

Star Sport

DHAKA THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-124

✓ 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?

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

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Standard Chartered Bank School Chess Tournament-1

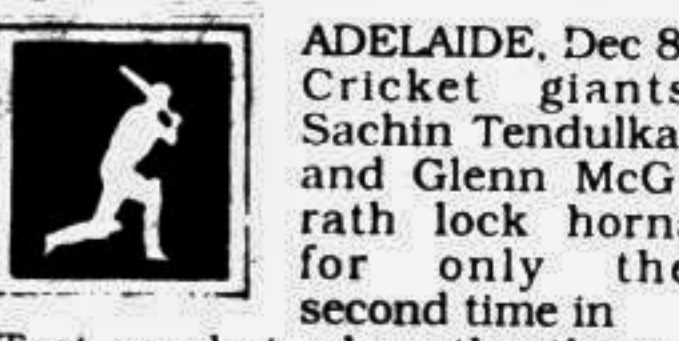
10th December to 19th December '99

Standard Chartered



Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Syed Sujauddin Ahmed speaking at a press briefing at the NSC conference room yesterday. — Star photo

Wheels within wheels



ADLAIDE, Dec 8: Cricket giants Sachin Tendulkar and Glenn McGrath lock horns for only the second time in

Test combat when the three-match Australia-India series opens at Adelaide Oval Friday, reports AFP.

India's Tendulkar, 26, and Australian speedster McGrath, three years his senior, face off in a titanic contest that could determine the outcome of the first Test clash between the countries in Australia for eight years.

Tendulkar vies with Australian captain Steve Waugh and the West Indies' Brian Lara as the current top world batsman - a position well earned on the back of 21 Test centuries from 71 elite level games and another 24 in one-day internationals.

McGrath, a veteran of 56 appearances on the ultimate stage, is sitting on 258 Test wickets - the third best by an Australian pacesman - and may well overtake Craig McDermott (291) and the legendary Dennis Lillee (355) over the next few years.

He was still a year away from a first-class debut, when the boy wonder from the sub-continent flexed his muscles with Mohammad Azharuddin's 1991-92 side.

Watching on television, McGrath gasped in awe as the then 18-year-old right-hander started for his team in a five-match series, hitting India's best aggregate (368 runs) for the side's second highest average (46) as he fashioned memorable centuries in Sydney (145) and

Perth (114). The Australian prince of pace was well established in international ranks when he finally had a chance to face the Indian maestro and now captain - in a one-off Test in New Delhi in October, 1996.

McGrath had the better of the exchanges, bowling Tendulkar for a duck in the second innings after he had made 10 in the first before being trapped by

cutta. He now comes to Australia with a marvellous average of 59.86 from nine Tests against the world's unofficial best Test side and undisputed top one-day outfit.

The Adelaide Oval pitch is expected to favour top-class batsmen early, dispensing few favours to fast bowlers and providing spin over the last couple of days.

McGrath is no one-man band. He enjoys fiery support from new-ball partner Damien Fleming, who outperformed McGrath by 18 wickets to 14 in the just-completed three-Test series against Pakistan.

Waugh knows it was pace, rather than spin, which undid Tendulkar six of the eight times he was dismissed in the 91-92 series here.

But if the speed battery fail to dislodge him, Tendulkar will have to contend with leg-spin wizard Shane Warne, keen to atone for humiliations handed out by Indian batsmen in five Tests in which they have clashed.

Rated the game's top slow bowler, with 343 Test wickets at an average of 25.52, Warne has been treated with particular severity by Indians with just 11 wickets at a cost of almost 70 runs apiece.

Warne has trapped Tendulkar only once. India have had mixed preparations for this series. They achieved a morale boost when they beat New South Wales in a match which ended Sunday, but faltered badly Tuesday when they crashed by 164 runs to the Prime Minister's XI in a one-day game in Canberra.

India, though, won the game by a comfortable seven wickets - a result which still irks the fiercely competitive McGrath.

When the sides next met, in the sub-continent early last year, McGrath was sidelined with injury.

Tendulkar punished an undermanned Australian attack with 446 runs in three Tests at an average of 111.50 - by far the best on either side - crafting an unbeaten 155 in Madras, 177 in Bangalore and 79 in Cal-

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Damal semis start today

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club will take on Lalmita Club in the first semifinal of the 19th Damal Smriti Cricket Tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The other semifinal between Khealagar Samaj Kalyan Sangha and Dhanmondi Club will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

Eighteen teams, split into six groups, took part in the first round. The group champions then advanced to the second round.

Dhaka Wanderers Club emerged Group X champions with a superior run-rate over Dhanmondi Club and Young Pegasus. Dhanmondi also became runners-up with a better run-rate.

On the other hand, Khealagar won their both Group Y matches against Lalmita and Young Cricketers to clinch top spot while Lalmita moved to the last four beating Young Cricketers.

StanChart chess starts tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The Standard Chartered Bank School Chess tournament begins at the NSC room tomorrow.

The multinational bank will replace Bata as the sponsor of the nine-round Swiss League meet, being organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF). Bata shoe had been sponsoring the low-budget tournament for the last couple of years.

The Federation has estimated a budget of Taka 80,000 and the StanChart will provide the entire amount.

Sixty students, including six from Calcutta have already confirmed their entries while another 40 students are expected to join the tournament that concludes on December 19. BCF general secretary Syed Sujauddin Ahmed revealed those at a press conference yesterday.

Setu Venkateswaran, the Chief Executive of StanChart in Bangladesh, was also present in the briefing.

Play will be held from 10 am to 2 pm.

Players finishing up to 10th position will receive cash awards.

Six more cricketers called up

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday invited six more cricketers to join the residential camp of national youth team for the World Youth Cup, scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from January 10.

The camp, involving 30 cricketers, began at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Prosthana in Savar yesterday.

Joy Bose (PWD SC), Ranjan (Young Ones), Papan (BKSP), Abul Basnar (Tejgaon CA), Sajal and Russel of Uttara Sporting Club-- have been asked to report at the BCB office along with their gears by 5pm today.

Pencilled into Group B along with India, New Zealand and Holland, Bangladesh will face their close neighbours in their first match on January 12. The other two matches against New Zealand and Holland will be held on January 14 and 16.

Faruque, Athar for Sylhet

Sports Reporter

Former national captain Faruque Ahmed is likely to play for Sylhet in the National Cricket League.

Although Barisal was planning to get the services of the experienced right-hand batsman, Faruque appeared to have changed his mind at the last moment following a successful discussion with the officials of Sylhet.

Sylhet, who are currently leading the 6-team National League, have also reportedly roped in former national opener Athar Ali Khan.

It was however learnt that both the stalwarts will miss the vital home match of Sylhet against a star-studded Dhaka. If everything goes according to plan Faruque and Athar will appear in Sylhet's next match against fellow title contenders Chittagong.

M'singh soccer

MYMENSINGH, Dec 8: A brilliant hat-trick by Sohail helped Al Helal Club to earn an impressive 3-0 goals victory over Provaty Sena in the inaugural match of the Beg Tyre First Division football league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Vice Chancellor of the Agricultural University Dr Mohammed Hossain inaugurated the league.

Beg Tyre sponsored the league and this is the first time the league is being held with sponsorship.

A total of ten teams are taking part in the league.

Second Test from today



HANSIE CRONJE

PORT ELIZABETH, Dec 8 (Reuters): Surprisingly, even England's harshest critics have not written the team off ahead of the second cricket Test against South Africa at St George's Park tomorrow.

The reason is simple: They were so badly outplayed during their innings defeat in the first Test at the Wanderers that supporters, management and the players themselves believe it to be irrelevant.

If they had competed, and lost, then a different story could be told. Instead, they were so ruthlessly dispatched as to make a judgement on their form impossible. They weren't there long enough.

England, too, are expected to make at least one change with the unfortunate Scotsman Gavin Hamilton in real danger of being tossed onto England's record one-Test-wonder scrap heap after his batting pair and 15 wicketless overs two weeks ago.

Pacesman Chris Silverwood is the front runner for the number eight berth provided he passes a late fitness test on a troublesome heel.

Should England opt once again for as much batting ability as possible then quasi all-rounder Alex Tudor, who is getting better and better the more he bowls on tour according to coach Duncan Fletcher, may be preferred.

Andrew Flintoff's dicey back means he, too, will play as a batsman only while the spinning duties are likely to be left in the hands of part-timer Michael Vaughan after a lack-

lustre performance from Phil Tufnell against KwaZulu Natal. At least England can take some comfort from the pitch which, though well grassed, is hard and dry unlike the damp 'green-top' provided for the first Test.

"We certainly hope it provides a fairer surface," Fletcher said. "I was concerned about heads dropping after the first Test but the guys really haven't got down. We're still confident we can compete and get back into the series."

Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, who shared 19 wickets at the Wanderers, aim to make this tour one of the longest and loneliest in England's history.

The 40th annual sports competition of Dhaka Residential Model College concluded at the college playground on Monday, says a press release.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique attended the closing ceremony of the four-day meet as the chief guest and gave away prizes.

There is likely to be a fierce debate on the issue since the visits are one of the major perks of being an IOC member.

The IOC president has been under fire from some of the media again. On Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal newspaper, which lands on the breakfast tables of the leading executives with Olympic sponsors, ran a huge story on what it headlined "the president's Francoist Past" in Spain.

Samaranch is said to have been annoyed by the article but he is in no mood to quit now as he prepares to push through the recommendations.

He hopes this weekend will draw a line under the scandal and is adamant that he will complete his mandate until 2001 when a new president will be elected.

"At the beginning of the crisis I felt I had responsibility,

For that reason I put my position as president of the IOC at the disposal of the members of the IOC because they elected me," he said.

"The result was astonishing even for me. It was an overwhelming majority."

"For me, the election was very important. I understood that the majority of the IOC supported me not only as a president but as a leader to run the solution of the crisis we were facing. Now we are before the last step this weekend."

"If nothing happens - I am quite an old man at 79 - I am healthy now and I will run until the session in 2001."

Bangladesh Kabadi Federation has arranged a "Victory Day Kabadi tournament" that will begin in the capital on December 13, reports UNB.

Interested teams have been asked to send their entry by Sunday with an entry fee of Tk 100 together with a team list of 12 players.

Top two teams of the league basis meet will play the final on Friday (Dec 17).

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