

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-110

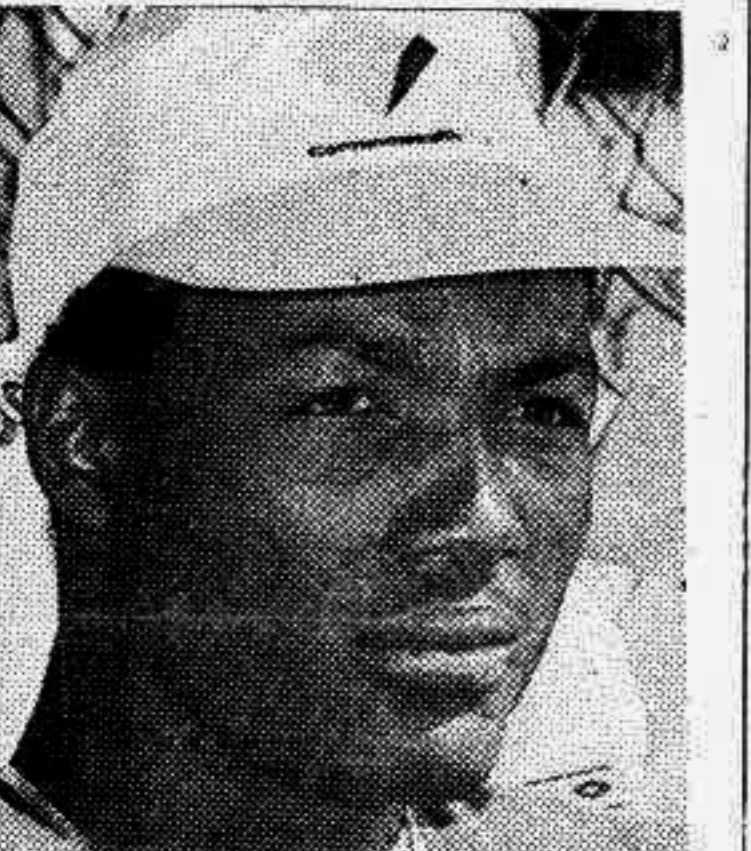
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 22 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	The margin of Australia's recent Ashes series win was	3-1	4-1	4-0
2	Who is the number one player in women's tennis at the moment?	Hings	Lindsay	Venus
3	The final of the 1st Asian Test Championship will be held in	Dhaka	Calcutta	Colombo
4	The eighth SAF Games will be held in	India	Sri Lanka	Nepal
5	How many teams are taking part in the Janakantha Premier cricket league?	10	12	14

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (If any)
POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
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SPORTS TALK



Brian Lara
(West Indies captain)
"It is a major challenge to not only me, but the entire team management. If we can somehow lift ourselves, I still believe the talent is there. All we need is the belief in ourselves."

Div III cricket qualifiers

Royal Cricket Association, West End Boys Club and Battala Chhayanaut won their respective inaugural matches of the Third Division qualifying cricket tournament at different city grounds yesterday, reports APB.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Royal Cricket Association registered a facile four-wicket victory over Discovery Cricket Club.

Discovery, opting to bat scored 150 for nine in allotted 35 overs with opener Wahidul scoring the highest 43 runs off 63 balls including four fours followed by middle-order Shakhawat and Sumon who added 30 and 22 runs.

Shamim claimed three wickets for 11 runs while Nazmul took two for 13.

In reply, Royal CA cruised to 151 losing six wickets in 31.5 overs. One-down Billat made an unbeaten 59 runs in 85 balls hitting four fours while Shamim and Shaqif were the other notable scorers with 30 and 15 runs respectively.

Azhar captured two wickets conceding 31 runs for Discovery.

A quickfire 88-run by Ahkamul Haq helped West End Boys Club posted a narrow eight-run margin victory over Sheikh Kamal Nagar KC at the T&T ground.

West End Club, electing to bat made 168 for nine in stipulated 35 overs. Ahkamul faced 89 balls hitting six fours and three sixes. Rajib and Salfur Reza contributed 30 and 25 respectively.



THAT WAS CLOSE: Surjo Tarun's Pakistani recruit Parvez Ahmed makes a desperate dive to escape being run-out against Abahani. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman.

Orient smile in seventh outing

Tarun dig their own grave

Sports Reporter

Holdings Abahani Krira Chakra shattered the dreams of big-spending Surjo Tarun when they posted an impressive 51 run win over their next-door Dhanmondi neighbours in a crucial Janakantha Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Surjo Tarun, who went on a spending spree in a bid to clinch their maiden league title, desperately needed a win in their seventh league engagement. But their chances to stay afloat in the title race were left in the lurch when their so-called star cricketers, chasing a fighting Abahani total of 286, perished for 235 in 75 overs.

As far as mathematical propositions are concerned, Tarun can still hope against hopes, but with three defeats against four wins their chance of a comeback looks rather bleak.

On the other hand, with this win Abahani crossed a major hurdle in their chase for a hat trick of league titles. The popular Dhanmondi outfit with six wins against a single defeat now take the solo lead in the 12-team fray.

Surjo Tarun was the talk of the town when they roped in as many as six national players in a sensational inter-club cricketers' transfer this season. But the success for the mediocre-turned-aspirants never matched their expectations when bad selection procedure coupled with injudicious foreign recruits signed their doom.

They possess a handful of individual talents, but they lack cohesion as a team.

Their indiscreet and wayward approach was once again evident in yesterday's match when Al-Shahriar, considered as a talented batsman, threw away his wicket at a stage when Surjo Tarun were strongly placed at 96 for one.

Surjo Tarun were off to a slow but steady start with openers Athar Ali Khan and Parvez putting on 94 runs in 35 overs. Athar was the first to go after scoring a patient 44 off 97 balls which included six fours.

But an itchy-foot Al-Shahriar, coming in to bat at number three, stayed at the wicket for only three minutes. The gangling right-hander was so focused on playing his shots instead of first settling that his BKSP-mate Naimur needed only four deliveries to dislodge the ball over the leg and middle-stump.

If Al-Shahriar is held responsible for digging his own grave, his captain Minhazul Abedin

Fines for fouls

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 10: The Sao Paulo state soccer federation will fine players for each yellow or red card received in the 1999 Paulista championship, a newspaper reported Saturday, reports AP.

The fines — 210 dollars (250 reais) for a yellow card and 420 dollars (500 reais) for a red — will replace suspensions common in almost every other soccer league throughout the world, said the O Estado de Sao Paulo daily. Suspensions will only be imposed if a disciplinary tribunal rules it necessary.

Traditionally, players in Brazil are suspended one game for each red card or three accumulated yellows.

The new rules are receiving mixed reactions from referees. "If a player has to pay, he will be more careful before committing a foul," referee Paulo Cesar de Oliveira was quoted as saying.

Mullally blows Aussies away

BRISBANE, Jan 10 (AP/AF): England paceman Allan Mullally took career-best figures of 4-18 to set up a victory over Australia in a rain-hit limited overs cricket international Sunday.

Rain between innings reduced Australia's target from 179 off 50 overs to 153 off 36 and they fell eight short at 145-9.

Man-of-the-match Mullally dismissed the top four in Australia's batting order as the hosts slumped to 4-43.

Australia's top limited overs batsman Michael Bevan, batting at six, put the team in contention with an unbeaten 56 but didn't get enough support.

Australia's opening bowlers Glenn McGrath and Adam Dale tied down England's top order as the visitors struggled to 178 for eight off their 50 overs.

Tailenders Robert Croft and Darren Gough added an unbroken 42 in the final nine overs to give England's total some respectability.

England captain Alec Stewart won the toss, after losing all five in the 3-1 Ashes defeat, and celebrated by punching the air. But he was out first ball when he came out to open the innings, trapped lbw by Dale.

Nick Knight with 30 and Neil Fairbrother with 47 scored some valuable runs, but the ball dominated.

McGrath had 2-24 off his 10 overs and Dale finished with 2-25, including three maidens.

Australia started with a flurry but fell apart after a brilliant spell by Mullally, who took 4-12 in the space of 27 deliveries, his best figures in one-day cricket after 3-29 against Zimbabwe in Harare two years ago.

Mullally started the slide by bowling Adam Gilchrist off his pads for 12. Mark Waugh fell for 23 off 23 balls, when he misjudged Mullally's and gave an inside edge through to Stewart.

Mullally added Ricky Ponting and Damien Martyn while Greg Blewett fell to Mark Ealham.

Bevan added 46 with Brendon Julian to put Australia back in the frame before Julian advanced at off-spinner Croft and was bowled by a straight ball for 22. Shane Warne was run out by Mark Alleyne, making up for an earlier embar-

rassment in the field when he slipped after the ball and was unable to pick it up.

Croft, bowling an excellent line and length, forced a poor shot to dismiss Damien Fleming to a catch at mid-off, Mullally making the grab despite having both eyes shut.

After the eighth wicket fell, Bevan and Adam Dale needed 21 off the final two overs and then 13 from the last, bowled by Gough.

Dale turned a full toss to fine leg for two and Gough complained about a damp ball. After giving it an extensive wipe Gough got his control back and sent Dale back with a yorker.

McGrath came out needing 11 off four balls and stole a single from the first, but Bevan could only manage two off the last three balls.

Bevan, unable to get a Test start during the recent Ashes series maintained his reputation as a limited-overs specialist. When he reached 28 he made his 3,000th run in 89 one-day internationals at the commanding average of 58.84.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the one-day cricket international between Australia and England at the Gabba on Sunday:

ENGLAND:	Knight c Gilchrist b McGrath	30
	Stewart lbw b Dale	30
	Wells b Dale	10
	Hick c Gilchrist b Fleming	8
	Fairbrother b McGrath	47
	A. Holloake c Gilchrist b Fleming	5
	Alleyne run out	2

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	10	0	23	2
Dale	10	3	25	2
Fleming	10	0	33	2
Julian	5	0	29	1
Warne	10	0	42	0
Blewett	5	0	21	0

AUSTRALIA:	A Waugh c Stewart b Mullally	23
	Gilchrist b Mullally	13
	Ponting c A. Holloake b Mullally	8
	Martyn b Mullally	0
	Blewett c Stewart b Ealham	0
	Bevan not out	56
	Warne run out	23
	Fleming c Mullally b Croft	8
	Dale b Gough	2
	McGrath not out	4
	Croft	7
	Extras: (lb-2, w-5)	7
Total: (for 9 wks in 36 overs)	145	
Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-46; 3-47; 4-48; 5-48; 6-94; 7-117; 8-129; 9-142.		

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	6	0	47	1
Mullally	8	1	18	4
Ealham	7	1	16	1
A. Holloake	7	1	31	0
Croft	7	0	24	2
Alleyne	1	0	7	0

Result: England won by 7 runs.
Australian target reduced to 153 from 36 overs when rain reduced their innings by 14 overs.

Man-of-the-match: Allan Mullally.

TRI-SERIES FIXTURES

- Jan 11: England vs Sri Lanka at Brisbane.
- Jan 13: Sri Lanka vs Australia at Sydney.
- Jan 15: England vs Australia at Melbourne.
- Jan 17: England vs Australia at Sydney.
- Jan 19: England vs Sri Lanka at Melbourne.
- Jan 21: Sri Lanka vs Australia (day) at Hobart.
- Jan 23: England vs Sri Lanka at Adelaide.
- Jan 24: Sri Lanka vs Australia at Adelaide.
- Jan 26: England vs Australia at Adelaide.
- Jan 29: England vs Sri Lanka at Perth.
- Jan 31: Sri Lanka vs Australia (day) at Perth.
- Feb 3: England vs Sri Lanka at Sydney.
- Feb 5: England vs Australia at Sydney.
- Feb 7: Sri Lanka vs Australia at Melbourne.

Finals
Feb 10: First final at Sydney.
Feb 12: Second final at Melbourne.
Feb 14: Third final at Melbourne.

Note: All are day-night matches unless otherwise noted.



Neil Fairbrother of England sweeps during the opening match of the Carlton and United tri-series match against Australia yesterday. — AFP photo

Shiv Sena threatens to turn on diplomats

NEW DELHI, Jan 10 (AP): A Hindu militant group which has vowed to disrupt Pakistan's first cricket tour on Indian soil in 12 years has threatened Pakistani diplomats in New Delhi, reports said today.

The Statesman daily said police found pamphlets in front of the Pakistani embassy here written in Hindi and English by militants warning that diplomats would be targeted if Pakistani team arrived in India.

Supporters of firebrand Hindu leader Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena Party dug up a cricket pitch in New Delhi late Wednesday.

A police officer said the two-page pamphlet was signed by the "acting president" of Delhi's Shiv Sena unit and a former chief of the party.

Police beefed up security at the embassy following the threats, a police official said. "We will not allow any untoward incident in the area, security will be tightened in the area," joint commissioner of Police, Y S Dadwal said.

"Appropriate measures have been taken for the security of the diplomats and we are trying to track down the people who have signed the pamphlets," he said.

Prasad cautioned

NAPIER, New Zealand, Jan 10: Indian cricketer Venkatesh Prasad was issued with a warning Sunday after clashing with New Zealand's Craig McMillan in Saturday's limited-over international in Taupo, reports AP.

Prasad was found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute when he switched ground in his follow through to impede the path of McMillan, who was attempting a quick single in the sixth over of the innings.

The two players clashed and the incident was subsequently reported by umpires Brent Bowden and Doug Cowie to match referee Talit Ali, from Pakistan.

Prasad was reprimanded for his actions but no further penalty was imposed.

New Zealand won the first match of a five-game series, after a power failure forced officials to recalculate the home side's scoring target.

Nuremberg sign Juskie

NUREMBERG, Jan 10: Struggling Bundesliga club FC Nuremberg on Saturday signed Yugoslav midfielder Zivojin Juskie from Obilic Belgrade, reports AP.

Nuremberg said Juskie was taken on a 350,000 mark (207,000 dollars, 180,000 euro) loan until the end of the season. By paying another 350,000 marks, Nuremberg will obtain the transfer rights for the 29-year-old midfielder.

Canberra win

CANBERRA, Jan 10 (Reuters/Internet): Canberra beat Victoria by four wickets in a Mercantile Cup limited-overs cricket match on Sunday.

Scores: Victoria 226-4 (Brad Hodge 118) from 50 overs; Canberra 231-6 (Brad Haddin 133) from 43 overs.

Akram wants tour of India to go ahead

KARACHI, Pakistan, Jan 10 (Reuters/Internet): Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said on Sunday he wanted the controversial tour of India to go ahead, but added the decision was up to the government and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"I want the tour to go on, the team wants the tour to go on," Akram said during a break in training at Karachi's National Stadium.

"It's entirely up to the government and the PCB to decide what they want us to do. If they tell us to go play, we would like to go play."

Pakistan's first Test tour of India in almost a decade was thrown into doubt last week by threats from a right-wing Hindu party which also dug up the pitch to be used for the opening Test.

PCB officials said they would send a representative to India either on Monday or Tuesday to discuss security arrangements.

India on Friday promised Pakistan "fool-proof security" after Shiv Sena activists dug up the pitch in New Delhi and vowed to prevent the January 28 Test from starting.

Manzoor for Victoria

It was learnt late last night that Victoria may field Manzoor Elahi in their match against Ajax after obtaining the Pakistani cricketer on mutual transfer from Kalabagan Krira Chakra.

The hard-hitting World Cupper, who played for Bagan in the last two seasons, arrived in the city yesterday.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Biman vs. Brothers (Bangabandhu National Stadium)
Ajax vs. Victoria (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier League matches played at different city venues yesterday.

Abahani vs Surjo Tarun
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)
ABAHANI: 286 all out in 72.4 overs (Ejaz Junior 81, Naimur 44; Nazar 4/65, Enamul 3/23)
SURJO TARUN
Athar c & b Naimur 44
Parvez c Hasibul b Saidul 55
Al-Shahriar b Naimur 2
Navid c Ejaz b Saidul 41
Minhajul c Akram b Saidul 24
K Masood run out 7
Enamul run out 4
Rahimul c Azam b Naimur 19
Anis c Tuhin b Hasibul 3
Nazar not out 1
Extras: (lb-3, lb-4, nb-5, w-22) 34
Total: (All out in 75 overs) 235
Fall of wickets: 1/96; 2/98; 3/150; 4/188; 5/201; 6/206; 7/211; 8/229; 9/232

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Hasibul Hossain	14	2	34	1
Neyamur Rashid	5	1	18	0
Masud Rana	7	0	30	0
Saidul Islam	16	2	47	3
Naimur Rahman	14	2	29	3
Ejaz Ahmed (Jr)	16	0	58	0
Azam Iqbal	3	0	12	0

Result: Abahani won by 51 runs.
Wari vs Orient
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)
WARI: 243 all out in 72.4 overs (A Washing 86, Ariful 36 not out; Sohail 4/38, Aminul 3/31)

ORIENT:	O	M	R	W
Mofijul b A Wasim	31			
Jewel lbw b Ariful	0			
Narayan st. Mukter b Nasim	51			
Rizwan st. Mukter b A Wasim	39			
Sohail c Tariq b Nasim	3			
Reaz Sheikh c Mukter b Nasim	0			
Mazahar b Sajib	41			
Mizanur not out	54			
Azim not out	2			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-6, w-15)	23			
Total: (For 7 wks in 79.4 overs)	244			
Fall of wickets: 1/3; 2/78; 3/126; 4/133; 5/139; 6/144; 7/239				

Result: Orient won by 3 wickets.