

Column One

Roost 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
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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 lightning 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 prices 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 was 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 musing 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 Neeamur 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 balls 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 Fayaz 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-battling. One missile -- a coconut -- hit umpire Mendis on the face. The two umpires, shaken as they were, then marched to somewhere run to the pavilion with the help of some sensible Abahani officials, who formed a cordon around them.

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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 because the Sri Lankan umpire was not listening to him. "I tried in many ways to make him (umpire) understand about what Saleh Ahmed was doing. But instead of heeding, he asked me to keep quiet and not to talk 'stupid'. That struck my mind. I decided to talk to the match referee on that," said Akram.

When asked whether he could have very well done his complaining to the match referee during the tea break, Akram appeared to regret his deed.

The Sri Lankan umpire Mendis declined to comment on the incident and said that he would file his comments in the match report.

It may be mentioned that Akram Khan was in trouble with a Pakistani and a Canadian 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 cricket 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 Sabar 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 Fayaz 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/AFP/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.

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.



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.

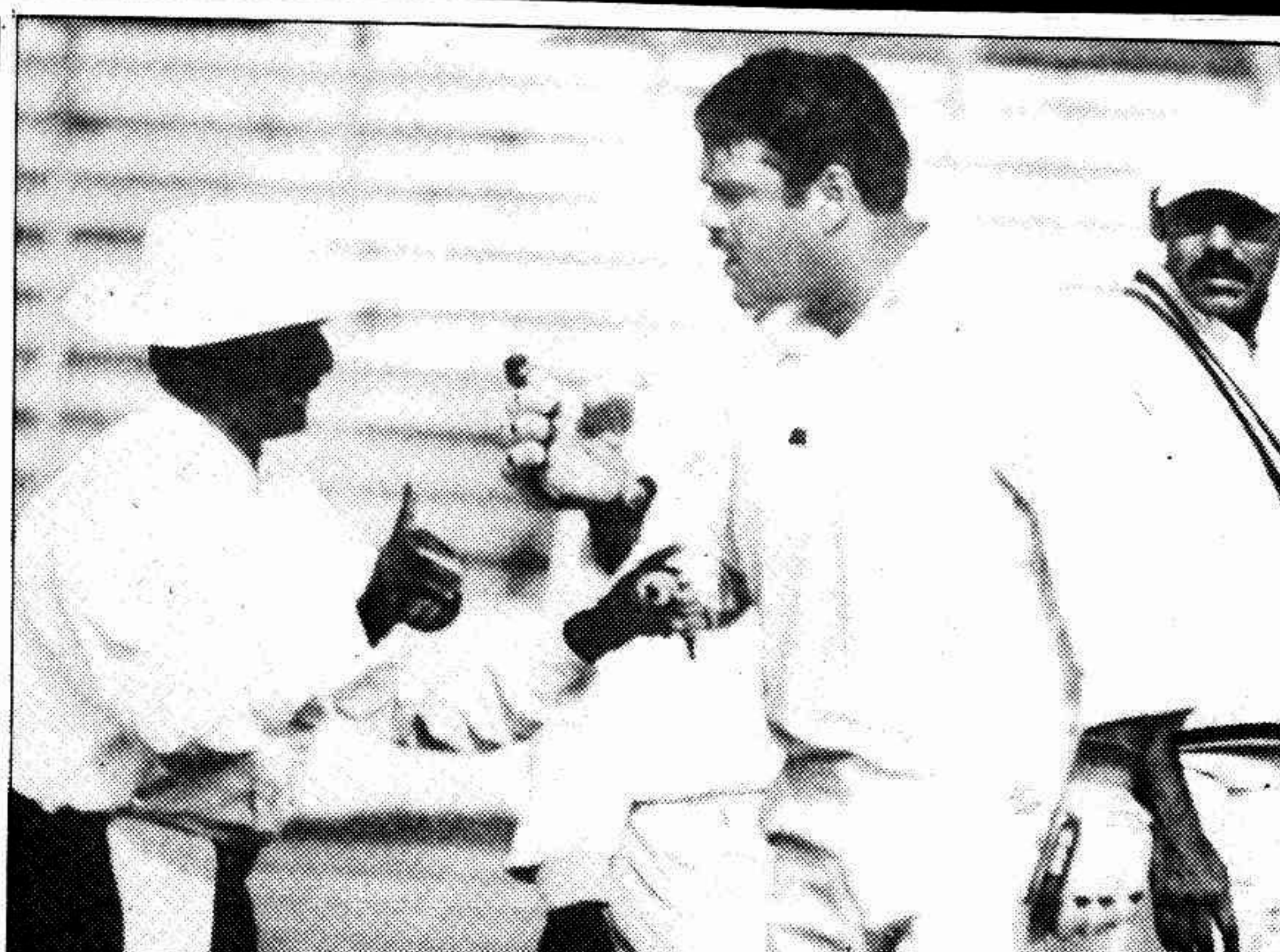
Bangladesh Chess Federation president Dr. M. Mustafa Chowdhury and his general secretary Capt (ret'd) Sujauddin Ahmed were present on the occasion, as were the players.

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.



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 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.

Back to the match, on a dry and cold morning, Abahani skipper Akram Khan won the toss and decided to bat against the national athletes.

They lost their first wicket on 44 in the 17th over when opener Azam Khan was bowled by Pakistan leg spinner Manzoor Akhter. The right-hand batsman went on his back foot and missed the line of the ball.

After Azam's return, Mehra, the other opener, gave a solid foundation to Abahani innings 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 in his second over after lunch when he trapped Mehra leg-before with a gem of an inswinger.

In his more than three-hour stay at the crease, Mehra, who has been included in the 30-man primary list for the 1999 World Cup, scored 65 off 113 balls, which included seven boundaries and a huge six off left-arm spinner Saifullah

Akram then paired with Neeamur 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.

Both the matches will continue today.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier Division cricket league matches began at different city venues yesterday:

Abahani v Biman
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)
ABAHANI
Azam b M Akhter 18
Mehrab lbw b Jahangir 65
Naimur run out 47
Azam Khan c Atiar b Saifullah 37
Ejaz lbw b Jahangir 3
Akram Khan c Faruque b N Shawkat 68
Neeamur run out 39
Hasibul st Atiar b M Akhter 11
Nuruzzaman st Atiar b M Akhter 1
Iqbal not out 1
Extras: (b-8, lb-9, nb-9, w-9) 35
Total: (for 9 wks in 80 overs) 324

Bowler
N Shawkat 15 1 55 1
Jahangir Alam 14 0 44 2
M Akhter 16 2 68 3
Saleh Ahmed 16 1 50 0
Aminalul Islam 3 0 16 0
Saifullah Khan 16 0 74 1
Zahid not out 4
Extras: (b-4, lb-12, nb-6, w-22) 44
Total: (all out in 77.4 overs) 240
Fall of wks: 1-44; 2-143; 3-144; 4-156; 5-221; 6-292; 7-322; 8-324; 9-324.

WARI CLUB
Anup c Sajjad b Mofizur 0
Mukhter c Chayan b Mofizur 1
Sajib c Sajjad b S Malik 11
T Mahmood b Daufin 24
Tuhin c Sajjad b Daufin 5
A Wasim lbw b S Malik 93
Biplay b Mofizur 30
Nasim c Daufin b Azad 6
Murad c b Russell 13
Monir run out 3
Zahid not out 4
Extras: (b-4, lb-12, nb-6, w-22) 44
Total: (all out in 77.4 overs) 240
Fall of wks: 1-2; 2-4; 3-42; 4-55; 5-70; 6-151; 7-171; 8-182; 9-224.

Bowler
Mofizur 15 1 44 3
Daufin 9 1 32 2
S Malik 16 5 34 2
Suja 16 3 44 0
S Azad 8 0 30 1
Russell 13.4 1 40 1

AGRAHI BANK
Sajjad batting 10
Chayan batting 3
Extras: 13
Total: (for no loss in 5 overs) 10
Bowler
Zahid 1 0 5 0
Tuhin 2 0 6 0
A Wasim 2 1 2 0

Wills logo legal

WELLINGTON, Jan 15: The visiting Indian cricket team is not breaking New Zealand's anti-smoking laws despite Wills logos on their bats and uniforms, a minister said today, reports AFP.

Associate health minister Tuariki Delamere said after getting a legal opinion from the crown law office, that the logos do not breach the smokefree environments act because they do not advertise a tobacco product on sale in New Zealand.

Sohail sour at being dropped

PCB names India-bound team

ISLAMABAD, Jan 15 (AP/Reuters/AFP): Former captain Aamir Sohail was left off Pakistan's 16-man side announced Thursday that will make a two-Test tour of India starting next week.

The Pakistan Cricket Board included most of the expected players, including Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik, Inzamamul Haq, Yousaf Youhana, Shahid Afridi and Waqar Younis in addition to captain Wasim Akram and vice captain Moin Khan.

The announcement came shortly after a Pakistani cricket official, making a security inspection tour of India for the series, gave his okay despite threats from Hindu extremists to prevent the matches.

Sohail, who had already been replaced as captain by Akram, was not included in the 16-man squad for the controversial tour.

No reason for his omission was given by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) although Sohail stayed away from a preparatory training camp at Karachi on health grounds.

Meanwhile, AFP adds from Karachi, Sohail Thursday expressed his dismay at being axed from the India-bound squad and lashed out at cricket board officials.

"I am really disappointed at being dropped because I wanted to play a Test against India before retiring but I think they don't need me anymore," Sohail told from his Lahore residence.

The 32-year-old ex-captain who led Pakistan in the last home season during which Pakistan lost back-to-back home series against Australia and Zimbabwe walked out of the team after a row with a selector before the second Test against Zimbabwe in Lahore.

Chief selector Wasim Bari said Aamir did not attend the training camp so his name was not considered.

PCB said Aamir sent a message via the Internet informing the board he was not fit to go on the tour.

"I have never sent any message and nobody asked me about my fitness," Aamir retorted. "I had a chest infection but that was no reason to drop me," he said claiming the selectors had grudge against him.

"In the past many players were selected without attending the camp but in my case they found a pretext to drop me," he said.

"In the last season the selectors asked Saeed Anwar and Inzamamul-Haq about their fitness but nobody asked me. It is their dual standard."

Aamir refused to accept his career was over.

SQUAD
Wasim Akram (captain), Moin Khan (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Wajahatullah Wasti, Mohammad Naveed, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik, Inzamamul Haq, Yousaf Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mush-taq Ahmed, Nadeem Khan.