

Column One

DID U'KNOW?

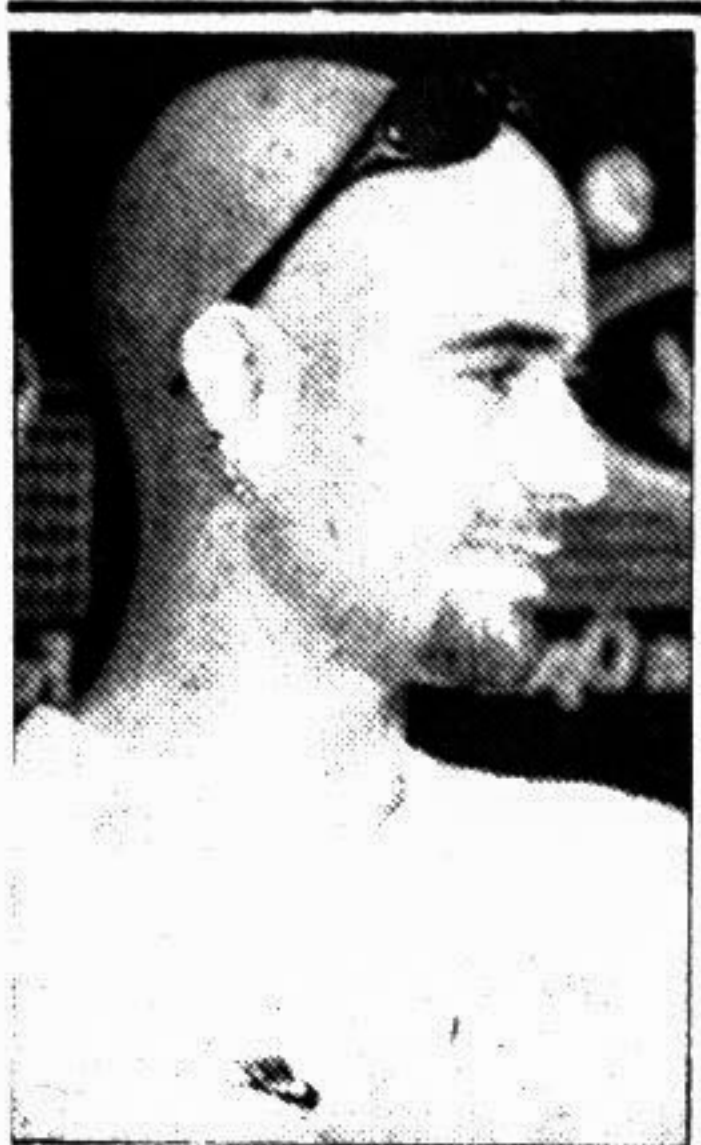
(The Professor does)

That no matter how hard I try, it is next to impossible to separate politics from sports. It is as if the two are meant to be together. Here's a sample I picked up recently:

The Hungarian hammer thrower Jozsef Csermak (who died fighting in the 1956 uprising) was being questioned on his Olympic win in 1952 by a Soviet interviewer. On being asked how he always managed to win, Csermak replied laconically that he threw his hammer further than anyone else. The Russian persisted, enquiring what was the secret behind Csermak's consistency. "Well, it's simple enough," replied Csermak thoughtfully. "I pretend a sickle is attached to the hammer."

Wonder what Csermak would have said if his sport was not hammer throwing. Put yourself in Csermak's shoes, and think very hard. Match your answers with mine tomorrow.

SPORTS TALK



Andre Agassi

(US tennis superstar) "If I don't win the tournament, I don't want to be ranked No. 1."

Quoted during the ongoing Aussie Open on possibilities of him becoming world no 1 at the expense of compatriot Pete Sampras.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-23

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 26, 1996)

- Shaquille O'Neil is famous for playing 

Football	Cricket	Basketball
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- Chetan Sharma plays local cricket for 

MSC	ARC	Victoria
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- Sprinter Mahabubul Alam won SAF gold in 

100m	200m	400m
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- The first century in cricket this season was by 

Sunit	Ojee	Durjoy
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- City Club ground for cricket is located in 

Mepur	Dhanmondi	Bafu
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Nat'l Junior chess

Sports Reporter

Four players were leading the table of the 17th National Junior chess championship at the end of the fourth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

They are second seed Abdullah Al Rakib, sixth seed Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Imon, eighth seed Ashrafur Rahman Murad and ninth seed Aminur Rahman.

In yesterday's round Rakib defeated seventh seed Firoze Ahmed; Imon beat top-seed and national sub-junior champion Enamul Hossain Rajib; Murad outgunned third seed Shawkat Hossain Pallob and Amin checkedmate fourth seed and defending champion Adnan Faisal.

All the four leaders earned four points apiece from as many outings.

Fifth seed and former national eve's champion Tanima Parveen of Chittagong drew her fourth round encounter with Ruhul Islam Bobby.

With the draw, both earned 3.5 points each and were sharing the second slot along with Taha Sultan who defeated Rashid yesterday.

Besides 20 players were in the third position with three points to their accounts. They are Rajib, Pallab, Adnan, Firoze, Saful, Kabir, Kallol, Mithu, Arifuzzaman, Sagar, Sajal, Utten, Aliullah, Probir, Tofazzal, Jashimuddin, Nahid, Amir Ali, Khaled and Karibul Hasan.

The fifth round will start today at 3 pm at the same venue.

MSC more equal than Biman

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

**Bangladesh Biman:** 237 in 49.4 overs (Athar Ali 70, Zafar Iqbal 45, Sumon 41, Shahed Mehmood 4/41, Sujon 3/43)

**MOHAMMEDAN SC:** 237 for nine in 50 overs (Selim Shahed 33, Litu 31, Shahed Mehmood 31)

**GULSHAN YOUTH:** 236 for nine in 50 overs (Zia 78, Arun Lal 34, Malhotra 34, Soheli 33, Munna 3/38)

**WARI CLUB:** 220 in 49.2 overs (Hasan 60, Ehsan 37, Mukul 33, Babu 4/32)



It was once again the long tail of Mohammedan Sporting that carved a sensational win for the joint-holders against formidable Bangladesh Biman in a Premier cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In an exciting finale with Mohammedans needing 10 runs from the last over to surpass the handsome Biman total of 237, Murshed Ali Khan Sumon and wicket-keeper Nasir Ahmed, the last pair in the Mohammedan innings, made the most of some bizarre fielding to collect nine runs from the first four deliveries from Pakistan right-arm seamer Zafar Iqbal to tie the match.

And then Nasu, the seasoned campaigner, successfully defended the last two balls of the match. Mohammedans, who had earlier bowled Biman out, won the cliff-hanger by virtue of conceding lesser number of wickets — 237 for nine on completion of 50 overs.

In an intriguing finish, Biman, who were in control of the match throughout, suddenly found everything going the wrong way in the eventual last over.

In that over left-arm seamer Sumon steered Zafar Iqbal's first ball towards the deep point region to collect two runs and then took a single from the next delivery leaving a more confident Nasu to collect a daunting seven runs off the last three balls.

Nasu danced down the wicket to hit the fourth Zafar delivery, declared 'no ball' by umpire Akhtaruddin Shaheen for over-stepping, but was caught by Athar Ali at cover.

An elated Athar, who was so engrossed after holding the high catch that he failed to read the repeated signals from his teammates to return the ball to the wicketkeeper. When the national all-rounder came back to earth, he hurled a wild throw to the delight of Nasu, who had already completed two, ran another couple.

After surviving the close call, Mohammedans, who needed two runs from the remaining three balls, once again saw lady-luck smiling upon them when Zafar failed to effect a simple run out chance at the bowler's end.

The 'Pakistani', who had Nasu stranded in the middle of the crease and the stumps at the non-strikers end only a couple of yards away, literally threw away the match when he hurled the ball wide from point blank range to enable Mohammedans earn two gifted runs to tie the match for an eventual win.

However, apart from the late debacle, it was Biman, buoyed by the presence of Pakistani Test discard left-hander Asif Mujtaba, which enjoyed the upperhand throughout the day.

Sent in to bat in the morning, they compiled a fighting total before being all out with two balls to go in the allotted 50 overs.

Opener Athar Ali Khan, the consistent Biman willow-wielder, scored a dazzling 70 off 92 balls to lay a solid foundation for his side. The tall right-handed bat shared 95 runs for the second wicket with Habibul Bashar Sumon before Athar departed in the 31st over leaving his side comfortably poised with two for 125.

In his polished knock Athar hammered seven sparkling hits to the fence.

Asif Mujtaba then joined force with Sumon to add another 33 runs to the Biman total for the third wicket before the latter departed for a

patient 41 off 75 embellished with two four's.

In his maiden appearance in Dhaka cricket, Mujtaba was playing confidently before he suffered a sad dismissal while on 24. He was run out when Rafique's straight drive struck the stumps at the non-strikers end after deflecting off Sujon of Mohammedans.

Zafar Iqbal, the other Pakistani in the Biman ranks, then slogged 45 runs during the last five overs to steer his side to a commanding total. In his whirlwind 31-ball stay at the crease Zafar clouted five fours.

In reply, Mohammedans made a promising start with opener Jahangir Alam and one-down Selim Shahed putting on 49 runs for the second wicket. But once Jahangir was out after scoring a plucky 23 off 57 balls, Mohammedans, who were

Mohammedans 203 for eight in 45.5 overs.

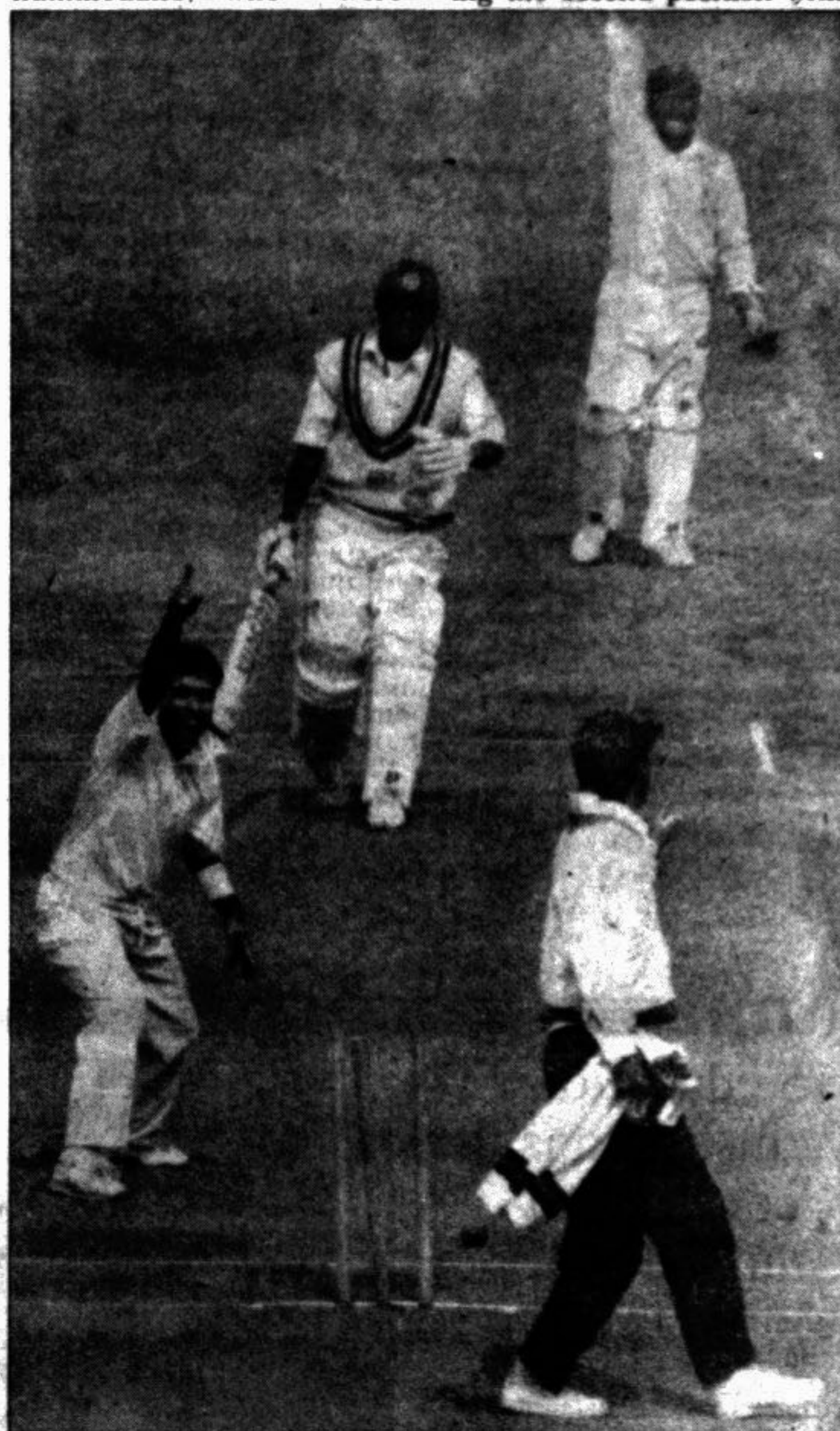
Hasibul Hossain Shanto, the Mohammedan new-ball bowler, contributed a vital 17 runs to the total before he was bowled by Asif Mujtaba in the penultimate over.

Among the Biman bowlers, Anis, Ziaur Rashid Rupom and Asif Mujtaba claimed two wickets apiece.

With this win Mohammedans joined Brothers Union at the top of the table, both collecting 14 points each. But Mohammedans, who lost only one match against Brothers two, played one match less than the Gopibagh outfit.

In the 12-team Premier league Brothers had already completed their nine league engagements.

Meanwhile, it was Biman's second defeat in the league and they are now jointly sharing the second position with



Umpire Nadir Shah raises the dreaded finger to announce the dismissal of Asif Mujtaba (not in the picture) who was run out at the non-strikers end when a Rafique-drive struck the middle stump of a deflection from bowler Sujon (L).

cruising comfortably with 70/1 in 17.4 overs, slipped to a precarious 111 for five in 32.2 over with all of the recognised batsmen back in the dressing room.

Nannu scored only 10 before he was run out. Selim Shahed, who refused to comply with a call for a cheeky single from Nannu, scored a sedate 33 off 67 balls and followed his illustrious partner soon leaving Mohammedans in dire straits at 91/4.

Sujon stuck around at the wicket for some time before Asif Mujtaba with his off-spin trapped the Mohammedan all-rounder leg before wicket on 10.

Anis then swung the match completely in Biman's way when he dismissed Mohammedan skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul (23) with a direct hit from short fine leg reducing them to 154 for six in 39.4 overs.

After the fall of Bulbul, Mohammedans were left with an uphill task of scoring 85 runs from the last ten overs and with only four wickets in hand.

But the tail-enders, undaunted by the setback, fought back gallantly with left-hander Mustadr Litu and Pakistani leg-spinner Shahed Mehmud sharing a priceless 44 runs for the seventh wicket to rekindle a glimmer of hope for the beleaguered Mohammedans.

Shahed scored a breezy 31 off 23 balls while Litu also scored 31 off 37 deliveries before both were dismissed in quick succession leaving

Abahani Krira Chakra, both having collected 12 points each from eight matches.

**GULSHAN'S SECOND**

In another Premier league match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Gulshan Youth Club recorded a shakey 16-run win over Wari Club.

It was Gulshan's second win in the league while with this defeat Wari hopes of a super league berth evaporated.

In the day's match, Gulshan, after winning the toss and electing to use the wicket, scored a huge 236 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs.

Opener Zia, the mainstay of the Gulshan, batting, scored a brilliant 78 off 108 balls inclusive of six boundaries.

Arun Lal and Ashok Malhotra, the two former Indian Test cricketers in the Gulshan ranks, contributed 34 runs apiece followed by Soheli who scored 33 runs.

Among the Wari bowlers, Mozibur Rahman Munna claimed three wickets conceding 38 runs in nine overs while Mukul took two.

In reply, Wari Club were bundled out for 220 in 49.2 overs.

One down Hasanuzzaman scored 60 off 94 deliveries which includes seven boundaries and a huge six while Ehsan and Mukul added 37 and 33 runs respectively to Wari account.

Gulshan's new ball bowler S A Babu returned most successful with figures of four for 32.

Manchester United's moody striker Eric Cantona (L) dribbles to make his way through the West Ham defence during their English Premiership match at Upton Park, London, on Jan 22. Manchester won 1-0.



Manchester United's moody striker Eric Cantona (L) dribbles to make his way through the West Ham defence during their English Premiership match at Upton Park, London, on Jan 22. Manchester won 1-0. —AFP/UNB photo

Thorpe, Pollock top chart

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23: Graham Thorpe and Alec Stewart topped the limited-overs averages for England in the 6-1 series defeat at the hands of South Africa, reports AFP.

Thorpe, who averaged 46.60 in the seven-match series which ended in Port Elizabeth on Sunday, was also England's highest run-scorer with 233 from his six visits to the crease including a top score of 72 not out.

Stewart, who averaged 43.67, was one of only three batsmen to top 40 in the series the other being South Africa's Andrew Hudson with an average of 40.40.

Top wicket-taker in the series was man-of-the-series, Shaun Pollock with 13 at an average of 16.31.

Next best were fellow South African Allan Donald with 12 (average 20.67) and England's Darren Gough with 11 to top the England averages with 18.27.

South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson took the most catches in the series (9) with England's top catcher wicketkeeper Jack Russell with six.

**Asprilla bids Parma adieu?**

LONDON, Jan 23: Colombia's Faustino Asprilla will join English Premier League leaders Newcastle United for a club record 6.7 million pounds (10.12 million dollars) from Parma of Italy, a British newspaper said, reports Reuter.

The Sun tabloid said in its Tuesday edition that Newcastle officials settled the deal in Italy after manager Kevin Keegan had tried for three months to sign the 26-year-old striker.

The fee for Asprilla, who helped Parma win the UEFA Cup last season but has fallen out with coach Nevio Scala and made few Serie A appearances this season, beats the previous club record of six million pounds (nine million dollars) Keegan paid Queen's Park Rangers for Les Ferdinand in the off season.

The paper said Keegan was expected to follow up his coup with a 3.5 million pound (5.3 million dollars) offer to champions Blackburn Rovers for their England midfielder David Batty.

Should Newcastle, chasing their first league title since 1927, obtain both players, Keegan's spending since he became manager three years ago will soar past 40 million pounds (60 million dollars), the Sun added.

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**Yamaha bids**

Sports Reporter

Gopibagh Friends Association posted a win in the Yamaha First Division cricket league defeating Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangstha by 37 runs at the City Club ground yesterday.

Losing the toss, Gopibagh batted first and collected 202 for nine in their stipulated 45 overs with middle-order Azimul Haque, scoring highest 47 off 80 balls inclusive of five boundaries and a big six.

Among others, opener Ripon and lower order Nadeem Nazir added 41 and 20 runs respectively to the Gopibagh account.

In reply, Khelaghar were bundled out in 42.5 overs with 165 on the board.

Rais Amjad (60) and Shamsul Alam (44) were the only Khelaghar batsmen who reached double figures.

Gopibagh's Azimul Haque and Ahsanullah Hasan claimed three wickets each conceding 27 and 39 runs respectively.

**TODAY'S FIXTURE**

Premier Division cricket league

Kalabagan KC vs Victoria SC (DS)

GMCC vs Dhaka Wanderers (DCS)

Yamaha First Division cricket league

Gulshan Boys Club vs City Club (CCG)

Acme Second Division cricket league

Shantinagar 'B' vs Lancashire CC (MOS)

Mill Barrack SC vs Lalbagh ASC (DCS)

Mirpur NKC vs PWD SC (DCG)

Sonali Bank Second Division football league

(Venue: Mirpur Stadium)

Dhaka Wanderers vs Lalbagh AC (2 pm)

Muslim Institute vs Basabo TS (3:30 pm)

Lalbagh SC vs City Club (5 pm)

Progoti Insurance Third Division football league

(Venue: Rajuk ground)

BG Press vs Kowran Bazar PS (3 pm)

Cairns in cracking form



CAIRNS... 120

Cairns' first Test century came off just 86 balls, the second-fastest by a New Zealander in terms of balls faced. Bruce Taylor's 83-ball ton against the West Indies in 1969 is the quickest.

He also equalled the New



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**SCOREBOARD**

Scores at close of play on the fourth day of the second Test between New Zealand and Zimbabwe at Eden Park Tuesday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 251 (Parore 84, Cairns 57, Streak 3-50, Strang 3-64)

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 326 (Houghton 104 n.o., P Strang 44, Allott 3-56)

**NEW ZEALAND:** Second innings (overnight) 138-0

Spearman c Carlisle b Streak 112  
 Twose c and b Streak 94  
 Fleming c Wishart b Streak 3  
 Parore not out 76  
 Astle c A Flower b Brandes 13  
 Cairns b Streak 120  
 Germon not out 1  
 Extras (6 b, 15 lb, 1 nb) 22  
 Total (for 5 wks declared) 441

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Cairns and Parore added 166 runs for the fifth wicket in just two hours off 171 balls as New Zealand raced to set a formidable target.

Paceman Streak was the outstanding Zimbabwe bowler, taking four wickets for 110 from his 30 overs.

At stumps, Grant Flower was 22 and Stuart Carlisle 14. Zimbabwe needs a further 328 runs off a minimum of 90 overs to win.

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**Zealand record for sixes in a first class match, held by his father Lance Cairns. It was an innings which almost certainly put the match beyond the reach of the tourists.**

Cairns said it was the best he'd batted in his life. "It hasn't really sunk in yet, but it was something pretty special," he said. "It's the best I've hit the ball in my life — everything went off the middle of the bat. Technically, it was one of the best innings I've played because it was all timing rather than brute strength."

And Cairns was not the only New Zealand batsman to star after New Zealand resumed at 138 for no wicket. Openers Craig Spearman and Roger Twose shared a 214-run stand for the first wicket as New Zealand quickly built on its lead.

Spearman, 71 overnight, was dropped on 99 by Heath Streak off the bowling of Paul Strang, but ran through on the missed chance to score his first Test century in his third Test.

Twose fell six runs short of his first century when he was caught and bowled by Streak for 94.

Spearman fell shortly after for 112, caught at mid-wicket by Stuart Carlisle off the bowling of Streak. Both wickets came after the second new ball was taken.

Spearman's century took five hours and came from exactly 200 balls. It featured 10, nine fours and one six. Twose batted for five hours, 30 minutes for his highest Test score, which also included nine fours and a six.

The pair's partnership was the third-best opening stand in New Zealand Test history.

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