

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Michael Atherton**  
(Former England captain)  
"There is only one way to beat the Australians and that is to play the Australian way."  
Talking before the Brisbane Test.

## DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That the first racing cars, in the late 19th century, were motorised versions of horse-drawn carriages and wagons. These soon gave way to slightly more advanced vehicles as the conditions of roads improved. Then, as the speeds of the cars increased, a need for more sophistication and specialisation developed, and cars were designed specially to be raced. Strange if you think of it! Our car drivers are basically motorised versions of the village boatman. You will understand if you observe how *patalla* they go, meaning diagonally.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

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**Competition-107**

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to: [the-bd-sports@bdonline.com](mailto:the-bd-sports@bdonline.com)  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm, Dec 4 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

- Which country lifted the Willis International Cup?  
S Africa W Indies India\*
- Who scored highest number of runs in the Willis Cup?  
Kallis Cronje Waller
- Who topped batting average in the Bangladesh-West Indies A One day series?  
Reifer Akram Javed
- Which team emerged champion in the national age-group swimming?  
Khulna N'ganj Kushlia
- Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?  
Mamun Sadek Kamal

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....  
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POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
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## Govt and Politics come up tops

### JU Correspondent

Department of Government and Politics emerged Jahangirnagar University Inter-Department football champions with a lone goal win over Department of Geography and Environment at the central playground of the University yesterday.

After a barren first-half, Nanna scored the all-important match-winning in the second session.  
Prof. Alauddin Ahmed, the Vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the winners.

## Beware!

**BANGKOK, Nov 30:** Thai police have pledged to crack down on racketeers waiting to prey on Asian Games spectators who park their cars at designated lots, organisers said, reports AP.

The Bangkok Asian Games Organising Committee said in a weekend statement that police have dispatched officer to provide security at the parking lots to maintain security and crack down on extortion.  
Bangkok drivers who park their cars in public places are often targeted by gangs who demanded payments in exchange for not damaging the vehicles.

The games, the largest sporting event in Asia, will run from December 6 to 20, with more than 6,000 athletes from 41 nations taking part.

## Premier Division Cricket League Preview- I

# Abahani fancy their batting in a bid for the treble

Al-Amin

The domestic cricket of this season will begin in the capital from December 7. Although the fixture of the colourful Premier league is yet to be finalised by the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM), the aspirants, the mediocres and the also-rans are certain that this time round it will be an altogether different ball game.

Unlike in the past, the league will be a two-day contest instead of a limited-over game. Besides, the single league format means that every match will be important. There will be no chance of a comeback in the race if one falters at any stage of the gruelling competition.

Moreover, the cricket season's traditional curtain-raiser, the Damal Smriti tournament being forced off the calendar, the teams will have had no opportunity to experiment with their players as in the past.

For the cricketers, who have practically grown up in the one-day mould, it will be a real endurance test with the welcome introduction of the longer-version of the game after a prolonged period. Cricket fans too will take a while before adjusting to the different format.

The title race in the twelve-team fray, however, promises to be a six-way heady battle with the emergence of Surjo Tarun as a force to reckon with. The hitherto mediocre team came to the limelight when they roped in half-a-dozen national players on the first day of the just-concluded three-day cricketers' transfer.

With the hectic bourse having finalised the teams and each having already started their residential camp, the *Daily Star* takes the opportunity to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the six forces.

It is only appropriate to start with the defending champions, Abahani Krira Chakra. The popular Dhanmondi outfit, who lifted the coveted title for the second consecutive year, will once again rely on skipper Akram Khan for a hat-trick of triumphs.

Despite the hopes being pinned on him, Akram seemed reluctant to continue with the demanding job for what he says to solely concentrate on his batting.

"I'm not enjoying the captaincy any more. I have done it for Abahani as well as for the national team for the last five years. I want to take a break to concentrate more on batting", said the portly right-hander yesterday.

Abahani however is trying hard to convince the big Chittagongian to lead the team for another year.

Abahani will be denied the services of a few key players this year. Akram believes a disciplined performance of an otherwise average side can do the trick for the third time.

For Abahani, it might not be possible to fill the voids of the ever-dependable wicketkeeper, Khaled Masood, the thrust and flair of the itchy-footed Al-Shahriar Rokan, and the effective bowling of slow left-armer Saifulah Gem.

Nonetheless, with an undisciplined but otherwise enterprising Mehrab Hossain filling the top-order, and right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain spearheading the bowling, Abahani looks to have somewhat managed to make up the loss, even if partially so.

"Among the three, I think we will sorely miss Saifulah Gem and Pilot (Khaled Masood). The inclusion of Opee (Mehrab) has definitely filled the void of Rokan", said Abahani's coach Sarwar Imran while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

"I think our batting looks more solid than the bowling. Azam and Hannan, who are likely to open the innings, are real grafters. Although Hannan looks a little uncomfortable on the backfoot, we are working hard to solve the problem", said 'big guy' Imran, who is also looking forward to win the title for a third year.

"Opee will bat at number three. I believe he is more reliable than Rokan. Although Rokan is brilliant on his day, Opee is always among the runs."

But our batting strength lies on the prowess of Akram and Naimur who have been forming the solid middle-order for the last few years. Besides, we have a genuine all-rounder in the likes of Rahul, who won many a match for Abahani last season", said the former coach of BKSP.

"Apart from Shanto (Hasibul), the bowling appears unpredictable at this moment. Iqbal is a disciplined bowler. So is Colonel. But we are still in need of quality spinners. Although we have got an experienced Effe (Saiful Islam) and the unheralded left-arm spinner Masood Rana, they do not look up to the mark at this moment", said Imran, adding that Effe is now a pale shadow of his former brilliant self and has lost most of his loopy.

"But our main problem is that we lack a quality wicketkeeper. Rokan (jr) has played seven matches in the absence of Pilot last year. But he is too young to keep for Abahani", said Imran, quickly adding that they have another option in the likes of Tuhin, an inexperienced stumper that Abahani collected from Surjo Tarun this year.

Replying to a query, Imran said: "If you consider the strengths of the six aspirants on paper, Abahani is placed behind Biman, Surjo Tarun and Brothers Union. I think Biman is the most balanced side among the six. Brothers and Surjo Tarun are equally poised in the second spot and we are slightly better than Kalabagan. Moahmedan is perhaps the weakest side among the six."

"But you can hardly say who is going to win the race since things will be decided on the field. Ours was not a star-studded side for the last two seasons, but we still won the trophy. Because we knew our limitations and acted accordingly. Besides, we have a fantastic practice ground that the others lack. Moreover, the team management is very much involved. We always enjoy our game whether we lose or win, rounded off Imran.

## Jason ends English resistance

**PERTH, Nov 30** (Reuters/Internet) Australia tightened their grip on the Ashes by completing a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over England on Monday to win the second cricket Test.

Set 64 to win after dismissing England for 191 in the second innings, Australia cruised to victory before tea on the third day at the WACA to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series after the first Test was washed out.

Australia reached their target in 23 overs for the loss of three wickets and now need to win just one of the remaining three tests to retain the Ashes, which they have held since 1989.

England's hopes of making a contest of the match vanished without trace as their lower order caved in before lunch.

Starting the day on 126 for five with two recognised batsmen at the crease, England lost their last five wickets for 65 runs to be all out for 191 after

16 with the score on 189. He dismissed Alex Tudor for a duck two balls later when the Test debutant edged a catch to Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy then snared Darren Gough first ball when he hit him on the pads.

Gillespie missed out on a hat-trick on the first ball of his 15th over after Mark Ramprakash, who finishes with 47 not out, took a single, but made it four from six when he deceived Alan Mullally with a slow full toss that hit middle stump.

England's last three batsmen all made ducks as the final four wickets went for just two runs but it was Hick's dismissal that proved the most decisive.

England started the third day still needing another two runs to make Australia bat a second time and hoping for a big score from Hick to give them a remote chance of victory on a wicket that has proven notoriously difficult to score off.

Hick, who was only included in the side at the last minute after Graham Thorpe succumbed to a back injury, began confidently when he belted four boundaries in the first 40 minutes as he took his overnight score from 42 to 68.

But he departed on the third ball of Gillespie's first over when he fended a rising ball chest high to Ricky Ponting at third slip after sharing a 91-run partnership with Ramprakash.

Ramprakash, who needed six stitches to close a gash on his chin after he was struck by a bouncer from Glenn McGrath in the first innings, battled on in defiance but eventually ran out of partners.

Chasing 64, Australia were never in trouble despite the loss of three wickets.

Mark Taylor, Michael Slater and Justin Langer all lost their wickets in the pursuit of victory before Mark and Steve Waugh steered Australia home.

The third match of the five-match series starts in Adelaide on December 11.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second Test between Australia and England at the WACA on Monday.

**ENGLAND:** First innings 112 (Stewart 38, Ramprakash 26; Fleming 5-46, McGrath 3-37)

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 240 (Taylor 61, M Waugh 36; Tudor 4-89, Gough 3-43)

**ENGLAND:** Second innings (126 for five overnight)

Atherton c Taylor b Fleming 35  
Butcher c Ponting b Fleming 1

Husain lbw b Fleming 1  
Stewart c Taylor b Fleming 47

Ramprakash not out 15  
Crawley c Langer b Miller 17

Hick c Langer b Gillespie 68  
Cork lbw b Gillespie 16  
Tudor c Healy b Gillespie 0  
Gough lbw b Gillespie 0

Mullally b Gillespie 0  
Extra: (nb-8) 8  
Total: (All out in 70.2 overs) 191  
Fall of wickets: 1-5: 2-11; 3-15; 4-40; 5-67; 6-158; 7-189; 8-189; 9-189.

**Bowler** O M R W  
McGrath 26 10 47 0  
Fleming 19 7 45 4  
Gillespie 15 2 88 5  
Miller 10 4 11 1

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings  
Taylor c Hick b Mullally 3  
Slater c b Gough 17  
Langer c Atherton b Tudor 7  
M Waugh not out 17  
S Waugh not out 15  
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2) 5  
Total: (For three wickets in 23 overs) 64

Fall of wkt: 1-16; 2-24; 3-36.  
Did not bat: R Ponting, J Healy, C Miller, D Fleming, J Gillespie, G McGrath.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Gough 9 5 18 1  
Mullally 9 0 24 1  
Tudor 5 0 19 1

**Result:** Australia won by seven wickets to lead five-match series 1-0.

**Man-of-the-match:** Damien Fleming.

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## BCB's development fund

## Cash for clubs

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will distribute Taka ten lakh and fifty thousand from its development fund among the 24 senior division clubs.

BCB joint-secretary Mahmud Ul Haque Manu, who is also the CCDM secretary for the senior division league, revealed this yesterday.

According to Manu, the top six teams from last year's Premier league -- champions Abahani, Brothers Union, Kalabagan Krira Chakra, Biman, Moahmedan Sporting Club and Surjo Tarun Club -- will receive Taka 75,000 (seventy five thousand) each, while the other six premier division clubs -- Ajax Sporting Club, Wari Club, Agrani Bank, Victoria Sporting Club, Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha and 'babes' Orient Sporting Club -- will get Tk 50,000 (fifty thousand) each.

Each of the 12 First Division clubs will receive Tk 25,000 (twenty five thousand). They are: GMCC, Bangladesh Boys Club, Gopibagh Friends Association, City Club, Dhaka Wanderers, Dhanmondi Club, Lal-matia Club, Azad Sporting Club, Young Cricketers, Uttara Sporting Club, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Jatrabari Krira Chakra.

"This is an initial donation to the clubs from the board. The amount might be increased in future if the next board meeting permits," said Manu.

## Amritalal Dey Chess

## Pallab lifts Cup

From Our Correspondent

**BARISAL, Nov 30:** Shawkat Hossain Pallab of Dhaka and Samul Islam Masum of Barguna emerged champion and runner-up in the Amritalal Dey Smriti Gold Cup open chess tournament, which concluded here at the Muktioddha Sangsad auditorium today.

At the end of the stipulated seven rounds, both Pallab and Masum had collected six points. But Pallab was declared champion because of his superior progressive score.

Monir Hossain and Arman Munir, who also secured six points apiece, finished third and fourth respectively, while Khader Anwarul Islam got the fifth place having secured five and a half points to his name.

Yahia Mollah, the Divisional Commissioner of Barisal, handed over the prizes among the winners. Al-haj Mohammad Alauddin, the Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, was also present on the occasion.

## Shearer going nowhere

**LONDON, Nov 30:** England captain Alan Shearer moved on Sunday to dispel rumours that he was about to leave Newcastle, reports Reuters.

Shearer, whose future has been the subject of renewed speculation since Newcastle signed Everton striker Duncan Ferguson last Tuesday, said he had held clear-the-air talks with manager Ruud Gullit on Friday.

Gullit had been quoted as saying he did not know whether 28-year-old Shearer wanted to stay at the club, but the striker said on Sunday: "I couldn't understand why he (Gullit) said it and we had a chat on Friday."

"For the third time this season I've had to come out and say that I'm staying at Newcastle."

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## SA avenge Bridgetown defeat



**JOHANNESBURG, Nov 30** (Reuters/Internet): South Africa wiped away memories of Bridgetown 1992 when they completed a landmark first Test triumph over the West Indies on Monday.

Led by an unbeaten 57 from Jacques Kallis, South Africa cruised home by four wickets just ahead of a thunderstorm that threatened to rob them of victory.

The only other time the two sides met in a Test was in Bridgetown, Barbados, six years ago, soon after South Africa's re-admittance to world cricket after the apartheid-induced isolation years.

On that occasion South Africa needed 79 runs with eight wickets in hand. But they were dismissed for the addition of just 27 as Curtly Ambrose took six wickets and Courtney Walsh four.

There were glimpses of a repeat slump in this initial Test tour of South Africa by West Indies as opener Gary Kirsten and Adam Bacher were dismissed with just 14 scored.

But useful contributions by Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje and finally Kallis made sure the result was never in doubt.

On a pitch that showed signs of variable bounce, victory for South Africa was never assured despite the low target of 164.

Kirsten lost his wicket after just nine overs when he edged a wickedly bouncing Ambrose delivery to wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs for seven.

Bacher quickly joined him after a tentative push forward to a Walsh delivery gave Philo Wallace a bat-pat catch at short square leg.

With a thunderstorm loom-

ing, Cullinan took the West Indies attack on and hit 35 off 64 balls with four fours before Stuart Williams pulled off the catch of the match with a diving effort at mid-wicket.

Cronje and Jonty Rhodes continued the trend before Cronje holed out to Nixon McLean at fine leg after attempting to hook Walsh. He made 31 off 62 balls with three

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