

**Soccer trials**

**Sports Reporter**

The zonal trials of the under-14 footballers concluded in four zones — Barisal, Comilla, Pabna and Nilphamari yesterday.

Eighteen players from each zone have been primarily selected for the final phase. To choose 30 to 35 booters for the final camp from the primary selections, a mini tournament will be held at the Mirpur Stadium from February 25. After the robin league, top two teams will qualify for the March 3 final.

Following is the fixture of the mini tournament:

Feb 25 Pabna vs Barisal (7 am)  
Comilla vs Nilphamari (9 am)  
Feb 27 Pabna vs Nilphamari (7 am)  
Comilla vs Barisal (9 am)  
March 1 Nilphamari vs Barisal (7 am)  
Pabna vs Comilla (9 am)  
March 3 Final.

**Rajshahi badminton**

**From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 24:** The five-day long badminton competition, organised by Rajshahi Badminton Samity, concluded at the local gymnasium here today.

Following are the winners in the four different age categories:

**Men's singles:**  
Champion: Jakir Hossain  
Runner-up: Ariful.

**Men's doubles:**  
Champions: Ariful and Mizanur  
Runners-up: Jakir and Khalid

**Women's singles:**  
Champion: Nasrin Nuran  
Runner-up: Nasrin Nuran  
Boys' under-18 singles  
Champion: Mizanur Rahman  
Runner-up: Mushtaque Ahmed

**Boys' under-18 doubles:**  
Champions: Mizanur Rahman and Mushfik  
Runners-up: Jamil and Masud

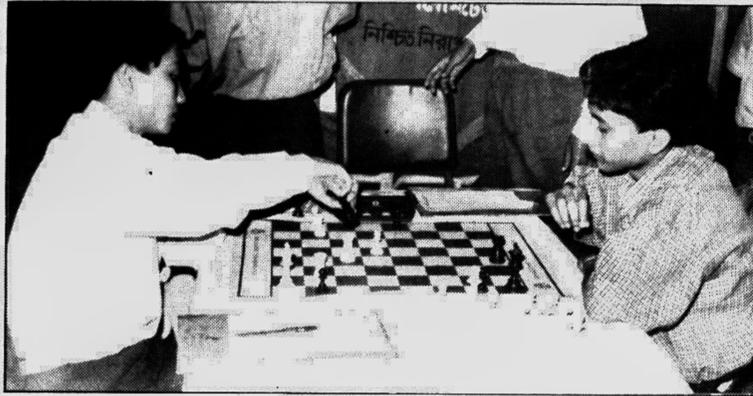
**Boys' under-14 singles:**  
Champion: Sabir Ahmed  
Runner-up: Masud Parvez

**Boys' under-14 doubles:**  
Champions: Sabir and Enayet  
Runners-up: Raquib and Saghir.

**Greg lifts Euro Community title**

**ANTWERP, Belgium, Feb 24:** Greg Rusedski, who will be one of the favourites in the ATP's new London event next week, got a pre-tournament boost Sunday when he won his first title in five months by defeating defending champion Marc Rosset of Switzerland 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the final of the one million dollar European Community championship here, reports AFP.

The 24-year-old ninth-ranked British player, who last won a title in Basel, Switzerland last October has now won six events during his career.



Scene from the fourth round of the United Insurance International Masters' tournament at NSC chess room yesterday. —Star photo

**Raktim reddens Reefat**

**Sports Reporter**

Raktim Banarjee took the solo lead in the United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament when the unheralded Indian recorded his fourth consecutive victory at the expense of IM Reefat-bin Sattar at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Raktim, playing with white, adopted the Retty Opening to earn resignation from his more illustrious Bangladeshi opponent after 55 moves. With this win Raktim saddled on the driver's seat with full points.

On a day, when upsets were in order, Vietnamese IM Nguyen Anh Dung lost his first half-points after three successive wins when young Enamul Hossain Rajib forced the highest rated player in the invitational tourney to settle for a draw.

Playing with black, Rajib, successfully adopted the all-familiar Sicilian Defence to upset Nguyen's applanct.

With this creditable draw, the youngster, who won the national championship this year, shares the second position with Nguyen and Indian duo of IMB Romesh and PVS Girinath, all having collected three and a

half points.

IM Romesh, seeded second in the meet, returned to winning ways after a disappointing draw in the previous round when he defeated Abdullah-al Rakib after 42 moves. His compatriot Girinath, playing in the line of Dutch Defence, subdued Tejbaur Rahman after 56 moves.

But the war of wits still remain wide open as six players — Rezaul Haq, Hasibul Hasan, Ruhul Kabir, Amir Hossain, Arifuzzaman and Aminul Islam — closely trailing the table leaders, have each collected three points.

**Fate fells a jovial Delhi opener**

**Vijay Lokapally**

**NEW DELHI, Feb 24:** The lethal blow to his head in the match at Dhaka was a cruel destruction of a cricketer who still nurtured aspirations of a comeback to the National team.

It was the Dhaka league that gave Lamba a chance to keep his love for the game alive. "I am the Don of Dhaka," he would say every time on return, obviously in reference to his batting exploits. No one could have imagined that the 'Don' would meet his end at the very same Dhaka.

An anxious night happened to be his former Delhi colleague, Sanjeev Sharma, who had come to watch the match. "It is the greatest tragedy I have experienced," said Sanjeev from Dhaka.

As news trickled into the Capital on Sunday evening, first of Lamba having slipped into a deep coma and then of his death - though the doctors at Dhaka kept him clinically alive till Monday afternoon - it was difficult to accept that the jovial Delhi opener was no more. Full of zest for the game, at his age of 38, Lamba was the type who would never give up. This time, though, the urge to continue was not within his control.

room, he was known as a forthright person. He cared for the youngsters in the team and would be livid if anyone showed any casualness. He commanded respect from his mates and adversaries alike.

Not many would know he had a tremendous passion for football. He followed the game closely and had quite a few 'football' friends in England and Ireland. He would often play with the regulars in college to keep fit and in the later years maintained his love for the game even though he did not get the opportunities to show his ware as "a tough midfielder" as he would say.

Ironically, Lamba was the one who always used to tell his colleagues about the importance of wearing a helmet while fielding in close-catching positions or batting. As it transpired, Lamba had moved up to the forward short-leg position that fateful day in Dhaka just for that one delivery. Why, he had even signalled for the helmet. The man to accompany him to the hospital and spend

an anxious night happened to be his former Delhi colleague, Sanjeev Sharma, who had come to watch the match. "It is the greatest tragedy I have experienced," said Sanjeev from Dhaka.

As news trickled into the Capital on Sunday evening, first of Lamba having slipped into a deep coma and then of his death - though the doctors at Dhaka kept him clinically alive till Monday afternoon - it was difficult to accept that the jovial Delhi opener was no more. Full of zest for the game, at his age of 38, Lamba was the type who would never give up. This time, though, the urge to continue was not within his control.

Since making his first-class debut in 1978-79 for the Indian Colts team against the West Indies at Pune, Lamba had scored 30 centuries including 21 in Ranji Trophy. His 312 against Himachal Pradesh in 1994-95 is the highest by any Delhi batsman in Ranji Trophy and his 320 against West Zone at Bhalai in the Duleep Trophy final in 1986-87 is his career-best and also the highest by any batsman in the tournament. Only last season he became the highest run-getter in a single Ranji Trophy season with a tally of 1034 runs from 14 innings at an average of 73.86.

In four Tests, Lamba scored 102 runs and in 32 one-day internationals he made 782 runs with a highest of 102 against Australia at Rajkot in September, 1986.

Statistics can never really describe Raman Lamba; his appetite for runs, his tremendous belief in his own ability - no matter critics might point out technical inadequacies - and his will to succeed at the highest level. He always dressed young, thought young and played young. Alas, he died young!

Courtesy: The Hindu

Philippoussis upsets Chang's birthday

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 24:** Mark Philippoussis wanted to win the St. Jude indoor tournament Sunday, and he wasn't about to let something like Michael Chang's 26th birthday stop him, reports AP.

The Australian beat the defending champion 6-3, 6-2 for his fifth career title and first since last June.

"It was his birthday, and I didn't want to be the first to give him a birthday present," said Philippoussis, who hadn't beaten Chang in four previous matches.

He beat him in 1 hour, 19 minutes, for his first title since the Queen's tournament in June. He won 120,000 dollars from the 700,000 dollars purse.

**Fahim, Rahat advance**

Fahim Ahsan Romi and Rahat Kamal Islam of Bangladesh reached the boys' doubles quarterfinals of the Rupal Insurance-IFIC 12th Bangladesh International Junior tennis championships yesterday, reports UNB.

The local pair defeated Punna Vishan (India) and Hang Kuo Ming (Taipei) 7-5, 7-6 in a keenly contested first round match at the National Tennis Complex at Ramna.

**Liverpool drop points**

**LIVERPOOL, England, Feb 24:** Liverpool's chances of making dent in Manchester United's lead at the top of the Premier league took a knock on Monday when they were held to a 1-1 draw at Anfield by Merseyside rivals Everton, reports Reuters.

**Raman Lamba cremated**

**Star Sports Monitor**

Raman Lamba was cremated in New Delhi yesterday. The ceremony was attended by India's past and present cricketing stars along with a host of admirers and high-ups.

Former players Bishen Singh Bedi, Madan Lal and Yashpal Sharma were also present on the occasion. Jim Flavin, the Irish ambassador to India, stayed beside Lamba's Irish wife Kim and the bereaved family members when the ceremony was taking place.

The swashbuckling opener, who played 48 Tests and 32 one-day internationals in eighties, had acquired Irish nationality.

Lamba, 38, died of severe brain injury after being struck on the head by the ball while fielding at short-leg without a helmet during a match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club on February 20.

After having been in a state of coma for 48 hours he was declared dead on February 23 afternoon. His body was flown to Delhi early in the night in British Airways flight.

Meanwhile, before the start of three-day match between Australia and Bombay, both teams observed a two-minute silence in memory of Lamba.

**More mourn Lamba's death**

**Sports Reporter**

Many more sports federations and clubs yesterday condoned the premature death of Indian cricketer Raman Lamba who died in the city on Monday following a fatal injury he suffered during an Abahani-Mohammedan Janakantha Premier cricket league clash at the Dhaka Stadium on Friday afternoon.

In separate messages, many organisations have expressed their shock at the demise of the brave cricketer and rendered sympathy to the members of his family. The organisers are: Bangladesh Hockey Federation, Bangladesh Badminton Federation, Surjo Tarun Club, Gopibagh Friends Association, Orient Sporting Club, Lalbagh Union Sporting Club, Victoria Sporting Club and Agrani Bank Cricket Committee.

**MCC only for men**

**LONDON, Feb 24:** The world's most famous cricket club has decided to reject membership for women upholding its 211-year men-only tradition, "The Guardian newspaper reported today, says Reuters.

Although the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) will not officially unveil the outcome of its vote at Lord's until later today, the newspaper quoted "Senior Lord's sources" as saying the motion had been defeated.

It said the vote had been "an incredibly close call," but fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to overturn women in this surviving outpost of the British gentlemen's club tradition.

If the motion were passed, women would win the right to watch games from the club's inner sanctum, the Lord's Pavilion.

The issue of membership for women was raised last year when Britain's sports council cited sex discrimination laws in rejecting the club's application for 7.5 million pounds sterling (4.5 million US dollar) of government lottery funds.

MCC members defeated a similar bid in 1991, though its doors were opened to women several seasons ago for an international women's match.

Queen Elizabeth, the club's patron, is the only woman allowed to visit the pavilion regularly at present.

**NZ turn to Priest**

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 24:** Veteran left-arm spinner Mark Priest has been added to New Zealand's squad for Thursday's second Test against Zimbabwe as both sides prepare for a turning wicket, reports AP.

Priest played his only Test in 1990 against England at Nottingham.

His call up will also please the Zimbabwe team which was outclassed by 10 wickets in the first Test which ended last Sunday.

Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell is hopeful that the Eden Park wicket will give plenty of assistance to his three spinners — Paul Strang, Adam Huckle and Andy Whittall.

The Eden Park pitch is well grassed but after a cut should become a typical Auckland wicket, which takes turn from day three onwards.

Campbell believes there is little between the two teams with the main difference being that his batsmen cannot get among the runs.

**V'ball camp in Satkhira**

**Sports Reporter**

An under-20 volleyball camp, organised by Bangladesh Volleyball Federation in cooperation with Satkhira DSA, began at the Satkhira Stadium on February 23.

A total of 50 young spikers from different thanas and clubs from the district, are taking part in the two-week long camp.

**Farashganj bow to Rakib**

**Sports Reporter**



A late second-half strike by mid-fielder Rakib steered title-aspirants Mukti-Jodha Sangsad Kri-ra Chakra to a lone goal victory

over Farashganj Sporting Club in a Premier Division football super league clash at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

A one-minute silence was observed prior to the kick-off as a mark of respect for the late Indian cricketer Raman Lamba, who died in Dhaka last Monday.

After a goal-less first session, Rakib, the talented mid-fielder, headed home the much-expected winner capitalising on a left-side free-kick by defender Masood Rana in the 77th minute, guiding his side to their 14th win in the league. Mukti-Jodha, despite the win and having raised their tally to 46 points from 20 matches, are still a point behind leaders and defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club.

On the other hand, it was the 12th defeat against five wins and four draws for the mediocre old-towners. They remain glued to their previous collection of 19 points.

In the day's only match, Mukti's began with an all-out approach. Although, they spent most of the pre-lemon session in Farashganj's half, they failed to materialise the pressure into goals primarily because of some unpardonable blunders by defender Masood Rana who could have easily put them 2-0 up from as many set pieces provided by Hasan-Al-Mamun from the left flank.

In the 24th minute, Masood Rana, unguarded inside the danger area, only needed to keep his cool and place the ball at an angle to beat the Farashganj custodian Nurul Islam. But the tall attacking-defender lost his patience and shot the ball straight into his safe hands. He missed another opportunity 12 minutes later when his header on a Hasan-Al-Mamun lob went several inches over the cross-

able criticism — shows the depth India have in that department.

That is not to say that there are no problems. They are there in plenty and will be particularly highlighted in the longer version of the game. Jagval Srinath is yet to find his feet after a long absence to tend to a shoulder problem and his fellow medium-pacer Venkatesh Prasad will have to do something remarkable to dispel fears that he is a burnt out case.

The two used to work in tandem and in their absence the pace attack has been considerably weakened.

Then there is the peculiar case of Rajesh Chauhan. The off-spinner's action continues to be under scrutiny, even though he has never been no-balled for throwing. Chauhan was sent to England two weeks ago to have his action tested by former England off-spinner Fred Titmus.

The irony of it was that Chauhan was accompanied by Erapalli Prasanna, who was a far greater off-spinner in his time than Titmus could ever aspire to be. Chauhan is now back in India and awaiting clearance from the International Cricket Council (ICC). The Indian board has appointed former Australian captain Bobby Simpson as a consultant to the team. But Simpson will take up his duties only after the end of the Australian tour and in preparation for the Sri Lanka Independence Cup in June. In any case, Simpson will not replace coach.

Another appointed is that of Andrew Kokinos, also an Australian, as the team trainer. However, he will be on trial as his term extends only till the end of the triangular series. The Australians, too, have their problems. They are without their main pace bowlers Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie because of injuries. But Taylor pointed out that they had beaten the South Africans without the two bowlers. Paul Reiffel, Adam Dale and Paul Wilson should be adequate substitutes. Leg-spinner Shane Warne is back in the squad after being forcibly rested for a limited-over series against New Zealand. However, despite his formidable reputation he has taken only one of his 300-plus Test wickets against India. It will be interesting to see the clash between Warne and India's Anil Kumble, though Kumble has lost his bite of late.

**INDIA'S MATCH**  
**First Division Football Super League:**  
BRTC SC vs East End Club (Mirpur Stadium, 3 pm)

**Stage set for a series rare**

**Ragunath Rao**



**NEW DELHI, Feb 24:** It has been a round dozen years since Australia last undertook a full cricket Test tour of India. That factor by itself invests the forthcoming series with considerable interest.

Mark Taylor's team has arrived in India for a three-Test series. That will be followed by a triangular tournament of limited-over matches, with the third team being Zimbabwe. The schedules is to extend till mid-April.

The fact that not even Taylor has played in a Test series in India before should provide an indication of the inexperience of the Australian squad where that facet of international cricket is concerned. The only member of the touring party to have that distinction is vice-captain Steve Waugh, while coach Geoff Marsh has also been here before.

Of course, most of the Australians have figured in one-day matches in the subcontinent during this period, and prominently at that. As Taylor put it, "Remember we won the World Cup there in 1987 and we were runners-up in 1996 when most of our matches were played in India. So our record there has been pretty good."

The hiatus in Test exchanges between the two countries extends to Indian visits to Australia also. The last time India had been there was in 1992, prior to the World Cup hosted jointly by Australia and New Zealand.

There are many reasons for the long gaps. Earlier Australians used to treat India as the poor cousins of international cricket and concentrated their attention largely on England and the West Indies. That attitude, of course, has changed over the years. But another factor comes in. The Australian and Indian cricket seasons run simultaneously, and with the hectic scheduling of matches, especially of the one-day variety, it becomes difficult to squeeze in Test encounters between the two.

Whatever the problems, the Australians are certainly happy that they have been got over with. They have a point to prove, for even though they are rated as the unofficial world champions of Test cricket, they are yet to win a Test match, leave alone a series in India since Bill Lawry led his teams

to a 3-1 victory in 1969-70.

Otherwise, Australia have beaten the West Indies home and away, England in a six-match Ashes series in England, South Africa home and away and Pakistan at home in the last three years. However, Australia's record in Pakistan is worse than in India, with no Test victories since 1959-60.

Mark Taylor's men will find considerable changes in the Indian cricket scene. The most prominent of them has been the induction of Mohammad Azharuddin as captain after a year's stint by Sachin Tendulkar, which not only yielded poor results but also told on the man's batting.

On the other hand, a far more mature Azharuddin led India to a remarkable triumph in the Bangladesh Independence Cup in Dhaka recently. The last of the best-of-three finals especially was humdinger which had the entire subcontinent riveted to its television screens.

Along with the victory, Azharuddin's batting also flowed far more freely than in the recent past. In fact, he seemed to be in full command of the situation in every sense of the term, something which a beleaguered Azharuddin, be set both by batting and personal problems, could not claim earlier.

At the same time, Tendulkar's own batting has flowered with the shackles of captaincy removed from him. Thus there would appear to be a double plus for India at the highest level of the team.

Then there is the remarkable consistency of Saurav Ganguly, who has already earned the sobriquet of "Mr Dependable" of the Indian batting line-up. The fact that the Indian selectors could afford to leave out a talented batsman like Rahul Dravid — even though their action met with considerable criticism — shows the depth India have in that department.

**Gulshan Youth's cricket camp**

**Sports Reporter**

A cricket coaching camp will start at the Gulshan Central Park from March 1 under the auspices of Gulshan Youth Club, says a press release.

Interested cricketers have been asked to submit their names at the Gulshan Youth Club before the beginning of the camp.

**Notice of Tender**  
**Military Engineer Services**

- Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Br, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt for issue of tender documents for the following works separately:
  - Constr of CWC incl internal/external services at Momenshahi Cantt (2 storey with 2 storied foundation).
  - Constr of 1xlevel crossing south side of Khairatala Bazar and Cantt Railway Station at Jessore Cantt.
  - Constr of 4th floor over existing 3rd floor SM Bk incl internal/external services at Dhaka Cantt.
- Eligible contractors may apply for tender documents as per MES Regulations. Interested MES enlisted 'B' & 'C' class contractors may apply quoting their class, Index numbers list of work done in last 05 (five) years. Contractors must have VAT registration. VAT and other taxes are payable as per rules. Applications should be submitted to this Directorate within 10 days mentioning name of works at the top of the envelope.
- Authority reserves full power to accept/cancel any/all applications without assigning any reason.

ISPR/Army/98/153  
DFF-3631-19/2  
G-315  
**DW & CE (Army)**  
Dhaka Cantt

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Chess
- 2 Calendar
- 3 animal
- 4 Chinese
- 5 calendar
- 6 animal
- 7 Traveler's woe
- 8 Fergie's
- 9 Alt
- 10 Predicament
- 11 Actress
- 12 Hagen
- 13 Obscenity
- 14 Barf, to
- 15 Info
- 16 Ivy
- 17 League
- 18 Percussionist's setup
- 19 Reward or punishment
- 20 Greek P
- 21 "6 — Riv Vu"
- 22 Wise
- 23 Grammarian's concern
- 24 "It shouldn't

**DOWN**

- 1 Pearl of the Orient
- 2 Canada's capital
- 3 Lincoln
- 4 Tackle the waves
- 5 Bert's pal
- 6 More
- 7 Minimal
- 8 Made like
- 9 Baryon
- 10 before the Wall fell
- 11 Schwarz-egger
- 12 move
- 13 Explosive
- 14 noise
- 15 Intimidate
- 16 Travels
- 17 Legal
- 18 Parsley
- 19 serving
- 20 Key
- 21 author
- 22 25 Yon
- 23 wench
- 24 Munchausen's
- 25 sch.
- 26 Ragtime
- 27 dance
- 28 31 See through wrap \*
- 29 Soap
- 30 ingredient
- 31 "Hazel" cartoonist
- 32 Key
- 33 Offense
- 34 Chin whiskers
- 35 Over
- 36 41 Crosses
- 37 Staminant
- 38 45 Hwy
- 39 50 — jiffy

**Solution time: 28 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

UICMA CJDGO CZ CLCMA  
NDM OUI OCEOBIEO  
EGCEGTI JIBZT OUI  
"JIEO DN OUI LGMEO" ?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THOSE CROOKED BEEKEEPERS CAN GET APPREHENDED IN A BIG STING OPERATION.

Today's Cryptquip clue: J equals B

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.