

Column One

Boost sports
Whizz Kid

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-86

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on Jan 9, 1998

1 Who is the Australian cricket coach? Lille Marsh Simpson2 Who is the Argentina soccer coach? Passarella Venables Cruyff3 Which county will Lara lead next year? Essex Durham Warwickshire4 Who hit the first century in this year's Premier Division cricket league? Nadim Saeed Kazmi5 Who lifted the women's singles title of the national TT championships? Linu Tumpa Zulekha

Sport

Kalabagan begin in style

Sports Reporter

Kalabagan Krira Chakra got off to a rolicking start in their chase for a major domestic title with a huge 99-run win over Lalmata Club in the inaugural match of eight-team Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat in the morning Kalabagan, aided by half centuries from their opener Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon and middle-order bat Mahabubur Rahman Selim, piled up a commanding total of 243 for seven in their share of 50 overs.

Shipon, who opened the innings with his captain Harun Rashid Liton, scored a plucky 66 off 118 balls punctuated with five hits across the rope.

The young right-hander shared 44 runs for the first wicket with Liton before the latter departed for a characteristic 24 off 31 balls. Shipon, who held the innings together, then went on to add another 51 runs for the second wicket with Mukul.

But the most lively partnership in the Kalabagan innings came when Mahabubur Rah-

man joined forces with Shipon to produce 72 runs for the third wicket before the litho opener departed in the 41st over, leaving his side comfortable placed on 167 for three.

Selim, who clouted five fours in his 70-ball vigil at the crease, then ensured his side cross the 200-mark without further

BRIEF SCORES

KALABAGAN KC: 243 for seven wickets in 50 overs (Shipon 66, Selim 52, Zakaria 47; Raisul Islam 2/42)

LALMATA CLUB: 144 for eight wickets in 50 overs (Kiron 58, Shipon 31, Ridwan 23; Saikat 3/17, Enamul Haq 2/27)

Result: Kalabagan win by 99 runs.

damage. But it was a breezy 47 off 31 balls from a portly Zakkaria Imtiaz, which propelled Kalabagan to a commanding total.

In reply, Lalmata caved in rather meekly, managing only 144 runs for eight wickets when the lowly-rated Premier Division outfit exhausted their

quota of 50 overs.

But Lalmata were at one stage looked well on course with their opener Kiron, who scored a patient 58 off 111 deliveries, and middle-order bat Riton (31), sharing 53 runs for the third wicket.

But once Kiron departed in the 38th over, leaving his side at 122, Lalmata lost their last six wickets with the addition of only 15 runs to the total. Kalabagan's left-arm spinner Shahid Shafidullah-Ibne Shahid Saikat, who was responsible for the sudden slide, finished with three for only 17 runs in his nine niggling overs. He was ably supported by former national slow left-arm Enamul Haq, who gave away only 27 runs for his two scalps.

Meanwhile, the other match of the knockout tournament between Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union fell through at the BKSP ground in Sarker.

The match was suspended without a single ball was bowled due to the under-prepared pitch. The tussle of the two biggies will now be held at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium on January 6.



Abahani forward Tipu (R) heading home the lone goal against Brothers Union during their Premier Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium.

— Star photo

Name

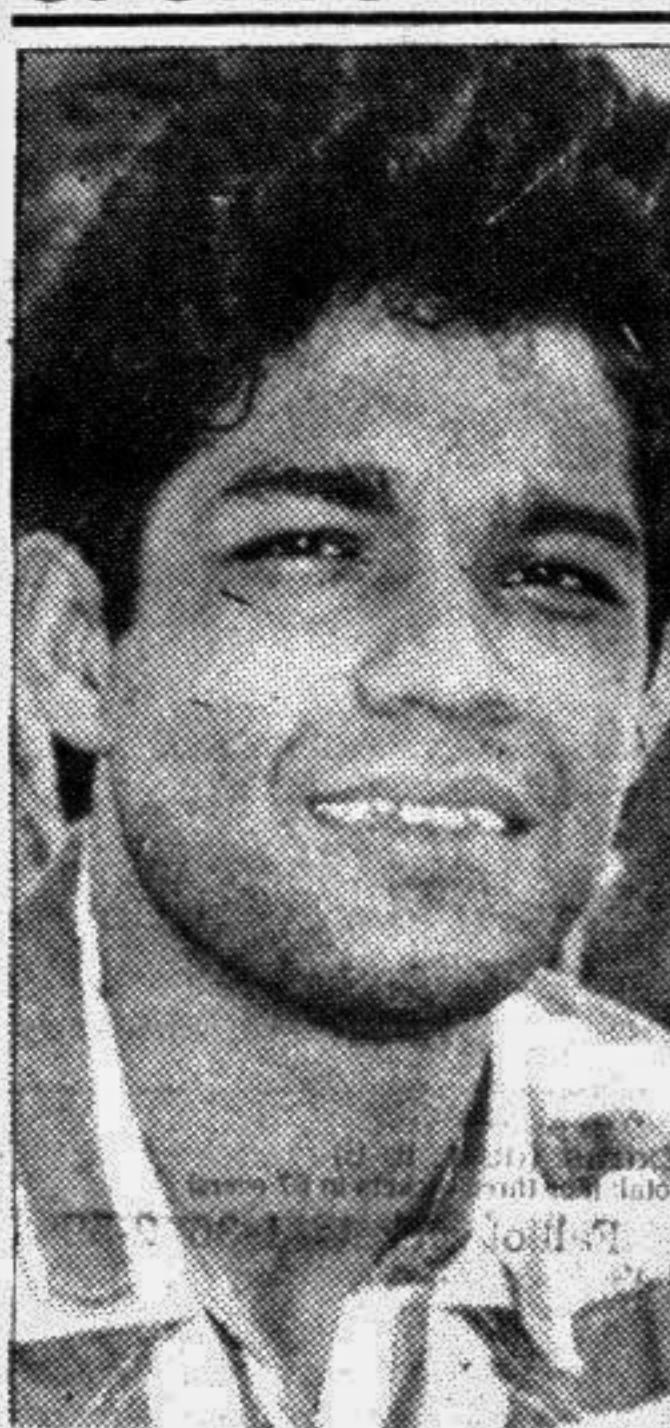
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POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Rashid Latif

(Pakistan cricket captain)
"I am the captain but I believe in total teamwork and for that I am ready for any player to come forward and give his suggestion. Whatever I would do in the field, it will have the consent of all the players, especially the senior ones."

After being appointed as captain of Pakistan for the Coca-Cola Independence Cup.

Zia Smriti
cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 3: Rani Bazar Krira Sangha and Digaanta Sangha won their respective Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament matches today.

Rani Bazar defeated Aloran Krira Chakra by 54 runs at Rajshahi Government College playground.

Winning the toss, Aloran invited Rani Bazar for batting.

The winners collected 161 runs to lose all wickets in stipulated 23 overs.

In reply, Aloran made 107 runs all out in 21.1 overs.

In the day's second match, Digaanta Sangha beat Padma Garden by three wickets.

Winning the toss, Padma Garden batted first and collected 73 runs for all in 20 overs.

In reply, Digaanta Sangha made 74 runs for seven in 15.4 overs.

Meanwhile, a 15-member new executive committee of Rajshahi District Chess Players' Association was formed recently.

Prof Abdul Latif and Saidur Rahman were elected president and general secretary respectively.

The former Paris Saint Germain striker, who has had to pull out of a club friendly in Israel, has been advised by the Milan doctor to have the surgery after a long-standing back injury failed to clear up — he last played for his club in the 2-0 win over Bari on November 23.

Maurizio Ganz, recently transferred from city rivals Inter, looks likely to replace the Liberian, who has scored just three goals in 13 appearances this season, alongside Dutch strike partners Patrick Kluivert.

Players complained they had suffered eye and respiratory problems because of the smog and pollution.

Akram to give up captaincy?

Samiul Hasan

KARACHI, Jan 3 (The Dawn): Wasim Akram intends to call on Majid Khan, Chief Executive of the Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB), on Saturday morning which is expected to be a crucial meeting.

According to sources close to Wasim Akram, the all-rounder is expected to express his inability to lead the Pakistan cricket team on a gruelling eight-week tour of Africa. He would, however, confirm his availability as player on the tour. Pakistan play three Tests against South Africa and two against Zimbabwe besides nine one-day internationals, including three against Zimbabwe. The remaining six will be played in the tri-series involving world champions Sri Lanka and South Africa.

"Yes I have a scheduled meeting with Majid Khan on Saturday in which I will discuss my future," Wasim Akram confirmed from his Lahore residence. "I will also deliberate upon my role as Pakistan captain. I would like to continue but under the circumstances I have to reconsider my options."

Akram said. "Akram is reportedly receiving death call for which his father has lodged a complaint with the police in Lahore."

team loses, it is attributed to match-fixing. It's only shattering the confidence of the team besides putting the players under tremendous pressure," he said. He, however, refused to be standing down from captaincy. "Let me talk to Majid Khan and then only I will be able to answer you," he said.

Nevertheless, sources close to the player said Akram was lacking in motivation after a series of match-fixing allegations against him. The PCB has also instructed its match-fixing probe committee to look into the affairs that led to Pakistan's defeat in Sharjah. "The relevant material has been provided to them (committee members) and they have been asked to submit a report," PCB chief executive Majid Khan confirmed. He, however, said no deadline has been set. Khalid Mahmood, Waqar Ahmad, Mian Munir and Justice Ijaz Yousaf are the members of the panel.

The expected withdrawal of Wasim Akram leaves an open door for Rashid Latif to retain captaincy after being appointed skipper for the Dhaka triangular.

by the selector's verdict. I am more interested in playing for the team. No matter what many critics think," he said.

Looking back at the year that has gone by, Azhar was emphatic in saying that he was always focussed on the game. "Nobody can question my

motivating factor when he was in tight spot. To be honest, everyone including my parents, wife, cricket lovers gave the moral support which I badly needed," he added. This is understandable for the fact that he was never booted off the ground even once.

Significantly, even before Tendulkar was removed as captain, Azhar felt that one year's time was enough to judge a captain. "Believe me, I am not craving for it now by saying that. But, I will not run away from the responsibility if given the charge," he said during the Nagpur Test.

Azhar's parents at Hyderabad who came to know about his reinstatement as captain said "We thank the Almighty. And, as always, pray for the country's victory."

Meanwhile, the deposed captain Tendulkar responded to his sacking by admitting he had been expecting the axe.

He was aware of the criticism regarding his captaincy errors and had a simple answer. "I don't mind being criticised at all. But all these opinions surface at post-match analysis. I thought I did what I felt was best for the team. I tried my level best always."

"There is no person in the world who does not make mistakes. I know I made mistakes, but I needed time to analyse them. Time to understand where I went wrong and where I could have improved. With time I would have broadened my knowledge as player and captain really. But it will certainly help me wherever I go from now onwards. My experience as captain can't damage my cricket, but I never got enough time to sit and analyse the foibles of the game," he said.

"The determination to silence the critics who felt that it was the end of the road for me," he said.

"And, I think my fitness level helped me a lot. Or else, many people would have had an easy excuse to get rid of me," he said when asked what was the

"leave it to the people to judge my performance."

He believed his previous experience as Indian captain, "would stand me in good stead... I was always relaxed as captain but since we were not winning, people said that I was under pressure."

After being dropped from the national team for the Independence Cup held in India in May last year, Azhar virtually silenced every critic with a string of impressive scores. "Let me make things clear. Neither did I ask for it when I was first appointed as captain in 1990 nor did I grumble when people decided to sack me as captain... It was never an issue which overtly bothers me," he told the newspaper once.

"I leave it to the people to judge my performance."

India's 'no' to drop New Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 3: Indian cricket authorities have refused to drop New Delhi as a venue during Australia's tour this year, reports AP.

The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) has not picked New Delhi as a venue for the three-Test series but has allocated the final of the triangular series to the Indian capital, a BCCI official said today.

Australia had rejected New Delhi as a venue for the tour starting next month after they played a one-off Test in the city in 1996.

Players complained they had suffered eye and respiratory problems because of the smog and pollution.

Brian Laudrup (C) of Rangers wins the ball from Celtic's Paul Lambert (grounded) during the Glasgow derby on Friday. Celtic won the Old Firm match 2-0.

— AP/UNB photo



Brian Laudrup (C) of Rangers wins the ball from Celtic's

Paul Lambert (grounded) during the Glasgow derby on Friday. Celtic won the Old Firm

match 2-0.

— AP/UNB photo

Sport

Unsporting!

Sports Reporter

The crucial Premier Division football league encounter between title aspirants Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday afternoon, got off to a delayed start after a group of armed hooligans had threatened the referees at their dressing room.

It happened at around 2 pm when four referees, designated for the day's match, were preparing for the match which was due to kick off at 2:15 pm. The hoodlums, who claimed themselves to be supporters of Brothers, pointed pistol towards the men-in-uniform and ordered them not to give any verdict against their team. Their main target was Tajul Islam for whom the club was fined Tk. 10,000 recently on disciplinary ground.

The referees quit the dressing room and took shelter at the nearby Krira Palli of National Sports Council immediately after the culprits left the spot. They also refused to conduct the match.

However, after 20 minutes of negotiations between the Dhaka Mahanagar Football League Committee (DMFLC) officials and the referees, the match started at 2:30 pm. Tajul Islam, who was appointed as a linesman yesterday, got so nervous after the incident that he had to be replaced by Maful Sikder.

However, it could not be confirmed what actions the DMFLC was going to take regarding the incident.

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

DAKA WANDERERS: 220 for five wickets in 45 overs (Sagir Abbas 84 not out, Jewel 54, Mahfuz 30; Nadeem 3/47)

BANGLADESH BOYS: 114 all out in 28.3 overs (Muktikar 24, Philip 19, Manzurul 17; Babu 4/21)

Result: Daka Wanderers won by 106 runs.

Daka Wanderers Club posted a huge 106-run win over Bangladeshi Boys in the First Division cricket league match at the City Club Ground in Mirpur yesterday.

Speaking at Gatwick Airport on the eve of England's departure for the three-month tour, which also includes five one-day internationals, Atherton said "It is the best opportunity for England to beat West Indies in a long time.

"But recent series have been close and hard-fought and I expect that to continue."

England have not beaten West Indies for almost 30 years, either home or away, and in that time only Australia and India have managed to overcome them on their home soil.

Atherton admitted the late withdrawal of fast bowler Darren Gough through injury had come as a blow.

"I am very disappointed and I know he is as well. He felt the injury in (pre-tour practice in) Lanzarote but we hoped he would get over it," the England captain said.

"Injuries are part and parcel of the game and we have just got to get on with it."

But Atherton was still hopeful Gough would be able to join the squad at a later stage.

"If he gets the all clear from the specialist he might be available for the back end of the tour," he said.

West Indies, riven by conflict

between island factions and a dispute over the captaincy, recently returned after their most distressing ever Test series defeat, beaten 3-0 by Pakistan, twice by an innings and once by 10 wickets.

West Indies selectors have yet to decide whether to stick by veteran fast bowler Courtney Walsh as captain or hand the job to world record Test batsman Brian Lara.

Another alternative is to give the captaincy to middle-order batsman Jimmy Adams, but whatever the decision it is bound to cause controversy among the different island factions.

England morale has been bolstered by recent victory in the Sharjah one-day tournament when they twice beat West Indies as well as India and Pakistan.

They were then led by all

