

## Sport

Div I chess  
Three top  
standings

Sports Reporter  
Holders Leonine Chess Club, Titas Club and Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha were jointly leading the First Division chess league table at the end of round two at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the second day of the 14-team league, Leonine, who began their campaign with a 2-2 draw against last year's runners up Biman on Monday in the opening round, outplayed Dhaka University 4-0.

Leonine's Latvian Grand Master Igors Raussis won the first board against Sayeed Ahmed while Belarus Grand Master Yuri Suleiman clinched the second board defeating Krishnapada Biswas. In the other two boards, Leonine's Rafiqul and Abu Sufian Shakil beat Monirul Islam and Sabyasachi Mandal respectively.

Titas Club handed Farashgan Sporting Club a 1-3 defeat. Enamul Hossain Rajib of Titas took the first board with an easy win over Mian while Saifuddin Lovlu beat Alok in the second board.

Hasibul Hasan earned the third point for Titas defeating Hanif Mollah while Farashgan's Protul earned the lone point for his side winning the board against Titas Club's Ruhul Kabir Shilpi.

Nakhalpara Jubo Kalyan Sangha won 3-1 against Ansar.

Zamirul Rahman and Aminul of Nakhalpara won their board against Ali Amjad Mintu and Showkat Hossain Pallab while the other two boards were tied.

Binam also posted a 3-1 win over Mahakhalji Prodeep Sangha.

Biman's three International Masters Ziaur Rahman, Reefat-Sattar and Abdullah Al-Rakib won their respective boards against Monodeep Dhar, Badru Alam and Saidul Islam.

Rezaul Haque of Biman lost his board to Ahmed Hossain Majumder.

In the day's other matches, Brothers Union beat Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha 3-1, West Jatrabari KC, Nakhalpara JKS v Farashgan SC, Leonine CC v Ansar, Mahakhalji PS v Dhaka University, Sonali Bank v Biman and Kamalapur SKKC v Narayan-ganj DKS.

Petrini tells  
a gruesome  
tale

ROME, Dec 8: The former Italian footballer Carlo Petrini claimed on Monday that growth hormones and creatine were just candy compared to the substances in use in Italian football thirty years ago, reports AFP.

Petrini spoke of booster shots being administered to him and his teammates during his days with Genoa.

In an interview with Corriere Della Sera the retired star, who also played for Milan, Roma and Varese, revealed how his contemporaries used to escape detection from drug tests.

"We had three bathrobes with a double pocket and those who weren't playing used to urinate in a test tube."

He said these were then given to players called for tests.

"A player would hide the test tube in his bathrobe and pour its contents into the official test tube."

Petrini added that to combat the cold the team would be given two or three micron capsules (medication for heart trouble) and coffee containing two aspirin.

SIX NO TRUMPS  
AK Sayeedul HuqSOUTH MADE A GOOD CALCULATION  
(Hand # 145)

North	♦ S-K 10 9 8 6 4
South	♦ H: Q
East	♦ D-8 5 3 2
West	♦ C-A 8
South (D)	♦ S-A 5
East	♦ H: J 10 9 6
West	♦ D-A 6
North	♦ C 6 4 3 2

Bidding: East West were vulnerable

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 Diamond	1 Spade	2 Hearts
2 Spades	3 Diamonds	3 Spades	Pass
4 Spades	Pass	Pass	Pass

With a two-suiter hand but 12 HCP West opened one Diamond in a vulnerable position. North overcalled Spade, East bid two Hearts and South supported partner's Spade. When North rebid Spades, South calculated that partner might have at best one card in Hearts. Moreover, with the first-round control in Diamonds, there might be a scope to develop the Heart suit for eventual discard of losers. He therefore bid game in Spades rather ambitiously.

## THE PLAY

East led the King of Hearts and when the declarer dropped the Queen, he switched to Diamond Nine. The declarer went up with the Ace and played small Spade toward the closed hand. He thought of finessing the Jack but when the trumps were 2-2, he played a Heart from the dummy and slapped a Club. Finally, two losing Diamonds were pounced on the dummy's good Hearts.

## Hair won't let his hair down



SYDNEY, Dec 8 (Reuters/ Internet): Australian umpire Darrell Hair is threatening legal action against Sri Lanka's cricket board president, alleging he accused Hair of bias during a row over a Sri Lankan spinner.

Hair has written to International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive David Richards to let him know he is considering suing Sri Lankan cricket president Thilanga Sumathipala.

Excerpts from the letter were published in several Australian newspapers on Tuesday.

The Sydney-based Daily Telegraph quoted the letter as saying: "This matter has been placed in the hands of my solicitor and legal action will be investigated immediately if our investigations reveal he did make such a statement."

Hair was unavailable for comment on Tuesday as he was on his way to Pakistan to officiate in a Test match there. But the Australian Cricket Board said the umpire was within his rights to take any action he saw fit.

Darrell's a private citizen and can do whatever he wants, an ACCB official said.

Hair announced last week he had decided to make himself unavailable for the upcoming limited-overs series between Australia, England and Sri Lanka.

Hair's decision came after Sri Lankan cricket authorities had asked the ACCB to ban him from umpiring their matches after he criticised Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Hair, in his recently published book "Decision Maker" described Muralitharan's bowling action as "diabolical" and

said he would have no hesitation no-balling him in the future.

Muralitharan's action came under scrutiny in 1995 when he was no-balled seven times by Hair for throwing but his orthodox bowling style has since been cleared by the ICC.

Sri Lankan cricket authorities complained that Hair broke ICC rules by making the statements about Muralitharan.

Hair claims Sumathipala's comments deprive him of the chance of a fair hearing.

He will learn later this week if the ICC will penalise him for breaching the code of conduct.

By standing down from the World Series one-day tournament, while the Australian Cricket Board dithered over what action to take, Hair effectively fined himself 15,000 dollars (9,000 US dollars) in match fees.

Inter-varsity  
sports on  
Sports Reporter

The three-day long inter-university swimming and waterpolo championships began at the swimming pool of Dhaka University yesterday.

Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed, Pro-VC and Chairman of the Dhaka University Sports Board, inaugurated the meet where four universities — Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Agricultural — are taking part.

Rajshahi University (RU) dominated the opening day's proceedings by collecting as many as four gold medals. Mizanur Rahman of RU won golds in the 400-metre individual medley and the 100-metre backstroke.

Mizanur then helped his team secure the gold in the 4x100 metres freestyle.

For the hosts and favourites Dhaka University, Hafizul Islam Shuvra and Mahbubur Rahman restored honour by capturing gold in the 100 metres backstroke and 100 metres freestyle respectively.

Following are the winners of different events held on the inaugural day:

Events	Winners
100m freestyle	Mahbubur Rahman (DU)
100m breaststroke	Hafizul Islam (DU)
400m individual medley	Mizanur Rahman (RU)
100m backstroke	Mizanur Rahman (RU)
100m butterfly	Abu Zafar Haider (RU)
4x100m freestyle relay	RU

Besides, Dhaka University registered a 9-4 win over Rajshahi University in the water polo.

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## Drama ahead of D-Day



LONDON, Dec 8 (Reuters/ Internet): The European Champions' League reaches a turning point this week on and off the field.

By Wednesday night, the 24 teams in the competition will be whittled down to just the eight who can look forward to the quarterfinals next spring.

And on Thursday and Friday in Geneva, UEFA's Executive Committee expect to finalise months of discussion by announcing the exact details of the future of the competition which is being expanded to 32 teams from next season.

With Wednesday night's matches the last in the group phase, the games are nothing more than academic for some notable early fallers including Arsenal, Barcelona, Porto and Athletic Bilbao, who are all already eliminated along with Austrians Sturm Graz, Danes Brondby and HJK Helsinki of Finland.

With German champions Kaiserslautern the only team already assured of a place in the last eight, that leaves 17 teams still harbouring chances of qualifying either as group winners or as one of the two best runners-up.

And by having so many teams still involved — albeit with some having only a slim mathematical chance of success — Wednesday night promises to be one of rare drama and tension.

A late goal here or there, will bring joy or despair in equal measure to clubs playing in matches hundreds of miles

apart.

In Group A, leaders Olympiakos will win the group and reach the quarterfinals for the first time if they avoid defeat by three goals or more.

Zagreb must win to keep their chances alive, but if the Croats lose, and Ajax Amsterdam, who are currently third, beat Porto, Ajax could yet win.

Group B is also finely balanced. Although Bilbao cannot advance, Galatasaray, Rosenborg Trondheim and Juventus are all still involved and if Juventus beat current leaders Rosenborg to snap their run of five successive draws, they could yet win the group — that is if Bilbao defeat current leaders Galatasaray.

Although both Rosenborg and Galatasaray are above Juventus now, they could both still be eliminated by Wednesday night.

Kaiserslautern have qualified from Group F and will be looking to bounce back from their 2-1 defeat at Benfica on November 25 with a home win over HJK Helsinki who cannot qualify as one of the two best runners-up because they can only amass eight points while two other clubs have at least nine.

Despite the closeness of most of the groups, the following eight teams should go through: Olympiakos, Galatasaray, Real Madrid, Manchester United, RC Lens, Kaiserslautern, Inter Milan, and Bayern Munich.

The draw for the quarterfinals will be made in Geneva on Wednesday, December 16.

## Wenger stays put up to 2002



LONDON, Dec 8 (Reuters/ Internet): Coach Arsene Wenger has signed a new contract at English champions Arsenal which will keep him at the club until 2002, the club said on Tuesday.

Wenger, who has revolutionised Arsenal's style of football since arriving in September 1996, said he had already given his word to club chiefs about staying for another 3-1/2 years but had now put pen to paper.

"I gave my word long ago and that was more important than my signature, but I've signed now because everybody outside wanted it," Wenger said before the team flew to Greece for Wednesday's Champions' League clash with Panathinaikos.

There was no real difference for me between my word and putting the signature on the

contract. I have to get good results and I want to do my best for the club,"

The Frenchman has been linked in the past with the Japanese national side, with France, and even recently in England as a possible successor to national coach Glenn Hoddle.

Wenger, who has been a professional at the club since 1996, said he was very keen to keep Wenger who took them to the FA Cup double last season in only his second season at Highbury.

"I always said that my future was at Arsenal," he said.

Wenger adopted a more professional attitude to the club when he joined from Japan's Grampus, getting players to be more careful about their diet and training.

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But Arsenal have no chance of reaching the quarter-finals of the European Cup after a disappointing campaign.

## Nat'l b'ball

Five matches of the 21st Europa Cup national basketball championship were held at the Dhanmondi gymnasium yesterday, reports APB.

Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Army, Biman, Dhaka University and Khulna won their matches on the day.

Navy outplayed Bangladesh police by 180-93 points. Army thrashed Sylhet 102-31. Biman crushed BUET 112-45. Dhaka University beat Rajshahi 134-65 and Khulna won over Rajshahi by 149-57 points.

He has also been on the shopping list of several leading European sides.

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## Scottish soccer's ailing majority

GLASGOW, Dec 8 (Reuters): Scottish soccer is facing a crisis with clubs in the First Division worried about the increasingly possible threat of extinction.

While the country's top 10 clubs in the new breakaway Premier league are rolling on the crest of a wave with increased crowds and television revenue, some of the clubs on the next rung down in the First Division, are facing bankruptcy.

Now the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association (SPFA), the players' union, has reacted to a poll among its members and called on the Premier league to expand from 10 to 16 teams urgently before the start of next season.

If they don't do that, they claim, there are real fears that several of the country's most famous clubs could be heading for closure.

All-10 First Division clubs are steadily losing money with most paying the price of investing heavily in new stadia or large squads of players in recent seasons in a vain bid to break into the top division.

But with just one side being promoted and only one coming down, Scotland's middle-income clubs fear they are now passing the point of no return.

The SPFA agrees and has begged the SPL to expand to 14 or 16 clubs.