

Star Sport

DHAKA SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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?

Hingis 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
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Mike Tyson

(Former world heavyweight champion)

"I'm never going to put it out of my mind."

About the two successive losses to Evander Holyfield.

Third ODI washed out

WELLINGTON, Jan 15: Steady rain in Wellington forced the abandonment of the one-day cricket international between New Zealand and India at the Basin Reserve here today, reports AFP.

The match was ruined by rain Thursday and rescheduled to Friday, but overnight rain and more this morning left the umpires with no other option than to abandon the third match in the five-game series.

The abandonment continues a frustrating one-day series for both teams after the opening match in Taupo was marred by a lighting failure.

The next game in the series is at Eden Park in Auckland Saturday and the final game in Christchurch on Tuesday.

The series is currently level at 1-1

English battle to protect TV deal

LONDON, Jan 15 (Reuters/Internet): English soccer's premier league said on

Tuesday top clubs could be lured away to a European super league if it loses a landmark legal hearing into the way television rights to its matches are sold.

The Office of Fair Trading is mounting a legal challenge to the premier league's practice of selling rights collectively. It argues that the 20-team league is acting as a cartel, pushing up bounds and restricting viewer choice.

The case, being heard before Britain's Restrictive Practices Court, could result in clubs negotiating their own individual television deals. The premier league says this would undermine the league's structure and benefit only the top clubs.

Charles Aldous, counsel for the premier league, noted many premier league clubs were loss-making and a number could not survive without revenues from the lucrative television deals with pay TV company BSkyB and the BBC.

He said an end to the current system of selling rights "may be fine for one or two clubs but would be divisive and spell disaster for lesser clubs".



Abahani official Jalal Yunus (2nd from left) shielding Sri Lankan umpire Philip Mendis from some angry Abahani officials who attacked the man in uniform yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

— Star photo

Bad show, Akram Khan!

Sports Reporter

Akram Khan may have been the captain of the national team. He may have elevated himself to cloud seven for leading Bangladesh to the ICC triumph in 1997. But, yesterday, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, he carried himself to the gutter and cricket is the ultimate loser.

In the 65th over of Abahani's innings, Akram complained to the umpire that Biman's Saleh Ahmed, left-arm spinner round the wicket, was in his 'elaborate' follow-through getting in his way. The burly batsman was apparently being obstructed while trying to take off from the runner's end. At one stage, an incensed Akram, his arms flying everywhere, in the most unbecoming of ways, took the trouble of miming Sohel's run-up, delivery and follow-through to impress upon Sri Lankan umpire Philip Mendis his point. That action itself was enough to warrant punitive action against the former national skipper.

As if that was not enough, as Saleh prepared to bowl the second last ball of his over to Neeyamur Rashid, Akram threw his gloves and dumped his bat at his end, and, believe it or not, marched in a visibly agitated state to the boundary line shouting, "Who is the match referee? I want to talk to him."

Abahani officials, led by BCB member Jalal Yunus, came on to the ground to meet Akram. Simultaneously, a section of Abahani supporters threw bricks and other missiles on to the ground. The umpires picked up the bats and approached the pavilion. But, they were abused, physically and verbally, by unruly Abahani officials and fans. Among others, Shah Alam, known as Professor Shah Alam, and one Tara were seen trying to punch the umpires. Had Biman cricketer Ahmed Faizay Shaheen not intervened, the punches could have hit the umpires. The Abahani crowd, fanned by the unacceptable behaviour of some of the Abahani officials, continued with the brick-batting. One missile -- a coconut -- hit umpire Mendis on the face. The two umpires, shaken as they were, then managed to somehow run to the pavilion with the help of some sensible Abahani officials, who formed a cordon around them.

The Abahani officials were then seen attacking Shaheen and other Biman players.

Abahani cricket chairman Mustafa Kamal MP, who was at the stadium, said, "This is a very sad incident for cricket. The officials, who attacked the umpires, are (Abahani) football officials. I do not know how they entered the ground. In future this will not happen".

Mahmud Ul Haque Manu, Secretary, Cricket Committee of Metropolitan Dhaka (CCDM), has condemned the incident in the strongest of words and said, "No one will be spared".

When talking to Akram after the innings, the tired Abahani skipper said that he left the ground with an intention to talk to the match referee before the Sri Lankan umpire was not listening to him.

Ntini, who was not asked to plead, was remanded on bail of 5,000 rand (800 dollars) and ordered to appear again on March 24 -- which falls during South Africa's tour of New Zealand.

The 21-year-old fast bowler, who has played four test matches, has been charged with the rape of a student in East London, a coastal city and home to the Border provincial side.

Ntini is alleged to have committed the crime on December 1 after giving the 21-year-old woman a lift in his car.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) issued a statement in support of Ntini on Friday.

It may be mentioned that Akram Khan was in trouble with Makhaya on numerous occasions.

dian umpire at the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games in the match against Ireland. The match referee, New Zealand's John Reid, had recommended that Akram be suspended for three international matches. A letter to that effect was prepared to be faxed to the ICC. Timely action and pleading by team manager Tanveer Haider and other team members saved Akram the axe and Bangladesh the ignominy of international censure.

We have seen many worse umpiring in slow-motion television but never, never has a cricketer flung down his gear and looked for the match referee. In case Akram is not

aware, it is the referee's duty to look at him and not vice versa. Whatever grievances Akram may have had, there is a specified manner in which he could apply to the match referee, the tournament committee, the board, the ICC ... Akram's method is definitely not recommended. His action can only tell poorly on the future generation of cricketers.

At a time when Bangladesh is vying to become the tenth test team, Akram's transgression can only frustrate Saber and company's tireless efforts to project the cause of Bangladesh cricket. And, mind you, the ICC keeps an eye on everything, particularly domestic cricket.



THE PICTURE SAYS IT ALL: Abahani supporters cordon the Biman dressing room in search of cricketer Ahmed Faizay Shaheen, who with his imposing physique stood against the Abahani officials to save umpire Philip Mendis from being manhandled.

— Star photo

Ntini in court



EAST LONDON, South Africa, Jan 15 (Reuters/AF/1 internet): South African cricketer

Makhaya Ntini, the first black African to play for the national team, appeared in court on Friday charged with rape, a court official said.

"On that basis, I support him fully. We realise that this is now in the hands of the courts and we hope the case is disposed of as soon as possible."

Bacher added that Ntini's eligibility for the national team will be discussed by the UCB executive on Sunday.

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"I have discussed this matter with Makhaya on numerous occasions."

PM's gold medal for IM Rakib

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh chess team, which clinched the 52nd position among 110 nations in the 33rd Chess Olympiad held in Elista, Russia, last September, called on State Minister for Youth and Sports, Obaidul Quader, at his office yesterday afternoon.

The State Minister awarded one lakh Taka to Bangladesh Chess Federation and also announced presenting two computers -- one for the federation and the other to International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib, who earned the IM title at the Chess Olympiad.

The State Minister also handed over a gold medal to Rakib on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh Chess Federation president Dr. M. Mustafa Chowdhury and his general secretary Capt. (retired) Sujauddin Ahmed were present on the occasion, as were the players.

Div I cricket

Jatrabari maintained their winning streak outplaying Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by five wickets in their third match of the First Division cricket league match at the City Club ground yesterday, reports APB.

Eskaton, after electing to bat, scored 213 for seven in 50 overs. Opener Turki top-scored with 64 in 82 balls featuring eight fours and two sixes.

One-down Farid contributed 35 off 66 balls followed by Sajid, Jasim and Tota who scored 29, 28 and 20 respectively.

Khokon snapped up three wickets while Tareq took two for 45 for Jatrabari.

In reply, Jatrabari cruised to the target of 214 losing five wickets in 45.3 overs with opener Babu scoring the highest 88 off 124 balls that included eight fours.

Babu shared 138-runs fifth wicket partnership with Sajid who played an unbeaten 76 off 113 including six fours. A handsome 35 runs came from the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The match was stopped for five minutes at the stroke of tea because of an undesirable incident, which saw Abahani skipper Akram Khan, after a verbal row with Sri Lankan umpire Philip Mendis, leaving the crease without the umpire's permission and talking to the club officials near the pavilion boundary rope. After watching the developments for about five minutes, the umpires apparently signalled for tea and were coming to the dressing room for the break. That prompted a few Abahani officials -- Professor Shah Alam Chowdhury and Tara -- to attack the umpires. (See 'Bad show, Akram Khan!') The umpires were then seen running to save their lives as no Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) officials or any other member of any law-enforcing agency were present at that time.

A colourful procession of students and youth would be organised from the Eden Gardens to Park Circus in south Calcutta on January 17 to protest against the Sena's attempts to disrupt the matches.

"We have finished all preparations for the match we expect it to be held as scheduled," state sports minister Suhas Chakraborty said yesterday adding that efforts to disrupt the matches by the Shiv Sena would not be tolerated.

Condemning the vituperations of Sena chief Bal Thackeray against the Pakistani team and former Pak cricketer Imran Khan, he said protest programmes would be held during the ongoing State Youth and Students Festival in the districts.

The slogan of the procession would be "Calcutta is for Cricket. Calcutta is Against Discrimination and Hatred," he said.

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After Azam's return, Mehrab, the other opener, gave a solid foundation to Abahani inns with a 99-run partnership with one-down Naimur Rahman. The duo batted quite sensibly and took Abahani to lunch on 134 in 34 overs without any further loss.

The partnership was broken by former national left-arm seamer Jahangir Alam Talukder, the right-hand batsman went on his back foot and missed the line of the ball.

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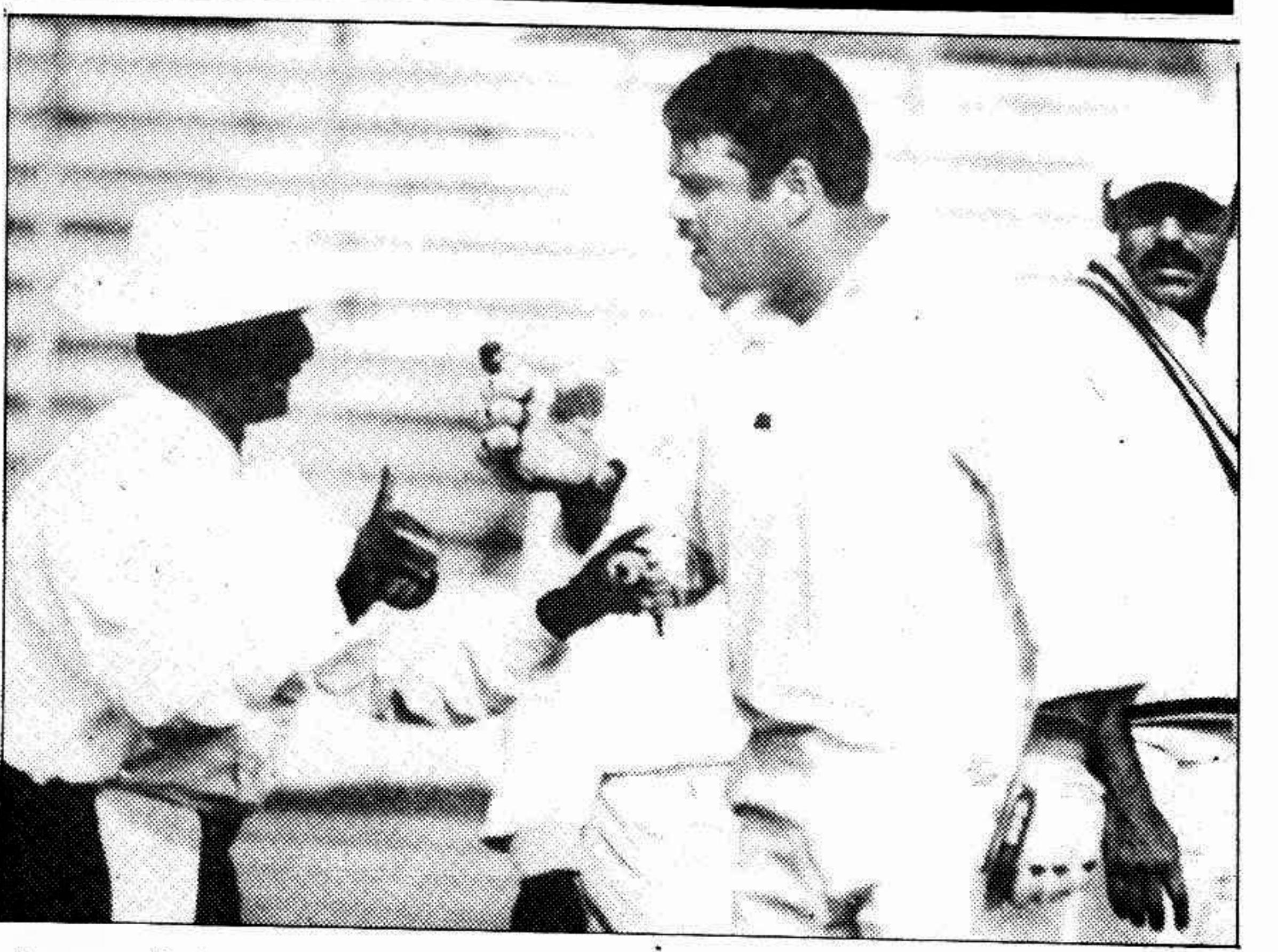
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Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, Wari scored

132 runs in 45 overs.

In reply, the bankers managed 13 in five overs without



An angry Abahani skipper Akram Khan arguing with umpire Philip Mendis.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Wari fail to pile big despite Amir Wasim

Abahani strongly poised but match leaves bad taste

Sports Reporter

Khan in the 33rd over.

Abahani lost two more wickets in quick succession before Akram Khan and Pakistan middle-order Azam Khan put on a 65-run partnership for the fifth wicket which saw Abahani crossing the 200-mark in the 54th over.

Biman's left-arm spinner Saifullah Khan broke the partnership in the 62nd over dismissing Azam Khan on 37.



The right-hand discarded Pakistan international gave a thin edge to wicketkeeper Atiar while trying to cut Saifullah. In his 72-ball stay Azam smote four fours and a six.

Akram then paired with Neeyamur Rashid and put on a 71-run partnership in the sixth wicket before being brilliantly caught by his Biman counterpart at mid-off. Faruque's catch was one of the best ever at this ground.

Akram, in his 103-ball 68, hammered only two boundaries and a six.

After Akram's departure, Neeyamur and Hasibul Hossain took Biman bowlers to the sword and helped Abahani reach the 300-mark with a 30-run partnership.

Apart from the Akram Khan incident, a few Abahani cricketers showed their arrogance while responding to the umpire's decisions.

Pakistan middle-order Ejaj Ahmed kept standing on the crease after he was adjudged leg-before three. His compatriot Azam Khan was also seen reluctant to leave the crease after he was given a caught behind verdict.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, Wari scored 93 followed by lower middle-order Biplob who chipped in with 30.

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