

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-108

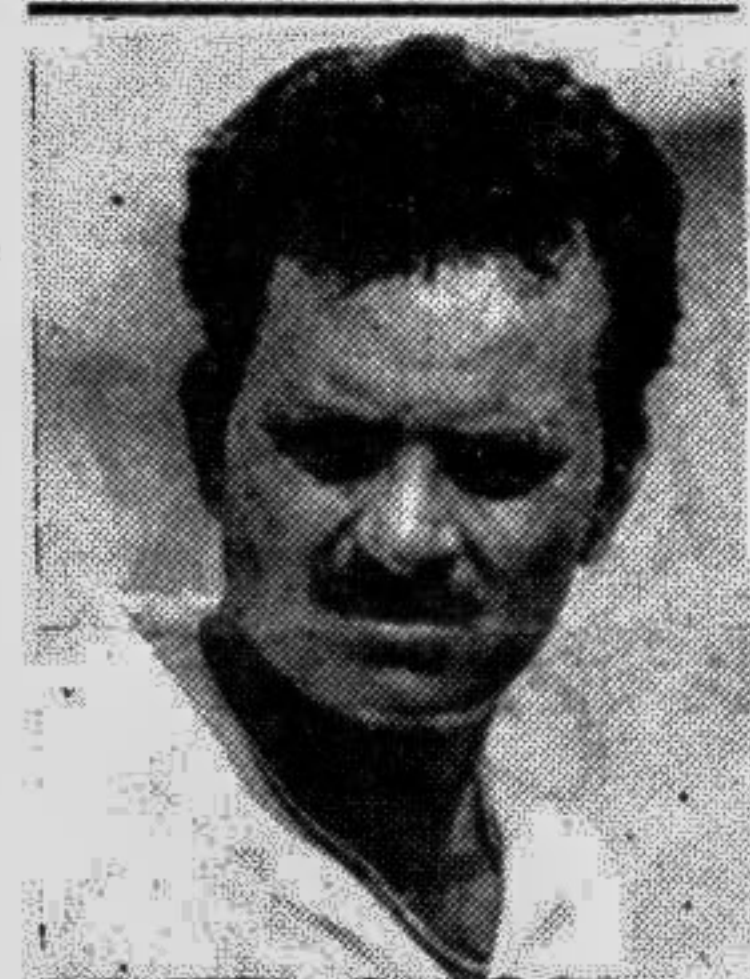
✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 6 pm  
Dec 18 '98, and draw  
shortly afterwards

1. National cricket team captain Aminul Islam will play this season for  
Biman | Mohammedan | Surjo Tarun
2. Who won the Premier league cricket title last season?  
Mohammedan | Kalabagan | Abahani
3. How many teams play in the Premier cricket 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 season?  
One      Two      Three

Name .....  
Class ..... Roll No. ....  
School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....  
POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## SPORTS TALK



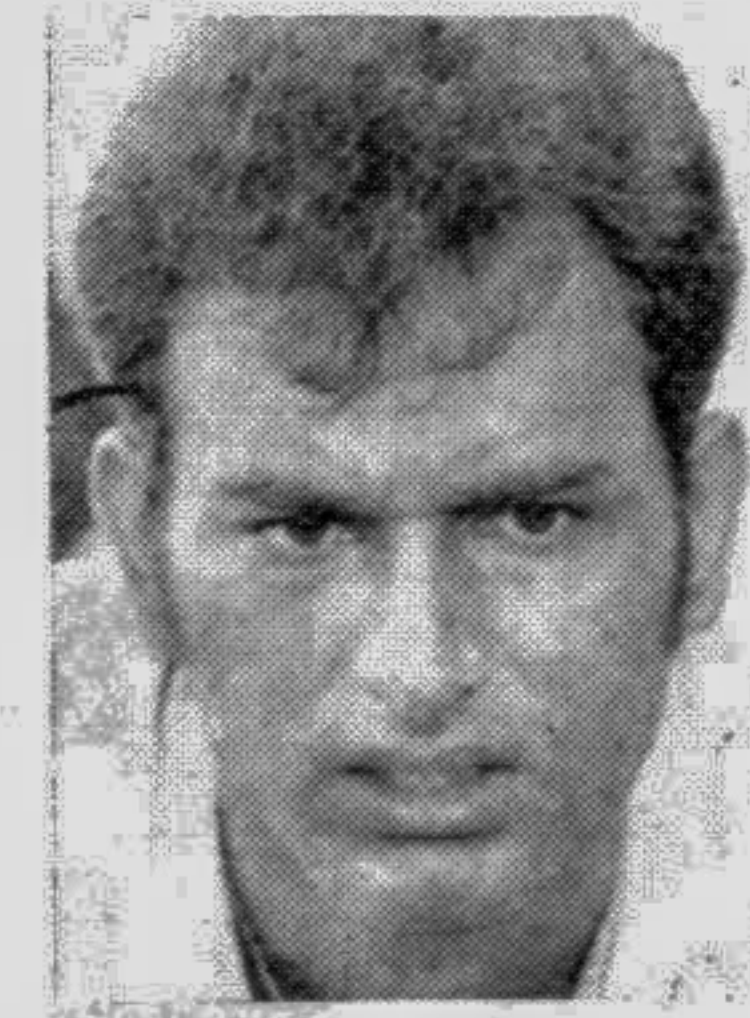
**Madan Lal**  
(Former India cricket coach)  
"We need two or three Tendulkars for the 1990s."

### Sohail quits captaincy

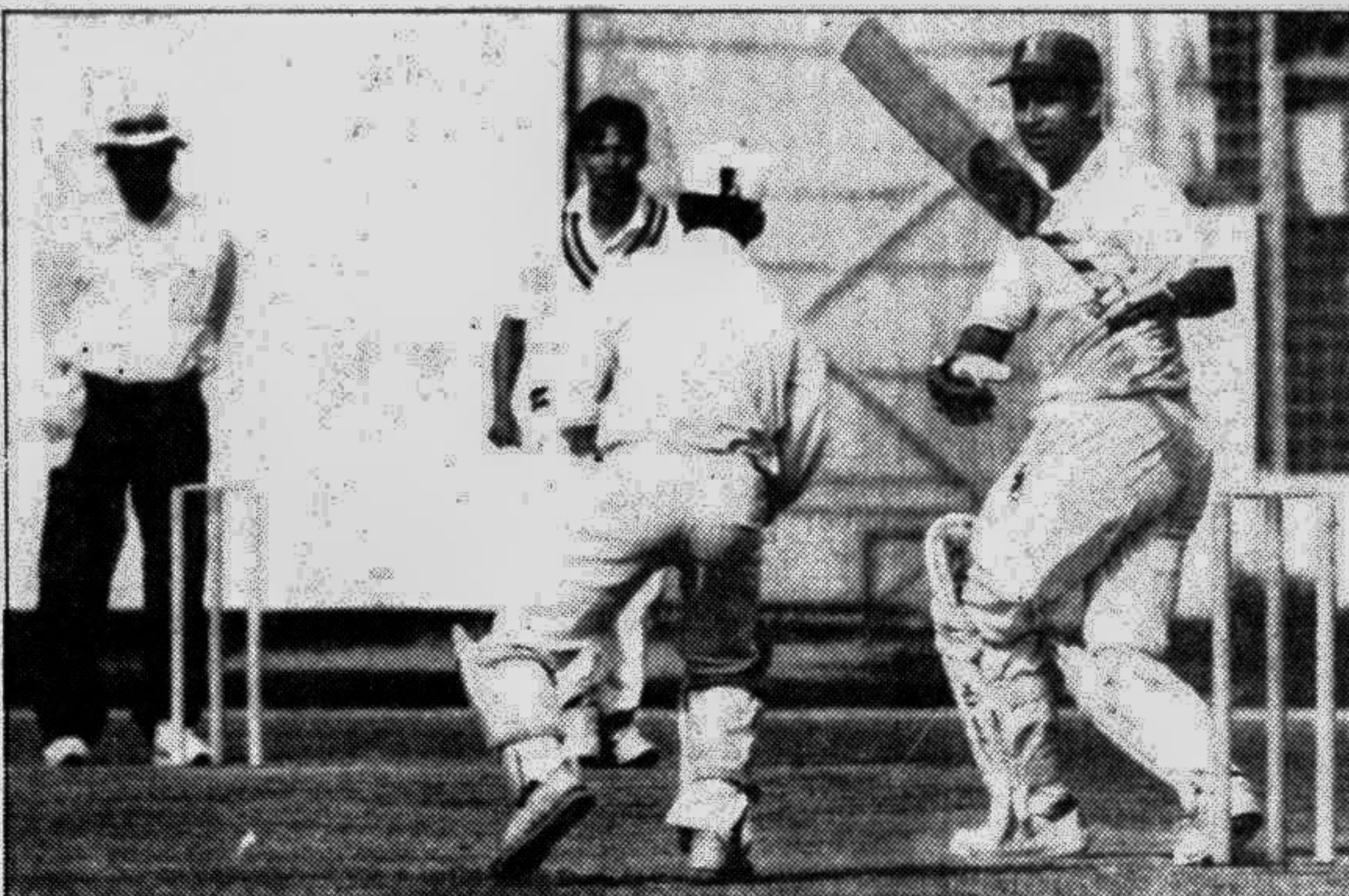
LAHORE, Dec 10 (AFP/Internet): Pakistan cricket captain Aamir Sohail stepped down as Pakistan captain before the start of the second Test against Zimbabwe Thursday, but officials denied suggestions he quit following a row with selectors.

Sohail withdrew after arguing with selector Salahuddin Ahmed over the choice of players after Salim Malik, who has been accused of match-fixing, was recalled for the Test, sources said.

On Wednesday Sohail argued with coach Javed Miandad at practice, witnesses said quoting him as saying: "You should look after the team practice and I do not know anything about it."



the second Test began. "We took him to the hospital as he vomited and had severe headache. He is now sleeping," Sohail's mother told the news agency. Sohail's position had been in doubt after Pakistan lost a three-Test home series against Australia and were then beaten by seven wickets in the first Test against Zimbabwe. But the Pakistan Cricket Board voted 9-3 at a meeting Wednesday to retain him. Sohail, who did not want Malik back in the side and had pushed for two other players, quit when his demands were not met, a source said. Sohail was fined and banned for two months in 1997 after a bitter row with the cricket board chief executive Majid Khan.



Kalabagan's Pakistani batsman Shahid Saeed looks back at Victoria wicketkeeper Kamal as the latter tries to collect the ball during their Janakantha Premier Division cricket league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## Brothers strongly poised Bagan, MSC recover well

A century partnership between opener Ehsanul Haque and one-down Jahangir Alam helped reigning runners-up Brothers Union to pile up a huge total against promotes Sadhan Bina Kirra Sangstha in one of the three Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches, which began at the Dhammondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In the other two matches, Kalabagan Kirra Chakra scored a fighting total of 292 against Victoria Sporting Club before they were all out in the last ball of the stipulated 80 overs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting scored 279 against Wari Club at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) ground in Savar.

In the BU-Bina match, Ehsan and Jahangir shared a 138-run partnership for the second wicket as Brothers, electing to bat first under skipper Khaled Mahmud won the toss in their league opener, reached a mammoth total of 341 before they were all out in the final over of their allotted 80.

Brothers lost their first wicket on 50 in the 17th over when national opener Shahriar Hossain was trapped leg before by Bina's new ball bowler Ali Jaki.

However, the early loss of Shahriar was well covered by Ehsan and Jahangir, who took the score to 190 before the earlier was out on 70 in the 38th over.

Jahangir, who scored 69 off 78 balls, followed him after adding another 25 runs with Sanwar in a third-wicket stand.

Wickets kept on falling at regular intervals after Jahangir's departure. But skipper Khaled Mahmud single-handedly throttled the Gopibagh outfit to pass the 300-mark with a breezy 66 off 40 balls.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, a brilliant 63 from middle-order Jubayer Ishtiaque propelled Kalabagan Kirra Chakra to 292 before they were all out in the last ball of their innings.

Coming in to bat at number six with Kalabagan reeling at 100 for 4 in the 36th over, Ishtiaque added 91 runs in the fifth wicket stand along with Pakistani batsman Shahid Saeed to help the lakeside outfit reach a respectable total at the end of the day.

The partnership was broken on 191 in the 60th over when Saeed was bowled by another Pakistani, off-spinner Shahwat Ali, after scoring exactly 50 off 96 balls inclusive of a huge six and two boundaries. Ishtiaque then added another 46 runs for the sixth wicket along with Mushfiqur Rahman before being bowled by Pakistani offie Ayaz Zilani. In his 114-ball innings, Ishtiaque hammered three boundaries.

Among others, one-down Sher Ali and lower middle-order Mushfiqur Rahman contributed with 37 runs each.

Victoria's new-ball bowler Zakir Hasan and left-arm spinner Mustadir Litu evenly shared six wickets. Zakir gave away 60 runs in 16 overs for his three wickets while captain Mustadir conceded 29 runs in seven overs for his three.

Away at the BKSP ground, Mohammedan, aided by a dazzling 88 from Kenyan Maurice Odumbe, posted a moderate 279 against their long standing nemesis Wari Club before being all out in 79.5 overs.

Odumbe, who arrived in the city along with Steve Tikolo on Wednesday, faced 130 balls. The Kenyan international clubbed four fours and three sixes, including a massive heave over mid-wicket that travelled all the way into the adjacent pond.

Mohammedan were in deep trouble with two down for 30 before Odumbe came to the rescue. His compatriot Tikolo, who



### SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the first day of the three Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches held in different venues yesterday:

#### BROTHERS UNION V AJAX SC

(Venue: Dhammondi Cricket Stadium)

#### BROTHERS UNION INNINGS

Shahriar lbw b Ali Jaki	20
Ehsanul c Islam b Moir	70
Jahangir c Tareque b A Hadi	69
Sanwar b Moir	38
S Sharma c Garry b Moir	13
K Mahmud c S Singh b T Islam	66
T Hossain c sub b Ali Jaki	13
Hasan c & b A Hadi	2
Wahid c sub b Ali Jaki	1
Shafuddin b A Hadi	0
Z Haque not out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-45)	49
Total: (all out in 79.2 overs)	341
Fall of wkts: 1-52; 2-190; 3-	

#### NBL v'ball

Sonali Bank tasted their first win in the National Bank Limited Premier Division volleyball league defeating Bangladesh Bank by straight sets (15-3, 15-13, 15-10) at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

In the First Division league, Brothers Union defeated East End Boys by 15-10, 16-14, 15-12 sets.

On Wednesday, Bangladesh Police beat Power Development Board by 16-14, 12-15, 12-15, 15-11, 15-6 points in the Premier Division while in the First Division Fire Service beat Nabagaran Sangha by 15-6, 15-4, 15-7 sets.

**Friday's Premier Division matches:** Bangladesh Police vs Wari Club (2:30 pm), Titus Club vs Power Development Board (4 pm).

**First Division matches:** Dilkusha SC vs Jiban Bina (2:30 pm), East End Club vs Fire Service (4 pm) and Nabagaran Sangha vs Shantibagh Welfare Association (5:30 pm).

### Army clinched nat'l boxing title

Bangladesh Army clinched the Sonali Bank 20th national senior boxing championship title at the Mohammed Ali Boxing Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Army finished the competition with 7 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals, followed by Bangladesh Ansars with 4 gold, one silver and 2 bronze medals. State Minister for the Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, Obaidul Quader distributed the prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Bangladesh Amateur Boxing Federation organised the meet, which began on December 7.

## Bangladeshis at the Asiad

BANGKOK, Dec 10: Bangladesh swimmer Mohammad Niaz Ali was eliminated from the Asian Games swimming competition when he finished 18th out of 19 in the men's 200-metre breaststroke heats at the Thammasat University Aquatic Centre today, reports BSS.

He clocked 2:39.82 minutes, which was worse than his previous timing of 2:35.26.

### GOLF

In golf, Bangladesh finished last out of 14 countries scoring 291 in the team event. Shawkatuz Zaman, Sadiq M Quddus and Saad Rahim Chowdhury scored 94, 95 and 102 respectively.

## AB Bank TT Super League

The six-team Super League of the AB Bank First Division Table Tennis will start at the Wooden-floor Gymnasium from today.

Three matches will be held on the opening day. Uttara Club will take on Wari Juniors; Engineers' Club will face Angels Club; and Swamibagh TTS will meet Dilkusha SC.

The five-team Senior Division Super League will commence from tomorrow.

Besides, the First Division Women's Table Tennis League, involving six teams, will commence at the same venue from tomorrow.

### Rajshahi cricket

RAJSHAH, Dec 10: Shaheed Zia Smriti Cricket team advanced to the semifinal of the 2nd Mayor Gold Cup tournament beating Friends Sporting Club by 85 runs at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Shaheed Zia Smriti scored 194 runs for eight in stipulated 45 overs.

In reply, Friends were all out for 109 in 45 overs losing 9 wickets.

Bidrut of the winning team was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Friday's 2nd quarterfinal: Provati Sangha vs Upashahar Cricket Club.

### Nike stands by Warne

SYDNEY, Dec 10 (Reuters/Internet): Australian cricketer Shane Warne's major sponsor Nike said on Thursday it did not condone Warne's actions in accepting money from an Indian bookmaker, but added that it stood by the tarnished star.

"In response to the recent revelations regarding cricketer Shane Warne we will continue our ongoing support of the Australian spin bowler," the U.S.-based sporting goods giant said in a statement.

"We do not, however, condone these actions in any way," Warne's sponsorship deal with Nike is believed to be worth an estimated \$620,000.

"We believe this was a serious misjudgement on Shane's behalf, however, he has been disciplined and subsequently fined by the Australian Cricket Board for his misconduct," Nike said.

Following discussions with Shane, we understand that he has chosen to resign from the Nike team in the past four years he has matured and learnt from his mistake," the company said.

"Throughout our relationship Shane has displayed loyalty and support. We will continue our partnership with him as he makes his way back into the Australian XI following his recent injury."

### From glory to the gutter

ADELAIDE, Dec 10 (Reuters/Internet): Shane Warne's admission that he accepted money from an Indian bookmaker as a tour of the subcontinent in 1994 marks the darkest point in the colourful career of Australia's golden boy of cricket.

Warne has never strayed far from controversy during his career but his involvement with the racketeers who run illegal gambling on the subcontinent is a blot on his reputation that may never be erased.

Already, at least one former Australian captain has called for him to be banned from playing for at least two years, while another has said the scandal has all but ended Warne's dream of ever captaining his country.

"Shane Warne should never be allowed to become captain of the Australian cricket team," sportswriter Ron Reed said in Melbourne's Herald-Sun newspaper on Thursday.

"No matter how great his achievements as a player, he has forfeited his right to be considered for Australian sport's most senior job..." Reed said.

The Australian newspaper on Thursday said: "Warne's actions show he's not leader material."

"Shane Warne must have seriously jeopardised his chances of becoming Australia's captain," wrote cricket writer Malcolm Conn in the national newspaper.

"One of Australia's best players may have sacrificed that special privilege by taking tainted money from an illegal Indian bookmaker four years ago," Conn said.

Warne's blonde hair and boyish good looks always ensured he would stand out in one of the world's most traditional sports.

He became an instant celebrity and a marketing man's dream from the moment he first wore his cream flannels for Australia against India in 1992.

Warne's appeal is based, however, not on his looks but on his ability. He is an inspiration of a match. Warne effectively became a strike bowler, often spearheading Australia's attack virtually from the start of a game.

He came from virtual obscurity to stamp himself as the most dominant bowler of the past six years, having taken 313 test wickets at an average of 24.69. He took five or more wickets in an innings on 14 occasions including career best figures of eight for 71 against England in 1994-95.

Warne's most famous delivery was in 1993 when he bowled former England captain Mike Gatting with his first delivery in Ashes cricket.

Gatting, a renowned player of spin, stood in astonishment as the ball from Warne pitched outside leg stump, spun back viciously and hit the top of the off stump.

Warne's success has made him a Ferrari-driving millionaire through sponsorship deals with major companies, though this has been offset by his run-ins with officials.

Warne has often fallen foul of cricket officials through his boisterous appeals and persistent sledging and once upset English fans and players with an over zealous reaction when Australia retained the Ashes in 1997.

Warne also stormed out of a news conference in Australia after a journalist queried him about his weight. More recently, he was fined by the Australian Cricket Board for breaching the code of conduct by publicly criticising an umpire.

But now the headlines dogging Warne are far more serious and will take a long time to fade.

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### Walsh beats Botham

SA tail irks Windies

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South Africa, reduced to 142 for seven at one stage, were 223 for eight when bad light forced an early close on the opening day.

Off-spinner Symcox made an unbeaten 30 as he put on 33 for the eighth wicket with wicketkeeper Mark Boucher (17) and then added 48 in an unfinished ninth wicket stand with Allan Donald, who made 27 not out.

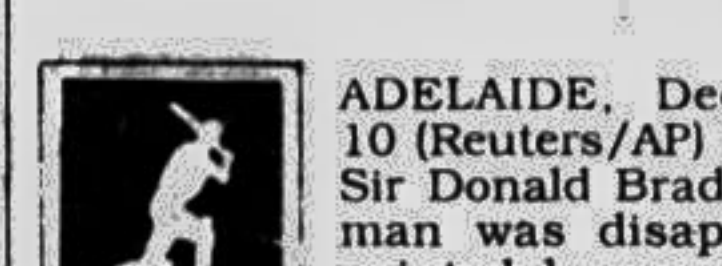
West Indies had been given the initiative by Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who shared five of the wickets.



West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh celebrating the fall of Herschelle Gibbs on the first day of the second Test at Port Elizabeth yesterday. — Internet photo

## Furore over 'cricket-gate' scandal

## 'The Don' disappointed



ADELAIDE, Dec 10 (Reuters/AP): Sir Donald Bradman was disappointed by news that Shane Warne and Mark Waugh had accepted money from an Indian bookmaker, Australian captain Mark Taylor said today.

"I think he was a little disappointed, yes," Taylor told reporters after meeting Bradman. "But typical Don Bradman, he did not make any rash statements."

Australian cricket is in turmoil after Warne and Waugh admitted being paid thousands of dollars for giving a bookmaker information on weather and pitch conditions during a 1994 tour of Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Warne and Waugh were fined by the Australian Cricket Board in early 1995, but a cover-up of the incident has sparked calls for the players to be banned and for a full inquiry. The ACB has rejected any further action.

Taylor met Bradman, who turned 90 in August, at his home in Adelaide on Wednesday to talk about Taylor's record batting form against Pakistan.

Taylor earned a tribute from the world's best batsman, for passing up a chance to beat Bradman's 68-year-old record for Australia's highest Test score.

"He thanked me for not going past the score," Taylor said.

Taylor smashed an unbeaten 334 against Pakistan in October to match Bradman's 334 against England in 1930.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister suddenly appeared on nationwide television, standing solemnly in front of an Australian flag, to say "something that's going to deeply disturb Australians."

Though John Howard's demeanor was solemn enough for an announcement of the death of the Queen, he spoke of something far deeper and more dear to Aussies than Her Majesty — the scandal engulfing Australian cricket.

Newspapers, broadcasters and Australians in the street were incandescent with rage Thursday.

The aspect that enraged most people even more though, was

that the Australian Cricket Board kept the matter secret until this week — a case of cricket-gate.

"The Australian Cricket Board is guilty of hypocrisy in its attitude to cricket's gambling problem. The board has pressed for an inquiry into allegations of match-fixing in Pakistan while engaging in a concerted cover-up of its own betting scandal," The Australian national newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

"Australia mourns as the game falls from its pedestal," cried the Sydney Morning Herald's headline Thursday.

The Australian team has bested Britain for years, but this scandal turned two of the top Aussie players from 'heroes

grace," referring to the Australian dollar payments the bookie gave Warne and Waugh during the 1994 tour of Sri Lanka.

Both players admitted they were "naive and stupid" at a news conference Wednesday, then denied they had even taken a bribe or thrown a match and walked out without answering questions from reporters.

"Ashamed — And So You Bloody Well Should Be!" read the headline in the tabloid Daily Telegraph of Sydney on Thursday. Its editorial was headlined, "Wounding the soul of a nation."

In the nation's Parliament, opposition senators said they could consider staging an inquiry next year if they were dissatisfied with the Australian Cricket Board's handling of the Mark Waugh-Shane Warne saga.

"If there's still an inadequate response, it may be appropriate for the Parliament to have a look at it," Australian Democrats sports spokesman Andrews Bartlett said.

"Unfortunately, one skeleton's been found, what else is there?" he asked.

"I believe this may be cricket's biggest crisis since 1817," wrote Matthew Engel, editor of Wisden Cricketers' Almanac, considered the "Bible" of cricket, in an essay in the Herald.

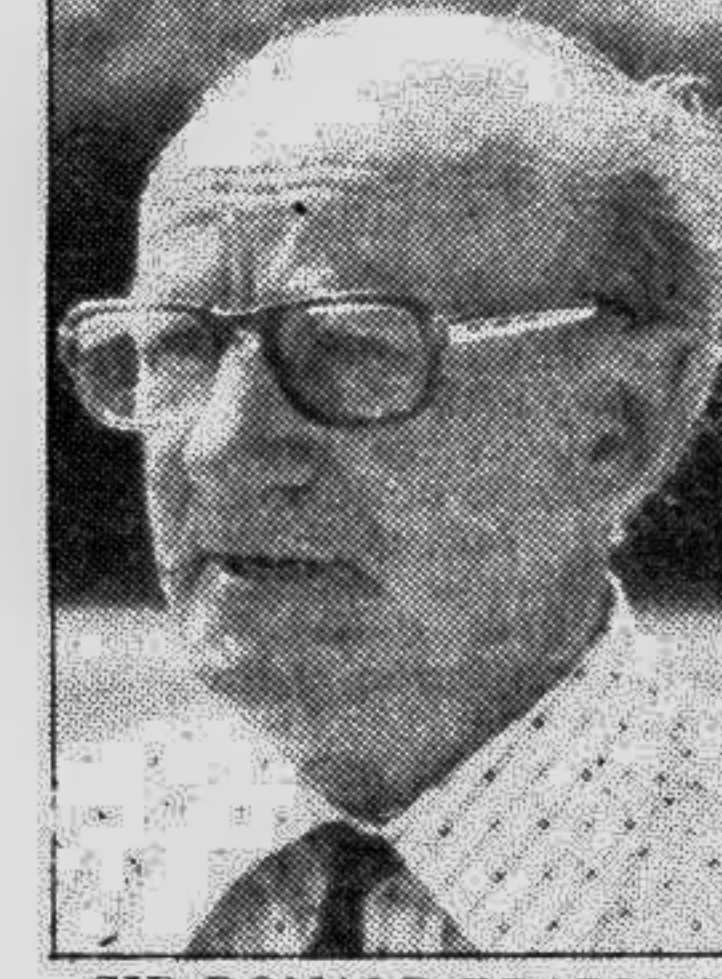
"This calls into question the whole morality of the game, the concept of what is and is not cricket," Engel wrote.

"So what happened in 1817? The same thing. Cricket rose to prominence in England in the 18th century as a gambling game. Eventually, the betting overwhelmed the sport. Corruption took over," he said.

"Bookies were banned — until 1973."

Two weeks before Christmas, most Australians seem to feel the same way they did after they learned, at some age, that Santa Claus was a hoax — disillusioned, enraged, ashamed at their own gullibility.

They will go on to celebrate Christmas, and they will keep on attending cricket matches, but only with a sense of innocence lost.



SIR DONALD BRADMAN

into zeros overnight" in the eyes of most people, the Australian Broadcasting Corp said.

The Prime Minister, an avid cricket fan was stunned by the disclosures.

"I would imagine that, given the great passion that Australians have for cricket, there's an intense feeling of disappointment about the whole issue," Howard said.

"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," he said, with considerable understatement.

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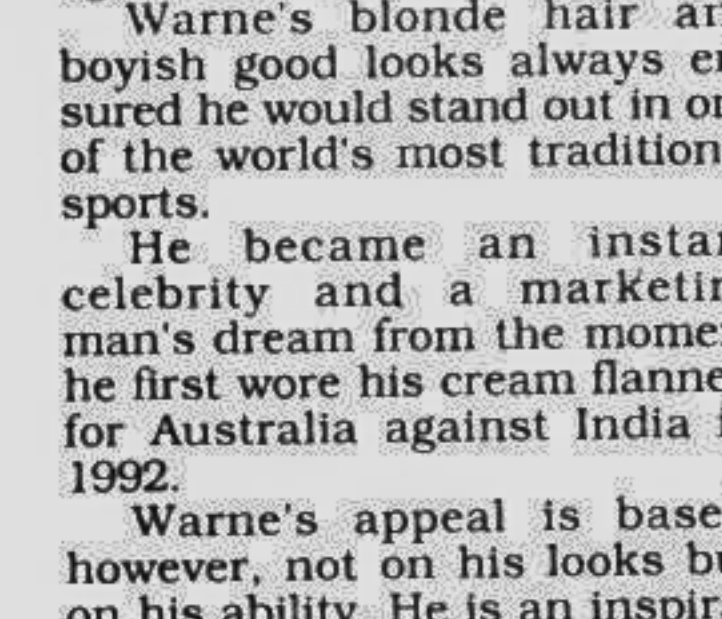
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SHANE WARNE

tion to a generation of cricket followers around the world.

Already recognised as one of the greatest leg-spinners in history, Warne has brought a fresh dimension to the art of slow bowling.

Although one of the key roles of a spinner is to exploit a wearing pitch in the later stages

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