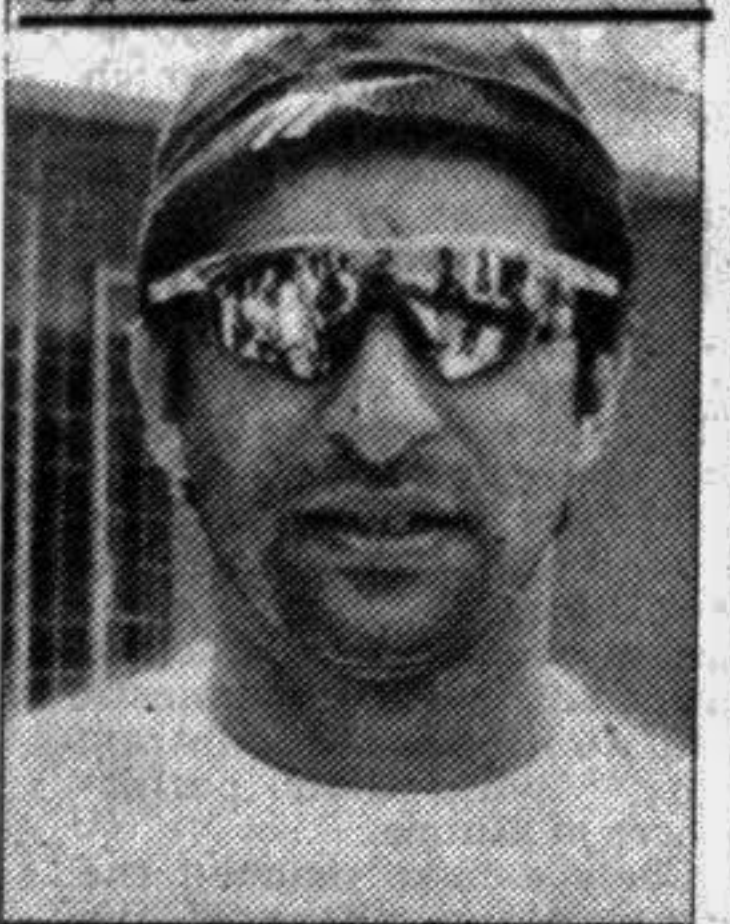


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Wasim Akram

(Pakistan cricket captain)
I am very disappointed because for me it was my last chance to beat Australia in Australia. We had a very good side but we failed to achieve the desired result.

On the Test series down under.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 10, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Dec 10, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Argentine soccer star Batistuta plays for Serie A club

2 Which country will host the 12th Asian Cup football finals?

3 How many Test double hundreds has Sri Lankan batsman Marvan Atapattu scored so far?

4 Where will the ninth SAF Games be held?

5 How many teams are playing in the National Cricket League?

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

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Chanderpaul cracks ton

TAUPO, New Zealand, Dec 5: Shivnarine Chanderpaul starred with the bat for the touring West Indies on the opening day of their three day match against New Zealand A in Taupo today, reports Reuters.

The West Indies ended the first day of the first class match on 266-3 with only off-spinner Paul Wiseman able to make any impression for New Zealand A, taking two wickets.

Chanderpaul ended the day on 112 not out after a comfortable display that featured 17 fours, including a sweet drive through extra cover to bring up his century in the 85th over.

With him at the close was 20-year-old Ricardo Powell on 68, an innings that included two sixes and 10 fours.

The first wicket to fall was that of opener Darren Ganga. Before lunch he was run out for 28, thanks to a direct hit at the bowler's end from mid-off fielder Mathew Sinclair.

His fellow opener Adrian Griffith ended a long and cautious innings of 25 after lunch when he tried to force a Wiseman delivery off the back foot and edged the ball to wicket-keeper Gareth Hopkins.

Wavell Hinds was caught bat-pad by a diving Scott Styris for 19, also off Wiseman's bowling.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the three day tour match between the West Indies and New Zealand A Sunday.

WEST INDIES: First innings 255
Ganga run out 28
Chanderpaul not out 112
Hinds c Styris b Wiseman 19
Powell not out 68
Extras (lb-7, nb-6, w-1) 14
Total (For 7 wickets in 92 overs) 266

To bat: Jimmy Adams (captain), Ridley Jacobs, Nehemiah Perry, Dinanath Ramnarine, Mervyn Dillon, Courtney Walsh.

Bowler (to date) O M R W
Drum 18 5 47 0
Penn 21 7 47 0
Styris 16 5 54 0
Wiseman 24 4 59 2
Walker 12 1 52 0
Richardson 1 0 0 0

NEW ZEALAND A: Gary Stead (captain), Matthew Bell, Mark Richardson, Scott Styris, Gareth Hopkins, Andrew Penn, Paul Wiseman, Brooke Walker, Chris Drum.

Sylhet, Chittagong cruise

Sports Reporter

National right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain propelled leaders Sylhet to their second successive win in the National Cricket League with an emphatic innings and 34-run victory over Khulna at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

In Comilla, title chasers Chittagong also dished out Barisal an innings and 37-run defeat to register their second win in the inaugural league.

On the final day in Sylhet, Khulna resuming their second innings on 33 without loss, trailed the hosts by 113 runs were shot out for 79.

First innings destroyer Hasibul, who claimed four for 34, tormented the visitors with yet another four-wicket haul. He was later named man-of-the-match.

Hasibul struck straight away knocking over Khulna opener Mahir for nine runs in his first over of the morning. In his fourth over Hasibul had one down Jamaluddin leg before.

Any hopes the visitors had of saving the match ended with the dismissal of Khulna's other opener Selim. He made a polished 35.

After Hasibul removed the cream of Khulna's batting for 62 runs, they lost their remaining seven wickets for the addition of only 17 runs.

Medium-paceer Neeyamur Rashid and young left-arm spinner Imran Rahim sharing five wickets.

Neeyamur captured three for seven while Imran had figures of two for six.

In Comilla, medium pacer Khaled Mahmud took six wickets as Barisal, who were forced to follow on after being all out for 237 in reply to Chittagong's mammoth first innings of 387 on Saturday, needing another 150 runs to make Chittagong bat again, were shot out for 113 in 47.3 overs in their second

innings yesterday. Mahmud conceded 36 runs for his six wickets bowling 17.5 overs. He was aided by left-arm spinner Enamul Hoque's four



HASIBUL... m-o-m

for 16 runs. Opener Rashidul Haque top scored for Barisal with 48 followed by partner Hannan Sarkar who chipped in with 29.

Chittagong skipper Minhazul Abedin, who scored 113 runs in the first innings, was named man-of-the-match.

Sylhet, who earlier beat Rajshahi in their second round clash, led the table with 12 points from four matches with two outright wins and two first

innings leads against Dhaka and Barisal.

On the other hand, Chittagong have 10 points from four matches while Barisal have earned two points so far from their outings.

National League Table

Teams	M	W	D/pts	D/0 pts	Lost	Points
Sylhet	4	2	2	0	0	12
Chittagong	4	2	1	1	1	10
Khulna	4	0	2	1	1	4
Dhaka	4	0	1	2	1	2
Barisal	4	0	1	2	1	2
Rajshahi	4	0	1	2	1	2

P'kumara humbles hosts

HARARE, Dec 5: Sri Lanka fast bowler Ravindra Pushpakumara took five wickets on his return to Test cricket as Zimbabwe stumbled to 178 for eight on the opening day of the third Test on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Bad light ended play two overs early, with Zimbabwe, who had lost their ninth toss in 10 matches, struggling.

Pushpakumara last appeared 18 months ago and he played in this one only because Nuwan Zoysa has returned to Sri Lanka with a groin injury.

But he looked anything but a stand-in as he troubled all the Zimbabwean batsmen with tight line and length and appreciable movement off the seam to take his fourth five-wicket haul in figures of five for 44.

Pushpakumara struck twice before lunch, which the home side reached on 53 for three.

Zimbabwe played their best cricket either side of the tea interval when Neil Johnson and Guy Whittall were at the crease in a sixth-wicket stand of 60.

Johnson was trapped lbw for 70 an hour before the scheduled close by Pramodya Wickramasinghe with a ball that umpire Venkat judged would have hit the stumps, despite the fact that the batsman was hit on the top of the front pad when he was some distance down the pitch.

Whittall was seventh out, caught at second slip off Pushpakumara for a 37 which was almost three hours in the making.

Debutant Raymond Price was next to go, trapped lbw by Pushpakumara.

Recalled veteran fast bowler Eddo Brandes, playing his first Test in three years, was not out at the close, with Bryan Strang on three.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the third Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka on Saturday.

ZIMBABWE: First innings
G Flower c Dilshan b Ppakumara 13
C Wishart lbw b Vaas 3
M Goodwin b Ppakumara 11
N Johnson lbw b Wramasinghe 70
A Flower c Arnold b Vaas 14
A Campbell lbw b Ppakumara 9
G Whittall c Arnold b Ppakumara 37
R Price lbw b Ppakumara 2
E Brandes not out 3
B Strang not out 3
Extras (lb-2, nb-15) 17
Total (For eight wickets) 178
To bat: H Olonga.

Bowler O M R W
Vaas 24 9 40 2
Pushpakumara 21 4 47 5
Wickramasinghe 15 6 28 1
Muralitharan 24 6 51 0
Jayasuriya 4 1 10 0

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Russell Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Indika de Saram, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Ravi Pushpakumara, Muttiah Muralitharan.

LATEST

HARARE, Dec 5: Sri Lanka were 22-2, in reply to Zimbabwe's 218, at lunch on the second day of the third Test today, reports Reuters.

Nasser knuckles down

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 5 (Internet/Reuters): Captain Nasser Hussain closed in on England's first century of the year today as made slow progress against Kwazulu-Natal's inexperienced line-up on the third day of their four-day tour match at Kingsmead.

Hussain reached an unbeaten 81 at lunch on the third day as England progressed to 226 for four in reply to Natal's 310, and put him on course to become the first player to reach three figures since Alec Stewart scored 107 in the Melbourne Test last December.

But Hussain and his team made extremely slow progress against an attack lacking the experience and talent of Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener.

The pair added just 10 runs in the opening 14 overs of the day and scored just 63 runs off 40 overs in the morning session.

Resuming on 163 for two, Hussain and Michael Vaughan stretched their partnership to 115 before the Yorkshire batsman was caught behind, attempting to cut off-spinner Kevin Pieterse for 46.

Two balls later, new batsman Chris Adams was bowled by Pieterse without scoring while attempting to drive, but Hussain and Darren Maddy safely guided England to lunch without further loss.

Hussain had batted for 274 minutes at the interval, hitting a six and eight other boundaries.

batsman Maddy was unbeaten on 17.

On Saturday, Hussain finally found some form with a half-century as England got in valuable match practice.

England bowled the province side out for 310 just after lunch and then reached 163 for two at stumps on a decent day's cricket after rain had severely curtailed play the day before.

At the close Hussain was 54 not out, with one six and four fours, and Michael Vaughan 27 not out. Their unbroken third-wicket stand was worth 77.

It was Hussain's highest first-class score of the tour, bettering his 41 against a Com-

bined Free State Griqualand West XI, and with the second Test against South Africa starting on Thursday, his innings was a welcome confidence-booster.

Earlier 19-year-old Jon Kent had frustrated England on his way to total of 103, which included two sixes and seven fours, as the Dolphins added 110 runs in the first session.

Even when Kent was caught in the covers by Darren Maddy off, Andy Flintoff to reduce the Dolphins to 227 for eight, England's torment continued as Kevin Pieterse and number 11 Gary Gilder plundered a further 69 runs for the last wicket.

Pieterse made 61 not out, including four sixes and four fours, and Gilder 28, with one six and three fours.

Seamer Andrew Caddick took four for 64 in 29 overs for England, while Alex Tudor had three for 91 and Flintoff two for 47.

England began their innings positively, with Mark Butcher and Mike Atherton putting on 76 for the first wicket.

Atherton, bowled for nought in both innings in England's heavy defeat in the first Test, was first to go, stumped off the bowling of off-spinner Kevin Pieterse for 44, which included five fours.

Three overs later Butcher was brilliantly caught at short cover by Ahmed Amla off Gilder for 35, which included eight fours. England were then 86 for two but Hussain and Vaughan denied the provincial side further wickets.

Dhaka gain batting points

Mushfiq misses ton by a whisker

Sports Reporter

Mushfiqur Rahman was left stranded on 99 as Rajshahi lost their last three wickets in quick succession on the final day of their three-day match against Dhaka at Faridpur Stadium yesterday.

Resuming on 83, the right-handed batsman was cruising comfortably for his first ton in the National League before a stunning collapse dashed his hopes of reaching the magical three-figure mark.

Brief Scores:

Dhaka: First innings 322 all out in 97 overs (Mehrab 87, Javed 81, K Mahmud 66; Aminul Jr. 3/55, Mizanur 3/47)

Rajshahi: First innings 286 all out in 96.1 overs (Mushfiq 99 not out, Mustadr 48, Ripon 34)

Dhaka: Second innings 223 all out in 67.3 overs (Javed 64, Aminul 34; Ripon 5/80)

Rajshahi: Second innings 44 for 2 wickets in 6 overs (Mizanur 20, Selim 1/9) Result: Match drawn.

Mushfiq, who produced 69 runs for the eighth wicket along with his overnight partner Ripon, helplessly watched wickets tumbling at the other end once Ripon departed for 34.

Aminul Jr. and Saifullah Gem followed Ripon in quick succession much to the dismay of Mushfiq and Rajshahi, who eventually ended up with 286 all out in 96.1 overs. 38 runs short of Dhaka's first-innings score of 322.

Mushfiq's sterling show with the bat however made sure that the match ended a draw.

Dhaka scored 223 all out in 67.3 overs in their second innings and Rajshahi replied with 44 for two wickets in six overs before the match was called off.

The highlight of Dhaka's second innings was a brilliant 64 from Javed Omar, his second half-century in the match after a superb 81 in the first innings.

Ripon, who frustrated Dhaka with a gritty 34 earlier on the day, was the wrecker-in-chief for Rajshahi with five for 80 from his 23 overs.

The first innings lead however enabled Dhaka to collect two batting points. It was also the first points for the star-studded Dhaka outfit on completion of their four League matches.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Dec 5: Shiroil Sporting Club and Birshrestha Jahangir Smriti Cricket Club won their respective matches in the 5th Birshrestha Smriti cricket tournament played today at Railway ground.

Sarak Jonopad bat first winning the toss and made 117 for eight in the stipulated 25. Unbeaten Russel was the best scorer with 33. Syed and Mothar contributed 22 and 19. Extras 28.

Tutul claimed three crickets for 14. Pintu bagged two for 21 while Mintu and Habib took one each for 4 and 9.

In reply, Shiroil reached the target (118) in 23.4 overs conceding six wickets.

Lifa, Papa, Forhad (1), Farhad, Nawad made 23, 19, 13, 13 and 10. Rajon and Sariful claimed two wickets each for 17 and 26.

In other match of the day, Shatabad Cricket Club collected 119 for eight in allotted 25 overs.

Sumon was the highest scorer with 44. Devid was the successful bowler taking four for 17 while Tony and Badal took one wicket each for 10 and 20.

In reply, the winners reached the target losing one wicket. Unbeaten Taher with 50 and Tani (24) were the two best scorers for the winners. Rajib only claimed one wicket for 33.

Jagrata Sangha will take on Shiroil Golden Sun Shine and Mirer Chalk Sporting Club will meet Tornado Eleven Stars tomorrow.

Mongia flying down under

BOMBAY, Dec 5: Nayan Mongia will fly to Australia as a back-up wicketkeeper for the injured Mannava Prasad, reports Reuters.

Jayant Lele, Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said he would leave on Monday.

Australian media quoted India coach Kapil Dev as saying that Prasad had fluid on his right knee and had only a 50-50 chance of playing in the first Test.

Prasad hurt the knee when he bumped it on a suitcase at Kuala Lumpur airport en route to Australia.

"We requested the Board last evening to have a wicketkeeper sent across in time for the first Test," Dev said during India's four-day match against state side New South Wales (NSW) at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"We can't take a chance before the start of such an important game."

Prasad made his debut in the recent Test series at home against New Zealand, replacing long serving Mongia.

Batsman Rahul Dravid kept wicket in the match against NSW.



Indian paceman Venkatesh Prasad is delighted after clean bowling New South Wales batsman Michael Clark at Sydney yesterday. — AFP photo

Dissent dampens India's day

SYDNEY, Dec 5: (AP/AFI): India's cricket team was reported for dissent for the second day in a row after wrapping up a 93-run victory in the four match against New South Wales on Sunday.

International umpires Darrell Hair and Simon Taufel reported stand-in Indian captain Sourav Ganguly for standing mid-pitch watching big screen replays of unsuccessful appeals on Saturday.

Match referee Dick French, a former Test umpire, handed the report to Indian team manager Shoaib Akhtar's bowling action last month.

Pakistan has reportedly threatened not to return for the one-day series next month and a smooth Indian Test series would have cooled things down for a while.

Hair, who famously no-balled Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan at the MCS four years ago, is certain to stand in one of the Indian Tests.

The match was outside the jurisdiction of the ACB and the ICC as it was neither a Test nor a one-day international.

However, NSW captain Michael Bevan said the Indians' approach could backfire in the three-Test series.

"They were certainly pretty aggressive in terms of appealing and things like putting pressure on the umpires," Bevan said.

But Indian team coach Kapil Dev seemed to indicate he would not act on the reports.

"I don't feel like it," Dev said. "If necessary I might do it. I'll take my own sweet time. It's the beginning of the tour."

"We've got the letter and we'll see what we can do. I don't know what's crossing the limit — that's when two different people think differently."

Chasing an unlikely 286 for victory on a wearing pitch offer-

ing variable bounce, NSW went from 1-64 overnight to all out for 192 Sunday.

Leg spinner Anil Kumble, who has 32 wickets in four Tests against Australia, claimed the last four to have 8-88 for the match in an impressive Test warm-up.

Australia host India in Adelaide from Friday.

Rookie opener Greg Hayne laboured five and a half hours for 89, his maiden first-class half century in his fourth game for NSW.

The confrontations were the last thing the Australian Cricket Board needed after the controversy over Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar's bowling action last month.

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Chasing an unlikely 286 for victory on a wearing pitch offer-

Tragedy strikes Barbados thrice

Clarke passes away

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 5 (Internet report/AP): For the third time in 30 days, West Indies cricket has been plunged into mourning of a former player.

West Indies fast bowler Sylvester Clarke collapsed and died at his St Christopher Christ Church home.

His passing a week short of his 45th birthday came like an after-shock to the tremor caused by the death, just 24 hours earlier, of Conrad Hunte in Sydney.

The other death was that of Malcolm Marshall who succumbed to colon cancer on November 4. Conrad had a massive heart attack.

It was not immediately clear what caused Clarke to collapse. The Caribbean Broadcast Corporation based in Barbados confirmed his death by speaking with his wife Peggy.