

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
**Competition-110**

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Competition closes at 8 pm  
Jan 28/99 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) .....

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### SPORTS TALK



#### Hansie Cronje

(South African cricket captain)

"We set our goal to play 25 good days of Test cricket during the summer and we were just fortunate to have come out on top in all five matches."

After completing a 5-0 whitewash against West Indies.

#### Taylor taking his time

SYDNEY, Jan 23: Australian Test captain Mark Taylor said today there was a chance he might go on the cricket tour of the West Indies next month, reports AFP.

"There's a chance of that but as I've said I've got to do some serious thinking," Taylor said during New South Wales Sheffield Shield match with Tasmania here.

"One thing that not playing the one-dayers has done is given me a chance to get away from the game and make a good value decision rather than a hasty one."

"I've always said I'll keep playing as long as I'm enjoying the game."

"The game has given me a lot of good times, no doubt about it. The Ashes series was good although I didn't finish off as well myself."

"I've had a very good career as a player and a very enjoyable one as a captain. I've had a good time, it's just whether I want to go on the tours that come up during the year — West Indies and Sri Lanka."

"That's what I've got to make a decision about."

Taylor intended to retire after the recent Ashes series, with the final Test at his home Sydney Cricket Ground being his 50th as captain.

But when the murky Shane Warne-Mark Waugh bookmaker affair surfaced last month, after being covered up for four years, he was prompted to review those plans.

The 34-year-old Test skipper subsequently told the selectors and the Australian Cricket Board he was available for the Caribbean, if required, and that remains the situation.

"I've still got a week to make a final decision so I'll be discussing that further with the people who spend most of the time in my life, mainly my family, particularly my wife," said Taylor.

It appears the constant demands of touring on a player with a wife and two young children is weighing heavily on his mind.

Australian's 15-man squad will be named on February 8 and Taylor will advise the selectors of his availability next weekend.

#### REGRETS

Due to space constraint our regular item **CROSSWORD** could not be accommodated.

— Sports Editor

## Premier League resumes on January 26 Four in the race, but...

Sports Reporter

With two-third of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League completed, holders Abahani, runners-up Brothers Union, Biman and Mohammedan Sporting are now in contention for the title.

Of the four, last season's runners-up Brothers Union are leading the table with six wins against a defeat from their seven outings. Holders Abahani and aspirants Biman also have six wins but they lost two matches, each having played eight matches.

However, Biman, who are now left with three matches against minor teams -- Sadharan Bima, Victoria Sporting and Wari, looks well-poised to win the title if they can manage to win those matches.

On the other hand, Brothers Union will have to face Mohammedan, Kalabagan, Orient Sporting and Abahani in their remaining four matches. Although they are favourites against babes Orient, the remaining three matches against the big clubs will be evenly balanced. If they lose two out of those three, they will be out of the race.

Abahani, who also left with three matches, have a daunting task ahead of defeating Mohammedan, Kalabagan and Brothers Union and lift the title for the third successive season.

Apart from the three, Mohammedan Sporting have also chances to clinch the title after two barren seasons if they can manage to win their remaining four matches. Out of the four, they have two big matches -- that against Abahani and Brothers -- while the other two encounters are against babes Sadharan Bima and lowly-rated Victoria Sporting Club.

The other two top teams in the 12-team elite league -- Kalabagan and Surjo Tarun -- are virtually out of the race. Kalabagan have lost three matches

out of seven while Surjo Tarun, the star-studded side, have also three defeats against five wins in eight matches.



Predictions made are based on the strengths of the teams on paper but performance seldom coincides in the game of glorious uncertainties. All will be settled after February 10, the day the league ends.

The league, which was postponed for ten days from January 16, will resume from Tuesday January 26.

Remaining fixture of the league:  
(BNS - Bangabandhu National Stadium; BKSP - Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Proshikhan, Savar; DCS - Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

### REMAINING FIXTURE

Date	Match	Venue
Jan 26-27:	Brothers Union v Mohammedan SC	BNS
	Surjo Tarun v Victoria SC	BKSP
	Kalabagan KC v Orient SC	DCS
Jan 28-29:	Biman v S Bima	BNS
Jan 30-31:	Ajax SC v Wari Club	BKSP
	Abahani v Mohammedan SC	BNS
Feb 1-2:	Agrani Bank v Orient SC	DCS
Feb 3-4:	Brothers Union v Kalabagan KC	BNS
	Surjo Tarun v Wari Club	DCS
	Mohammedan SC v S Bima	BNS
	Biman v Victoria SC	DCS
Feb 5-6:	Agrani Bank v Ajax SC	BKSP
	Abahani v Kalabagan KC	BNS
Feb 7-8:	Brothers Union v Orient SC	BNS
	Mohammedan SC v Victoria SC	DCS
	Biman v Wari	BKSP
Feb 9-10:	Surjo Tarun v Agrani Bank	BNS
	Abahani v Brothers Union	BKSP
	Kalabagan KC v S Bima	DCS
	Ajax SC v Orient SC	BKSP

### POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts
Brothers Union	7	6	1	12
Abahani	8	6	2	12
Biman	8	6	2	12
Mohammedan SC	7	5	2	10
Surjo Tarun	8	5	3	10
Kalabagan	7	4	3	8
Agrani Bank	8	4	4	8
Wari Club	8	3	5	6
Sadharan Bima	8	3	5	6
Orient SC	7	2	5	4
Ajax SC	8	1	7	2

## World champs prove a point

ADELAIDE, Jan 23 (Reuters/AP): Despair turned to delight for Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan as he hit the winning run against England after being no-balled for throwing in their triangular series match on Saturday.

Sri Lanka snatched a one-wicket win with two deliveries of their 50 overs to spare in the day-night game, making 303 for nine after England scored 302 for three.

Mahela Jayawardene hit a superb 120 while England's total of 302-3 was boosted by Graeme Hick's 126 not out and 78 not out from Neil Fairbrother.

Sri Lanka are level with Australia on four points after five matches. England have eight points.

Play in the match was held up for 12 minutes after umpire Ross Emerson no-balled Muralitharan from square leg on the fourth ball of his second over, the 18th of the tri-series match involving England and Australia.

Hick smashed his score off 118 balls while the other not out batsman Neil.

Fairbrother made 78, including two consecutive sixes off Chaminda Vaas in the final over.

England openers Nick

Knight and Alec Stewart put on a partnership of 64 off 62 balls before Stewart was caught by Ranatunga off the bowling of Chaminda Vaas for 39.

### SCOREBOARD

England  
Knight run out 44  
Stewart c Ranatunga b Vaas 39  
Hick not out 126



JAYAWARDENE ... m-o-m

### STANDINGS

Standings in the tri-series one-day cricket match after Sri Lanka's win over England on Saturday (matches, wins, losses, points).

England	6	4	2	8
Australia	5	2	3	4
Sri Lanka	5	2	3	4

Hussain c Tillekeratne b Jayasuriya 6  
Fairbrother not out 78  
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-3) 9  
Total: (For 30 wks in 50 overs) 302  
Fall of wickets: 1-64; 2-139; 3-148

### Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Vaas	10	0	76	1
Wickramasinghe	9	0	72	0
Jayawardene	4	0	24	0
Muralitharan	7	0	45	0
Jayasuriya	10	0	43	1
Chandana	10	0	40	0

### SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Fairbrother b Gough 51  
Kaluwitharana run out 0  
Atapattu c Fairbrother b Mullyall 3  
Tillekeratne b Croft 28  
Jayawardene lbw b Wells 120  
Ranatunga c Wells b Gough 41  
Vass run out 5  
Chandana c Fairbrother b Wells 25  
Mahanama run out 13  
Muralitharan not out 2  
Wickramasinghe not out 2  
Extras: (lb-9, w-4) 13  
Total: (For 9 wks in 49.4 overs) 303  
Fall of wickets: 1-3; 2-8; 3-68; 4-137; 5-223; 6-235; 7-269; 8-288; 9-298.

### Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	1	68	2
Mullyall	10	0	61	1
Hollisake	5	0	45	0
Ealham	10	1	48	0
Croft	10	0	42	1
Wells	4.4	0	30	2

Result: Sri Lanka won by one wicket.

Man-of-the-match: M Jayawardene.

## Support from all quarters

UNDATED, Jan 23 (AP): Muttiah Muralitharan's family said Saturday there was an attempt in Australia to destroy one of the world's top off-spinners.

"This is disgusting and we see a pattern that has developed in Australia to destroy Murali mentally," Muttiah Prabhakaran, Muralitharan's brother said, recounting what he described press leaks and plants in the Australian media over the bowling.

Local newspapers have expressed disgust at comments in the Australian media that Muralitharan was the son of a chocolate shop and was sent to a boarding house because there was not enough space to raise him at home.

"Why are the Aussies jumping like catfish when they hear the name of Muralitharan or see him?" the state-run Daily News said last week.

Muralitharan's family runs Luckland Biscuits, one of the largest cookie companies in Sri Lanka, which employs 300 people. The family owns a five-room house on a two-acre site in this country.

In December, Sri Lankan authorities urged cricket's governing body to discipline Australian umpire Darrell Hair for remarks against Sri Lankan players, despite Hair's withdrawal from officiating for the tour.

Sri Lanka complained to the International Cricket Committee in November that Hair

breached the code of conduct which bars players, team officials and umpires from making comments detrimental to the game, or a tour they are involved in.

Hair no-balled Muralitharan seven times for throwing in a test at Melbourne in 1995. But the ICC later accepted medical and video evidence from the Sri Lankan board which proved Muralitharan has a birth defect preventing him from straightening his arm.

Muralitharan underwent bio-mechanical tests in Hong Kong and Australia that cleared him.

Three Australian cricket specialists from the University of Western Australia viewed films of 24 of his deliveries from six angles shot at 200 frames a second.

"It is clear that this apparent straightening of the bowling arm was a visual illusion," the team said in a report. The International Cricket Council then cleared Muralitharan.

Four days before Muralitharan was called for throwing in a one-day cricket match against England on Saturday, the Sri Lankan spinner admonished Australian crowds for taunting him over his bowling action.

Even before Saturday's no-ball call by Australian umpire Ross Emerson, Muralitharan, a 26-year-old member of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka, had been subjected to intense heckling from Australian crowds over his suspects action since his return to the country

for the first time in three years. Breaking his silence on claims he was a chucker, the offspinner said the fact that Australian crowds had been jeering him when he came on to bowl was annoying.

"It's frustrating when you go to the ground and people are shouting at you every time that's the annoying thing more than anything else," Muralitharan said.

"But I think the more they shout the more I'll be tougher. Other batsmen, who hit a four or other bowlers who take a wicket the crowd, they appreciate them, but when I take a wicket it's the other way around."

Muralitharan said it was only Australian crowds who posed a problem for him.

"The England public's very good and they were encouraging me," he said. "Even I got a contract with Lancashire. I'm going to play next year. So I think the only problem is in Australia."

"Technology has developed so you can use the technology and you can judge I think."

Muralitharan returned the fifth-best bowling figures in Test cricket, taking 16 wickets in a Test against England at the London Oval in August. After the series, England coach David Lloyd said he suspected Muralitharan's actions.

Muralitharan was the leading bowler in international cricket last year with 68 wickets. He has played 42 Tests and is the first Sri Lankan and 24th in the world to claim 200 test wickets.

### Attack on SL umpires

#### Abahani regret

Sports Reporter

Abahani has expressed regret for the undesirable incident that took place during their Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League clash against Biman on January 15, says a press release. But the popular Dhanmondi-based club have also vented their grievances on the role of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) during and after the incident.

To review the incident, a meeting of Abahani Cricket Committee, chaired by chairman AHM Mustafa Kamal MP, was held at the club on January 21. The meeting blamed the CCDM, the two Sri Lankan umpires and the match referee for the incident.

The meeting also condemned a comment by a CCDM official saying that it was biased and made even before receiving the umpires' report. After seeing the comment in national dailies the next day, members of the whole team were demoralised and they eventually lost the match to Biman.

Finally, the meeting condemned a report published in an English daily for addressing three Abahani officials as 'thugs'. The meeting termed that report as an ill move to damage the image of the club.

It may be added that three Abahani officials have been punished by the CCDM, who declared them 'persona non grata' for their involvement in attack on the umpires on January 15.

### World Cup camp from Feb 2

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has asked the 30 cricketers, selected earlier for the residential camp in preparation for the forthcoming World Cup, to report at the BCB office at 5 PM on February 1.

The residential camp under the tutelage of West Indian coach Gordon Greenidge will be held at the BKSP in Savar from February 2.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the cricketers will be allowed to play for their respective club in the on-going Premier League.

### Middlesbrough step in to stop Juninho

MIDDLESBROUGH, England, Jan 23(Reuters/Internet): Middlesbrough, keen to re-sign their former Brazilian midfielder Juninho, are set to invoke their right to a 'first option' on the player to stop him joining rivals Aston Villa.

Villa have opened official talks with Atletico Madrid with manager John Gregory confirming on Friday that a delegation from the Spanish club flew to Birmingham on Thursday to start negotiations over a 10 million pounds (£16.54 million dollars)-plus deal with Villa chairman Doug Ellis.

But Middlesbrough reacted swiftly on Friday, seeking clarification of their legal rights to re-sign the player if he should become available.

Juninho, who will be 26 next month, played for Boro for two seasons from November 1995 to May 1997 before leaving for Atletico.

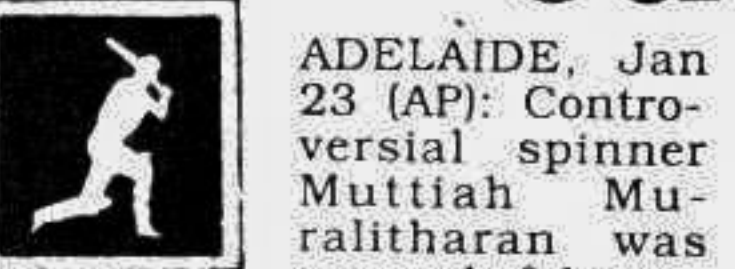
As part of the 12.5 million pounds (\$20.67 million) deal that took him to Spain, Middlesbrough retained first option to resign him should he become available again.



FLASHPOINT: Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and Australian umpire Ross Emerson argue over why Muttiah Muralitharan (2nd from right) was called for throwing. —AP/UNB photo

## Muralitharan called for 'throwing'

## Sri Lanka threaten to pull out of tri-series



ADELAIDE, Jan 23 (AP): Contravention of the Muttiah Muralitharan was accused of throwing Saturday as umpire Ross Emerson reopened deep wounds between Australia and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan cricket board chief executive Damnika Ranatunga said urgent talks were needed with the Australian Cricket Board and that the team might pull out of the tour if a suitable outcome was not found.

"This will be a very painful decision and I hope we don't have to take it," Ranatunga told The Associated Press in Colombo. "But, happenings in Australia have also been very painful for me and the entire country and I do not rule out the extreme action if this continues."

Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga blamed the ACB for the chaotic scenes as Emerson no-balled Muralitharan once in a limited-overs match against England at the Adelaide Oval.

Ranatunga called on the Sri Lankan government to lobby for the removal of Emerson as an umpire in Sri Lanka's future matches.

Emerson was one of three Australian umpires who no-balled Muralitharan for throwing on Sri Lanka's previous tour Down Under in 1995-96.

"I never thought it would happen because he has bowled

all over the world and he's never had a problem at all," Arjuna Ranatunga said after the match. "Suddenly one guy comes and calls him — it's an unfortunate incident and it's really bad on Australian cricket's part. I blame the individual and I blame the people who are responsible for it."

Ranatunga led his team towards the dressingroom after Emerson's no-ball call.

After a delay of 12 minutes, including contact between Sri Lankan officials at the ground and the Sri Lankan cricket board president Thilanga Sumahipala, the match continued.

Sri Lanka scored a stirring victory, chasing a record 303 to win and reaching the target with two balls to spare.

Muralitharan was last no-balled three years ago when Australians Emerson, Tony McQuillan and Darrell Hair decided his unusual action was illegal. He was later cleared by the International Cricket Council.

Sri Lanka team manager Ranjit Fernando said the team had been apprehensive before the match because Emerson and McQuillan were the officials.

But the call still came as a shock.

"There was a bit of desperation as soon as this happened," Fernando said. "It took everyone by surprise by virtue of the fact that Muralitharan was fair and no-one expected this to

happen."

Muralitharan has been heckled by fans throughout the current tour and was facing his original accusers for the first time in a match since they no-balled him several times in a one-day international in Brisbane in January 1996.

Emerson made the call Saturday on the fourth ball of Muralitharan's second over. As Ranatunga came in to ask why the no-ball was called, Emerson, a former policeman, pointed to his elbow to indicate the ball had been thrown.

Arjuna Ranatunga spoke headily to Emerson before leading his team to the gate at the edge of Adelaide Oval.

They remained there as match referee Peter van der Merwe came onto the ground to join in discussions.

Fernando said Ranatunga never intended quitting the match.

"Arjuna walked out with his team merely to get clarification as to how we should proceed," said Fernando. "The Sri Lanka board at no stage have wanted the match to have been abandoned in a situation like this."

Temper were also high between the two teams at the finish and England captain Alec Stewart was unhappy with some of the incidents.

"We have all been brought up if the umpire makes a decision you accept it," Stewart said. "Today that didn't happen."

## SA scramble to safety



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23: South Africa snatched a dramatic two-wicket victory over West Indies.

off the final ball of their rain-affected one-day match at the Wanderers on Friday, reports Reuters.

After being set 160 for victory off 27 overs, veteran off-spinner Pat Symcox scrambled the winning run after Lance Klusener had rescued his side from certain defeat with a gutsy 27 not out off 15 balls.

West Indies, whitewashed 5-0 in the recent Test series,

scored 154 for four in the rain-interrupted innings that was reduced to 28 overs. South Africa were then set a revised target and perished one over after a slow over rate.

Veteran fast bowler Curtly Ambrose bowled his six overs for just 11 runs and with fellow new ball bowler Reon King restricted the South Africans to just 36 runs in the first 10 overs.

Jonty Rhodes and Hansie Cronje gave their side a glimmer of hope after the slow start with an aggressive fifth wicket partnership of 63 before Rhodes was bowled by Nixon McLean for 30 off 25 balls in the 22nd over.

An over later Cronje was caught at midwicket for 24 off 31 balls with his side needing 46 off the last four overs.

West Indies looked set for a morale-boosting win until Klusener and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher came to the rescue.