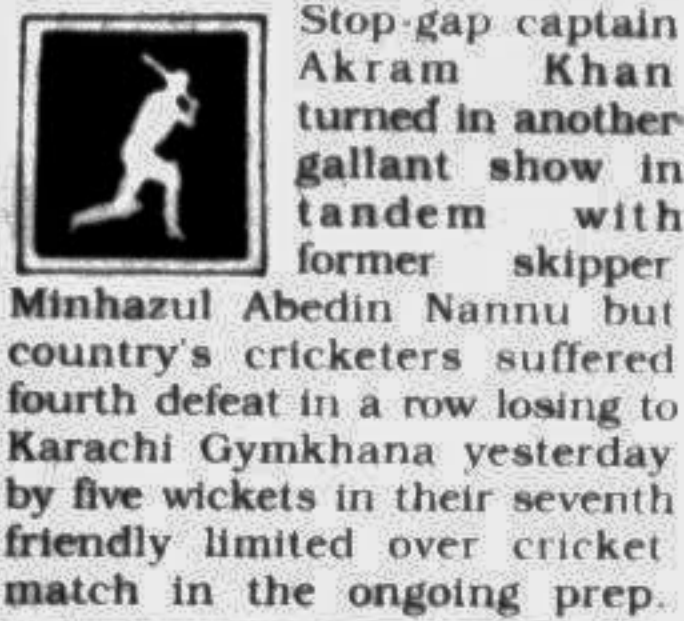


# Cricketers keep losing

Sports Reporter



**AKRAM ... 67 n.o.**  
tour of Pakistan, said a flimsy faxed message, received at the BCCB office last night.

The UBL ground which hosted the rousing, nail-biting encounter between touring Bangladesh Cricket Control Board Eleven and Pakistan Gymkhana on Sunday with the former going down fighting by

just two runs, yesterday witnessed another defeat this time by a demoralisingly big one for the itinerants.

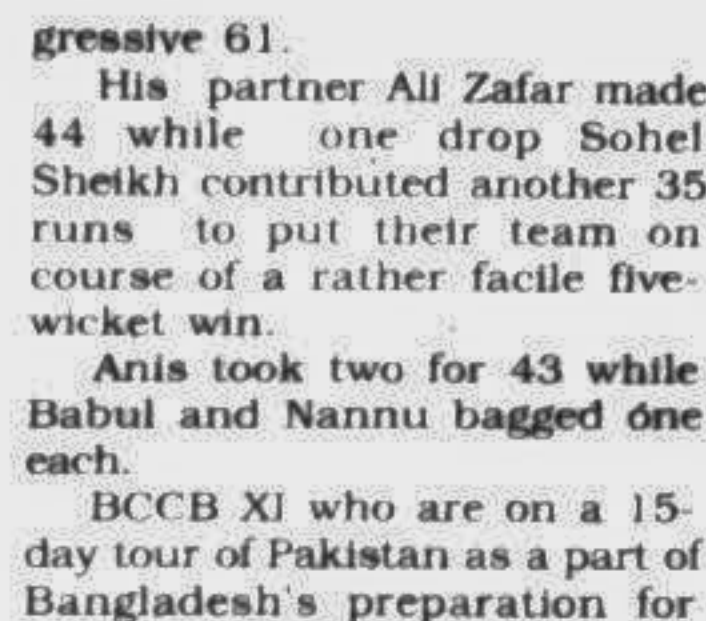
Batting first BCCB XI comprising the top players of Bangladesh piled up 218 for eight wickets from their stipulated quota of overs.

Akram who remained unbeaten in Sunday's narrowly lost match with 52 topscored with a typically brawny, unbeaten 67.

Minhazul Abedin Nannu, the consistent middle-order batsman and the mainstay of Bangladesh batting made a triumphant return with workmanlike innings of 62. Nannu, Akram's clubmate was one of the omissions in the previous encounter along with skipper Faruque Ahmed, Shahinaz Shahed Shanu and experienced paceman Golam Nawsher Prince. Faruque, Shanu, and Prince did not play yesterday and neither did southpaw allrounder Enamul Huq Monil.

Selim Shahed who was not among the runs in the previous match scored a solid 40 as none else could substantially weigh in BCCB XI's eventual score of 218 for eight wickets.

Karachi Gymkhana overhauled BCCB XI's score in 39 overs only, posting 219 for five with opener Shah Amir leading the charge with an aggressive 61.



**NANNU ... 62**  
the coming ICC Trophy to be starting in Kenya from next month conceded with yesterday's one their fifth defeat of the tour. The tourists who are to play three more matches have so far recorded two wins in the tour which is scheduled to be wound up on January 15.

## Skipper powers City

Sports Reporter

Skipper Wahid's devastating bowling helped City Club complete the super league quorum of this year's Millars First Division cricket league as the last entrants of the five-team club of title-chasers outclassed Agrani Bank by ten wickets in a play-off match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Wahid took six wickets for 26 runs from 7.2 overs of bowling as Agrani Bank batting first were all out for 76 in 27.2 overs. Apart from Mr Sundries' 17, only two batsmen made it to the double figures. Veteran Anwar, the wicket keeper-cum-opener made 12 while Atiq topscored with 18.

Al-Amin also bowled superbly among the City bowlers bagging two wickets for four runs from six overs.

A polished 40 by Palash and 29 by fellow opener Babar gave City a massive ten-wicket victory. City made 77 without loss in 21.2 overs.

The winners along with title-chasers Sadharan Bima, Railway, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Wanderers will start their final phase of the campaign for the two berths in next year's Premier league from tomorrow. The relegation league comprising the last five teams of the first phase will also begin on the same day.

## Hughes, hero then a villain

**LONDON, Jan 10:** Mark Hughes scored Manchester United's winning goal against Sheffield United in Sunday's FA Cup third round tie but was later sent off, reports Reuter.

Champions United, beaten 2-1 by Sheffield in the fifth round last year, booked a fourth-round date at Norwich with a hard-fought 1-0 away victory.

Welsh international Hughes clinched the win in the 62nd minute with his 12th FA Cup goal after a smart one-two with Paul Ince on the edge of the box.

## Hatkola h'ball on

Sports Reporter

Youth Sporting Club of Rangamati and Friends Society Club of Rangpur won their opening matches in the Hatkhola Sporting Club women's club cup handball tournament at the wooden floor gymnasium of the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In the first match held in the morning Youth Sporting beat Brothers Union of Dhaka 20-12.

The winners led the first half 11-3.

Rifa Dewan top scored with 11. She was followed by Mita Dewan with eight goals for Youth SC.

Rashida and Azmeri scored three each to reduce the margin for the losers.

The other game between Mohammedan SC of Barisal and Old Ideals of Dhaka could not be held as MSC failed to reach the capital in time.

Friends Society of Rangpur outplayed Baghmara Sporting Club of Jessore 30-12.

Rashida and Peroza with eight goals each and Nasima with six were the notable scorers for Friends while Shaheen Akhtar scored six goals for the losers.

Earlier, the tournament was inaugurated by the former president of the National Sports Council Rezaul Jalil.

President of the Bangladesh Handball Federation M A Hamid, PSC general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohnoor, chairman of the organising committee A S M Ali Kabir were also present on the occasion.

Six teams including two from Dhaka and four from outside the capital are taking part in this week-long meet.



Participants in the seventh round of the national sub-junior chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

## Fleming to replace McDermott

# Aussie-NZ WSC tie today

**SYDNEY, Jan 10:** Victorian pace bowler Damien Fleming was included in the Australian cricket team today to replace injured Test spearhead Craig McDermott for Tuesday's limited overs match against New Zealand here, reports AFP.

McDermott injured a knee in Sunday's 48-run win over South Africa in Brisbane and will miss the Sydney game as a precaution.

Australian media manager Ian McDonald said he expected McDermott to have recovered in time for Sunday's match against South Africa in Perth.

"Craig will continue to have treatment but won't be able to play tomorrow (Tuesday)," McDonald said.

"Damien has come into the 12 for tomorrow's game only, but we won't be announcing the starting line-up until the morning."

New South Wales all-rounder Steve Waugh was rejected as an option because he has not bowled enough in the two recent Sheffield Shield games.

Australia, with eight points from five games, are already into the best-of-three finals, and New Zealand (five points from five) can shut out South Africa (three from six) with a win on Tuesday.

New Zealand coach Geoff Howarth said the Kiwis were injury-free and the team's winning form in Brisbane would make it hard to change the lineup.

Captain Ken Rutherford said the team had experienced a turnaround since the lop-sided Test series.

"There is a lot more fight. I think we had a change of personnel which was important," Rutherford said.

"We had some specialist one-day players such as Chris Pringle, Rod Latham, Gavin Larsen and perhaps Shane Thomson come into the side and just give a little more added zest and keenness that showed in our performance."

"We haven't qualified yet but we're in a reasonably good position with three games to go. So we've got to make sure we don't let this position slip."

## TEAMS

**AUSTRALIA:** Mark Taylor, David Boon, Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Allan Border (captain), Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Tim May, Damien Fleming, Glenn McGrath (12th man to be named).

**NEW ZEALAND:** Bryan Young, Rod Latham, Andrew Jones, Ken Rutherford (captain), Mark Greatbatch, Chris Cairns, Tony Blair, Shane Thomson, Gavin Larsen, Chris Pringle, Richard Degroen, Chris Harris, Willie Watson.

## Imon only needs a draw

Sports Reporter

Sayed Mahfuzur Rahman Imon of Magura is on the threshold of clinching the title of the fourteenth national sub-junior chess championship as he won against Monowar Noor in the eight round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Today Imon only needs a draw against Abu Sufian Shakil to be assured of the title.

Abdullah-al-Rakib of Narayanjanj and Hossain Arif jointly stayed in second position with six and a half points.

Tiptu Sultan, Abu Sufian Shakil, and Enamul Hossain Rajeeb occupied the third spot securing six points each.

Monowar Noor, Yanoor Rahman Royel, Debraj Chatterjee, Nazmul Hoque and Waliullah followed in fourth place collecting five and a half points.

## Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Dulu's all-round performance could not change the fate of the match as his team Millbaracks lost by 36 runs to Kathaligan in the Second Division cricket league at the eastern stop of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Kathaligan collected 169 runs in 36.2 overs.

Tipu contributed 70 runs hitting one sixer and 10 boundaries.

Dulu captured four wickets giving away forty runs. Tusher took two for 17.

Millbaracks were all out in 133 in 36.3 overs.

Dulu top scored with 40.

Tanvir with 5 for 19 was most successful amongst the Kathaligan bowlers.

In another match, held at the Dhanmondi Cricket Ground, Nabin Sangha beat Dhanmondi Pragati Sangha by 14 runs.

Nabin made 176 for 8 in the stipulated 40 overs.

Anis with 48 was closely followed by Jalal with 44 and Liton with 40.

Wasik took two for four for Pragati.

Pragati were all out for 162 in 37.4 overs.

Liton top scored with 47.

Tipu and Biplob claimed two and three wickets each.

## Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

The Muslim Institute led the points' table in the Sonali Bank Second Division football super league as they beat City Club 2-0 in yesterday's lone encounter at the Hockey Stadium.

Salahuddin scored twice to help Muslim earn six points from four encounters so far.

City Club collected three points also from four matches.

## Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Maghbazar Kisholaya and Government Printing Press recorded wins in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football super league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Maghbazar beat Gandaria Famous 3-1.

Suranjit Das netted two goals while Didar scored once for Maghbazar.

Nurul Islam reduced the margin for the losers.

In another match Government Printing Press defeated Basabo Tarun Sangha 2-1.

Habib and Saki scored once each for Press while Zahangir replied for Basabo.

## Cash asks for wild card

**MELBOURNE, Jan 10:** Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has officially applied for a wild card into next week's Australian Open tennis championships, officials said Monday, reports AP.

# Sampdoria slice AC lead



**ROME, Jan 10:** Captain Roberto Mancini scored twice in the last five minutes as Sampdoria beat Napoli 4-1 and cut AC Milan's lead to two points after the champions laboured to a 0-0 draw with bottom club Lecce on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Milan have 27 points from 18 matches, with Sampdoria on 25 and Juventus, who drew 1-1 at Cremonese, a point back in third.

Mancini celebrated his 350th First Division appearance by notching his 100th Serie A goal in the 86th minute and added another in the closing seconds.

Dutchman Ruud Gullit was on target for Sampdoria for the 11th time this season while his English teammate David Platt and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca of Napoli both had penalties saved during a fine match.

Milan, held 0-0 by strugglers Udinese on Thursday, failed to find the net at the San Siro against a Lecce team which had lost its last seven matches and had previously failed to pick up an away point all season.

European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio scored with a majestic free-kick for Juventus in their draw at

Cremonese.

Fourth-placed Parma succumbed to a surprise 1-0 home defeat against Udinese and now trail Milan by five points. Swede Tomas Brolin failed from the penalty spot for the Cup Winners Cup holders, whose title challenge is fading badly.

Lazio, a further point behind in fifth, had defender Giuseppe Favalli sent off as they crashed 4-1 at Foggia.

Platt had the chance to put Sampdoria ahead in the 19th minute but Napoli goalkeeper Giuseppe Tagliacatella plunged to his right to save his penalty.

Winger Attilio Lombardo have the Genoese the lead in the 34th minute and Italy international goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca kept them in front when he pushed away Fonseca's spot kick shortly before halftime.

Fonseca made amends with an equaliser in the 50th minute but the bad-headed Lombardo set up Gullit to restore Sampdoria's advantage two minutes later.

Mancini's late double added the gloss to an important victory for Sampdoria, champions in 1991 before Milan's two successive triumphs.

Dutch National coach Dick Advocaat is expected in Italy today in a bid to convince the rejuvenated Gullit to play for

the Netherlands in the World Cup finals in June.

While Gullit cannot stop scoring, the goals have dried up for his former colleagues at Milan.

Lecce goalkeeper Giuseppe Gatta frustrated them with a series of great saves on Sunday while Demetrio Albertini and Roberto Donadoni both hit the Woodwork for the champions.

Baggio's special put Juventus 1-0 ahead at Cremonese in the 25th minute but midfielder Marco Giandebaggi denied the Turin Club only their second away win of the season with an equaliser in the 43rd minute.

The title chase is beginning to look like a three horse race after defeats for Parma, Lazio and Internazionale, beaten 1-0 at promoted Reggina.

Defender Valerio Bertotto scored in the first half at Parma as Udinese ended their run of 10 matches without a win.

Lazio and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne played with heavy strapping to protect his cracked rib at Foggia but probably wished he had remained on the sidelines.

Gascoigne was cautioned in the first half as his side allowed Luigi Di Biagio and Massimiliano Cappellini to score in the opening 45 minutes.



The first-ever Hatkhola Sporting Club women's handball tournament got underway at the wooden floor gymnasium adjacent to the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match was inaugurated by former president of NSC Lt Col (ret'd) M A Jalil.

## McGrath in trouble

**LONDON, Jan 10:** Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson said on Monday defender Paul McGrath would be fined 10,000 pounds sterling (14,925 dollars) for failing to travel to Exeter for Saturday's FA Cup tie, reports Reuter.

The fine — McGrath's salary for two weeks — is the maximum that can be imposed under the club's disciplinary rules.

But Atkinson said he thought it unlikely that McGrath's third disappearing act inside eight months — twice at Villa and once from the Ireland national squad — would lead to his dismissal from the club.

Atkinson said: "Paul will be fined and he knows it. He should have travelled with the rest of the lads to Exeter. He doesn't have too many house points left and there are certain things he has to conform to."

# Robson's Welsh nexus afoot

**LISBON, Jan 10:** Former England manager Bobby Robson said on Monday he was considering an offer to manage the Welsh national football team, but would not rush into a decision, reports Reuter.

"I am thinking about it," said Robson, who said he was still coming to terms with the shock of being fired by Portugal's First Division side Sporting last month.

"I have just got to give it some thought. Obviously I cannot keep people waiting too long and I will make a decision."

Alan Evans, chief executive of the Welsh Football Association, said on Sunday that he had approached Robson about

becoming Wales manager.

Evans said Wales might also renew outgoing manager Terry Yorath's contract which expired on December 31.

He said the association would have a fulltime manager in place by the end of January.

Robson declined to say whether he had received other offers, but he denied suggestions that England's Norwich City had sought him as a replacement for Mike Walker, who joined Everton on Friday.

"I can assure you that Norwich City have never approached me," he said.

Robson said he was still shocked and bewildered by his surprise dismissal by Sporting after coaching the Lisbon team to the top of the Portuguese League table. Sporting are now second, three points behind

arch-rivals Benfica.

"It was a big shock when I lost my job," Robson said. "I was very bewildered. I am still getting over my bewilderment."

Robson said he would be happy staying on in Portugal, but he declined to say whether any other Portuguese club had offered him a job.

"I like it here very much," Robson said. "It's a great country. I like the people, I like the football."

But he added: "I am not touting for a job."

Robson said he would go to Sporting's Alvalade Stadium on Tuesday to watch his former side play a friendly against a team of international players in honour of Sporting's injured Ukrainian striker Sergei Cherbakov.