

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-108

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 18 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

1 National cricket team captain
Amrullah Islam will play this season
for

Biman Mohammed Surjo Tarun

2 Who won the Premier league cricket
title last season?

Mohammed Kalabagan Abahani

3 How many teams play in the
Premier league?

10 8 12

4 How many overs will be played per
side in the Premier league this
season?

50 80 100

5 How many venues will be used for
the Premier league this year?

One Two Three

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar
(Master Indian batsman)
"Shane Warne is a great
bowler. On his day he will get
me out and on my day I will
score runs."

Jones stands by 'em

MELBOURNE, Dec 9: Former
Australian Test star Dean
Jones, who refused a 50,000 US
dollars bribe from a book-
maker, has sprung to the de-
fence of Mark Waugh and Shane
Warne after it was revealed the
pair had sold information, re-
ports AFP.

"These guys are honourable
people, they would try 150 per
cent to win a game for Aus-
tralia, that is the bottom line
really," Jones said today.

In the 1992 tour of Sri
Lanka, Jones was offered a bi-
sult tin full of money to provide
an Indian bookmaker with in-
formation.

He rejected the offer and ad-
vised the ACB.

"The reason I knocked it
back for myself personally is
because you don't know whether
or not you can trust these guys if
you give them bad or wrong in-
formation," he said.

"You never know, you might
get a letter bomb or anything,"
he told a radio station.

Jones said there was a "mark
or a mole" in every team in the
world when he was playing in
international cricket and they
provided information.

"I don't know about the Aus-
tralian team anymore...I hope
not."

He said Warne and Waugh
always gave their best for Aus-
tralia.

"I've played with these guys,
I've worked in the trenches with
them, they are honourable
blokes."

"As a player if I knew that
Mark Waugh and Shane Warne
were giving 100 per cent."

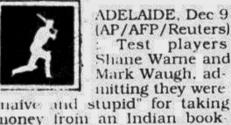
"We know Mark Waugh likes
to have a bet and owns a few
trousers and things like that but
that's nothing to do with the
cricket though," he said.

Netrakona soccer

NETRAKONA, Dec 9: Ne-
trakona Deputy Commissioner
Gold Cup football tournament
began at local stadium on Mon-
day under the auspices of Dis-
trict Sports Association, re-
ports BSS.

Advocate Fazlur Rahman
Khan MP inaugurated the tour-
nament.

Prime Minister Howard feels disturbed Aussie Pandora's box opened up



JOHN HOWARD

ADELAIDE, Dec 9 (AP/FP/Reuters)
Test players
Shane Warne and
Mark Waugh, ad-
mitting they were
"naive and stupid" for taking
money from an Indian book-

maker, plunged Australian
cricket into crisis Wednesday.

The admission by the pair
was made even more contro-
versial by an admission by the
Australian Cricket Board (ACB)
that it had covered up the affair
and asked the International
Cricket Council to do the same.

The Australian Cricket
Board admitted Tuesday night
that in early 1995 it fined both
players a total of 18,000 Aus-
tralian dollars (11,500 dollars)
after it was found they accepted
money from an Indian book-

maker. Waugh was fined 10,000 Aus-
tralian dollars (6,400 dollars) and
Warne 8,000 Australian dollars
(5,100 dollars) in

February 1995 for accepting
money from an illegal bookie
in exchange for weather and
pitch reports during the short
Sri Lankan tour in 1994.

That visit preceded the
three-Test tour of Pakistan
during which Waugh, Warne and
a third Australian player Tim
May claimed they were ap-
proached by Pakistani crick-
eter Salim Malik and offered
money to play poorly.

Australian Prime Minister
John Howard, a man who en-
joys cricket more than politics,
led a chorus of disbelief over the
ACB's handling of the matter.

"Australians love their
cricket and anything that looks
as though it's knocking cricket
off its pedestal is something
that's going to deeply disturb
Australians," Howard said.

But he believed the issue was
best left to cricket authorities to
deal with.

"I would imagine that, given
the great passion that Aus-
tralian has for cricket, there's
an intense feeling of disap-
pointment about the whole
issue," Howard told reporters.

The revelation shook the
cricket world and is almost cer-
tain to force the International
Cricket Council to address the
subject of illegal betting in the
sport at its meeting next month
in Christchurch, New Zealand.

At a media conference
Wednesday in Adelaide, site of
the third Test between Aus-
tralia and England that begins
Friday, Warne and Waugh each
read a statement and then left
the room refusing to answer
questions, leaving ACB chief
executive Malcolm Speed to
deal with the matter.

The ACB kept the matter se-

cret until late Tuesday and
Speed admitted the incident's
leaking had damaged Aus-
tralian cricket's reputation.

Both Waugh and Warne de-
nied any involvement in
match-fixing or bribery and
told Speed they had never bet on



MALCOLM SPEED

Speed said he believed the
pair, two of Australia's highest-
paid cricketers, spoke to the
bookmaker between two and
four times over a period of
about a month during the 1994
tour of Sri Lanka.

"It is inevitable that Aus-
tralian cricket's very high re-
putation has been damaged by
this incident," Speed said Wed-
nesday.

"In hindsight a different ap-
proach might have been taken,"
said Speed, who was not em-
ployed by the board at the time
of the incident.

He said he does not know
why Australian cricket offi-

cial did not make the incident
public at the time.

"It had been investigated
immediately and the players
had freely admitted their in-
volvement, they were fined,
they paid their fine and the In-
ternational Cricket Council was
told about the incident," he
said.

"I thought it was a very un-
fortunate incident which had
occurred four years ago and had
been dealt with at that time by
the Australian Cricket Board.

"I don't know why the people
involved at the time did not
make it public. I think the only
issue that arises is whether or
not it should have been made
public at the time.

"I was not involved at the
time. The people who made the
decision were experienced
cricket administrators and
they no doubt had a good reason
for not taking that decision,"
Speed added.

Former ICC president Sir
Clyde Walcott said the ICC was
told of the matter by the ACB
four years ago but asked to keep
it confidential.

"We were asked by the ACB to
keep the matter confidential
and we decided to do so," Wal-
cott said.

"It would have done nothing
for the image of the interna-
tional game of cricket to pub-
licise these bad happenings."

Former Australian captain
Kim Hughes said Shane Warne
involvement in the scandal
would damage his chances of
ever captaining Australia.

"It is different to match fix-
ing (but) it is still a shock,"
Hughes said on radio. "Two
blokes who got tremendous
records are now tarnished."

"It's very disappointing for the
game."

Hughes said both the ACB
and the International Cricket
Council had made matters
worse by sweeping the issue
under the carpet for more than
three years.

Another former Australian
skipper agreed.

"One of the most appalling
things is that it's been covered
up for so long," said Richie Be-
naud, now a cricket commenta-
tor.

But Alec Stewart, who on
Friday will lead England into
the third Test against an Aus-
tralian team which is expected
to include Waugh, played down
the incident.

"To be honest it hasn't af-
fected the game, it's all in the
past ... it's nothing to do with
English cricket," Stewart said.

Another former Australian
captain, Greg Chappell, also
came to the besieged players' de-
fence.

"It isn't as if they were in-
volved in bribery or fixing
games so I think the ACB han-
dled it appropriately," Chappell
said.

In the national Parliament,
Sports Minister Jackie Kelly
said the revelations had led to
"significant disillusionment
with two Aussie icons."

"It sends a message to all
Australian sportsmen that they
do carry the flag of Aus-
tralia's hopes and (are) role models
for many young kids in Australia
who play sport," Kelly said.

Gerard Dally, manager of
one of Australia's largest sports
betting agencies, said the in-
formation the Australian play-
ers claimed to have given the
Indian bookmaker was vastly
overpriced.

"The Indian bookie could
have made his local bureau for
80 cents and got the same in-
formation ... that's what
we do 10 or 15 times a
week," he said.

Meanwhile, Australian
Cricketers' Association presi-
dent Tim May said that Warne
and Waugh had their backing
despite their admission.

May said the ACA felt the
matter was appropriately dealt
with in 1994.

"This matter should not be
confused or in any way linked
to the current match fixing and
bribery allegations that are
presently under investigation
in Pakistan."

"At no stage has either Mark
or Shane compromised their
loyalty to their teammates or
Australian cricket."

"Their actions were unfortu-
nate and are regretted by the
players."

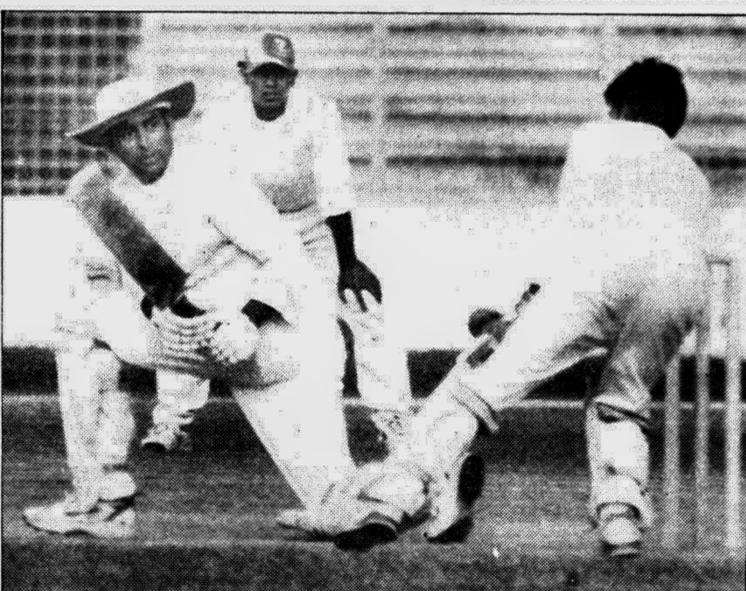
On the other hand, reaction
around Australia ranged from
outrage to dismay, commenta-
tors and fans upset by what the
players had done and by the
ACB's subsequent actions.

Respected cricket writer Pe-
ter Roebuck called for an im-
mediate inquiry into the
bookmaker incident, saying
Australian cricket now "stands
accused of conducting its affairs
with astonishing hypocrisy."

"At the very least they have
been colossally indiscreet," he
wrote in The Sydney Morning
Herald newspaper. "This is our
cricket board and these are our
players. They must be called
into account."

"I can't believe it to be true...
they've been great ambassadors
for Australia, I'm absolutely
shattered," one Sydney man
told Australian Broadcasting
Corporation radio.

"I was quite surprised, espe-
cially since we're always the
first to point fingers and we al-
ways think that our cricketers
are above all that," another
man said. (More news on page 14)



Orient's Pakistani batsman Riaz Shekh sweeps.

— Star photo

Abahani start with a win

Sports Reporter

Holders Abahani Krira Cha-
kra got off to a predictably
winning start in the Janakan-
tha Premier Division cricket
league, but not before surviving
a scare from newcomers Orient
Sporting Club who went down
fighting by 33 runs at the
Bangabandhu National Sta-
dium yesterday.

Chasing an imposing 313 in
the stipulated 80 overs, Orient
could muster 280 for eight.

Although a victory for Aba-
hani was considered a formality,
the old-timers gave their
superior opponents a run for
their money in the final ses-
sion.

The chances of an upset was
not written off as the Orient
boys went into tea with the
scoreboard reading at 186 for
five in 61 overs.

Mizanur Rahman Babul was
carrying the Orient hopes
putting on 70 runs for the sixth
wicket with Pakistani Riaz
Shekh. The two were playing so
confidently it forced Abahani
skipper Akram Khan on the de-
fensive as the pair continued to
plunder.

Mizanur, a former national
right-arm seamer, and Riaz
stepped into ominous gear, pun-
ishing the odd balls to all parts
of the field. But the game took
a dramatic turn as both the hope-
bearers needlessly ran them-
selves out.

Mizanur, who played some
brilliant shots in his 77-ball
31, invited his own doom while
chasing a non-existing single.
Riaz, who shared another 33
runs for the seventh wicket
with Mazharul Haq Mridul, de-
parted in the same sad fashion
after scoring a gritty 51 with the
help of half a dozen fours.

Mridul, who came to bat at
number eight, tried in vain to
keep pace with the increasing
run-rate. The little cameo of an
unbeaten knock (37 off 47 balls)
by the young right-hander was
not enough to turn the tide for
the chasers. He dominated the

unbroken ninth wicket part-
nership of 54 runs with tall
right-arm seamer Nazimuddin
Manna, who scored 25.

Abahani, featuring in the
first match of the newly intro-
duced 80-over-a-side affair,
could successfully tune up their
new line-up. Batsmen of the ti-
tle-defenders however fared bet-
ter in comparison to their
bowlers.

Akram, surviving a close leg
before appeal while on nought,
went on to score 99. Rahul gave
the big Chittagonian the much-
needed support with a brilliant
62. Hasibul came up with a
whirlwind 13-ball 36 that even-

tion in the match. He was er-
ratic as well inaccurate. He had
shown the luxury of giving
away eleven no balls and two
wides in his 12 overs that
yielded 60 runs.

Discarded national all-
rounder Naimur Rahman was
just as miserable as Hasibul.
The off-spinner finished with
one for 53 in his 15 overs.

Only Iqbal with his gentle
medium pace and off-spinner
Saidul Islam could maintain a
tight line and length.

Saidul, who clung on to a
spectacular low return catch,
emerged most successful with
two for 31 in his allotted 16
overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Janakan-
tha Premier Division cricket
league match between Abahani
and Orient Sporting Club con-
cluded at the Bangabandhu Na-
tional Stadium yesterday.

ABAHANI 313 for 8 in 80
overs (Akram Khan 99, Naimur
62, Hasibul 36, Mehraz 34;
Mizan 2/61)

ORIENT

Moffzul b Saidul 4
Harun c b Masud 30
Rezwana c Iqbal b Hasibul 24
Asif c Masud b Naimur 35
Karim run out 9
Riaz run out 51
Mizan run out 31
Mazhar run out 37
Sohel c b Saidul 0
Nazimuddin not out 25
Extras (b-3, lb-6, w-13, nb-12) 34
Total: (for 8 wks in 80 overs) 280

Did not bat: Aminul Islam
Fall of wks: 1-28; 2-57; 3-84;
4-108; 5-122; 6-192; 7-225; 8-
226

Bowler O M R W
Hasibul 12 1 60 1
Iqbal 13 3 41 0
Naimur 7 1 28 0
Saidul 16 3 31 2
Masud 15 1 44 1
Naimur 15 4 53 1
Azam 1 0 3 0
Mehraz 1 0 11 0

Result: Abahani won by 33
runs.



tually proved decisive in the
end.

But it could have been a dif-
ferent story had not Orient con-
ceded three run outs, including
a controversial one against
their skipper Jewel.

Besides, the toothless bow-
ling of Abahani had hardly
troubled the Orient batsman on
a wicket that looked more
sporting than the previous day.
Much to frustration of the un-
derdogs, most of the Orient
batsmen threw their wickets
away to make the task of the big
boys little easier.

Rezwana, the other Pakistani
in Orient's tent, chased a wide
delivery outside the off-stump,
giving new-ball bowler Hasibul
Hossain an unlikely gift.

Considered as the lone strike
bowler for Abahani, Hasibul
failed to live up to his reputa-

Of the fall guys



MARK WAUGH

CANBERRA, Dec 9
(Reuters/AP): Aus-
tralian cricket
stood accused of
hypocrisy on Wed-
nesday following
the admission by leading
players Shane Warne and Mark
Waugh that they had taken
money from an Indian book-
maker during a 1994 sub-
continent tour.

The unofficial world cham-
pion's reputation was left badly
tarnished after Waugh and
Warne said they had been paid
to give the bookmaker pitch
and weather information and
that the Australian Cricket
Board (ACB) had kept it secret
for almost four years.

"This is one of the biggest
scandals that cricket has ever
faced," said Mathew Engel, edi-
tor of the international crick-
eting bible Wisden.

"The issue is ... that for four
years, Australian cricket has
covered this up," Engel said.

Engel said much work
needed to be done to win back
the trust and confidence of
cricket fans worldwide.

"You rebuild public trust by
being honest with people," En-
gel said by telephone from Ade-
laide.

However, Waugh and Warne
strenuously denied at the news
conference they had been in-
volved in match-fixing or
bribery.

Dates of dishonour

SYDNEY, Dec 9 (AP): The fol-
lowing is a chronology of events
surrounding Australian Test
cricket players Mark Waugh
and Shane Warne's involve-
ment in a betting scandal:

September, 1994: During a
short tour of Sri Lanka, Mark
Waugh is paid Australian 6,000
dollars (3,800 dollars) and
Shane Warne Australian dol-
lars 5,000 (3,200 dollars) by an
Indian bookmaker for infor-
mation before the team's one-
day games.

October, 1994: Australia
tour Pakistan, during which
time Waugh, Warne and Tim
May later alleged they were
offered 200,000 dollars each by
Pakistan captain Salim Malik
to play badly.

February, 1995: Allegations
that Malik attempted to bribe
Australian players are made
public for the first time.

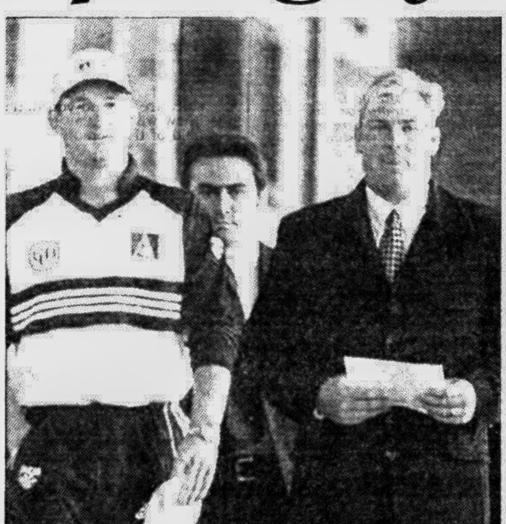
February, 1995: The Aus-
tralian Cricket Board secretly
fines Waugh Australian dollars
10,000 (6,400 US) and Warne
Australian dollars 8,000 (5,100
US) after being told of their
payments to the bookmaker.

1995: The ACB asks the In-
ternational Cricket Council at a
meeting in Sydney to keep the
bookmaker fines secret. The
ICC agrees.

Oct 7, 1998: In Lahore, Pak-
istan, Waugh and captain Mark
Taylor give key evidence in se-
cret to Pakistan's judicial in-
quiry into alleged match-fixing
by Pakistani players.

Dec 8, 1998: The scandal of
the Waugh and Warne payments
to the bookmaker is made pub-
lic.

Dec 9, 1998: Waugh and
Warne say they were naive and
stupid for accepting money.
Former ACB chairman Alan
Crompton says the matter was
kept secret for three years be-
cause it was regarded as an in-
ternal disciplinary matter.



Mark Waugh (L) and Shane Warne, with the individual
statements in their hands, arrive at the press conference
centre in Adelaide yesterday.

Waugh speaking

The following is the transcript of a statement made by Mark
Waugh on his involvement in a betting scandal on the 1994 tour
of Sri Lanka:

"During the course of the 1994 tour of Sri Lanka, I was ap-
proached by a man who asked me to provide routine infor-
mation about Australia's one-day matches on that tour.

"He asked me questions but at no stage did I discuss team
tactics or lineups.

"In return for speaking to me on that handful of occasions he
offered me Australian dollars 6,000 which I accepted.

"At the time I did not see the implications of offering such in-
formation, which I thought to be mundane and exactly the same
as any pre-match media interview.

"In early 1995, the Australian Cricket Board asked me if I
had ever provided information to a bookmaker and I replied I
had done so the previous year.

"I was fined Australian dollars 10,000 and paid my fine im-
mediately.

"I have never spoken to the bookmaker again since.
"In the period since I was fined, the full implications of the
possibility that I may be linked to actions much more sinister
than those I innocently undertook in 1994 have become very
clear to me.

"Even while this matter has not been made public until now,
I realise and accept fully that my actions were naive and stupid.
"I regret them entirely and wish to restate in the strongest
possible manner that I have always given my best for my coun-
try in every match I have played and I believe my record, particu-
larly in the last three years, fully supports this statement.

"I must emphasise that I have never been involved in match
fixing or bribery on cricket matches in any stage of my career."

Warne speaking

The following is the transcript of a statement made by Shane
Warne on his involvement in a betting scandal:

"On the 1994 tour to Pakistan, I was approached by a man,
who I later discovered to be bookmaker Salim Malik.

"He gave me Australian dollars 5,000 and in return he spoke
to me on several occasions for routine questions like what the
pitch was like, what the weather conditions were.

"I never at any stage told him about team tactics or selec-
tions.

"As the captain of Victoria and a senior Australian cricketer,
I regularly provide much more detailed information to the me