

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor, does)

That 'stock cars' were very similar to conventional cars when this type of racing first began soon after World War II. But soon the only similarity between a stock car and a conventional car was the outer-body shell, which on stock cars resembled those of popular street cars manufactured by such companies as Buick, Chevrolet, Ford, Pontiac, and Oldsmobile. Underneath the shell, stock cars came to be pure racing machines, only slightly less sophisticated than single-seaters. They are closed-wheeled and closed-cockpitted, with hoods, bumpers, and grilles. Stock cars originally ran on beaches and on dirt tracks. Now stock cars run on paved ovals and, in major events, on high-banked super speedways. The major stock car racing events are the 500-mile Daytona 500, run annually in Daytona Beach, and the 600-mile World 600, run annually in Charlotte, North Carolina. The major racing series in stock-car racing is called the Winston Cup.

The appeal of stock car racing to fans comes with the idea of supposed streetcars running close together at speeds of up to 200 mph (322 km/h).

And I always thought these were cars from some rich guy's stock.

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 Aminul Islam will play this season for	
2. Who won the Premier league cricket title last season?	
3. How many teams play in the Premier league this season?	
4. How many overs will be played per side in the Premier league this season?	
5. How many venues will be used for the Premier league this year?	

Name

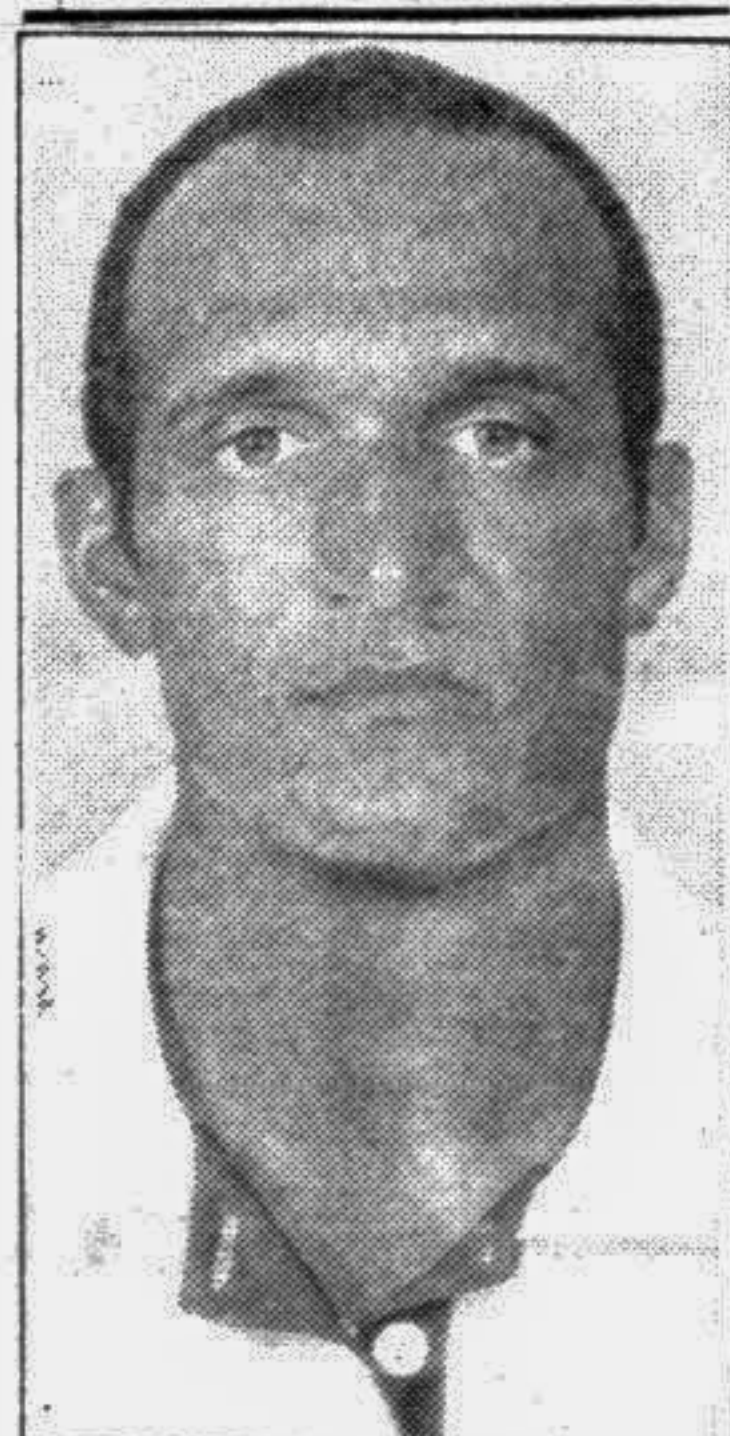
Class Roll No.

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POWERED WITH
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ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Mark Butcher
England Test opener
"At the end of the day, you're on your own."

V-Day carrom held

The Victory Day carrom competition concluded at the Dhaka University gymnasium yesterday, reports APB.

AFM Ehteshamul Haque of Dhaka University emerged as champion, while Kamran Hossain of Pallina Sangsad, Malibagh became runner-up in the singles. The three-day long tournament was organised by the Bangladesh Carrom Association (BCA).

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Guader attended the prize giving ceremony as chief guest and distributed trophies among the winners.

Abahani canter, BU sweat Kalabagan Warried

Sports Reporter



The Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League offered mixed fortunes for the biggies at different city venues yesterday.

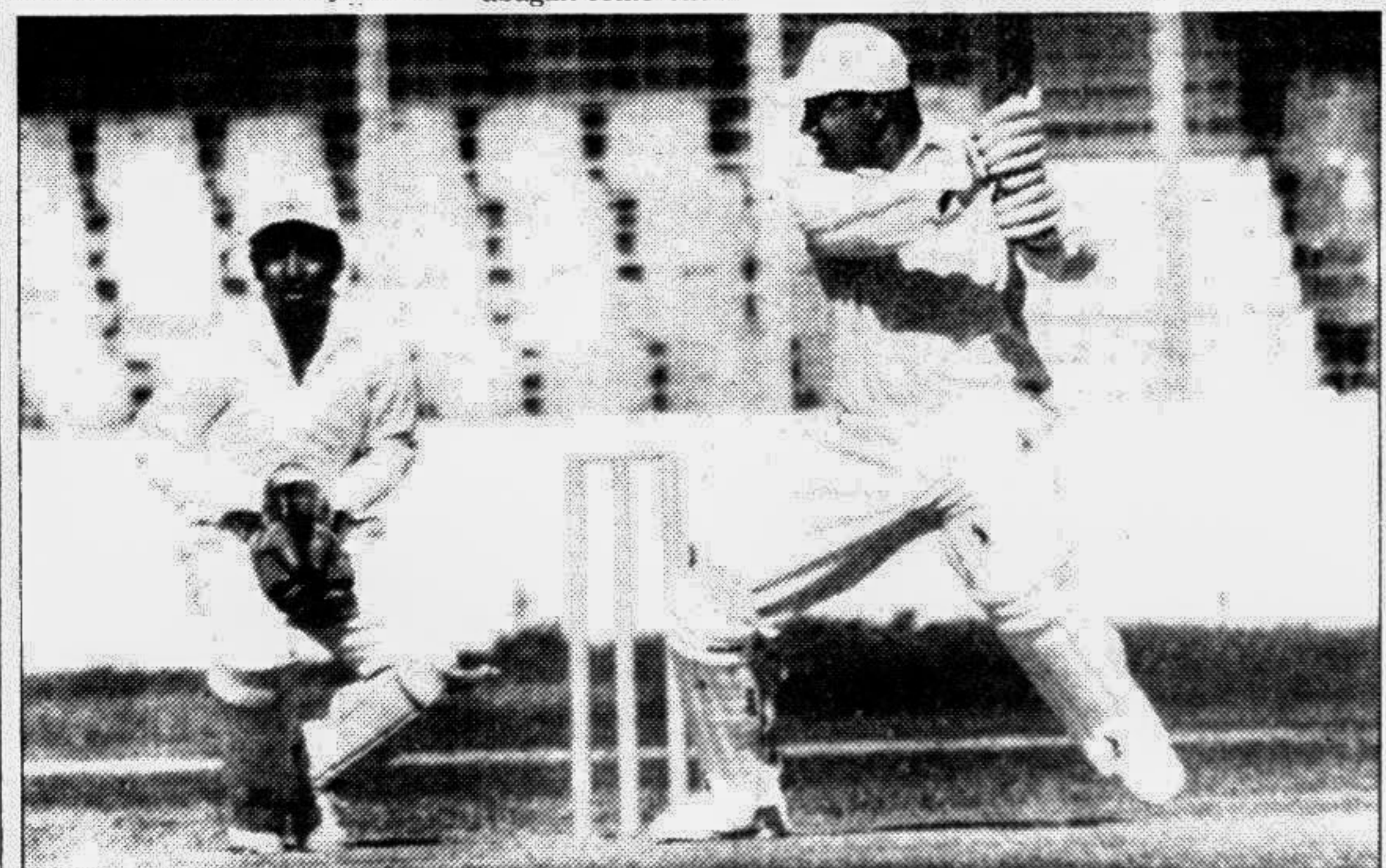
At the Bangabandhu National Stadium an upset was the order of the day when lowly-rated Wari Club handed title contenders Kalabagan KC a stinging 58-run defeat.

Last year's runners-up Brothers Union posted a sensational two-run win against Victoria SC at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

But, belying the expectations of their rivals, Abahani recorded an impressive 86-run win over promoters Sadharan Bima at the BKSP ground in Savar.

Holders Abahani, defending a meagre 206 on a dicey wicket

only 19 from where they never really recovered. Mahabubur Rahman Selim with 64 and Pakistan Shahid Saeed, who made 34, tried to mend the early damage putting on 73 runs for the fourth wicket. But both departed in quick succession evaporating the glimmer of hope of a Kalabagan come-back.



Kalabagan's Shahid Saeed cuts.

at the BKSP, shot Sadharan Bima out for a meagre 120 in 46.4 overs to celebrate their second successive victory.

Resuming the day on 20 for two, Sadharan Bima were bundled out 11 minutes after the lunch break in the face of some fired-up bowling from national right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain, who returned with a four-wicket haul.

Hasibul, who scored a vital 37 in Abahani's moderate total before striking twice in the final session on Tuesday, mopped up the Bima tail to finish with 29 for four in his 14 venomous overs.

He was ably supported by left-arm spinner Masud, who took three wickets for 19 in his nine overs.

For Bima, skipper Babu scored highest 36. Totam (15) Rajinder Singh (13) and Tareq (10) were the other double digit scorers for the vanquished.

BU SURVIVE A SCARE
But the day's thriller was played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium where Victoria, chasing a fighting Brothers total of 306 for nine in the stipulated 80 overs, ended up with 304 for nine in their allotted overs.

Victoria needed 12 runs from the last six deliveries, but they could manage only ten, letting their more colourful opponents off the hook. But it would have been a different story had Imran, who fought a lone battle with an unbeaten 70, got the much-needed support from the other end.

Victoria were well on course when they raced on to 224 in 61.3 overs with their opener Moniruzzaman and Imran in full flow. But the rot started when Monir, on 92 off 200 balls, embellished with nine fours, was caught in the covers off spinner Sanwar Hossain. Within three more overs Victoria slipped to 234 for six. There were still hopes for Victoria when Jewel Hossain put on 30 runs for the seventh wicket with Imran.

But once Jewel ran himself out while chasing a non-existent third run, Victoria's hopes were virtually dashed.

Although Victoria buckled under pressure in the crunch hour, Wari lived up to their reputation as giant-slayers when the Motijheel outfit, defending a huge 321 for six, restricted Kalabagan to 263 for nine in the 80-overs-a-side affair.

It was Wari's first win in two outings.

Tariq, who made most of the sloppy fielding and bizarre catching to score the second ton in the league this season, added another feather to his cap on Tuesday by claiming two wickets for 77 runs in his allotted 16 overs.

SCOREBOARDS
Final scoreboards of the three Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches ended in different venues yesterday.

Kalabagan KC v Wari Club
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

WARI CLUB: Overnight 321 for six in 80 overs (Tareq Mahmood 105, Asadullah 66; Fahim 2/42)

Kalabagan Innings
Sajid c Mukhter c A Wasim 4
Harun c Mukhter b Zahid 0
Sher Ali run out 34
Mahmud c Asad b T Mahmood 64
S Saeed b T Mahmood 34
Zakaria c Mukhter b Sajid 28
Mushfiq c Mukhter b Monirul 10
Fahim b Nasim 22
Saful run out 22
Masud not out 28
Sharfuddin not out 26
Extras: (lb-4, w-22) 26
Total: (For 9 wickets in 80 overs) 263
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-19; 3-60; 4-147; 5-148; 6-166; 7-204; 8-212; 9-229

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Artful	4	0	12	0
Zahid	6	1	20	1
Monirul	14	0	52	1
A Wasim	16	4	25	1
Nasim	16	1	52	1
T Mahmood	16	0	77	2
Sajid Das	8	1	21	1

Result: Wari Club won by 58

Abahani v Sadharan Bima

(Venue: BKSP)
ABAHANI: 206 all out in 76.1 overs (Akram Khan 55, Hasibul 37; R Singh 3/32)

S BIMA: Overnight 20 for 2 in 13 overs

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Farooq b Hasibul	8	0	5	0
Moin c Masud b Hasibul	5	0	15	0
Totam c Al-Shahriar b Masud	15	0	36	0
Babu lbw b Masud	36	0	0	0
Garry c Al-Shahriar b Hasibul	0	0	13	0
R Singh lbw b Iqbal	13	0	1	0
Saiful c Naimur b Masud	1	0	10	0
Mintu c Al-Shahriar b Naimur	0	0	10	0
Tareq c Azam b Hasibul	10	0	0	0
M Ali not out	0	0	0	0
A Hadi did not bat	0	0	0	0
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-2, w-14)	24	0	0	0
Total: (All out in 46.4 overs)	120	0	0	0
Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-16; 3-68; 4-73; 5-76; 6-96; 7-97; 8-115; 9-				

Result: Abahani won by 86 runs.

Brothers Union v Victoria SC
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

BROTHERS' UNION: Overnight 306 for 9 in 80 overs (Shahriar 82, Sohail 59, Sanwar 56; Sabir Khan 3/37)

VICTORIA SC INNINGS
Moniruzzaman c Wahidul b Sanwar 92

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Hasibul	14	3	29	4
Iqbal	14	7	28	1
Naimur	2	0	3	0
Naimur	2	0	11	1
Akram Khan	2	0	9	0
Saiful	3	0	13	0
Masud Rana	9	3	19	3

Result: Brothers Union won by 2 runs.

Biman catches Leonine

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Biman joined holders Leonine Chess Club at the top of the First Division chess league table when they outplayed Ansars 4-0 in their eighth round clash held at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Biman's three International Masters --Ziaur Rahman, Reefat-bin-Satter and Abdullah Al-Rakib won their respective boards against Ansars' Ali Amjad Mintu, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and Imon while FIDE Master Tahmidul completed the clean sweep defeating Shawkat Hossain Pallab in the last board.

Biman and Leonine each has 27 points at the end of round eight.

Leonine, who had a lone point lead over Biman before yesterday's round, lost their sole lead despite winning 3-1 against Nakhpalpara Jubo Sangha.

Titas Club remained third in the table with 22 points.

In yesterday's round, they posted a 3-1 win over Mahakhali Prodeep Sangha.

In the other matches of the day, Sonali Bank blanked Anushil Daba Krira Chakra 4-0. Narayanjan Daba Khelwar Samiti beat Farashganj Sporting Club 3.5-5. Dhaka University defeated Brothers Union by identical margin while Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan O. Krira Sangstha registered a 3-1 victory over West Jatrabari Krira Chakra.

The ninth round starts at the same venue this afternoon.

Today's matches

Leonine CC v Brothers Union

Biman v Farashganj SC

Titas Club v Sonali Bank

Kamalapur SKKS v Anushil DKO

Kakahali PS v Nakhpalpara JKS

Narayanjan DKS v West Jatrabari KC

Dhaka University v Ansars

Bangladeshis at the Asiad

BANGKOK, Dec 15 (UNB/BSS): Two-time silver medalists Bangladesh were struggling for a medal, even a bronze, despite two wins in the 13th Asian Games kabaddi competition against Nepal and Thailand today at the Srirachong Complex in Nakhon Nayok Province, some 78 kms from here.

Bangladesh were declared winners against Nepal in the morning as the team from the Himalayan kingdom did not turn up for their fourth match following three successive defeats.

In the other match, Bangladesh overwhelmed the hosts 84-13 with eight creditable 'lonas' after dominating the first half 44-6 in the afternoon.

Chairman of the Games' technical committee M Monir Hossain of Bangladesh told UNB that Nepal would be scratched from the competition because of their abstention and their previous three matches treated as 'no result'.

To win a medal Bangladesh — the Beijing and Hiroshima Asian Games runners-up — will depend on many 'ifs' in the two remaining matches tomorrow between Pakistan and Japan and ICS encounter against Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh will have to beat emerging force Sri Lanka by a good margin and their hope for a narrow Japanese defeat against Pakistan.

If Sri Lanka win they will claim the bronze instead. Meanwhile, holders India clinched their third successive gold in kabaddi with an all-win record as they trounced Sri Lanka by 76-13 points today after leading the first half 40-5 at the same venue.

HOCKEY

Bangladesh will play hosts Thailand in the ninth place play-off of the hockey competition at Pathum Thani Province tomorrow.

Both Bangladesh and Thailand finished fifth in Group B and A respectively in the preliminary round.

ATHLETICS

Bangladesh will complete their Asian Games engagement on Thursday with Mahboob Alam taking part in men's 200-metre sprint and Eliasuddin in 5,000 metre run.

Earlier, Mahboob reached the semifinal of the 100-metre heat while Elias failed to complete the 10,000 metre.

Rajshahi cricket

RAJSHAH, Dec 15: Shaheed Zia Smriti Cricket team moved into the final defeating Mithu Ainul Smriti Cricket team by 56 runs at the local college ground today, reports UNB.

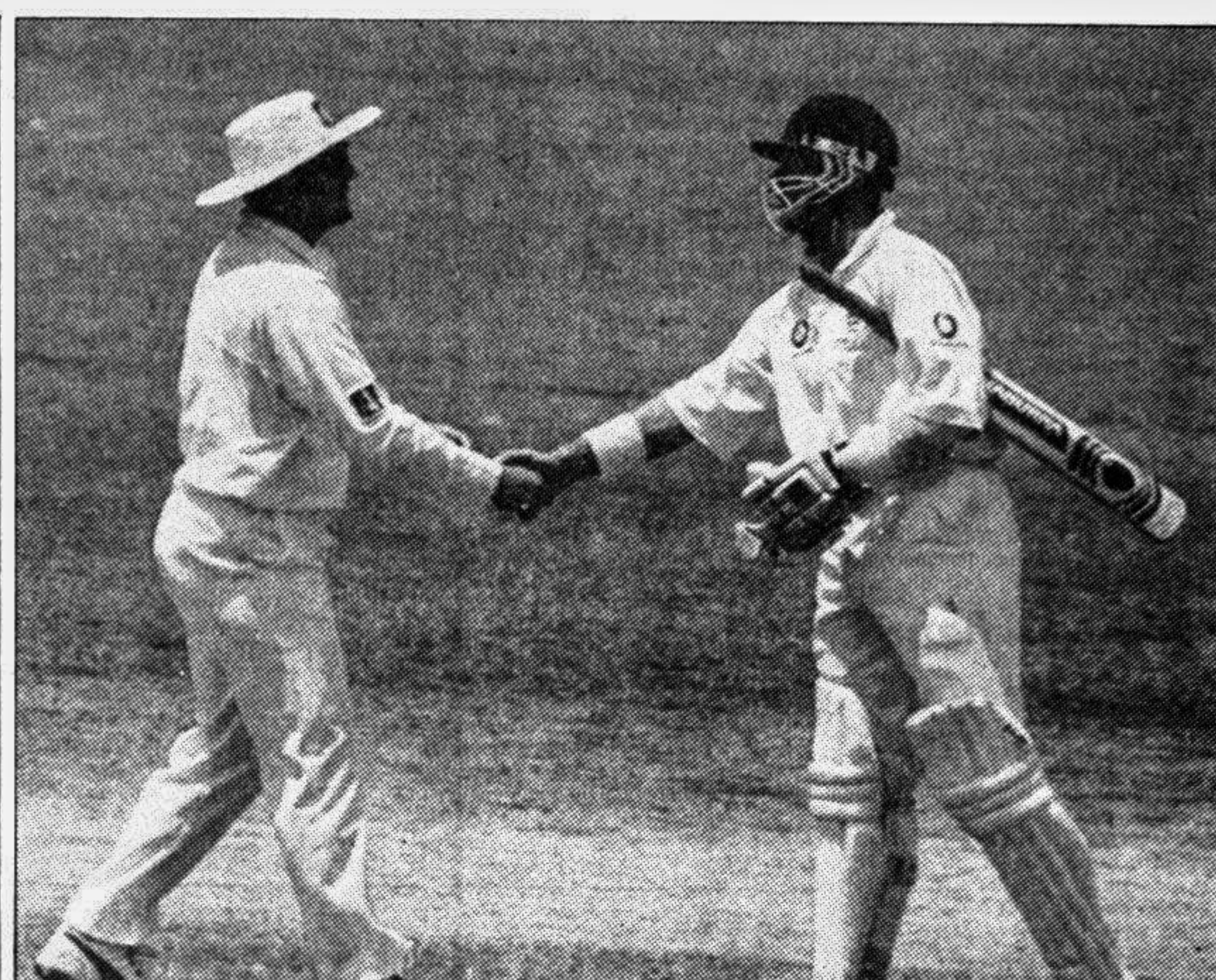
Opting to bat first, Shaheed Zia Smriti team piled up 222 runs for all in 44.3 overs.

In reply, Mithu Ainul team scored 166 for all in 38.5 overs.

V-Day pair bridge

Victory Day pair bridge competition will be held of the Dhaka Club today from 10 am, reports BSS.

Players, who want to participate in the competition, have been urged to register their names by 9-30 am today at the club premises.



YOU WIN AGAIN: England skipper Alex Stewart (R) congratulating his opposite number Mark Taylor after the Australians have beaten the tourists on the final day of the third Test at Adelaide yesterday.

Aussies smoke England, keep the Ashes



ADELAIDE, Dec 15: Australia trounced England by a mammoth 205 runs to retain the Ashes for a record equalising sixth successive time at the Adelaide Oval on Tuesday, reports AP.

Fast bowler Glenn McGrath triggered another collapse either side of lunch on the last day as England, chasing a mammoth 443 runs to win, was bowled out for 237 runs just 24 minutes after the break.

Once McGrath claimed last man Peter Such leg before wicket, jubilant Australian players rushed together and jumped into a group hug, later they pulled out the stumps to keep as mementos.

"It hurts a lot," skipper Alec Stewart said after the humiliating defeat. "We came here with the intention of regaining the Ashes but we haven't played to our full potential. We have under-performed in this series so far."

Stewart top-scored for England with an unbeaten 63 as his side lost 5-16 off 27 balls in 24 minutes after resuming the day on 122 for four.

"When it comes to the crunch we haven't performed. They are the best side in the world and when they get in winning positions they stay in winning positions."

"We have good patches but we don't have enough good patches. Australia batted and bowled better than us. I've played in a losing Ashes side for the last 10 years and it hurts."

England's second-innings collapse followed the first innings debacle of losing 7-40 in just 64 minutes on the third morning.

"If our top seven batsmen can get the runs on the board, you can't expect the tail to do it for you," Stewart added. "The difference in the two sides have been the tail. Our's hasn't waggled at all in the last few years."

Stewart refused to agree that English cricket has deteriorated.

"What I believe is that the other countries have improved. We have to produce cricketers with mental strength and talent."

The turning point of the game came with swing-specialist Damien Fleming producing a reverse swinger to upend the prized-wicket of Mark Ramprakash for 57.

But Stewart with his first major contribution in the series and John Crawley (33) took the side within two balls of the break when disaster struck.

Crawley's edge to second slip Mark Waugh began triggered the collapse.

McGrath armed with the second new ball took 4-15 in 21 balls to hurry an Australian win. He finished with 4-50 and

enjoys an Ashes tally of 58 wickets in 11 Tests.

Justin Langer, who complemented his career-best unbeaten 179 with a fine 52 in the second innings was voted man-of-the-match.

Mark Taylor, with his 25th win in 48 Tests as captain, said his side enjoyed the "mental edge" over their opponents and had enjoyed doing it without bowler Shane Warne.

"We have certainly got the mental edge over England, there is no doubt about that, and that comes from a number of good performances over the last 10 years or so," said Taylor.

"The pattern has been set in the series with two Tests remaining. It is a feeling of relief as well as a great thrill after the disappointment in Brisbane."

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"Lot of us treat the Ashes se-

ries very highly. We have taken on different challenges in world cricket and Ashes is a very special one."

Taylor felt there was an "enormous gulf" between the two sides because of Australia's depth.

"There are a lot of players outside keeping the pressure on everyone in the current team," said Taylor. "That's the reason we are so strong."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the third Ashes cricket Test between Australia and England on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 391 (Langer 179 not out, Taylor 59, S Waugh 59; Headley 4-97, Such 3-99, Gough 3-103)

ENGLAND: First innings 227 (Hussain 89 not out, Ramprakash 61; MacGill 4-53)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 278-5 dec (Slater 103, Langer 52, M Waugh 52, Taylor 29; Gough 2-76, Such 2-66, Headley 1-78)

ENGLAND: Second innings (122-4 overnight) Butcher c Healy b Fleming 19
Atherton c M Waugh b Miller 5
Hussain lbw b Miller 41
Ramprakash b Fleming 57
Headley c M Waugh b Miller 2
Stewart not out 63
Crawley c M Waugh b McGrath 13
Hick c Ponting b McGrath 0
Gough c Healy b McGrath 0
MacGill c Healy b Fleming 4
Such lbw b McGrath 0
Extras: (b-7, lb-9, nb-14) 30
Total: (all out in 89 overs) 237

Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-31; 3-120; 4-122; 5-163; 6-221; 7-221; 8-231; 9-236.

Bowler: O M R W
McGill 17 0 50 4
Fleming 21 3 56 3
Miller 24 1 57 3
MacGill 25 8 55 0
S Waugh 2 1 3 0

Result: Australia won by 205 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Justin Langer.

Umpires: Steve Davis (Australia) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies).

Referee: John Reid (New Zealand).

First Test in Brisbane: Drawn.

Second Test in Perth: Australia won by seven wickets.

Fourth Test in Melbourne: December 26-30.

Fifth Test in Sydney: January 2-6.

Success lies in the mind



LONDON, Dec 15 (Reuters/Internet): Demoralised England cricketers take note: success lies at least partly in the mind.

British psychologists said in a report on Tuesday that cricketers wanting to improve their game should focus more on their mood. A study of 33 professional county cricketers showed that batsmen who "engaged with their problems" were more focused and scored more runs, while tense bowlers had worse averages.

"Players who were happier, more focused, more energetic and enthusiastic performed better," Dr Peter Totterdell of the University of Sheffield, in northern England, said in an interview.

Each cricketer rated his mood and performance on a pocket calculator three times a day for up to four days during a championship game. They recorded how tense, confident and enthusiastic they felt and how well they thought they batted or bowled.

Totterdell analysed the data and correlated it with their performance. He found that some players performed better while

tense, while others did