

## 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 Games?  
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 TTT title?  
Jatrabari Ansars Biman

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

POWERED WITH  
EN-VITS  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



### Arjuna Ranatunga

Sri Lanka cricket team captain

"Yes they call me 'Ajiya' (elder brother). It has helped us to stay like a family. I am not a 'Sir' man. I don't like being called 'Sir'. I prefer to be an elder brother or a friend. Being called 'Ajiya' is better than 'Sir'."

On his teammates who treat him as their elder brother.

### Alaves rope in Berti

VITORIA, Spain, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): Former Italian international Nicola Berti has signed for Spanish first division club Alaves, a club spokesman said on Thursday.

The 31-year-old midfielder, who had been playing for English premier league side Tottenham Hotspur, had signed until June 2000.

He had been expected to sign for Brazilian side Fluminense but Alaves said that they had reached a deal with Berti late on Tuesday night and added he would be formally presented on January 5.

Berti fell foul of new Tottenham coach George Graham after he took over the north London club in October.

Tottenham director of football David Platt told British reporters on Tuesday: "Berti has been told we would release him if he managed to get fixed up with another club."

Berti is the first big signing by Alaves, who were promoted to the Spanish first division this summer after an absence of 42 years.

Berti played for Italy in the 1990 and 1994 World Cups and gained 39 Italian caps.

He was part of Inter Milan's UEFA Cup winning teams in both 1991 and 1994.

### Savio fined for late return

MADRID, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): Brazilian international midfielder Savio said on Thursday he had been fined 1,500,000 pesetas (\$10,500) for returning late to Real Madrid after the Christmas break.

Savio arrived in Spain on Monday, but missed Real Madrid's first training session after the holiday.

He said he had been delayed in his native country while trying to resolve some problems with his son's passport.

"The delay was totally justified. There was no other way of dealing with the problem and it's unjust that I have to pay the fine," Savio complained.

## Naimur sparkles at last Happy outings for Bagan, Abahani

Sports Reporter

A superb spell of seam bowling by Pakistani all-rounder Shahid Saeed helped title aspirants Kalabagan restrict fancied Surjo Tarun Club to a cheap total on the first day of their Janakantha Premier Division cricket league encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In the other match of the day, Naimur Rahman smashed a brilliant hundred as holders Abahani piled up a commanding 391 against Ajax Sporting Club.

Opting to bat first, star-studded Surjo Tarun were bundled out for a meagre 187 in the face of an inspired Saeed who finished with five for 43 from 15 overs.

Saeed, the Lahore based cricketer who scored an unbeaten 127 against Ajax in their previous match, took four wickets in his first spell of 13 overs to send Surjo Tarun reeling at 97 for five with all of their recognised batsmen back in the dressing room.

Coming in as first change, Saeed removed opener Parvez in the eleventh over trapping the tall right-hander leg before on 16 to give Kalabagan their first break through.

One-down Al-Shahriar and opener Athar Ali then put on a 56-run partnership and took the score to 92 when Al-Shahriar gave a return catch to off break bowler Fahim Muntasir Rahman after scoring 32 off 59 balls.

Surjo Tarun's hopes of for a reasonable score was halted abruptly as they lost three more wickets in the nineties all falling to Saeed.

Sri Lankan middle order Naved Nawaz, who came to play for the Dhanmondi outfit on Thursday, had a bitter debut in the Dhaka cricket when he was magnificently yorked by Saeed for a duck. Saeed then trapped Athar Ali (37) leg before and sent back Minhazul Abedin caught behind for 1.

After Minhazul was out with the scoreboard reading 97 in the 31st over, Surjo Tarun could only add another 90 runs to their total before being all out in 71.2 overs.

For Tarun, only wicket-keeper Khaled Masood batted with some sense of responsibility and scored 48 runs off 123 balls.

In reply, Kalabagan were on 36 for one in 14 overs at close.

Away, at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Naimur, made a welcome return to form hammering 101 to steer Abahani to the massive total after Skipper Akram Khan had won

the toss and opted to bat.

Coming to bat at number three with Abahani on nine for one in the third over, Naimur, who had so far struggled in the season, shared a 137-run partnership with inform opener Mehrob Hossain.

The partnership was broken when Mehrob was run out on 71. In his 83-ball stay, Mehrob clubbed ten boundaries.

After Mehrob's departure, Naimur put on 116 with Pakistani recruit Azam Khan before giving a return catch to Nayeem. His fine innings came from 160 balls inclusive of five fours and a sixer.

Among others, Azam Khan scored 74 runs while Hasibul Hossain played the Ajax bowlers to all parts of the ground in smashing a quickfire 50 off 32 balls which included five boundaries and two sixes.

Besides, skipper Akram Khan contributed with a work-

manlike 48.

Both the matches will continue today.

### SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboard of the two Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches that began at different city venues on Friday:

**Kalabagan KC v Surjo Tarun Club**

(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

**SURJO TARUN**

Athar Ali lbw b S Saeed 37

Parvez lbw b S Saeed 16

Al-Shahriar c & b Fahim 32

N Nawaz b S Saeed 0

**As on Jan 1: \* indicates not out**

**Kalabagan** 187 (71.2 overs)

**Surjo Tarun** 97 (31.2 overs)

**Abahani v Ajax SC**

(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

**ABAHANI**

Hannan c Tamal b A Islam 0

Mehrab run out 71

Naimur c b Nayeem 101

Azam Khan c Nayeem b R Islam 74

Akram Khan run out 48

Naimur c Sanchoy b Nayeem 11

Hasibul c & b A Islam 50

Nuruzzaman run out 2

Kamal not out 2

Masud not out 0

Extras: (lb-8, nb-12, w-12) 32

Total: (for 8 wks in 80 overs) 391

Did not bat: Saiful Islam.

Fall of wickets: 1/9; 2/139; 3/257; 4/282; 5/307; 6/376; 7/389; 8/389

**Bowlers**

A Islam 11.5 0 72 2

S Mansoor 12 0 72 0

Azimuuddin 11 0 48 0

R Islam 12 0 51 1

Nayeem 13 1 64 2

Shoeb 16 0 54 0

Habib 4.1 0 22 0

**Abahani v Ajax SC**

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M Abedin c Ishtiaque b S Saeed 1

Arshad Khan c & b Fahim 16

K Masood c S Saeed b M Rahman 48

Enamul Haque c & b Sharfuddin 9

Sajal c G Ali b Sharfuddin 5

Anis b S Saeed 3

Rafique not out 0

Extras: (lb-1, lb-4, nb-6, w-9) 20

Total: (All out in 71.3 overs) 187

Fall of wickets: 1/36; 2/92; 3/93; 4/96; 5/97; 6/129; 7/151; 8/171; 9/187

**Bowlers**

Saiful 9 0 33 0

Mushfiq 6 1 22 0

S Saeed 15 2 43 5

Fahim 14 4 28 2

Sharfuddin 16 2 42 2

M Rahman 11.3 1 14 1

**KALABAGAN**

Harun c M Abedin b Arshad 18

Sajad batting 7

G Ali batting 4

Extras: (lb-4, nb-2, w-1) 7

Total: (for 1 wks in 14 overs) 36

Fall of wickets: 1/30

**Bowlers**

Anis 2 0 16 0

Arshad 6 1 8 1

Enamul 5 2 6 0

Sajal 1 0 2 0

**Abahani v Ajax SC**

(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

**ABAHANI**

Hannan c Tamal b A Islam 0

Mehrab run out 71

Naimur c b Nayeem 101

Azam Khan c Nayeem b R Islam 74

Akram Khan run out 48

Naimur c Sanchoy b Nayeem 11

Hasibul c & b A Islam 50

Nuruzzaman run out 2

Kamal not out 2

Masud not out 0

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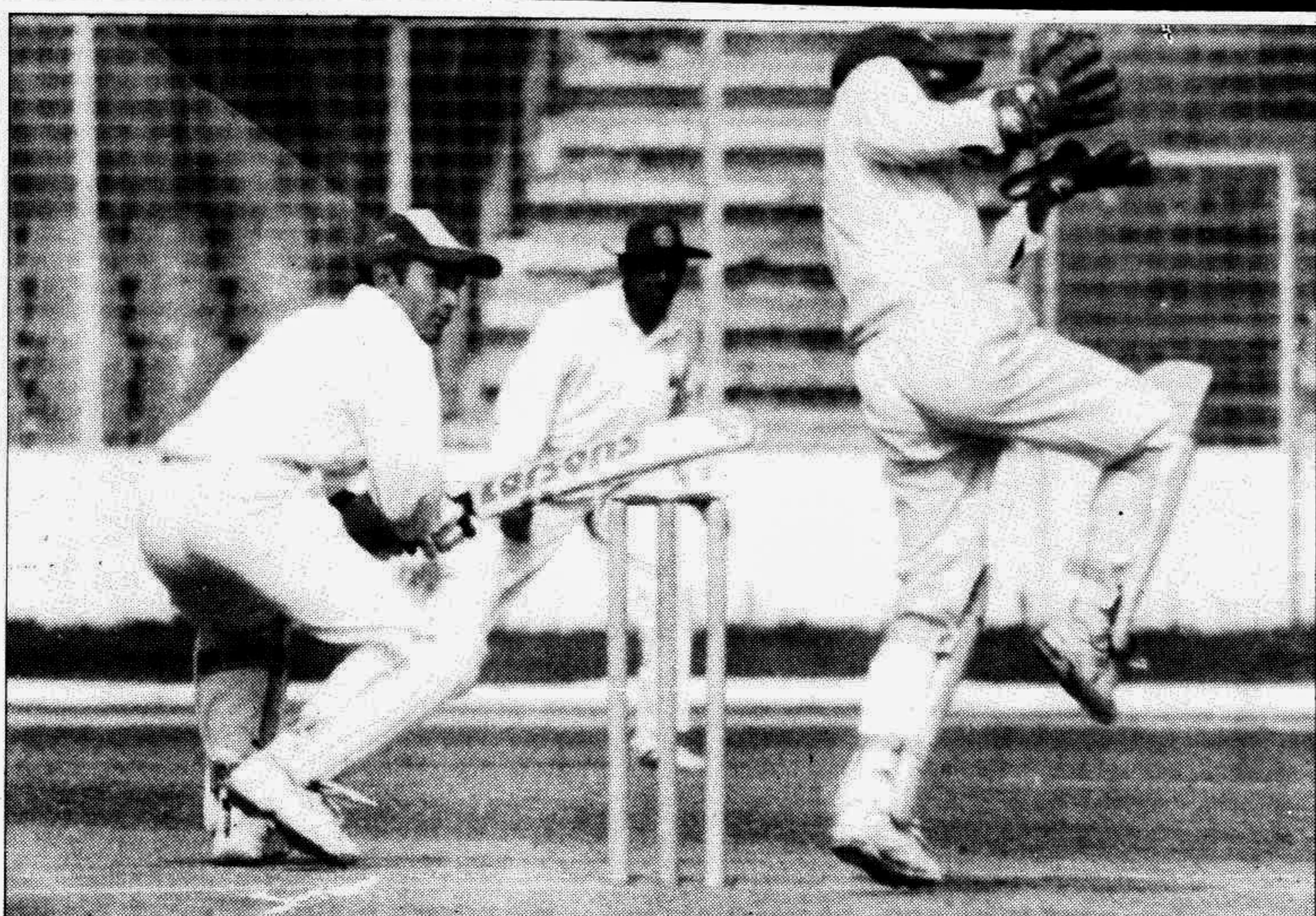
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Surjo Tarun's wicketkeeper Khaled Masood cuts on his way to 48 against Kalabagan Krira Chakra yesterday. —Star photo

### Special Olympics commence

More than 200 disabled sportsmen participated in different events of the second National Special Olympic Games which began yesterday at the Army Stadium here, reports BSS.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader opened the Games as the disabled sportsmen staged a march past across the field. President of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Army Chief Lieutenant General Muhammad Mostafizur Rahman and chairman of the Special Olympics Ashrafuddaula were present.

Defending champion and runner-up of the National Special Olympic Games paraded the field with the Special Olympic torch and lit the Olympic flame marking the ceremony.

### 'McGrath cool it'

SYDNEY, Jan 1: Australian cricket captain Mark Taylor has told pace spearhead Glenn McGrath to temper his aggression in the fifth Ashes Test against England beginning Saturday, reports AP.

McGrath was given a suspended fine for about 2,500 Australian dollars (1,525 dollars) after being found guilty of sledging during Australia's fourth Test loss to England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Taylor said Friday he had told McGrath to show more control during the final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground that will decide the series.

Australia lead 2-1 entering the Sydney showdown.

"It's a very fine line between enthusiasm, effort and being aggressive to being over the top and showing some kind of dissent," Taylor said. "Glenn has walked that fine line for a long time."

"As a captain I want my fast bowlers to be aggressive. I want him to be giving everything for his country. He's not a guy who is an angry man."

"He's a guy who is a great competitor and sometimes he lets that go a fraction too far."

Regarding the suspended fine, Taylor said "in the long run it could be the best thing for him."

### Australia the worst chasers

SYDNEY, Jan 1 (AFP): England's stunning 12-run win in the fourth Ashes Test at Melbourne on Tuesday has exposed Australia's Achilles' heel — they crack under pressure.

While Australia may well be the best Test side in the world at present, statistics show that when chasing a fourth innings total they have been more prone to choking than any other country.

Australia have been bowled out seven times in 23 Tests in the past two decades when set a fourth innings target of 200 or less.

During the same period the West Indies have never been bowled out in 16 Tests when set the same fourth innings target.

England and Pakistan have been bowled out only once in the 16 Tests they chased similar targets when batting last.

Ian Botham might well be to blame for starting the rot.

The great all-rounder scored 149 in England's second innings when they had to follow on in the 1981 Headingley Test and then grabbed six wickets in Australia's fourth innings collapse.

England captain Alec Stewart rubbed it in after Australia were bowled out chasing a target of 175 in Melbourne.

"Australia, in the past, great side that they are, have often struggled chasing totals like that," he said to make sure the Australians did not forget their fourth innings jinx.

He can only hope leg-spinners Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill don't make him eat his words in the fifth Test in Sydney starting on Saturday.

## Spin may dictate terms

SYDNEY, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet)

The fifth and final Ashes Test between Australia and England is shaping as a battle of spin after