

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-109

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 8 '99 and draw shortly
afterwards

- Which country topped the medals table in the 13th Asian?

China	India	Japan
-------	-------	-------
- How many medals did Bangladesh clinch at the Asian Games?

None	One	Two
------	-----	-----
- Who scored the first century in this year's Premier cricket league?

Azam	Shawkat	Selim
------	---------	-------
- Where will the 14th Asian Games be held?

Paris	Pusan	Pyongyang
-------	-------	-----------
- Which team won the AB Bank Senior Div TT title?

Jatrabari	Ansars	Biman
-----------	--------	-------

Name

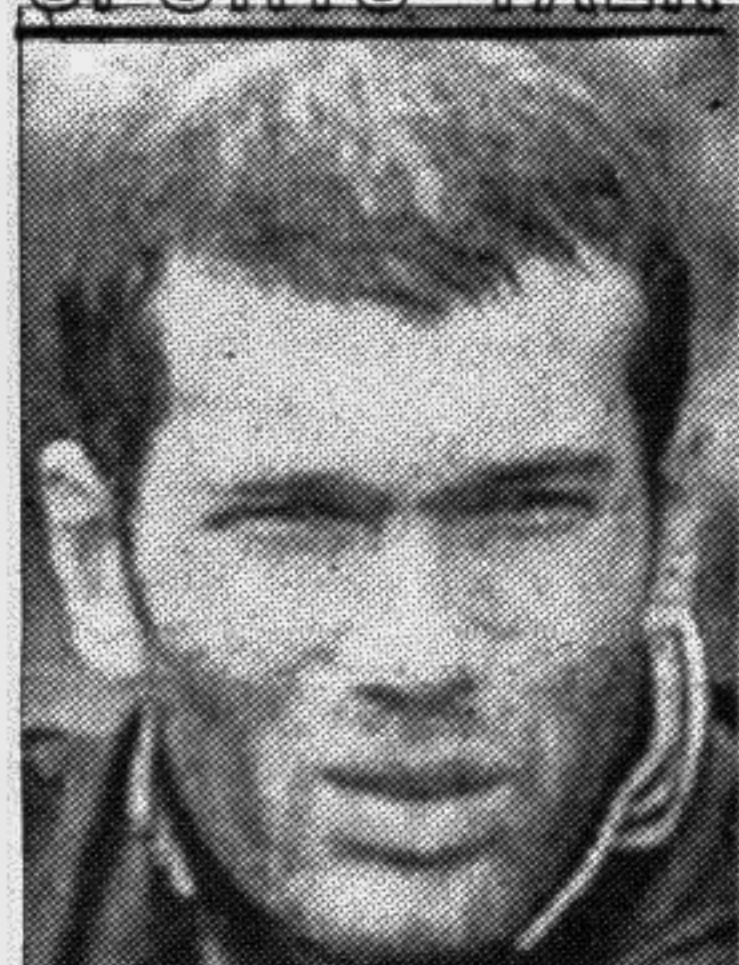
Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Zinedine Zidane

(French soccer superstar)
"There are more and more women who write to me. Some say they're in love, but I'm married."

PCB names fifty-five

KARACHI, Dec 28: Pakistan today named 55 cricket probables who will undergo strenuous training to select a team for the forthcoming tour of India due to start late next month, officials said, reports AFP.

Pakistan will tour India after a gap of 11 years to play three Tests and as may one-day internationals.

Wasim Akram, Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed — all implicated in match fixing by a probe committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board in September — are among the probables.

The 32-year-old Wasim in tipped to regain the captaincy he was stripped of before Pakistan's tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe in January this year.

"We will finalise the team in the first week of next month and the choice of the captain is with cricket board's council," chief selector Wasim Bari said.

The council meets on January 3 to decide who will lead Pakistan on the Indian tour.

"The tour is very important for Pakistan and it will lead us to the World Cup 1999, so we have to choose players for both the assignments," Bari said.

Aamir Sohail, who lead Pakistan in the recently concluded home season, is also among the probables, along with former captain Rashid Latif and left-handed batsman Asif Mujtaba.

Sources close to Sohail said he was still undecided on joining the camp. He walked out of the team before the second Test against Zimbabwe earlier this month after a row with selectors and coach Javed Miandad.

A six-foot-plus, right-arm fast bowler from Khanewal, Shabbir Ahmed, will vie for a place in the India bound squad. Ahmed, 22, is said to be the quickest in Pakistan at the moment.

Yordanov best in Bulgaria
SOFIA, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): Bulgaria's international midfielder Ivailo Yordanov from Sporting Lisbon was voted Bulgaria's Footballer of the Year on Monday.

Shahin Malik & Aamir Hanif: unbeaten but short of centuries

Brothers look unbeatable Agrani sets AKC soft target

Sports Reporter

Holders Abahani were successful in restricting Agrani Bank to an attainable target while Brothers Union piled up a huge score against Ajax Sporting in matches of the Janakantha Premier league at different city venues yesterday.



At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Abahani, bidding for a treble league championship, did half their job on the opening day when they booked Agrani Bank at 272 for nine in the stipulated 80 overs, thanks to seamer Rahul Niamur Rashid, who returned with brilliant figures of four for 27 from his 16 overs that included seven maidens.

Coming in to bowl as first change, the tall right-arm pacer ripped through the Agrani top order with his controlled medium-pacers coupled with little gems of out-swingers. He struck in the 11th over when the bankers were on 49. He first removed opener Sajjad Kadir (13) and then went on to dismiss the other opener Obaidullah (21) in his next over without any addition to the total.

Bankers lost their third wicket on 72 in the 25th over when Rajin Saleh, who scored a brilliant 65 against Brothers Union in their previous match at the same venue, became the third victim of Niamur on 15. Things turned worse for Bank in the next over when skipper Ziauddin was trapped leg before by national right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain before he could open his account.

However, Agrani's Pakistani middle-order Shahin Malik with an unbeaten 98 held the innings together after the mediocre side were reduced to five for 119 in 41.3 overs.

The right-hander, who stayed at the crease for more than three hours and faced 167 balls, clubbed only three boundaries but a huge six, which went all the way to the VIP gallery, off Hasibul Hossain in the third ball of the last over.

Dropped by Azam Khan at the slips when he was on 41, Malik shared a 46-run partnership for the fifth-wicket with his compatriot Saeed Azad and then went on to make a 67-run sixth-wicket partnership with in-form batsman Mofizur Rahman before the latter was bowled by off-spinner Naimur Rahman when on 39.

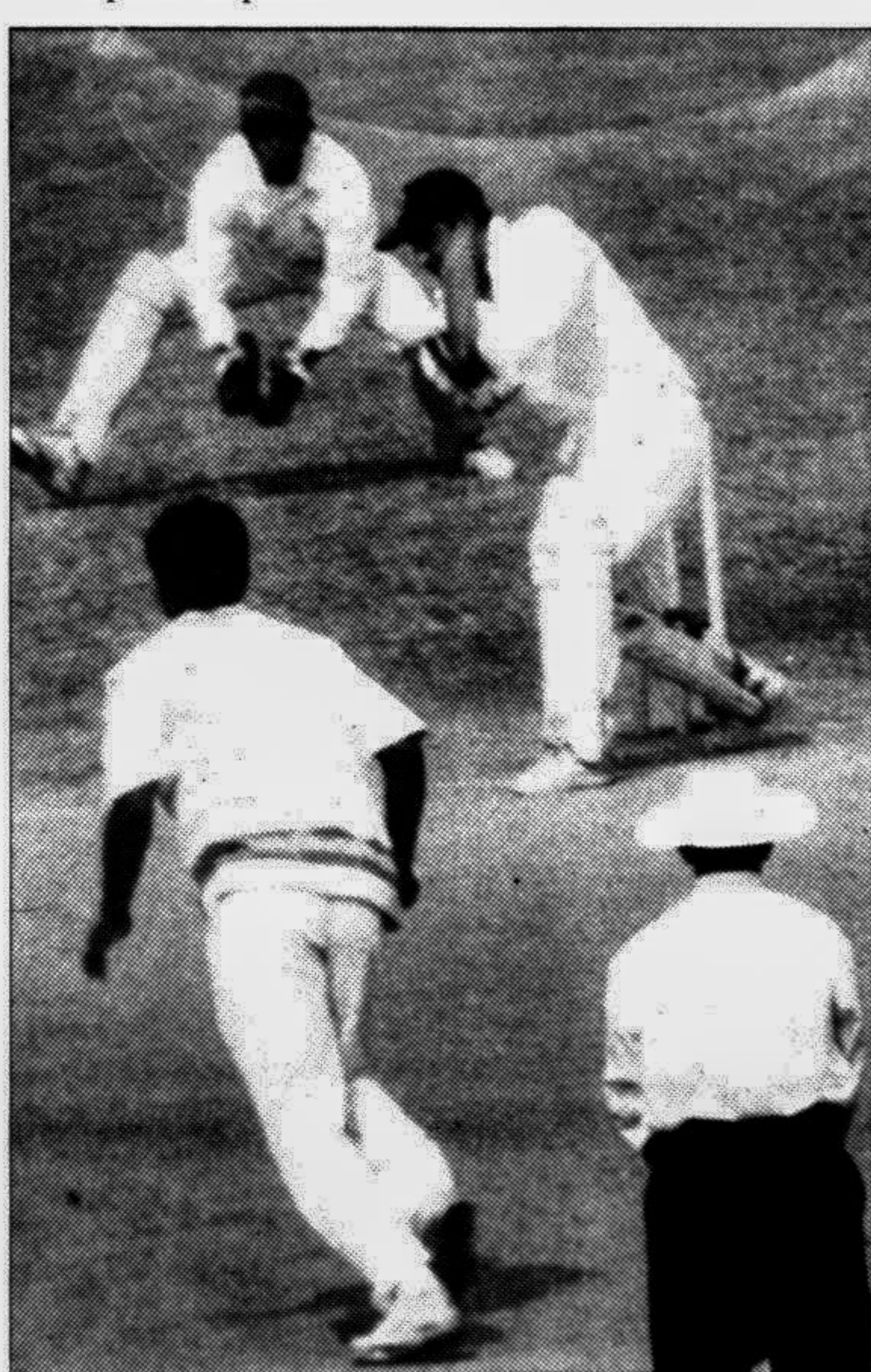
In his 76-minute vigil, Mofizur, the discarded national cricketer, hammered three boundaries and a sweet sixer straight off Abahani's Pakistani left-arm spinner Mohammad Hossain.

After Mofizur's departure with Agrani Bank on 186 in the 63rd over, Shahin Malik single-handedly took his side to a fighting score without getting much support from the lower order.

He missed a well-deserved century for a couple of runs. But his contribution might count even more if the bankers can defend 272 when play resumes today against their mighty opponents.

Away at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Pakistani middle-order Aamir Hanif missed a century for five runs as Brothers Union, put in to bat by their lowly-rated opponents, scored a mammoth 371 for nine in their 80 overs.

The Karachi-based right-hander, who is playing for the Gopbogh outfit for the last couple of seasons, was unbeaten on 95 when Brothers Union exhausted their overs quota.



Agrani Bank's Pakistani middle-order Shahin Malik drives on his way to an unbeaten 98 against Abahani yesterday. — Star photo

In his 101-ball swashbuckling knock, Aamir hammered two sixes and four fours. Aamir apart, there were two more fifties from opener Shahriar Hossain and middle-order Sanwar who chipped in with 50 and 55 respectively. Ajax's new-ball bowler Aminul Islam captured four wickets for 74 runs from his 15 overs.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier League matches at the end of first day's play at different city venues yesterday:

Abahani vs Agrani Bank

(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

AGRANI BANK

Obaidullah c Azam b Rahul
Sajjad c Tuhin b Rahul
Rajin c Tuhin b Rahul
S Malik not out
Ziauddin lbw b Hasibul
S Azad c Tuhin to Rahul
Mofizur b Naimur
Faisal run out
S Arefin run out
Russel run out
Suja no out
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-2, w-20)
Total: (for 9 wks in 80 overs) 272

Fall of wickets: 1/49; 2/49; 3/72; 4/73; 5/119; 6/188; 7/219; 8/246; 9/253

	O	M	R	W
Bowler				
Hasibul Hossain	12	1	62	1
Iqbal Hossain	8	0	40	0
Rahul Niamur Rashid	16	7	27	4
Mohammed Hussain	16	3	42	0
Saidul Islam	16	1	50	0
Azam Iqbal	1	0	3	0
Naimur Rahman	11	0	39	1

Brothers vs Ajax

(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

BROTHERS

Shahriar c & b Aminul
Ehsanul run out
Jahangir lbw b Aminul
Sanwar run out
A Hanif not out
K Mahmud run out
S Sharma run out
Shahnewaz c Sumon b Haider
Towhid b Aminul
Safuddin b Aminul
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-11, w-34)
Total: (for 9 wks in 80 overs) 371

Fall of wickets: 1/85; 2/134; 3/154; 4/264; 5/286; 6/322; 7/347; 8/351; 9/371

	O	M	R	W
Bowler				
Aminul Islam	15	1	74	4
Ibne Haider	13	1	67	1
Shahed Monsur	9	0	47	0
Nuruzzaman	1	0	9	0
Rezwanaul Islam	15	0	63	0
Selim Moghal	16	1	50	0
Shoaib Hasan	11	0	53	0



ICE CRICKET: Children indulging themselves into a game of cricket on the frozen Dal Lake in Srinagar yesterday after temperatures came down to a shivering eight degrees below freezing level. — AP/UNB photo

Shiliguri tournament

U-13 cricketers' going delayed

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh U-13 cricket team, who were scheduled to leave for the capital for Shiliguri, West Bengal, yesterday evening to take part in the Chand Ballav Ghosh Memorial Juvenile Cricket Tournament, could not make their move because of visa formalities.

The young cricketers were waiting at the Bangladesh Cricket Board office during the last evening to know their fate.

When contacted over telephone last night, BCB joint-secretary Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul said that the team would leave tonight by road and was expected to reach Shiliguri by Wednesday morning.

Bangladesh, the defending champions, will play their first group match on December 31.

Div I cricket

Jatrabari beat Azad

Jatrabari Kirra Chakra posted a narrow 2-run victory over Azad Sporting Club in their inaugural match of the First Division cricket league at City Club ground yesterday, reports APB.

Jatrabari, batting first, scored a modest 196 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs with Zakaria scoring highest 45 runs.

Babu was the other notable scorer with 42 while Sajal, Sadeq and Amzad made 26, 22 and 19 runs respectively for Jatrabari. A handsome 34 came from extras.

Sheikh Farid snapped up three wickets for only 17 runs while Razzak and Barkat claimed two each for 45 and 50 runs.

In reply, Azad ended their innings at 194 runs in 49.1 overs. Subrata knocked a gutsy 64 runs.

Mahfuz contributed the second highest 47 followed by Sanjay, who added 17 and Atiq remained not out on 10.

Zahiruddin Babu was the most successful Jatrabari bowler claiming four wickets for 21 while Taher and Ashraf bagged two wicket each for 32 and 33 runs respectively.

BRIEFScores

JATRABARI KC: 196/8 in 50 overs (Zakaria 45, Babu 42, Sajal 26, Sadeq 22, Amzad 19, extras 34; Sheikh Farid 3/17, Razzak 2/45, Barkat 2/50).

AZAD SC: 194/10 in 49.5 overs (Subrata 64, Mahfuz 47, Sanjay 17, Atiq 10 not out; Zahiruddin Babu 4/21, Taher 2/32, Ashraf 2/33).

Result: Jatrabari KC won by 2 runs.

Welcome seven

DURBAN, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): Seven coloured South African players have been included in the 1999 Plascon Academy intake, the country's national academy, which was announced at Kingsmead in Durban on Monday.

"We've picked 19 promising young cricketers who could play for South Africa one day, that's the way I'd like to look at it," said Jimmy Cook, the United Cricket Board of South Africa's (UCB) director of coaching, who will also take charge of the academy.

Batsmen Justin Ontong, Dumisa Makalima and Ahmed Amla, fast bowlers Mulligan George and Albert Nkomo, left-arm wrist spinner Goolam Bodi and wicketkeeper-batsman Thame Tsolekile are the coloured players among the 19 selected.

Argentine fast bowler Matias Paterlini will also attend the academy, from May to August next year.

"The academy is the link between the amateur and professional sides of the game," said the UCB's director of professional cricket, Imtiaz Patel.

Patel added that 28 of the 67 cricketers who had attended the academy in the past three years had gone on to represent South Africa at various levels.

Ortega retains his belt

LAS VEGAS, Dec 28 (AP/Internet): Pedro Ortega retained his World Boxing Association North American super welterweight championship Saturday, with a unanimous decision over Larry Dixon in a 12-round bout.

Ortega, of Mexico, ranked No. 10 by the WBA, won by five points on two judges' scorecards and by three points on the other judge's card, despite losing three points from his total because of low blows.

Dixon, of San Diego, was in danger of going down from body shots in the 12th until a low blow by Ortega halted the action and gave the challenger an opportunity to catch his breath and continue. A point was deducted from Dixon's score for the third time in the match.

Ortega improved to 22-7-1 with 16 knockouts. Dixon fell to 20-3 with 10 knockouts.

In a lightweight bout scheduled for 10 rounds, Edson Nascimento of Brazil knocked out Hiram Bueno of Mexico at 1:30 of the first round in a lightweight bout. Nascimento, ranked No. 5 by the WBA among super featherweights, improved to 31-0 with 26 knockouts, while Bueno is 10-3-1.

Prime Bank Chess concludes with three in second spot

Reefat plays safe to get rich

Sports Reporter

International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar emerged unbeaten champion in the Prime Bank Chess Tournament with a draw in the final round against Ruhul Kabir Shiplu at the NSC chess room yesterday evening.

With the draw, Reefat clinched the Tk 15,000 purse at the end of the nine-round Swiss league having raised his tally to seven-and-a-half points.



REEFAT-BIN-SATTAR

Another International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib, who was jointly leading the table with Reefat after the eighth round with seven points, failed to keep up the momentum and lost the final round to FIDE Master Rezaul Haque.

Both Rakib and Rezaul finished second along with International Master Ziaur Rahman, who beat Tayebur Rahman Sumon in the last round. All of them finished with seven points and will evenly share Tk 19,000, if that is possible.

Emrul Hossain, Rajib, Ruhul Kabir Shiplu and Shawkat Hossain Pallab jointly finished third with 6.5 points and will evenly share Tk 7,000.

The prize giving ceremony of the 46,000 Taka meet, will be held after Eid-ul-Fitr. Leonine Chess Club organised the nine-day tournament.

Freund goes for Tottenham

BONN, Dec 28 (Reuters/Internet): Borussia Dortmund midfielder Steffen Freund has signed a 3-1/2 year contract with Tottenham-Hotspur after the teams agreed a 2 million mark (\$1.2 million) transfer fee, German sport news agency SID reported on Sunday.

Dortmund said Freund would move to the English premier league side during the current winter break in Germany after signing a contract through to the summer of 2003.

Freund was in Germany's squad at this year's World Cup finals but has struggled with injury. His Dortmund contract would have expired at the end of the season.

Freund, who has played in 21 matches for the German team, has clashed over tactics with Dortmund trainer Michael Skibbe this year and spent five straight matches sitting on the bench.

"A glittering star has fallen" BFF

Ashraf Bhai is no more

Sports Reporter

Ashraf Chowdhury is no more. The mercurial centre-forward of the mid-fifties and early sixties died at the National Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases in the capital yesterday.

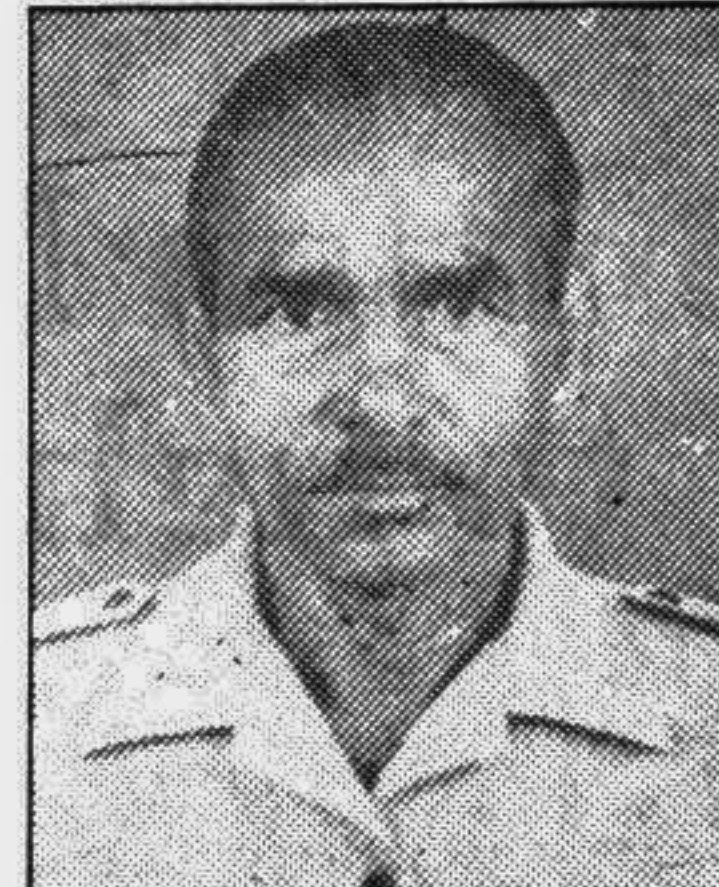
He was 63. Ashraf, the most exciting cog in the devastating attacking trio of Ashraf-Muree-Kabir during the pre-liberation era, suffered a heart attack on Sunday. A goal machine as he was called during his hey days, Ashraf was a pivotal force during the meteoric rise of Mohammedan Sporting in domestic football.

He was also one of the few footballers of the then East Pakistan, who donned the Pakistan national colours. As a Pakistan international, he took part in the 1958 Tokyo Olympic Games.

He was an important player of Mohammedan Sporting Club when the popular Moti-Jheel outfit lifted their maiden league title way back in 1957.

Ashraf won the National Sports Award this year for his outstanding contribution to football.

Ashraf never parted with football even after his luminous playing career came to an abrupt end. A true Mohammedan, Ashraf as coach led his beloved side to three league triumphs including an unbeaten run in 1978-79. So long was his footballing career as player and coach that most in the arena called him Ashraf Bhai.



He also had a successful stint with Arambagh KS. His passion for the game was so deep-rooted that even at the wrong end of his life he braved a challenge. The true champion, a down-to-earth person, Ashraf coached Prantik KC to win the Second Division League title last year.

The mournful and sudden death of Ashraf cast a pall of gloom in the sports arena. State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader expressed his deep shock at the death of Ashraf.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) in a condolence message yesterday said, "Ashraf was a glittering star in the football arena. We are deeply shocked at the death of Ashraf and pray for the departed soul."

Mohammedan Sporting Club, the second abode of Ashraf, will hoist the black-and-white flag at half-mast for the next three days in honour of its doyen.

He will be buried at his village Sindhi in Daudkandi today.

Sachin, Saurav stand up

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close on the third day of the second cricket Test between India and New Zealand at the Basin Reserve on Monday:

INDIA: First innings 208 (M Azharuddin 103, Tendulkar 47; S Doull 7-67)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 290 for seven)

Bell c Mungia b Prasad 4
Horne b Kumble 38
Fleming run out (Jadeja) 42
Astle b Kumble 56
McMillan c Dravid b Srinath 24
Parore lbw Kumble 2
Cairns c Tendulkar b Prasad 3
Nash not out 89
Vettori b Tendulkar 57
Wiseman b Tendulkar 0
Doull lbw B Kumble 0
Extras: (lb-19, b-13, nb-5) 37
Total: 352

Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-79; 3-112; 4-162; 5-172; 6-179; 7-209; 8-345; 9-349; 10-352.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	36	6	89	1
Prasad	30	8	67	2
Kumble	45.4	18	83	4
H Singh	25	6	61	0
Ganguly	6	0	13	0
Tendulkar	6	2	7	2

INDIA: Second innings

Jadeja b Nash 22
Sidhu lbw b Doull 34
Dravid b Wiseman 28
Ganguly not out 47
Tendulkar not out 42
Extras: (nb-5, lb-1) 6
Total: (for 3 wks) 179

Fall of wickets: 1-41; 2-74; 3-112.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Doull	12	4	26	1
Cairns	11	1	47	0
Nash	6	4	7	1
Vettori	10	2	44	0
McMillan	6	2	16	0
Wiseman	8	1	38	1

Coming together four minutes before the tea break on the second day, the pair was finally separated after four hours together on the third morning. New Zealand had resumed the day on 290 for seven.

Vettori, having reached his second half century was bowled behind his legs as he exposed the middle and leg stumps trying the work the ball fine.

Azharuddin said the onus is on the Indian batsmen to score quickly to give the bowlers enough time to bowl New Zealand out the second time.

After New Zealand had been dismissed early in the post-