Div II cricket from today

Sport Reporter The Second Division cri cket league begins today at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium (west).

Thirty-two teams, divided into four groups, are taking part in the league.

Top three teams from each group will play in the super

Johnston slowly recovering

LONDON. Dec 6: Brian Johnston, the voice of cricket in Britain, is improving in hospital after last week's heart attack,

reports Reuter. Johnston, 81, has regained consciousness, although he remains in intensive care. His wife Pauline said on Sunday: "He is still wired up but he is off the drugs.

The hospital has been flooded with calls from wellwishers since Johnston was admitted on Thursday after collapsing.

DU basketball

Sports Reporter

The department of Marketing beat the department of Statistics 67-33 in the Dhaka University inter-department ba sketball competition at the university basketball court yest erday.

Ashgar topscored with 44 points while Wadud contributed 12 points for the win-

Nurul Huda and Walid caged 11 and six points respectively for Statistics.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter Prantik Krira Chakra outclassed Rayer Bazar Athletic Club 5-0 in the Sonali Bank Second Division football league at the Hockey Stadium yester-

Asish Gomez scored twice while Rafigul, Atiqur and Zahid scored once each.

Azad Sporting Club drew goalless with Shantinagar club in the other tie at the same

Big wins for BDR, Police Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles . and Bangladesh Police posted big wins in their respective Phoenix insurance handball championship matches at the Outer Stadium court yesterday. In the first match of the

day, BDR trounced Anirban Sangsad 34-03. The winners led the first

half 18-02. Rakon top-scored with 11 goals while Jahangir and Malakar scored 7 and 5 re-

spectively for BDR. Kamal scored twice and Shamim scored the other for

the losers. Bangladesh Police registered a 35-03 victory over

Victoria Sporting Club in the other match of the day. The victors scored 15 goals

in the first half. Shahiduzzaman netted 1 goals while Alim and Sajal scored five each for Police.

Khokan and Zamal was on target twice and once respectively for the losers.

Palestine tops IOC agenda

LAUSANNE, Dec 6: Palestinians are set to top the agenda when the International Olympic Committee meets here this week, reports AFP.

The Palestinian Olympic Committee is expected to brief the IOC Executive Committee on its work and its plan to send a delegation of observers to the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer in February.

The Palestinians, who joined the Olympic movement last September during the IOC session in Monaco, are determined to be represented at Lillehammer, even if their presence is only symbolic.

Also on the agenda are progress reports from future Olympic host cities -Lillehammer, Atlanta, Nagano (Winter 1998) and Sydney.

Delegates will also look at the Sports Arbitration Tribunal (TAS), and how it can be strengthened, and changes in the Olympic solidarity fund. which helps finance sports de-

velopment in poorer countries. The authority of the Swissbased TAS is increasingly being called into question by athletes - such as American Harry "Butch" Reynolds and Germany's Katrin Krabbe - who contest sports federation decisions in civil courts.

IOC and federation officials currently see this trend as one

of their biggest headaches. As for the solidarity fund, there have been calls for changes in the way the money is allocated - to reflect both the geopolitical changes in Europe and the increasing difficulties

faced by African countries.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has said at recent meetings in Dublin, with the European Olympic Committees. end in Harare, with the African committees, that Olympic funding would be increased.

Dhanmondi in dire straits

Sports Reporter

Gulshan Youth increased Dhanmondi's relegation worries when

they handed the unrewarded churning of the lowly outfit a massive sevenwicket defeat at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday. Aided by a stylish half century from former Indian Test

cricketer Ashok Malhotra, Gulshan posted 165 for three wickets in 43.2 overs after having limited Dhanmondi to bowled by left-ram spinner 161 for eight in the morning. Dhanmondi, who made the first use of the wicket, not by

force but according to the volition of their skipper Jahangir Shah Badshah, the former national player. A dour knock of 60 by opener Azam was largely re-

sponsible for their eventual collection of 161. Spin bowler Billu was the

next highest scorer with 17, followed by Badshah who too remained unbeaten on 17. Md Ali, Kamrul and Indian

Vishal Yadav chipped in with 15,12 and 10 respectively. Superb bowling by Gulshan new ball bowlers Joydev and Ehsan added to the miseries of the Dhanmondi batsmen. Joydev did not get any wickets

but gave away 14 runs from

nine overs, four of which were

maidens. Ehsan spent four more runs off same number of overs but

got one wicket. But Abu Hamid Piyal and Rafigul were the bowlers who skimmed the cream from the

two new ball bowlers. Piyal took two for 27 while Rafigul claimed two for 19. Indian Test discard Arun

had a scalp for 38 runs. Gulshan were never in trou ble in their quest for a winning target of 162 for victory. Young Sajid made 17 before being

DU cricket

Sports Reporter

The department of Botany defeated the department of Political Science by four wickets in the Dhaka University inter-department cricket competition at the Jagannath Hall cricket ground yesterday.

Political Science batted first and were all out for 109 runs in the stipulated 30 overs. . Farugue topscored with 44

Abu Ahmed took three wickets giving away only 21

Botany reached their target.

making 110 runs in 29.3 over

Zillur contributed 32 valuable runs.

for the loss of six wickets.

Anjan took two wickets giving away 16 runs.

good players in Europe who

may get it." Baggio said in a re-

cent interview with La

Republica. "There are better

leaders. I am a sort of moody

for the award may be his own

national team captain, AC

Milan's veteran sweeper Franco

Baresi. A recent survey among

Italian first-division coaches

and players showed little differ-

ence between the two, although

voters for the Golden Ball usu-

ally prefer forwards at the ex-

ROBERTO BAGGIO

Another Juventus player,

French forward Michel Platini.

won the award three consecu-

tive years from 1983-85. Van

Basten, currently sidelined with

a slow-healing ankle injury,

was also a three-time winner in

Paolo Rossi in 1982, when, like

Baggio, he was a top striker for

DC Gold Cup

Narayanganj DSA defeated

Khulna Newsprint Mill 3-0 in

the Deputy Commissioner Gold

Cup football tournament played

at the local stadium today

scored one each for the win-

Nabaran Sangha will en-

counter National Sporting Club

tomorrow (Tuesday) in the

first semi-final of the tourna-

Liton, Rejaul and Rinku

(Monday), reports UNB.

. CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Dec 6:

The last Italian winner was

1989-90 and 1992.

pense of defenders.

Baggio's biggest challenger

Liton the other opener, left with the addition of just one more run with Ali snapping him off Vishal Yadav's bowling.

But the two Indians - Arun and Ashok - added another 50 runs quite effortlessly before Vishal got through his compatriot Arun's defence for 26.

Malhotra struck four boundaries and a powerful sixer to remain unconquered on 56 made off 89 balls.

Gulshan skipper Rafiqul Alam bore Malhotra a steady hand in pulling off an easy win. The former national player, who joined Gulshan from Mohammedans only this year. was on 22 made off 49 balls when the winning runs were

Vishal Yadav, who opened Dhanmondi's attack, bowled superbly to capture two for ten runs from nine super overs of controlled medium pace bowling.

Left-arm spinner Billu was quite impressive too dismissing one batsman for 26 runs. Sohel too bowled well but went wicketless.

TODAY'S MATCHES Gulshan Youth vs Wari Club

Baggio's Juventus jersey

bears the same No 10 that once

belonged to Platini, but he re-

fuses to draw comparisons with

style that has spurred debate

among critics and coaches

dled with tactics. Let him play

the way he feels," a respected

soccer commentator wrote re-

standing performances from

midfield, upfront or as a set-up

man on the wings. He kicks and

ing both feet, and can drive

size. At 5-foot-8 (1.74 metres),

158 pounds (72 kilograms), he

is not always the first to put

199 First Division matches in

the Italian league, and 19 goals

in 32 games with the national

team. His decisive goals led

Juventus to the UEFA Cup title

last season and have kept the

Turin team afloat in the current

two points behind leader AC

Milan. Baggio has scored nine

goals, in 14 games, second only

to Torino's centreforward

A shy and unconventional

person, Baggio is a follower of

Buddhism. He wears a pony tail

and has a craze for hunting, ig-

noring the campaigns of envi-

dlrs 2 million a year with

Juventus. His record dlrs 26

million transfer to the team

from Fiorentina in 1990 caused

Juventus, Baggio refused to

kick a penalty against his

former team to show his at-

a family of eight children,

Baggio still lives near his par-

ents' home in a villa in

said that only his family and

hunting can help him to relieve

the stress of a demanding pro-

fessional career started with

Married and a father, Baggio

Born in the Veneto region to

tachment to Florence.

Caldogno.

Vicenza in 1984.

In his first season with

riots among Florentine fans.

He currently makes about

Juventus are currently third,

He has tallied 101 goals in

Baggio's weakness is his

home the perfect free kick.

head to ball.

Italian campaign:

Andrea Silenzi's 11.

ronmentalists.

controls the ball with ease us-

Baggio cari produce out-

Instead, it is Baggio's unique

"Baggio's talent can't be bri-

the retired French star.

(DCS) Surja Tarun vs Dhanmondi (Mirpur Pallabi).

Golden Ball follows Baggio? Juventus and the national but there are several other



MILAN, Dec 6: It's a race with a foregone conclusion, according to Gianni Agnelli. The

auto tycoon who spent a fortune to bring Roberto Baggio to Turin said this week he could smell the scent of the Golden Ball award coming the way of his 26-year-old Italian forward, reports AP.

But Agnelli is not the only one expecting the sport's biggest individual prize - soccer's version of the Oscar - to be given to the imaginative leader of both Juventus and the Italian national team.

Italian media, critics and fans alike have long been betting that Baggio will succeed AC Milan's Dutch striker Marco Van Basten as Europe's best player.

The 1993 winner of the Golden Ball, chosen by a jury of coaches and journalists in a poll conducted a French sports magazine, will be named on Dec

There's little doubt that the popular and talented Baggio is one of the favourites. "Frankly I feel I deserve it,

BANEX Open squash results

Sports Reporter

Former Dhaka Club champion Anisul Haque, Rashed Chowdhury, Jagadish and Sohail Hamid advanced to the next round of the BANEX Open squash competition at the Dhaka Club squash court yes-

Anisul Haque won 9-2, 9-2 against Mishu, Rashed Chowdhury beat Karim 9-7, 9-6, and Sohail Hamid recorded a straight 9-5, 9-5 win over Nini Sattar.

Jagadish got a walkover when his opponent Mahboobur Rahman failed to turn up.

Eyles, Martin in Super Series semifinals

ZURICH, Dec 6: Australians Rodney Eyles and Brett Martin reached the semifinals of the Super Series finals on Sunday after a dramatic final qualifying match between the two Brisbane players, reports Reuter.

Victory to Eyles, already assured of a semifinal place. would have eliminated Martin and opened the way for

England's Philip Whitlock. Martin emerged the victor 13-15, 15-12, 15-12, 12-15, 15-6 after 60 minutes and will now meet world number one Jansher Khan of Pakistan.

Whitlock was awarded a 3-0 victory over Pakistani Jahangir Khan, who pulled out of the tournament on Saturday with a Hamstring injury.

Jahangir, the greatest player of his *generation. limped through a brief exhibition match against a Swiss junior player then waved an emotional farewell to the crowd in his final appearance on the world stage.

"I shall go home to be with my family and look after my business interests in Pakistan," he said. "After about six months I shall decide what to do with the rest of my life, but I hope that will include squash clinics and coaching to help the young players in my coun-

Asked about a comeback, Jahingir replied: "A comeback? No, this is it—definitely."

Lankans to field one quickie

COLOMBO, Dec 6: Shri Lanka could field just one fast bowler for the historic, firstever Test match against the West Indies starting Wednesday, says new manager Bandula Warnapura, reports

The former Shri Lanka Test captain, who was surprisingly to guide the home side in their 50th Test match, said he would not discount the idea of going into the one-off Test with only one paceman.

· "We have to play to our strengths and use our re sponses as best as we can. Yes, we could play just one fast bowler," said Warnapura, who captained Shri Lanka in their inaugural Test against England. at Lords in 1981.

Warnapura's thinking will mean that the Test pitch at Moratuwa, will favour slow* bowlers, and that Shri Lanka are likely to pick at least three frontline spinners when they name the squad Tuesday.

the number one choice to play. decide to play only one fast be drafted in to share the new

return after a hamstring injury. took two wickets in the abandoned three day match be-Shri Lanka Board President's XI in Galle.

been dogged by bad weather on tour so far, will name their Test team on the morning of

"We have a couple of problems to iron out and will need as much practice as we can before picking the Test team," said David Holford, West Indies

Holford was worried about the form of veteran opener Desmond Haynes, who has been struggling to regain his touch, Haynes, who led the West Indies in the three-day match, scored only 10, before slashing a ball well outside off stump to offer a simple catch

"It was disappointing that Haynes did not stay at the crease longer," said Holford.

immediate reaction after being dismissed was to ask Galle cricket officials to arrange a nets session for him.

Accolade for

BEIJING, Dec 6: China's star athlete Wang Junxia. world champion middle distance runner and holder of two world records, was voted sportsperson-of-the-year by the sporting press here Monday, reports AFP.

Dafly newspaper and the Five

Wang, 20, became the first woman in history to run the 10,000m in under 30 minutes when she set a world record at China's national games in Beijing in September.

She is a member of the team from the north-eastern province of Liaoning coached by MA Junren, whose charges hit the headlines with a string

At the World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany, in August, the team dubbed "Ma's army" won golds at 1,500m and 10,000m. Three weeks later they set world records at all three distances.

Waqar makes babes weep



Pakistan ripped through the Zimbabwe batting with a combined pace

and spin attack. winning the first five-day cricket Test against the tourists by 131 runs here

Wagar Younis, leading Pakistan in the absence of injured Wasim Akram, bagged six wickets in the second innings to earn the man-of-the-match

He had a total haul of 13

wickets for 135 runs, which is a career best for the Pakistani paceman.

> His predictions that the wicket would turn came true and Zimbabwe found themselves in trouble as Pakistan moved through their lineup on the last day.

Zimbabwe, avoiding a follow on Sunday, were unable to restrain the Pakistani batsmen who took their overnight 111 for three to 131 runs before making a sporting declaration.

With Zimbabwe chasing a target of 266 runs to win, the



WAQAR YOUNIS man-of- the-match

match was converted virtually into a one-dayer. The Zimbabwe batting collapsed rapidly and a late nfnthwicket 38-run stand between Heath Streak and Eddo Brandes could not prevent

Pakistan winning the match with 5.1 overs to spare. Zimbabwe batting collapsed rapidly and a late ninth-wick 38-run stand between Heath Streak and Eddo Brandes could not prevent Pakistan

winning the match with 5.1 overs to spare. Zimbabwe will play the second Test against Pakistan at Rawalpindi from December nine and the last at Lahore

from December 11. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth and the final day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and

Zimbabwe today. PAKISTAN: First innings 423 for eight declared (Shoaib Mohammad 81, Javed Miandad 70; Eddo Brandes three for

ZIMBABWE: First innings 289 for all out. PAKISTAN: Second innings Inzamamul Haq not out 47.

(overnight 111 for three) Asif Mujtaba not out 2). Aamir Sohail run out Inzamamul Haq not out Basit Ali c and b **Eddo Brandes** Javed Miandad run out Asif Mujtaba not out - 10 Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-1, w-1) Total: (for three wickets in 26

Fall of wickets 1-47; 2:76; 3-108 Eddo Brandes 13 John Rennie Heath Streak 10 Did not bat: Shoaib Moha-

mamd, Wagar Younis, Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed. Ataur Rehman, Tauseef Ahmed. ZIMBABWE: Second innings

G Flower b Rehman M Dakker Ibw b Wagar A Campbell c Inzamam Mushtag D Houghton lbw b Wagar A Flower c Inzamam Mushtag G Whittall b Rehman G Bruk-Jackson Ibw b Wagar S Peall b Wagar H Streak not out E Brandes b Wagar J Rennie Ibw b Wagar Extras: (b-12, lb-5, nb-3) Total: Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-17;

3-61: 4-63: 5-65: 6-78: 7-80: 8-92: 9-130 Bowling: Wagar Younis 21.5 Ataur Rahman 16

Mushtag Ahmed 17 7 24

Tauseef Ahmed 6

Aamir Sohail 2 0 16 0 Result: Pakistan won by 131 runs Man-of-the-match: Wagar

Second Test: Rawalpindi, Dec 9 to 14 Third Test: Lahore, Dec 16

Japan interests Santana

Japan Football Association



TOKYO, Dec 6: Tele Santana, manager of Brazil's Sao Paulo soccer club,

said Monday he would consider coaching in Japan attractive and would manage Japan's national team if the offer is right, reports AP.

Santana made the comments shortly after Sao Paulo arrived in Japan to prepare for the annual European-South American club championship next Sunday against AC Milan of

"I am a professional, and if the offer is good I would consider it," said Santana, one of the sport's best-known coaches. "Right now, I have a contract with Sao Paulo, but that expires at the end of the year and then I

would see no obstacles."

officials acknowledged that Santana is a candidate for the job, left vacant by the resignation of Dutchman Hans Oft after Japan's disappointing failure to win a berth in the World Cup next year. Santana, 62, said he has no

plans to discuss the matter directly with the association while he is here. But he said it is being discussed between Japanese officials and a representative of his. If Santana did choose to

come to Japan, he would have plenty of compatriots to keep him company.

Brazilian superstars Zico and Careca already have come here to join the J-League. Japan's first fully professional

Moore mauls El Salvador

LOS ANGELES, Dec 6: Joe-Max Moors scored four goals and assisted on two others on Sunday as the United States continued a recent offensive explosion with a 7-0 thrashing of El Salvador in an international soccer friendly, reports Reuter.

The last four-goal game by a US player was registered by Dan Ebert in a 6-0 victory over the Dominican republic at the 1979 Pan American Games.

Sunday's margin of victory matched the highest ever by a US team, a mark set last month in an 8-1 rout of the Cayman islands. Moore scored twice in that game.

Moore had two goals in each half on Sunday, including the final tally of the match in the 70th minute. Midfielder Oominic Kinnear

opened the scoring with the first of his two goals in the 28th minute. Kinnear matched his two-goal performance against the Cayman islands. Forward Hugo Perez, a na-

onship. It was not held in 1975 tive of El Salvador, also scored for the Americans. Fernando Clavijo was also ejected after leaving the US bench during a tussle in the

67th minute.

soccer league.

The league's biggest star. Kazuyoshi Miura, spent his childhood in Brazil learning the sport from Pele. Another J-League star, Ruy Ramos, is a Brazilian native who has become a Japanese citizen.

 Such South American talent has helped make the J-League an immense success in its inaugural season this year. The league has sparked a soccer boom among young Japanese. But Japan's growing legions of soccer fans were shocked last

month when the national team was stopped in the final round of qualifying to represent Asia in next year's World Cup in the United States. Saudi Arabia and South Korea will have that honor instead

Santana said Japan's lack of international successes only makes the prospect of coaching here more challenging. "As a coach it is very attrac-

tive," said Santana, who coached the 1982 and 1986 Brazilian national teams. "Football in Japan is building and gaining popularity very Santana's club is looking for its second straight Europe-

known since 1980 as the Toyota Cup. Last year, it beat FC Barcelona 2-1 for the title. Santana acknowledged that the team is showing signs of fatigue after a grueling season, but said he plans to run the players through practices twice

South America championships,

a day. The team wasted no time in taking its first workout, going through a routine of light running and stretching just hours after arrival Monday afternoon AC Milan, which won the

cup in 1989 and 1990, is to arrive in Tokyo Wednesday. First held in 1960, the contest was called the Intercontinental Cup until it was moved to Tokyo and simplified to a one-game champi-

and 1978. Sunday's game will be played at the 60,000-seat National Stadium, and organisers say it is already a sellout.

Kazakhstan's Svetlana Zalevskaya in action at the women's high jump at the Asian Athletics Championship in Manila on Dec 4. Zalevskaya won the gold with a jump of 1.92 meters. - AFP photo

Monday, reports AFP.

Right arm paceman Pramodya Wickremasinghe is If the Shri Lankan selectors do bowler, it could mean that batsman Asanka Gurusinha will

Gurusinha, who is making a tween the West Indies and the

The West Indies, who have the match.

manager.

to gully.

The 39-year-old Haynes'

Wang Junxia

Wang, 10,000m and 3.000m world record holder, was selected ahead of boxing champion Evander Holyfield from the United States, Italian soccer star Roberto Baggio, British sprinter Linford Christie and American tennis star Pete Sampras in the list of the world's top 10 sportspersons announced in the Sports

Rings sports magazine.

of successes in 1993.