

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-111

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 19 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who was the man-of-the-match in the first Indo-Pak Test?
Afriidi Tendulkar Saqlain
- How many Tests has Mark Taylor played?
102 103 104
- South Africa won the Test series against West Indies
4-1 3-1 5-0
- How many centuries have so far been scored in the Janakantha League?
23 30 31
- Who clinched the sub-junior chess title?
Rakib Rajib Tuhin

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

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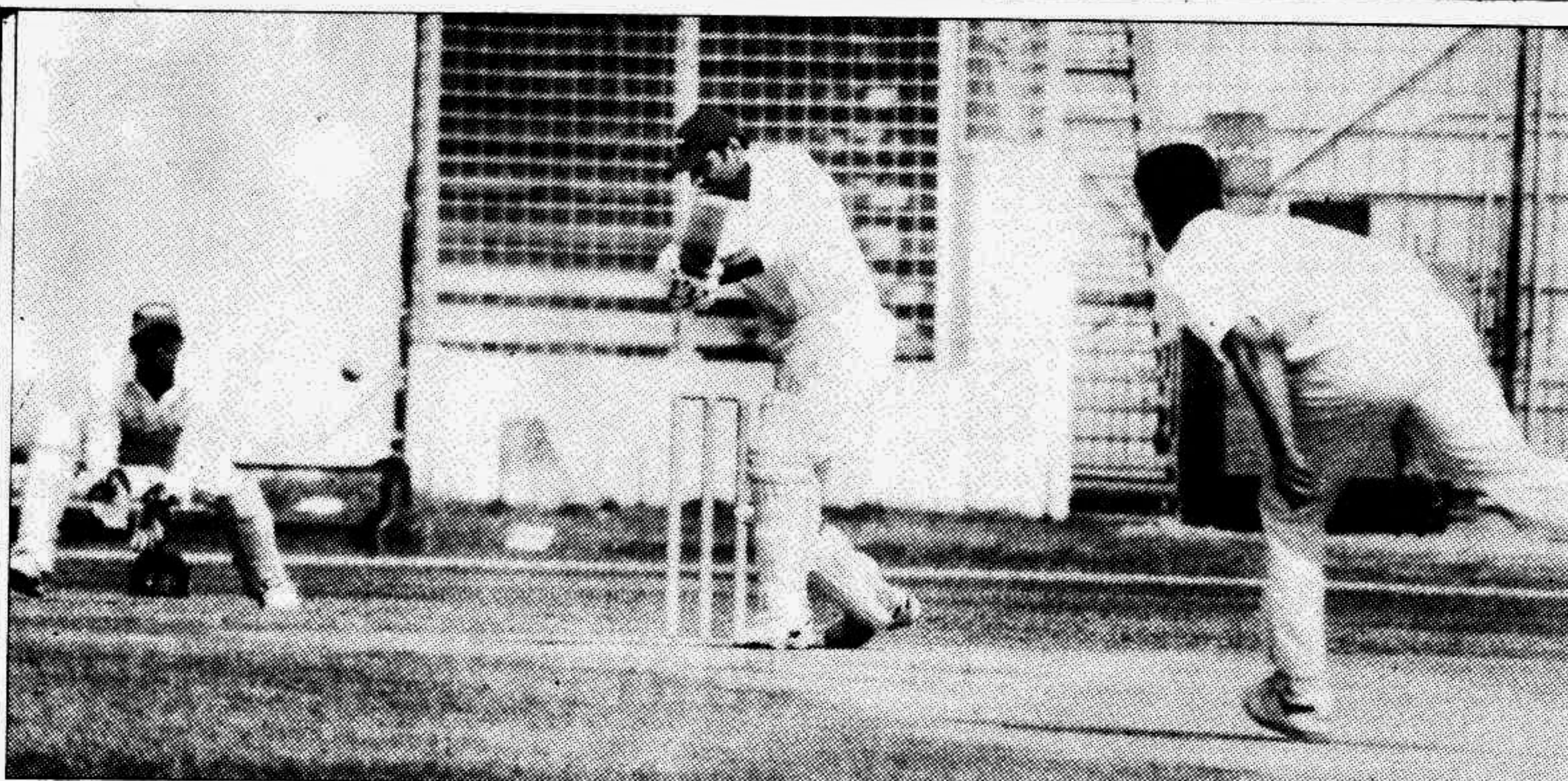
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Abahani's Pakistani recruit Ijaz Ahmed is about to be caught behind off Shahid Saeed during their Janakantha Premier Cricket League encounter against Kalabagan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Orient, Ajax get relegation slap

Abahani, Brothers keep hopes alive

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union Club cruised to their eighth win in the Janakantha Premier Division cricket league defeating Kalabagan and Orient Sporting Club respectively at different city venues yesterday.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, holders Abahani handed Kalabagan Krira Chakra a five-wicket defeat while last year's runners-up Brothers thrashed babes Orient Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium by six wickets.

The results of yesterday's matches have helped both Abahani and Brothers join Biman atop the table, with the two teams collecting 16 points each from 10 matches in the 12-team league.

Among the three top-notchers Biman have a fair chance to win the title as they are enjoying a superior net run rate (1.26) compared to Abahani (0.61) and Brothers (0.50).

The national airline outfit will have to beat lowly Wari Club in their last match, beginning at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium today.

On the other hand, Abahani and Brothers, who will lock horns on February 9, will be waiting with their fingers-crossed for a last minute Biman debacle to pip them at the post in the last match of the League Tuesday.

Back into the match at the Bangabandhu from the world of statistics, Abahani, resuming on 45 for two, hardly faced any trouble to overhaul the modest Kalabagan total of 199 in 80 overs. They raced on to score 203 for five with 20 overs to spare.

Former Pakistani Test cap Ijaz Ahmed scored a polished 77 off 114 balls while young opener Hannan made a patient half-century to lay the foundation of an easy sail for Abahani.

The two overnight not out batsmen put on 119 runs for the third wicket as Abahani, who were shakily placed at 19 for two on Friday, garnered 138 before Hannan departed for a 53 off 105 balls. The right-hander clubbed half a dozen boundaries.

Ijaz added another 18 runs with skipper Akram Khan before being dismissed by his compatriot Shahid Saeed. In his 145-minute stay at the crease, Ijaz hammered twelve boundaries.

Although Abahani lost the wicket of Neeamur for 11, Akram ensured the victory without further damage, putting on 23 runs for the undefeated sixth wicket with Mohammad Hussain. Hussain, the other Pakistani import of Abahani, made 12 while Akram remained unbeaten on 21.

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Ramesh misses maiden ton

India assume control

NEW DELHI, Feb 6: Saurav Ganguly led a remarkable fightback by India's lower-order batsmen to pin Pakistan against the ropes in the second cricket Test here today, reports AFP.

Pakistan set themselves up for a challenging chase when they reduced India to 199-6 in the second innings before tea on the third day — an overall lead of 279.

Left-hander Ganguly, however, frustrated Wasim Akram's men by making an unbeaten 58 as India added 125 more runs for the loss of just one wicket to end the day at 324-7 and with an almost impregnable lead of 404.

Ganguly, taking advantage of the tired Pakistani attack, put on 32 for the seventh wicket with Anil Kumble (15) and then an undefeated 93 for the eighth with Jagavallu Srinath (44 not out).

India, who lost the first Test at Madras by 12 runs, have two days to bowl out Pakistan on the deteriorating Ferozeshah Kotla wicket and square the short two-Test series.

A 400-plus chase has been achieved only twice before in history — by Don Bradman's Australians against England and Bishen Singh Bedi's India against the West Indies.

Pakistan's highest fourth innings score to win was 315-9 against Australia at Karachi in 1994 when Imran-ul-Haq scored an unbeaten century.

Their best winning score abroad was 192-7 against Zimbabwe at Harare during the 1997-98 season.

India's young Test opener Sadagopan Ramesh shored up India's innings with a defiant 96, but missed his maiden Test century when he drove a full toss back to bowler Mushtaq Ahmed.

The 23-year-old left-hander, playing only his second Test, followed his 60 in the first innings with a five-hour vigil in which he hit 15 boundaries.

Ramesh put on 85 for the second wicket with Rahul Dravid and 68 for the third with Sachin Tendulkar as India moved to a commanding 168-2 soon after lunch.

Tendulkar's dismissal for 29 triggered a middle-order collapse in which India lost four wickets in the space of 31 runs to slip to 199-6.

An unusually sedate Tendulkar, who needed 25 balls to get off the mark, survived a confident leg-before appeal off Mushtaq before driving the same bowler for an easy catch at mid-on in the next over.

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram bowled his counterpart Mohammad Azharuddin and trapped Nayan Mongia of successive balls to become his country's most successful Test bowler with 363 wickets.

Akram, playing his 85th match, equalled his mentor Imran Khan's tally of 362-wicket from 88 Tests with Azharuddin's dismissal and surpassed him next ball.

Kumble denied Akram a hat-trick by digging out a yorker so perfectly that the ball raced to mid-off for a boundary.

Earlier Ramesh and Rahul Dravid took the overnight score from 46-1 to 100 then Pakistan earned a lucky break.

Dravid, unflappable while making 29, suddenly lost his concentration after the drinks break and top-edged a sweep of Saqlain to be caught easily at first slip by Ijaz Ahmed.

India went to lunch at 126-2 and added 94 runs in the afternoon session for the loss of four wickets.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Test between India and Pakistan on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings 252
PAKISTAN: First innings 172
INDIA: Second innings (overnight 46-1)

Ramesh c b Mushtaq 96
Laxman b Akram 8
Dravid c Ijaz b Saqlain 29
Tendulkar c Akram b Mushtaq 29
Azharuddin b Akram 14
Ganguly not out 58
Mongia lbw b Akram 0
Kumble c Ijaz b Saqlain 15
Srinath not out 44

Extras: (nb-9, lb-9, b-13) 31
Total: (for 7 wickets in 109 overs) 324

To bat: Venkatesh Prasad and Harbhajan Singh.
Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-100; 3-168; 4-183; 5-199; 6-199; 7-231

Bowler O M R W
Akram 19 3 38 2
Waqaar 12 2 42 0
Saqlain 44 13 112 2
Mushtaq 26 4 86 2
Afriidi 8 1 24 0

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