

Leonine atop alone

Sports Reporter
Defending champions Leonine Chess Club took sole lead in the First Division chess league with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Dhaka Ansars in the third round held yesterday at the NSC chess room.

'Betting is not fixing'

NEW DELHI, Dec 9 (Reuters/Internet): Indian cricket officials, reacting to the Australian scandal in the sport, said on Wednesday betting on cricket was common but involvement of players in match-fixing was a serious and so far unproved offence.

Australian cricketers Mark Waugh and Shane Warne told a news conference in Adelaide earlier on Wednesday that they had taken money from an Indian bookmaker in 1994 to provide pitch and weather information during a tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan.



Leonine's Belarusian Grand Master Yuri Suleman (R) pondering his next move against Ansars' Sheikh Nasir Ahmed during their First Division chess encounter at the NSC yesterday. — Star photo

Lankan umpires in city

Sports Reporter
Four Sri Lankan umpires arrived in the city yesterday to conduct the ongoing Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Janakantha Premier Division league: Brothers Union vs S Bima (DCS)
Kalabagan KC vs Victoria SC (BNS)
Mohammedan SC vs Wari Club (BKSP)

ICC plays it safe

LONDON, Dec 9 (Reuters/Internet): The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday criticised Australia's Mark Waugh and Shane Warne for accepting cash from a bookmaker but distanced itself from responsibility over accusations of a cover-up.

The Australian Cricket Board fined the pair in 1995 but hushed up the affair and asked the ICC to keep the matter confidential.

Odumbe, Tikolo in town League debut due today

Sports Reporter
Star Kenyan batsman Maurice Omond Odumbe and Stephen Ogonji Tikolo arrived in the city yesterday to play for Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Janakantha Premier Division cricket league.

The duo is scheduled to make their Dhaka league debut this morning when the popular Moulhool outfit takes on Wari Club in their first outing of the season at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) ground.

Odumbe and Tikolo practised with their team-mates at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the afternoon before completing their registration formalities at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office.

Lahore Test begins today Pitches perplex foes

LAHORE, Pakistan, Dec 9 (Reuters/Internet): Zimbabwe, seeking their first series win, have been left perplexed after three pitches were prepared for the second Test against Pakistan starting on Thursday.

"We don't know as yet on which pitch we are going to play so we are delaying the announcement of the team till tomorrow," said Alistair Campbell who captained Zimbabwe to a seven-wicket win in the opening test, the side's first Test victory abroad.

Pakistan coach Javed Miandad was equally perplexed. "No decision has been taken by the (Pakistan Cricket) Board (PCB) about the pitch," he told reporters and said this reflected the state of Pakistan cricket.

Windies-SA second Test starts today Hooper confident of playing

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 9 (AFP/Reuters/Internet): West Indies are set to risk including injured batsman Carl Hooper in the second Test against South Africa which starts on Thursday.

Hooper has still not fully recovered from the groin strain he suffered during West Indies' four-wicket defeat in the first Test and has not played since then.

West Indies, who have struggled for consistency in their batting, are desperate to include the stroke-making Hooper who tops their batting averages on the tour so far.

South African captain Hansie Cronje said Terbrugge would be given until Wednesday morning to prove his fitness.

"We are going to have to wait until tomorrow and if Dave is not fit I am sure there is a replacement on standby," he said.

Terbrugge, tall and accurate, proved an able first-change bowler on his debut in the first Test and the selectors will be keen to keep him in the side if possible.

CJKP Div I soccer

CHITTAGONG, Dec 9: Abahani Krira Chakra maintained their winning spree in the super league of CJKP First Division football registering their third consecutive victory against the BCIC at the M A Aziz Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Abahani scored two goals against the BCIC. Farhad and Nurul Idbem netted one goal each for the winners.

Friends and Sea Customs made a 2-2 draw in the other match of the day. Dider and Khokan scored one goal each for Friends while Ritu of Customs made two goals for Customs.

SIX NO TRUMPS
A K Sayeedul Huq
NORTH AMBITIOUSLY PUSHED ON TO SIX (Hand # 146)

Table showing bidding results for North, South, West, and East. Includes columns for bid, pass, and trump suits.

In response to one Diamond bid by partner, North could have responded with two Clubs to show 13-15 HCP. However, since there was no five-card suit, he wanted to keep the bidding at a lower level so that, if possible, he could show his four-carder three suits.

Central close to victory

NAPIER, New Zealand, Dec 9 (AFP/Reuters/Internet): New Zealand's modest Central Districts provincial side were today within sight of rare event — a victory over India despite the genius of Sachin Tendulkar.

Central survived a middle session onslaught from Tendulkar to finish the day 85 runs short of their target and with eight second innings wickets in hand.

Tendulkar, forced to bat at No 7 after being of the Park with a temperature Tuesday, threatened to take the game away from Central when he plundered the bowling to all parts of McLean Park.

Scoreboard for Central vs India. Lists batsmen like Jacka, Blake, Mason, Furlong, and bowlers like Milnes, Spearman, Sinclair, England, and Extras.

Scoreboard for Central Districts Selection XI vs India. Lists batsmen like Milnes, Spearman, Sinclair, England, and Extras.

India were finally dismissed for 390, leaving Central 158 for victory. At stumps they were 73-2, with Spearman on 47 and Jarrod England 14.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a Cryptquip section at the bottom.

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.

Tapan Chowdhury (L), who won the Fu Wang Cup golf title, receiving the trophy from Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman at the Kurmitola Golf Club recently.