

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That 'off-road racing' first blossomed in California in the 1960s. As the name implies, in off-road racing there are no formal courses, only rudimentary trails. Spectators gather at a few points to see the cars, but because of the difficulty of charging admission to such events and because of the demands off-road racing makes on drivers and machines, limited commercialisation has taken place in the sport. The financial requirements of providing logistic support for the race car results in well-financed teams dominating main events, such as the Baja 500 and the Mexican 1000, both run on the Baja peninsula in Mexico. While old cars and vehicles cobbled together from automobile and motorcycle components were once used in off-road racing, off-road racers have evolved into carefully designed, extremely expensive racing cars capable of surviving competition in the desert. A recreational sport and industry has grown out of off-road racing, involving dune buggies and off-road vehicles used for recreation.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-108

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

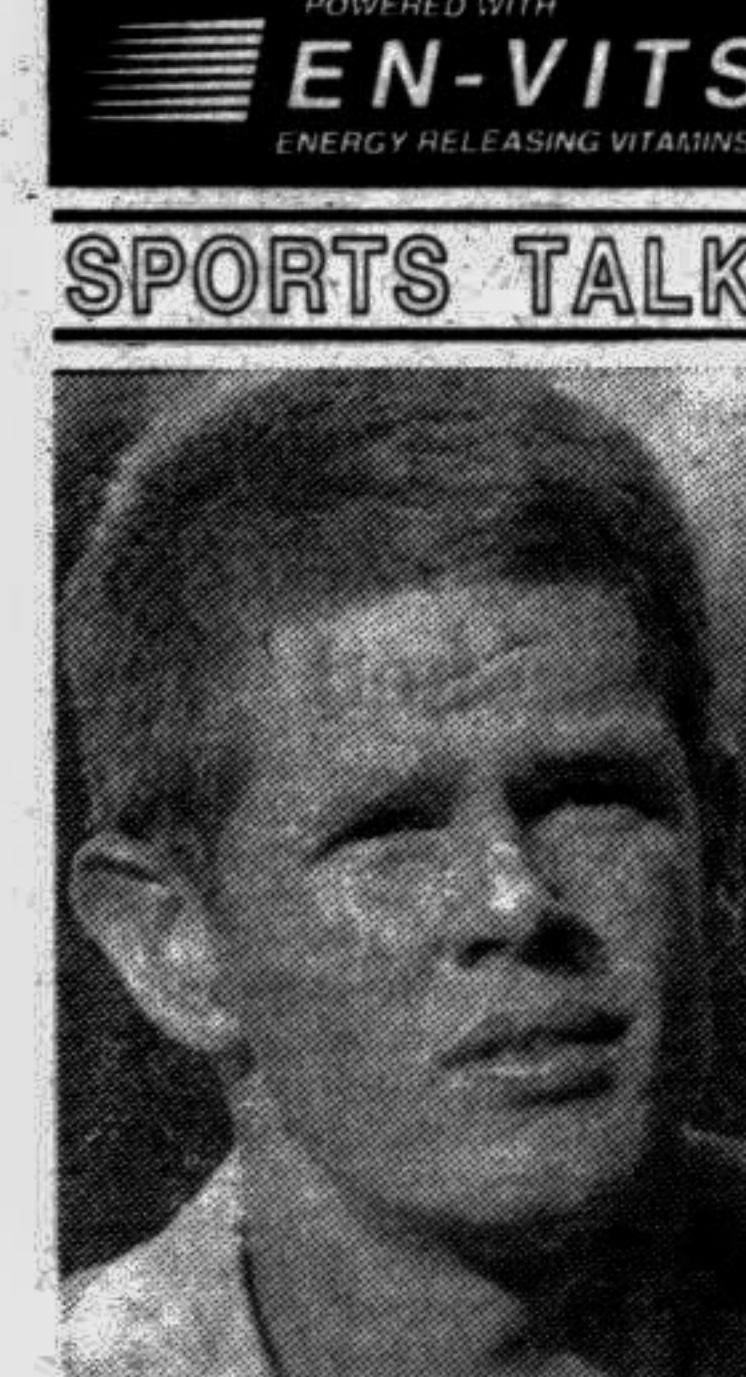
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 25 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

- National cricket team captain Aminul Islam will play this season for
Biman | Mohammed | Surjo Tarun
- Who won the Premier league cricket title last season?
Mohammed | Kalabagan | Abahani
- How many teams play in the Premier league?
10 8 12
- How many overs will be played per side in the Premier league this season?
50 80 100
- 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



Shaun Pollock
(South African fast bowler)
The 100 wickets is something very special because bowling is my main job... but the runs are a great bonus.
After achieving the coveted double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in Test cricket.

Final Test fogged off

ISLAMABAD, Dec 20: Zimbabawe were virtually assured to win their first ever series outside home after dense fog prevented play for the fourth successive day in the third and final Test against Pakistan in Faisalabad on Sunday, reports AP.
Umpires Doug Cowie and Salim Badar called off the day's play in the morning session as there was no chance of improvement in dense fog and fading light.
The fog and poor visibility had so far not allowed a single ball to be bowled at the Iqbal Stadium. It will be third time for Pakistan when their Test will be abandoned without a ball being bowled. Pakistan's 1993-94 Test against Sri Lanka was abandoned because of curfew in Colombo while in 1988-89 a Test against New Zealand at Dunedin was washed out due to rain.

Bagan escapes humility with Mahbub's knock

Nasir does one-third for MSC

Sports Reporter

Nasirul Alam hammered his maiden ton in domestic cricket as Mohammedan Sporting had half the job done in their bid to record three consecutive victories in the Janakantha Premier League when they piled up a huge 330 against Ajax at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
Meanwhile Kalabagan, aided by an unbeaten century from Mahabubur Rahman, recovered from a terrible start to a fighting 246 against Agrani Bank at the BKSP in Saver.



Young right-handed batsman Nasir, who scored more than five hundred runs for Agrani Bank last season, put

vious match, cheaply.
Away at the BKSP, Mahabubur Rahman Selim came up with a timely unbeaten 105 to compile a fighting score. Still smarting from their stinging defeat at the hands of Wari, Kalabagan were destined for another debacle when they were reeling at 86 for five before Mahabub came up with the welcome century.
Considered as a fine player, the right-handed middle-order batsman from Mymensingh seemed to have rediscovered his touch after a turbulent last season. He hammered eleven fours in his 190-ball uncon-

Mohammedan vs Ajax
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)
MOHAMMEDAN INNINGS
Rashedul c Tomal b A Islam 16
Shahed c Ripon b A Islam 4
Tikolo lbw b R Islam 51
Nasirul c Sanchay b A Islam 111
Odumbe c Sanchay b R Islam 12
Halim Shah run out 53
Rafique b A Islam 43
Moshed not out 0
Mortaza run out 38
Extras: (lb-12, nb-8, w-18) 38
Total: (For 8 wks in 80 overs) 330
Did not bat: Sheikh Salauddin and Monjurul Islam
Fall of wks: 1/17; 2/23; 3/107; 4/148; 5/268; 6/309;



Mohammedans young right-hand batsman Nasirul Alam executes a pull-shot during his century knock against Ajax at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

quired innings.
For Agrani Bank, Shaheen Malik did most of the damage to Kalabagan with a four-wicket booty. The victims of the Pakistani spinner includes the prized wickets of his compatriots Sher Ali and Shahid Saied.
SCOREBOARDS
Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier cricket league matches after the first day's play at different venues yesterday:

Kalabagan vs Agrani Bank (Venue: BKSP)				
KALABAGAN INNINGS				
Harun c Mofizur b S Malik	19			
Aminul Islam	16	1	64	4
Ibne Haider	10	2	39	0
Shoaib Hasan	16	2	53	0
Raisul Islam	16	0	73	2
Nuruzzaman	9	0	23	0
Tomal	3	0	16	0
Nayeem	10	0	45	0
Agrani Bank Innings				
Harun c Mofizur b S Malik	19			
Aminul Islam	16	1	64	4
Ibne Haider	10	2	39	0
Shoaib Hasan	16	2	53	0
Raisul Islam	16	0	73	2
Nuruzzaman	9	0	23	0
Tomal	3	0	16	0
Nayeem	10	0	45	0

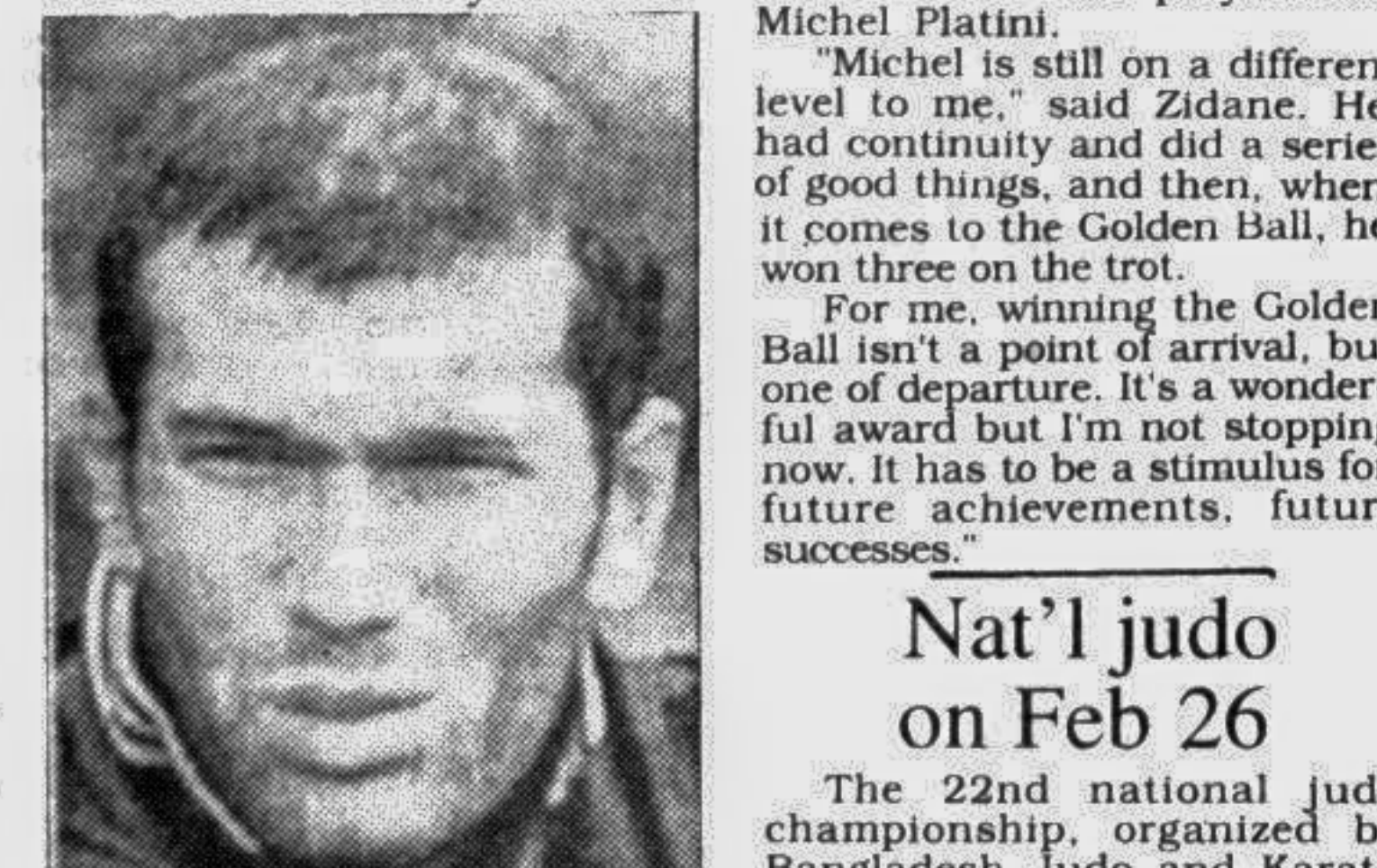
MAHUBUR R. 105 n.o.

Golden Ball goes to ZZ

MILAN, Dec 20: Brazilian ace Ronaldo wants into the pockets this Christmas and national skipper Zidane, reports AFP.
The two men were in the same World Stars team for an exhibition match against Italy in midweek and the experience clearly made an impact on the 22-year-old striker.

If I could ask our president Massimo Moratti for a present this Christmas it would be to buy Zidane, Ronaldo said of the World Cup hero.
"I like the way he reads the game and the movements of the strikers. And then, when he's got the ball between his feet, he's really very good," Ronaldo added. "I'm pleased that he's won the Golden Ball because he's shown that he deserves it."
Congratulations to him for all he's done this year, but next year, I hope to win it back said last year's winner of the France Football magazine award.
Asked why he had won the award, the Frenchman said "the jury attack a lot of importance to a player's achievements and this year saw me win the Italian league, reach the European Champions League final and win the World Cup."
Zidane's Juventus teammate and national skipper Didier Deschamps can match that feat.
"That's true, said Zidane, but I was fortunate enough to score two goals in the World Cup final

and I think that must have counted for a lot."
Despite the award and the worldwide admiration which he has earned over the last few years, Zidane played down his place in the world game.
"I'm not a bad player, but I'm not one of the best players in the world either," he said. "To be among the world's elite you have to play at the top level for 10 years."
"I still have to do that for another four or five years, and



ZIDANE
when I say top level I mean like the last two years with Juventus or the World Cup final."
Zidane also acknowledged that he has failed to overcome the weakness which has dogged him ever since he came to Italy from Bordeaux in 1996: inconsistency.
"It's been my main defect, and it's still that way today," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "And that's where I have to improve."
He admitted that if the Golden Ball jury had looked at the second half of 1998, after the final on July 12, "certainly, they wouldn't have given it to me."
He also avoided any comparisons with Juventus former French idol and playmaker, Michel Platini.
"Michel is still on a different level to me," said Zidane. He had continuity and did a series of good things, and then, when it comes to the Golden Ball, he won three on the trot.
For me, winning the Golden Ball isn't a point of arrival, but one of departure. It's a wonderful award but I'm not stopping now. It has to be a stimulus for future achievements, future successes."

Nat'l judo on Feb 26

The 22nd national judo championship, organized by Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, will be held at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium on February 26, reports APB.
Interested teams from all DSA's, universities, education boards and services have been requested to enlist their names with the federation by February 22.

Prime Bank IM chess from today

Sports Reporter

The Prime Bank International Masters' Chess Tournament under the aegis of Leonine Chess Club will commence at the chess room of the National Sports Council today.

Sixty player including eight from three other countries will take part in the nine-round Swiss League meet. A cash award of Taka 46,000 is up for grabs in the tournament, organised for the first time by a private organisation.

Talking at a press briefing yesterday the general secretary of Leonine Chess Club, Monjur Hossain, said that four players from India, three from Nepal and a Latvian GM will take part in the meet. Besides, the three Bangladeshi IM's - Ziaur Rahman, Reefat-bin Sattar and Abdullah - al Rakib - will also compete in the tournament along with a host of rated local players.

Prime Bank, the sponsors of the meet, will provide Taka 3.5 lakh in a budget of Taka 4.5 lakh.

Rimi Cup soccer Bangladesh reach final

Bangladesh national (under-14) football team advanced to the final of Silver Rimi Cup football tournament beating All India Football Coaching XI by 2-1 goals in the semifinal at Siliguri yesterday, reports APB.

The match was locked at 0-0 in the first half at the Kanchan Jangha Stadium.
Hasan Mahmood and Johnny scored one goal each for Bangladesh while Robin Singh netted the solitary goal for Coaching XI.

Taiwan rewards

TAIPEI, Dec 20 (AP): With a record number of medals around their necks, Taiwan's athletes at the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok will have something to fill their pockets too.

Taiwanese athletes who won 19 gold, 17 silver and 41 bronze medals in the Games will take home over 427 million Taiwan dollars (US 13 million) in government awards, figures showed Sunday.
The medal count was a record for a Taiwan team.

Taiwan's bowlers, who won six of the competition's ten gold medals, will split the largest single prize of 92.2 million Taiwan dollars (2.8 million dollars).
Taiwan's teams, who reentered competition in the Games in 1990 after overcoming objections from China, also won top prizes in pool, golf, taekwondo, and other martial arts competitions.

The medal count doesn't include a gold in the athletic dance competition — an exhibition sport at this year's Games — or the women's golf competition, where Taiwan was forced to hand back a bronze under games rules preventing a single team from sweeping any one event.

Those competitors will be awarded special prizes by the cabinet's National Physical Education Council, media reports said.

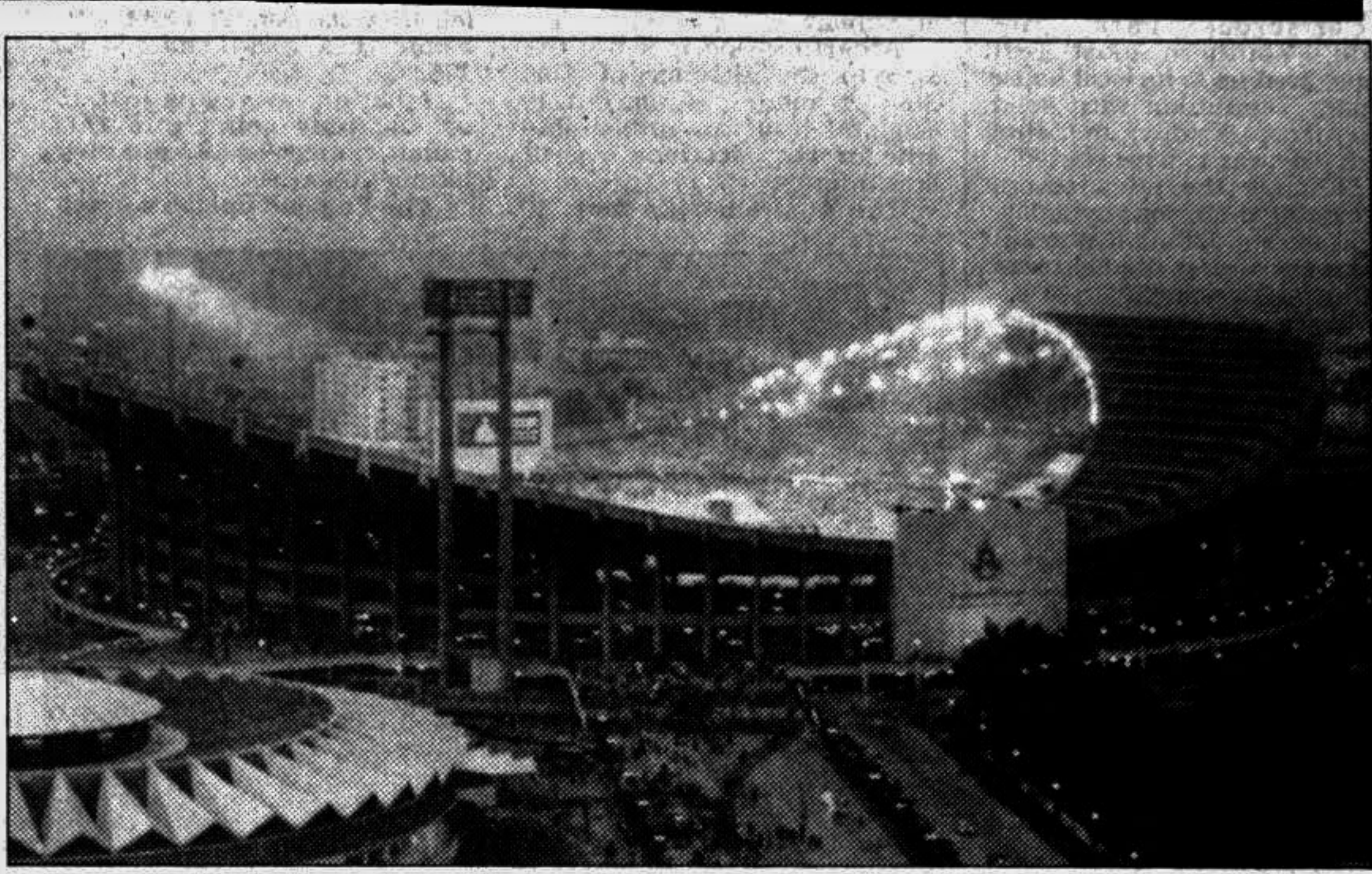
Kelly predicts tough time for F.A. boss

LONDON, Dec 20 (Reuters/Internet): Embattled English Football Association (F.A.) chairman Keith Wiseman will struggle to keep his job, according to former F.A. chief executive Graham Kelly who quit the national body last week because of a loan scandal.

Kelly resigned after a meeting of the F.A.'s executive committee investigating a 3.2 million pounds (\$5.4 million) unauthorised grant or loan to the Football Association of Wales.
The deal was in exchange for Welsh support for Wiseman's bid to become a FIFA vice-president. The committee also passed a unanimous vote of no-confidence in Wiseman but the 52-year-old refused to quit.

Kelly said on Sunday that Wiseman might struggle to keep his job when an F.A. council meeting discusses his position in early January.
"His prospects are being painted fairly bleakly, but then they would be because the climate at the moment is 'let's move on quickly and put this behind us'," Kelly said on Sunday.
Kelly maintained that the grant did not constitute a bribe but admitted he should have informed other F.A. officials about it sooner.

"A bribe, to me, is somebody slipping something into somebody's back-pocket," he said.
"It has rebounded on me in dramatic fashion. I went into it with very good intentions to seek to strengthen England's position in world football and in connection with the World Cup 2006 campaign."
Part of it was us helping them and them helping us... (But) with hindsight, it would have been better to come up front with it much more quickly than we did."



An AFP photo showing an aerial view of the Rajamangala Stadium before the start of the official Games' closing ceremony.

Asiad comes to a close

BANGKOK, Dec 20: Thailand brought the curtain down on the 13th Asian Games today with a noisy and exuberant celebration of the success of a sporting event some predicted it would never manage to stage due to a crippling economic crisis, reports Reuters.

In a spectacular two and a half hour display of sound, light and colour at Bangkok's Rajamangala National Stadium, swirling dancers, precise marching bands and leading pop singers performed a triumphant medley celebrating the "spirit of Asia."

The songs and melodies ranged from a composition by Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej to Asian techno beat and Indian sitar music.
Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, the president of the Olympic Council of Asia, hailed "15 days of happiness, 15 days of friendship, 15 days of harmony and a 15 days of fair-play."

The success of the Games in the face of early predictions of organisational chaos has been major boost to Thailand amid its worst economic crisis in decades.
Almost as soon they began on December 6 the 13th Asian Games shed their "unlucky" 13th tag and quickly became known as the "happy" Games, an event largely free of serious controversy which lived up to their slogan "friendship beyond frontiers."

As a sultry dusk settled over the Bangkok closing ceremony, hundreds of dancers in brilliantly coloured costumes swirled in a graceful flower dance representing the flora of Asia.

The floodlights doused, lights held up by tens of thousands of spectators turned the sweepingly curved stands of the packed stadium into a glittering wall of light.

When bad light stopped play two hours before the scheduled

Students from five performing arts schools, ringed by flaming torches held by black-costumed bearers, acted out the story of the *Mahajanaka*, an ancient tale from Buddhist scripture set to music by King Bhumibol.

The monarch, who opened the Games on December 6 was

MEDALS TABLE
Final medals standings of the 13th Asian Games:

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
China	129	78	67	274
South Korea	65	46	54	165
Japan	52	61	67	180
Thailand	24	26	39	89
Kazakhstan	24	24	30	78
Taiwan	19	17	41	77
Iran	10	11	23	33
North Korea	7	14	14	35
India	7	11	17	35
Uzbekistan	6	22	12	40
Indonesia	6	10	11	27
Malaysia	5	10	14	29
Hong Kong	5	6	6	17
Kuwait	4	6	4	14
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	6
Pakistan	2	4	9	15
Singapore	2	3	9	14
Qatar	2	3	3	8
Mongolia	2	2	10	14
Myanmar	1	6	4	11
Philippines	1	5	11	17
Vietnam	1	5	11	17
Turkmenistan	1	0	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	3	3	6
Jordan	0	3	3	6
Syria	0	2	4	6
Nepal	0	1	3	4
UAE	0	1	1	2
Macau	0	1	0	1
Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
Brunei	0	0	1	1
Laos	0	0	1	1
Oman	0	0	1	1

represented at the closing ceremony by his son, Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Amid a blaze of lasers and pyrotechnics, *Mahajanaka*, an incarnation of the Buddha cast into the sea for seven days and seven nights, finally escaped the sea monsters that were his tormentors.

Windies toil for runs

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa, Dec 20: West Indian batting woes continued on a shortened first day of their four-day match against South Africa A at the Alexandra Oval here on Saturday, reports AFP.

When bad light stopped play two hours before the scheduled

close, West Indies had struggled to 77 for three after being sent in to bat.

The tourists, 2-0 down in a five-Test series, had hoped to use the match against South Africa's second-stringers to play themselves into form ahead of the third Test which starts in Durban on December 26.

Openers Stuart Williams and Clayton Lambert both

failed while acting captain Carl Hooper was out for 24 just when it seemed he was on the verge of a major innings.

Fast bowlers Lance Klusener and Makhaya Ntini, trying to win back their places in the Test side, were both impressive. Klusener, who missed the start of the season after an ankle operation, claimed the wicket of Williams, caught at gully, in an opening spell of 1-8

LATEST

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa, Dec 20 (Reuters/Internet): Shivnarine Chanderpaul scored a spirited unbeaten 132 for West Indies in their rain-hit four-day match against South Africa A on Sunday.

Bad light and then rain forced a premature end to the second day's play midway through the afternoon session with the touring team, who had begun the day on 77 for three, 256 for six in their first innings.

Chanderpaul completed his century in 201 minutes off 164 balls with 15 fours and a six. When play was called off he had faced 212 deliveries and taken his tally of fours to 20.

The most significant stand of the day came between Chanderpaul and reserve wicket-keeper Junior Murray who was dropped twice in making 45. They put on 110 for the sixth wicket.

Earlier, Chanderpaul and Darren Ganga had stretched their fourth wicket stand begun on Saturday to 71 before Ganga, on 21, edged an away swinger from Lance Klusener to Sven Koenig at third slip.

Klusener produced a similar delivery next ball to trap Floyd Reifer leg before.

Murray survived the hat-trick ball but only just as it whistled past the outside edge of his bat.
In seven overs, Ntini, whose omission from the opening Tests caused a storm of political controversy over an all-white South African team, had Lambert caught behind chasing a wide delivery and had figures of 1-12 in five overs.



THE TENDULKARS: India's master bat Sachin Tendulkar (L) manages time to visit the Royal Albatross Colony at Dunedin along with 14-month-old daughter Sara and wife Anjali (R) yesterday as the scheduled first Test match against New Zealand was rained off for the third day — Internet photo