

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Sergei Bubka
(Ukrainian pole vault legend)
"I will not only compete, but win the gold as well."
About his chances at next year's Sydney Olympic Games.

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-124
Tick the Correct Answers
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Dec 10, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Argentine soccer star Batistuta plays for Serie A club
Lazio AC Milan Fiorentina
2. Which country will host the 12th Asian Cup football finals?
Lebanon Kuwait Thailand
3. How many Test double hundreds has Sri Lankan batsman Marvan Atapattu scored so far?
One Two Three
4. Where will the ninth SAF Games be held?
Delhi Karachi Peshawar
5. How many teams are playing in the National Cricket League?
Ten Eight Six

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Klusener leads SA fightback

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 9: An explosive half-century by Lance Klusener enabled South Africa to fight back after a poor start on the first day of the second Test at St George's Park Thursday, reports AFP.
Klusener hit an unbeaten 63 off 71 balls as South Africa reached 253 for six before bad light brought an enthralling day's play to an early end.
The home side had been struggling at 146 for five when Klusener started his innings.
The left-handed Klusener was the dominant partner in a 106-run sixth wicket stand with Jonty Rhodes, who was out for 50 in the 76th over, two balls before bad light stopped play.
It was the second successive half-century in the series for Klusener, who showed his powerful hitting could be as effective in Test cricket as it was when he was named player of the tournament at the 1999 World Cup in England.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
Kirsten c Hussain b Caddick 15
Gibbs run out (Flintoff) 48
Kallis c Caddick b Silverwood 1
Cullinan st Stewart b Tufnell 56
Cronje c Flintoff b Tufnell 2
Rhodes c Atherton b Flintoff 50
Klusener not out 63
Pollock not out 1
Extras: (b-2; lb-3; w-1; nb-9) 15
Total: (For 6 wks in 76.1 overs) 253
To bat: Mark Boucher, Allan Donald, Mornantau Hayward
Fall of wickets: 1/28; 2/57; 3/87; 4/91; 5/146; 6/252

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	13	1	72	0
Caddick	21	4	66	1
Silverwood	13.1	4	23	1
Tufnell	25	5	69	2
Vaughan	3	0	16	0
Flintoff	1	0	2	1

ENGLAND: Nasser Hussain (capt), Mike Atherton, Mark Butcher, Michael Vaughan, Alec Stewart, Chris Adams, Andrew Flintoff, Andrew Caddick, Darren Gough, Chris Silverwood, Phil Tufnell, Alex Tudor
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WI), Rudi Koertzen (RSA)
TV umpire: David Orchard (RSA)
Match referee: Barry Jarman (Aus)

Iqbal spell irks Dhaka



Sports Reporter
A century partnership between Nayeem and captain Aminul Islam (5) was forced to offer an edge to wicket-keeper Golam Mortuza by Iqbal.
Things turned even worse for Dhaka when medium pacer Nayeemur Rashid heralded the fall of all-rounder Naimur Rahman (10) at the score of 44.
However, Sylhet's hopes to shoot out Dhaka for a paltry total came to an end when Khaled Mahmud joined Sanwar at the crease to initiate a gritty rescue operation.
Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique broke the stand dismissing Mahmud for 65 in the first hour of post tea session. But by that time Dhaka reached 172.
Mahmud scored 65 runs with the help of ten boundaries in his 116-ball innings.
Sanwar, who scored 56, left the crease with no addition to the team total as he became the fourth victim of Iqbal in the next over. He clubbed four fours in his 152-ball vigil at the crease.
After Sanwar's departure, Dhaka lost the remaining three wickets with the addition of 34 runs.
Apart from Iqbal, who finished with four for 42, Nayeemur Rashid took two wickets for only 12 runs.
In reply, Sylhet were 9 for no loss in five overs when umpires

called off play for the day.
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day National Cricket League match between Dhaka and Sylhet began at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday:
Dhaka: First innings
Mehrab lbw b Nayeem 10
Javed c Mortuza b Iqbal 1
Al-Shahriar b Iqbal 0
Aminul c Mortuza b Iqbal 5
Naimur c Iqbal b Nayeemur 10
Sanwar c Nayeemur b Iqbal 56
K Mahmud c Mortuza b Rafique 65
Atiar b Saifullah 14
Fahim b Nayeemur 18
Saiful run out 1
Morshed not out 0
Extras: (b-13; lb-10; w-3) 26
Total: (All out in 87.2 overs) 206
Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-6; 3-24; 4-24; 5-44; 6-172; 7-172; 8-193; 9-197
Bowler O M R W
Nayeem 13 2 31 1
Iqbal 19 8 42 4
Imran 6 2 10 0
Nayeemur 8.2 4 12 2
Saifullah 15 3 43 1
Rafique 25 8 44 1
Parvez 1 0 1 0
Sylhet: First innings
Parvez batting 9
Nayeem batting 0
Extras 0
Total: (for no loss in 5 overs) 9
Bowler O M R W
Morshed 2 1 3 0
Saiful 2 1 6 0
Sanwar 1 1 0 0

Sohel's seven shatters Khulna

Sports Reporter
BRIEF SCORES
Khulna: 161 all out in 90 overs (Jamaluddin 34, Hasanuzzaman 30, Biplab 23; Sohel 7/47)
Barisal: 6 for 1 in 6 overs

A mesmerising seven-wicket spell by off-spinner Sohel Islam sent hosts Khulna tumbling out for 161 in their first innings against Barisal yesterday.
The National Cricket League match is being commenced at the Khulna Stadium.
The irony is that the Shakhira boy after being ignored by Khulna joined the Barisal team at the start of the League.
Sohel gave away only 47 runs in his 31.1 overs as Khulna, batting first, were all out in 90 overs.
Jamaluddin scored highest 34 for the home side.
Sohel's success was the best bowling performance by a bowler in the League so far.
In reply, Barisal were 6 for 1 in 6 overs when the stumps were drawn for the day.

Lalmatia cruise into final

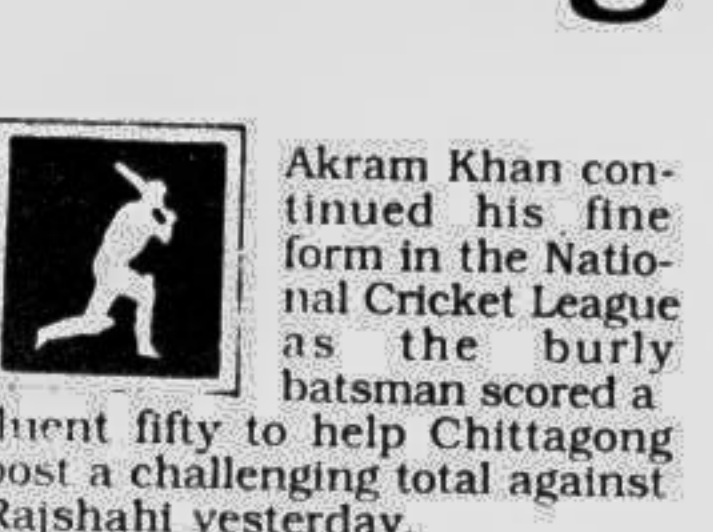
Sports Reporter
BRIEF SCORE:
DHAKA WANDERERS: 107 all out in 48 overs (Saiful 22, Jewel 10, Shafiqul 10; Aminul 3/21)
LALMATIA CLUB: 108 for 2 wickets in 41 overs (Kalim 51 not out, Jamil 25 not out)
Result: Lalmatia won by eight wickets.

Lalmatia Club stormed into the final of the 19th Damal Smriti cricket tournament with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Dhaka Wanderers at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
Kalim, a promising young right-hand batsman, led the way for the victors with an unbeaten 51 after Wanderers were bundled out for paltry 107 in 48 overs.
Coming into bat at number four with his side limping at 33 for two, Kalim produced 75 runs for the undefeated third wicket with Jamil as Lalmatia reached their target with nine overs to spare.
The lithe middle-order batsman, who smashed a hammering half-a-dozen fours in his 109-ball unconquered knock, was a defiant 100-ball 25.
Earlier, deciding to bat after winning the toss in the morning, Wanderers fell like nine pins in the face of some disciplined Lalmatia bowling by new-ball bowler Aminul Islam, who captured three wickets giving away 21 runs in his eight overs. Only Saiful with 22 offered some sort of resilience for the vanquished.
Lalmatia will play the winners of today's second semifinal between Khelaghar and Dhamond in the final on December 12.

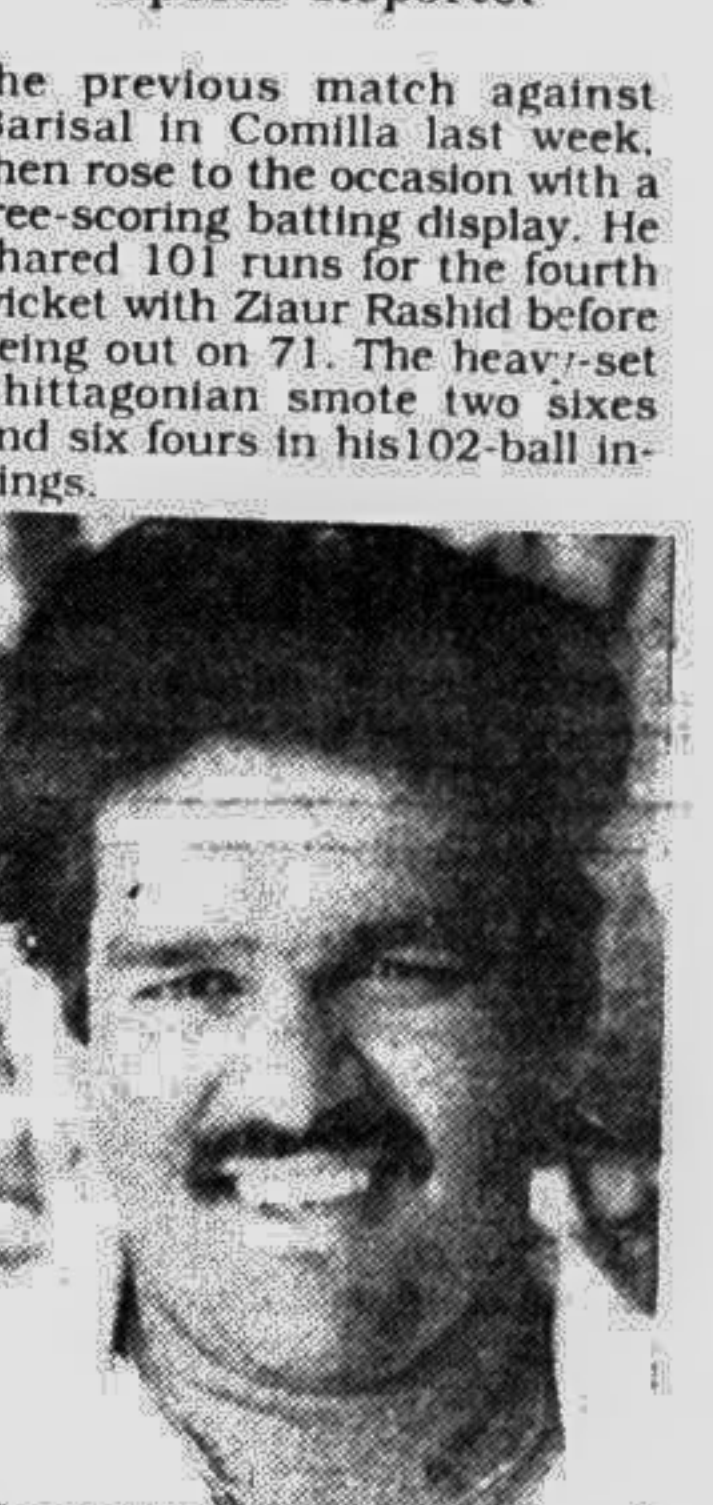


Lalmatia's Mohammad Kalim, who scored an unbeaten 51, square-cuts against Dhaka Wanderers during their Damal Smriti semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.
— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Chittagong in command



Sports Reporter
Akram Khan continued his fine form in the National Cricket League as the burly batsman scored a fluent fifty to help Chittagong post a challenging total against Rajshahi yesterday.
At the Brahmanbaria Stadium, the former Bangladesh skipper hit 71 as Chittagong, electing to bat first, finished the opening day of the three-day match at 292 for 7. They have still eight overs to bat out of the allotted 100 overs in their first innings.
Akram was ably supported by one-down Jahangir Alam and lower middle-order Enamul Haque, both contributing half-century. Jahangir scored 53 while Enamul was not out on 50.
Chittagong lost their first wicket on 14. Opener Ehsanul (5) was caught behind off the bowling of Mushfiqur Rahman in the 2nd over of the day. Jahangir then added 51 runs for the second wicket before running himself out. Jahangir played 109 balls, smashed a towering six and seven fours.
Last match's centurion Minhazul Abedin (13) soon joined Jahangir at the players' dressing room after having shared 24 runs with Akram.
Akram, who scored fifty in

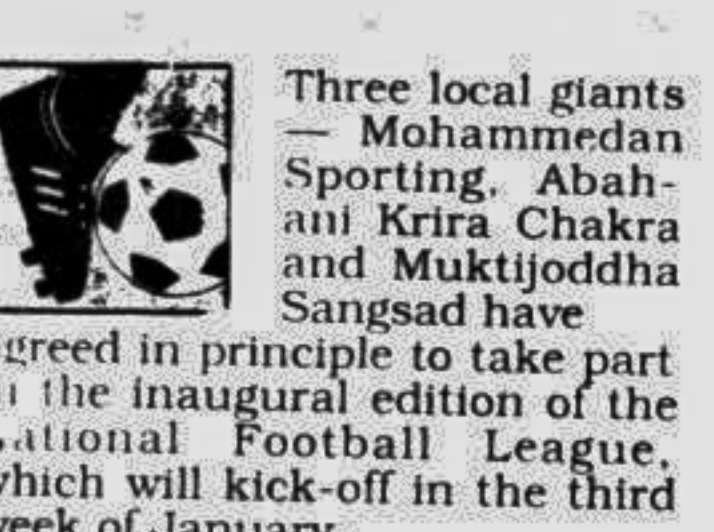


AKRAM ... 71
After the departure of Akram, Enamul kept the scoreboard ticking with a quickfire 50 off 59 balls. His undefeated knock was highlighted by two sixes and five boundaries. Enamul featured in an un-

broken 60-run partnership with Sabbir Khan, who was on 16.
Two slow left-armers—Mustafizur Litu and Saifullah Khan—shared five wickets among them.
Mustafizur finished the day with three for 44 while Saifullah took two wickets for 49 runs.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Rajshahi began at the Brahmanbaria Stadium yesterday.
CHITTAGONG: First innings
Azam c Anis b Saifullah 12
Ehsanul c K Masood b Mushfiq 11
Jahangir run out 53
Minhazul c K Masood b Saifullah 21
Akram c Tarekul b Mustafizur 51
Enamul batting 50
Sabbir batting 21
Extras: (b-6; lb-9; nb-3) 18
Total: (for 7 wks in 92 overs) 292
Fall of wickets: 1-14; 2-6; 3-89; 4-104; 5-205; 6-206; 7-292
Bowler O M R W
Aminul 12 1 72 0
Mushfiq 11 4 66 1
Imran 6 2 10 0
Saifullah 21 7 71 2
Nuruzzaman 7 1 23 0
Mustafizur 11 5 49 3
Tarekul 2 0 16 0

'Big three' will play in NFL



Sports Reporter
Three local giants—Mohammed Sporting, Abahani and Muktijoddha Sangsadda—have agreed in principle to take part in the inaugural edition of the National Football League, which will kick-off in the third week of January.
The general secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Harun Rashid MP disclosed after a successful meeting with the representatives of the three leading Dhaka Premier League outfits at his office yesterday.
"Although each club has expressed an interest to take part in the NFL, we still await their official consent within the next couple of days. They have also requested for financial aid. Unfortunately, the BFF is not in a position to meet such a demand," said Harun.
While it is true that teams like Mohammed, Abahani and Muktijoddha require a lot of money to run their camps, however for the sake of football it is imperative they take part

in the event," said the general secretary.
The three teams along with six divisional outfits will compete in the first-ever Nitel-Tata National League.
Replying to a query the BFF

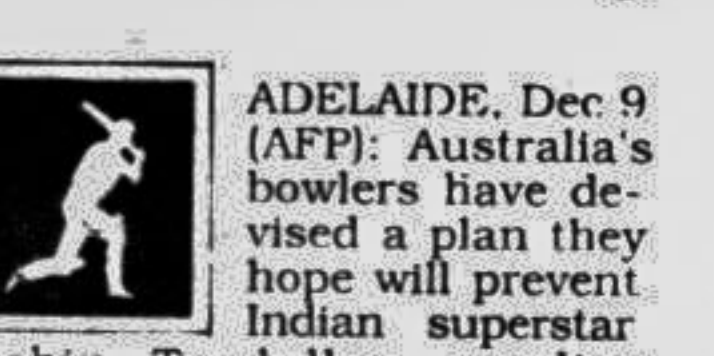
Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Dec 9: Birshrestha Jahangir Smriti (Red) posted a big nine-wicket win over Ashar Prodip Juba Sangha in the Birshrestha Captain Mahiuddin Jaingang Smriti Cricket tournament at Rajshahi Railway ground today.
Winning the toss, Ashar Prodip batted first and were skittled out for 84 in 21.2 overs.
Rotan and Sohel were the highest scorers with 22 and 21 respectively.
Faisal and Lalon took three wickets each for Birshrestha giving away 6 and 11 runs respectively while Polin Babu took two wickets for 15.
Reply, Birshrestha reached the target in 10.3 overs losing only one wicket.

general secretary said that he would also talk to the national footballers immediately after receiving the official letters from the three clubs.
"We want to ensure the participation every player which will be a real shot in the arm for upgrading the standard of country's dwindling soccer," said Harun.

Although the fixture and the venues of the League are yet to be finalised, Harun said that they want to complete the 12 matches of the first phase by February 10. All games will be telecast live by Bangladesh Television, a necessary prerequisite demanded by the sponsors.
Harun expressed disappointment that they would not be able to start the second phase before February 22 due to BTV's non-availability.
Providing details on the financial package for each team, Harun said that the six divisional teams would get Taka one lakh as appearance fees. Besides, BFF will also provide transport facilities and allowances.

Theory on Tendulkar



ADELAIDE, Dec 9 (AFP): Australia's bowlers have devised a plan they hope will prevent Indian superstar Sachin Tendulkar mauling them in the series as he did almost two years ago.
Australian captain Steve Waugh revealed the existence of the plan Thursday but gave no details about how his men hope to curb the prolific scoring capacity of the 26-year-old.
The theory is that Tendulkar, who always scores his runs quickly, has played so much one-day cricket in the past two years that he impulsively plays at balls that he should leave.
They also believe that Tendulkar is a little less effective on the harder, bouncier Australian pitches which offer the home side's bowlers far more encouragement than the traditional flat tracks of the subcontinent.
Tendulkar slammed two centuries in last year's series and averages a menacing 58.85 from 824 runs, with four centuries, in nine Tests against

Australia, accepted as the world's top Test outfit.
Waugh emphasised his marksmen have plans for all the Indian batsmen.
"We did not spend any more time on him than anyone else—for example, Vangipurapu Laxman or Sadagoppan Ramesh," he said.
"We spent equal time on all their players. Obviously, he is a key, but we don't want to focus too much on one player."
Tendulkar made it clear he is just as determined as the Australians to win what shapes as the crucial encounter of the series—the battle between his blade and the ball.
"Obviously, the bowlers will try to plan to get me out," he said. "Similarly, I plan my batting."
He had no particular concerns he would be picked out for hostile bowling and, perhaps, verbal abuse, as well.
"One should expect that at this level," he asserted. "This is Test cricket—not club cricket."
Tendulkar was asked if he would attack Australia's bowlers in the merciless fashion which characterised his mastery in the series on the sub-continent.
"It's a fresh series now, so I'll take things as they come," he said. "I don't want to go out there with pre-planned ideas.
One advantage Tendulkar enjoys is that he has many more fans at home willing to cheer for him than the Australians have supporting them.
"It's a great feeling when you go out there in the middle and you know there are a billion people praying for you," he said.
If every Australian worshipped their cricketers, the muster would be a mere 18 million.
Tendulkar said this was a crucial tour for India, which has a sorry record in Test ranks—they have won only four of 25 matches in this country, the last 19 years ago.
"It is time for us to turn over a new leaf and start a new chapter," he said.
"It is so important that we play well here. We have a very good, young and talented side. We have what it takes to do well.
"But the Australian side is a great side, having just won the World one-day Cup and it will provide a good lesson for the

young players in our team.
"However, I believe there will be more pressure on the Australians to live up to their expectations."
Waugh said there was no risk his side would under-estimate India.
"They have some quality players and we have a lot of respect for the tourists," he said. "But they also have a big hurdle to overcome."
Waugh said India had three quality bowlers—pace pair Jagavallu Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad and leg-spinner Anil Kumble.
He considered that Srinath, at full bore, was as fast as South African Allan Donald and Australia's champion speedster Glenn McGrath.
"Kumble's major virtue is his grit and patience," said Waugh. "He will get you out as soon as you fail to concentrate."

'Bury bowling suspicions'

ADELAIDE, Dec 9 (Reuters): Australian captain Steve Waugh has called on cricketers' ruling body to find a more effective way of dealing with bowlers with suspect actions.
Waugh said he was concerned that nothing was being done to help bowlers accused of throwing.
"Blosks who have got question marks over their actions, no-one really knows whether they throw or not," Waugh said today.
"And nobody seems to be willing to make a judgement on them either."
Waugh's comments came in response to newspaper reports that India's players had unofficially queried the action of promising Australian pace bowler Brett Lee.
Lee was not chosen for the Australian team to face India in the first Test starting in Adelaide on Friday but took four of 25 against the tourists in a warm-up game on Tuesday.
Indian coach Kapil Dev denied that anyone in his squad had queried Lee's bowling but stopped short of saying he thought his action was legitimate.

Shahriar, Feroz share lead

Sports Reporter
Shahriar Hossain of Leonine Chess Club joined Feroz Ahmed of Uttara Central Chess Club at the top of the table on completion of the seventh round of the Expatriates' Open tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday.
Feroz, who was leading with six straight wins, dropped his first win after drawing with IM Reefat-bin-Satter of Bangladesh Biman in this round. Shahriar defeated Mahd Hasan Porag of Kamalapur SKS for his sixth win.
Both Feroz and Shahriar have six and a half points.
Refaat was in second position with Sohel Chowdhury of Anushilla, both having collected 6 points each.
Saifuddin Lovlu of Titas Club Khandakar Aminul Islam of Leonine and Rafiqul Islam of Ansars followed with five and a half points each.
Thirteen players occupy fourth place with five points each. They are: Aminul Islam, Palash, IWM Rani Hamid, Porag, Shafiq Ahmed, Aminul Islam, Nazrul Islam, Afroza Khanam Baby, Moniruzzaman Moni, Farhadur Rahman Shabab, Shamsul Kabir Chowdhury, Farhadur Imam and Abul Kashem.
The eighth round of the meet, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation and US-Bangladesh Chess Association, will start at 3pm today.

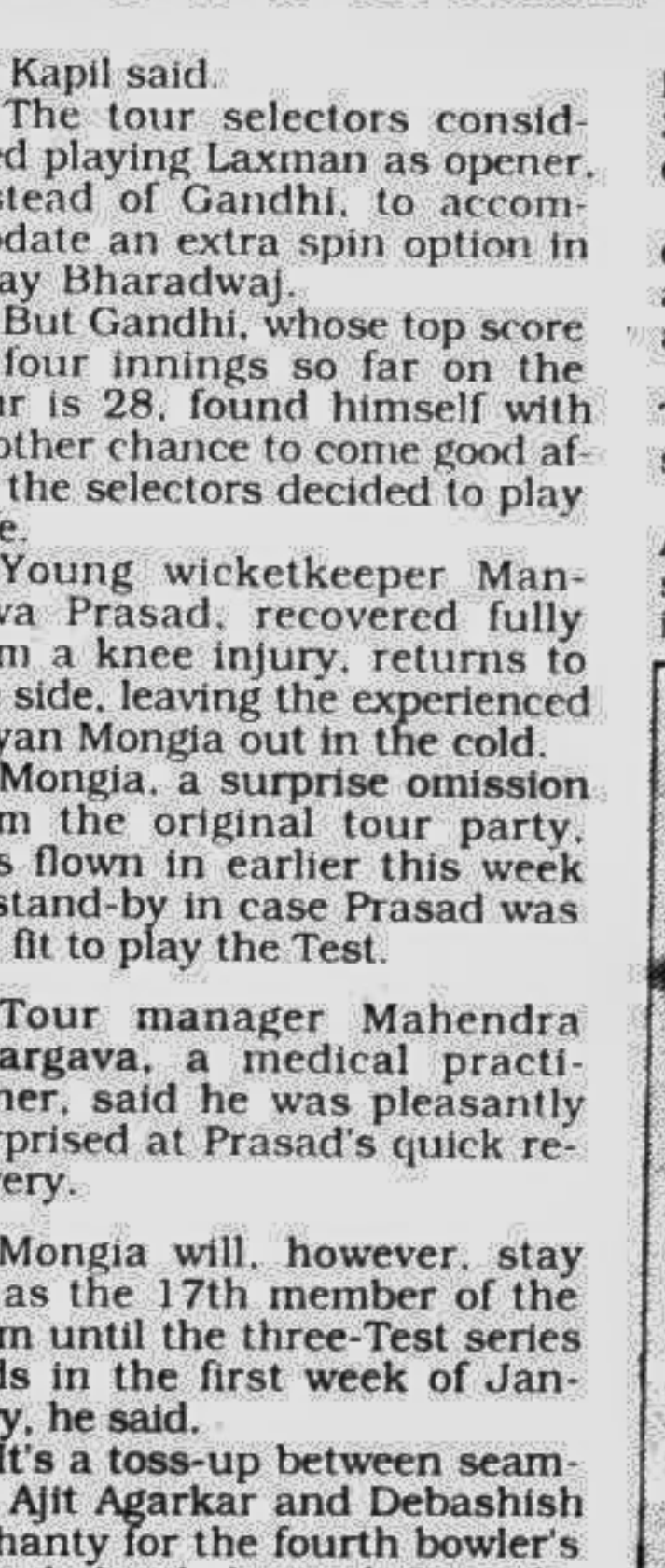
WI-Auckland 4-dayer from today

Sports Reporter
West Indies play Auckland in a four-day game starting today at Eden Park.
The match will be the tourists' last warm-up before the first Test against New Zealand which begins in Hamilton on December 16.

India bolster batting



ADELAIDE, Dec 9: India have thrown in three opening batsmen to counter Australia's pace attack in the first cricket Test starting here on Friday, reports AFP.
While left-hander Sadagoppan Ramesh and Devang Gandhi will open the innings, the in-form Venkat Laxman will fill the number six slot.
2. Kapil said.
The tour selectors considered playing Laxman as opener, instead of Gandhi, to accommodate an extra spin option in Vijay Bhadrarod.
But Gandhi, whose top score in four innings so far on the tour is 28, found himself with another chance to come good after the selectors decided to play safe.
Young wicketkeeper Manoj Prasad, recovered fully from a knee injury, returns to the side, leaving the experienced Nayan Mongia out in the cold.
Mongia, a surprise omission from the original tour party, was flown in earlier this week to stand-by in case Prasad was not fit to play the Test.
Tour manager Mahendra Bhargava, a medical practitioner, said he was pleasantly surprised at Prasad's quick recovery.
Mongia will, however, stay on as the 17th member of the team until the three-Test series ends in the first week of January, he said.
It's a toss-up between seamers Ajit Agarkar and Debashish Mohanty for the fourth bowler's spot behind Jagavallu Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad and spinner Anil Kumble.
Agarkar's superior batting talents—he made 28 and 65 not out against New South Wales—may help him get the nod.
Both Agarkar and Mohanty have played one first-class match on the tour, with Agarkar taking three wickets against New South Wales and Mohanty two against Queensland.
While India go in with three seamers and a lone spinner on the unusually greenish Adelaide Oval wicket, the Australians are likely to pick dual-purpose seamer and off-spinner Colin Miller to partner leg-spinner Shane Warne.
Miller will replace fast bowler Michael Kasprovic



STEVE WAUGH
TEA
AUSTRALIA
Waugh (capt), Glenn McGrath, Damien Gilchrist, Justin Langer, McGrath, Colin Miller, Slater, Ricky Ponting, Waugh.
INDIA (From): Sachin Tendulkar (capt), Sourav Ganguly (vice-capt), Devang Gandhi, Venkat Laxman, Manoj Prasad, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble.
Umpires: Steve Dunn (New Zealand) and Darryl Hill (Australia).
Match referee: Ravi Madugalle (Sri Lanka).