh team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in presence of the state minister for sports and the president of cricket board.

Following is the route for Dhaka:

- March 20 -- Mirpur Stadium (10.30 am), Dhanmondi Road - 8 and Abahani Club (2 pm)
- March 21 -- Azampur-Neelkhet Crossing (10.30 am) and TSC, Dhaka University (2pm)
- March 22 -- National Stadium (10.30 am) and Bailey Road, opposite of Officer's Club (2pm)
- March 23 -- Gulshan Circle 2, DIT Market (10.30 am), Uttara, and Raj Laxmi Complex (2pm)

Holden's humble bankers

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani Kriira Chakra romped to their third successive victory in the Premier Cricket League when they handed Agrani Bank an eight-wicket defeat at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

It was business as usual for the popular Dhanmondi outfit, who, aided by a four-wicket burst from pacesman Neeeyamur Rashid, shot the Bankers out for only 95 and then raced to 97 for two wickets in just 19 overs.

Neeeyamur, the tall medium pacer, bowled his outswingers with great control to shut out Agrani Bank for the lowest total in the league so far.

His exploits with the new ball saw the bankers tumbling to 14 for five, a position from which they never recovered. Interestingly all his four victims were caught behind the wicket.

Bank skipper Ziauddin Ahmed Shovon, with a gritty 33, was the only batsman showing some resistance.

The Abahani chase was never in trouble once opener Nafees Iqbal made a solid 41 off 50 balls. The young right-hander hammered eight fours in his polished knock.

Makeshift opener Mohammed Hussain made 23 and Anisur Rahman also scored an unbeaten 23.

Agrani Bank				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Iqbal	8	3	1	1
Neeeyamur	8	3	12	1
Rajon	5	0	13	0
M Hussain	8.5	1	27	2
Mukul	7	1	16	0
Hasan	6	0	14	2

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Uzzal c Azam b Iqbal 4
Pappu c Selim b Neeeyamur 4
S Shahed c Selim b Neeeyamur 0
Sajjad c Selim b Neeeyamur 1
Shaheer c Javed b M Hussain 20
Topu c Selim b Neeeyamur 35
Shovon lwb b M Hussain 3
Imran run out 3
Bappi c Selim b Hasan 9
Russel c Anisur b Hasan 9
Ripon not out 9
Extras: (w-8) 8
Total: (All out in 42.5 overs) 95
Fall of wickets: 1/12, 2/12, 3/12, 4/13, 5/14, 6/49, 7/58, 8/62, 9/76

who clipped in with 44. Biplob hammered a quartet of bats in his 96-ball knock.

Indian recruit Komol Chopra scored a swashbuckling 69 off 62 balls after coming into bat at number three. Chopra clubbed six fours and a couple of sixes. He dominated an entertaining 96 runs third wicket stand with Rizwan, who made a 35-ball 37.

Leg-spinner Mosaddek Hossain took four wickets at the expense of 67 runs for the vanquished.

Kalabagan, in their chase, started in style with left-handed opener Nahidul hammering 47 of just 33 deliveries and Pakistani Ziaur Rahman, a double centurion in their first match, making 49 off 60 balls.

But they lost their way once the two were dismissed.

Ziaur elder brother Tareq Mehmod failed again. The architect of Kalabagan's success last year scored only three.

It was Kalabagan's first defeat after two successive wins.

Kalabagan				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Saiful	10	0	40	0
Ashfaq Ali	4	0	33	0
Tareq	10	0	42	1
Nasim	10	0	42	1
Mosaddek	10	0	67	4
Rana	6	0	39	0

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Whirling Harbhajan

Cricket
AGENCIES, Madras

India caused a dramatic Australian slump and then batted aggressively to force their way back in the third and decisive Test here on Monday.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh grabbed seven wickets as the Australians collapsed from 340-3 to 391 all out in their first innings despite Matthew Hayden's 203.

Indian opener Shiv Das then put on 123 for the first wicket with Sadagopan Ramesh and 88 for the unbroken second with Venkatsai Laxman to lift the hosts to 211-1 by stumps on the second day.

Das was unbeaten at close on 84 with 10 boundaries and a six over deep mid-wicket against Shane Warne.

Laxman, who hit India's record score of 281 in the second Test, continued his superb form with 59 not out off just 69 balls.

Left-hander Ramesh made 61 before he was snapped at silly point off Warne soon after tea.

A full house of 45,000 at the Chepaug witnessed a titanic struggle between bat and ball as the rivals slugged it out to break the 1-1 deadlock in the series.

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PLAYERS OUT FOR HANDLING THE BALL

Russell Endean, South Africa v England — Cape Town, 1956-57

Andrew Hilditch, Australia v Pakistan — Perth, 1978-79

Mohsin Khan, Pakistan v Australia — Karachi, 1982-83

Desmond Haynes, West Indies v India — Bombay, 1983-84

Graham Gooch, England v Australia — Manchester, 1993

Steve Waugh, Australia v India — Madras, 2001

Indian umpire Avi Jayaprakash, who had rejected the Indian appeal for leg-before, raised his finger soon as the incident occurred.

Unfortunately for Harbhajan, the laws of the game do not credit

Australia, resuming at the overnight score of 326-3, lost their last seven wickets for 51 runs after captain Steve Waugh fell victim to the rare dismissal of handling the ball.

The 135-Test veteran palmed off the ball with his right hand as it appeared to be going towards the stumps following an attempted sweep off Harbhajan in the sixth over of the day.

Waugh's unusual dismissal for 47 saw three wickets fall in the space of 12 deliveries to reduce Australia to 344-6.

Harbhajan had a hand in all seven dismissals in the morning session, finishing with figures of 7-133.

It was the third successive major haul for the 20-year-old, who took 13 wickets in the Calcutta Test which helped India level the series.

Hayden, who made 147 on the first day, took his score to 203 before he was last man out, holing out in the deep against Harbhajan.

The left-hander hit 15 boundaries and six sixes during his eight-hour vigil at the crease.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between India and Australia at the Chepaug on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 326-3)

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Talk Turkey

Robin Singh
(Indian cricketer)
"I am a great Olympics fan. I love the track events and cheer for sprinters from my birthplace Trinidad, like Ato Boldon."

Sports WHIZZ KID
Competition 145

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to: Sports Whizz Kid
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 23, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

1. Bangladesh beat Mongolia in the 2002 World Cup qualifier.
2-0 3-2 3-0

2. Who clinched the Paris Indoor Open titles?
Huber Hings Mauresmo

3. Sri Lanka won the one-day series against New Zealand.
3-2 5-0 4-1

4. How many Tests will Bangladesh play in five years?
34 35 36

5. Who lifted the national under-19 cricket crown?
Chittagong Rajshahi BKSP

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Action from Monday's Prime Minister Gold Cup Hockey Tournament classification encounter between Bangladesh and Malaysia.