

Column One

Boost 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 17, '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
centuries 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?

One Two Three
Four Five Six

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

POWERED BY
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Steffi Graf

(German tennis legend)
"I'm not taking everything so
seriously. The most important
thing is that people enjoy it."
After losing to Amanda Coetzer
in the second match of the
three-match exhibition series.

Prime Bank rating chess

Sports Reporter

The Prime Bank second
international rating chess
tournament will start at the NSC
chess room tomorrow under the
auspices of Leonine Chess Club.
Around 40 rated and non-
rated players are likely to take
part in the nine-round Swiss
League competition.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 12: Rana
Smriti Club posted a 164-run
win over Boro Khuti. Jubo
League Club in the Berhatha
Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir
Smriti cricket tournament at
Railway ground.
The winners piled up 207 for
six in stipulated 25 overs after
winning the toss.
Jonny was the top scorer with
48.

In reply, Jubo League were
all out for 43 in 12.2 overs.
Russell was the most success-
ful bowler for the winners tak-
ing four wickets giving away 14
runs.

Nowhata Sporting Club de-
feated Raj Para Protiva Sangha
Club by nine wickets in the sec-
ond match of the day.
Protiva collected 102 runs
losing all the wickets in 21
overs.

In reply, Nowhata reached
the winning target conceding
one wicket in 12.2 overs.

Shield cricket

MELBOURNE, Dec 12
(Reuters): Victoria maintained
their six-point lead at the top of
the Australian interstate
cricket championship with a
203-run win over South Aus-
tralia at the Melbourne Cricket
Ground on Sunday.

Victoria medium pacer Ian
Harvey took four for 38 as the
South Australians, needing 347
to win, were dismissed for 143
on the final day of the four-day
match.

The Victorians have 24
points, with second-placed
Queensland on 18 after taking
maximum points for their 10-
wicket win over defending
champions Western Australia.



Players, officials and fans of Khelaghar celebrate after winning the Damal Smriti cricket trophy. — Star photo

Dull Damal gets an exciting finish

Khelaghar win a thriller

Sports Reporter

Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha lifted the 19th Damal Smriti cricket title with an exciting one-wicket win over Lalmitia Club in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In a nail-biting finish, Khelaghar, needing three runs from the final delivery to overhaul an unsafe Lalmitia total of 178 for 9 in 50 overs, pulled off the thrilling win with number eleven batsman Shakil hitting a four down the long off bound-
ary.

The one-stroke brilliance of Shakil not only enabled the Second Division champions to celebrate an unprecedented victory but also gave an other-
wise colourless and mundane traditional season's curtain raiser an exciting finish.

The match, which swung from one end to the other throughout the day, reached a climax when Khelaghar were left with a daunting task of scoring eight runs from the last six deliveries with two wickets in hand.

Accompanied by number ten batsman Alamgir, Raju, who remained unbeaten on 28, scored five runs from the first four deliveries of Babul. But Khelaghar almost had their hearts in their mouth when Alamgir was stumped in the penultimate ball while trying to hit the off-spinner out of the ground.

The fall of Alamgir put Lalmitia fans in a state of euphoria with all of them anticipat-
ing an imminent victory. But that was not to happen on this occasion. Shakil walked into the ground as if to reveal the essence of this game of glorious uncertainty once again.

And as soon as Shakil clubbed that exquisite bound-
ary, Khelaghar erupted into joy. Interestingly, Khelaghar started their chase with captain Samsul pulling the first ball of the innings from Aminul for four down the square-leg boundary.

The nerve-tugging Khe-
laghar victory was however set by Nadim, who scored a fluent 54 with the help of five hits across the rope. Nadim was later adjudged man-of-the-fini-
nal.

Earlier, sent into bat first, Lalmitia innings was built around a fine half-century from their opener Raju and a polished 43 by middle-order bat Kalim.

The most consistent per-
former in the tournament Raiu

scored a canny 67 off 119 balls. The wicketkeeper-batsman, who also scored a magnificent century in the meet, was ad-
judged the player-of-the-tour-
nament and received a gold medal from the family of late Dr. Mazharul Islam Damal, a pioneer cricket organisers of the country.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), gave away prizes among the winners after the match. But there were not many people around when the curtain of the most exciting domestic event fell on the big bowl.

Damal Smriti Cricket has had a tradition of being the crowd and star-pulling tour-
nament. Over the years Dhaka audience was enthralled by the participation of world fa-
mous cricketers like Wasim Akram, Sanath Jayasuriya, Arjuna Ranatunga, Ajay Jadeja and Neil Fairbrother.

But the tournament lost its gloss and gaiety to a great extent this year following an arbitrary decision of the Board to exclude Premier League outfits from the meet that involved First and Second Division clubs.

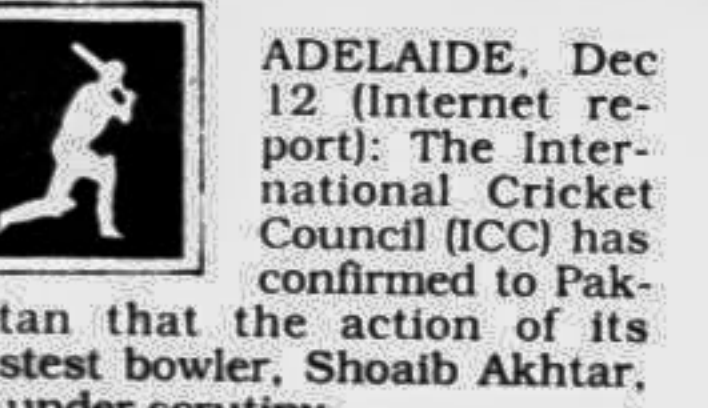
SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the 19th Damal Smriti cricket final between Khelaghar and Lalmitia played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

LALMITIA:
Shaon c Shamsul b Alamgir 27
Raju c Shakil b Rana Jr 67
Bablu c & b Lal 11
Kalim b Samsul 43
Shimul b Alamgir 4
Sumon run out 1
Shahen c Shakil b Nadeem 5
Lahu run out 0

Result: Khelaghar won the match by one wicket.
Man-of-the-final: Nadeem (Khelaghar).
Player-of-the-tournament: Raju (Lalmitia).

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1979-80	Biman	Mohammedan
1980-81	Abahani	Mohammedan
1981-82	Abahani	Mohammedan
1982-83	Mohammedan	Abahani
1983-84	Mohammedan	Azad Boys
1984-85	Abahani	Mohammedan
1985-86	Mohammedan	Abahani
1986-87	Mohammedan	Young Pegasus
1987-88	Abahani	Mohammedan
1988-89	Mohammedan	Abahani
1989-90	Mohammedan	Brothers Union
1990-91	Mohammedan	GMCC
1991-92	Abahani	Mohammedan
1992-93	Abahani	Brothers Union
1993-94	Abahani	Victoria
1994-95	Abahani	Abahani
1995-96	Mohammedan	Agrani Bank
1996-97	Abahani	Mohammedan
1997-98	Abahani	
1998-99	Khelaghar	Lalmitia
1999-2000		

ICC zeroes in on Shoaib



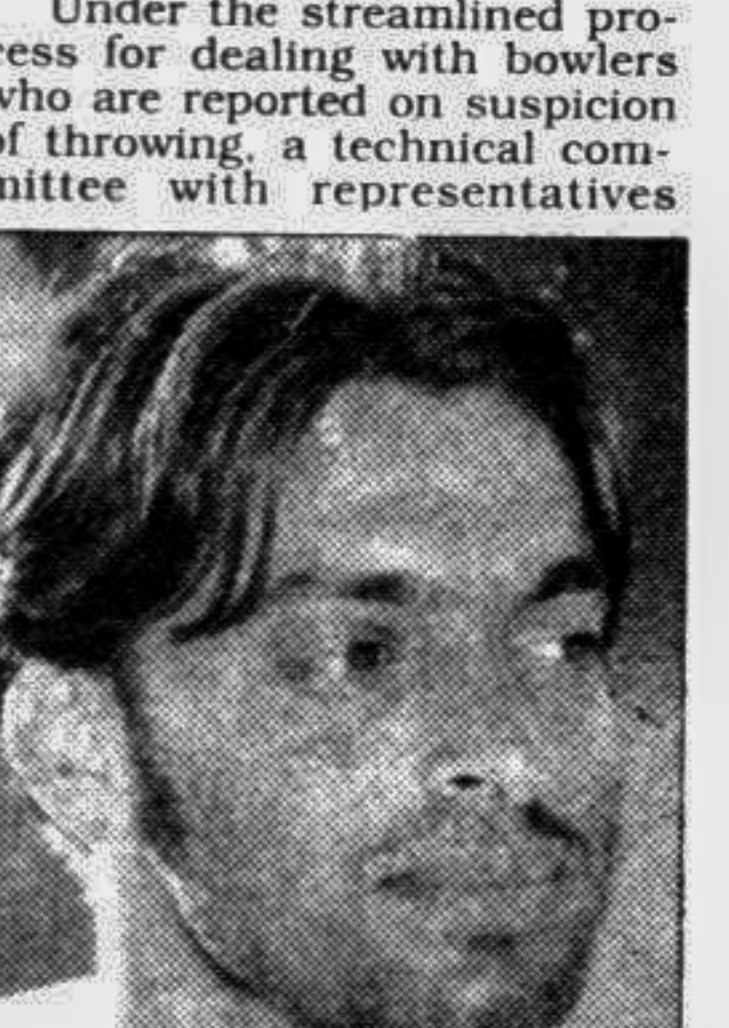
SHOAIB AKHTAR

any action by the ICC had been made public.
Akhtar is the second Pak-
istani whose action has been re-
ferred to the ICC 'technical
committee on illegal deliveries
for clearance. Shabbir Ahmed
withdrew from the Australian
tour in October after his action
came under report.
Under the streamlined pro-
cess for dealing with bowlers
who are reported on suspicion
of throwing a technical com-
mittee with representatives
from all the Test-playing na-
tions is drawn together by con-
ference call to examine video-
tape of the bowler's action.
If the committee decides that
remedial action is required, the
bowler is generally stood aside
by his home board until a
coaching representative can
work with him. The committee
would then reconvene to view
subsequent videotape footage.
The ICC has told Pakistan
there will be a conference call
of the members of the technical
committee 'in due course'.
According to the Dawn re-
port, the ICC made it clear that
not every delivery of Akhtar's
was regarded as illegal.

Meanwhile, India is anx-
iously awaiting the Australian
Cricket Board's appointments
of 'home' umpires for the sec-
ond and third Tests after its
difficulties with Hair in the re-
cent tour match against New
South Wales.

an ACB spokesman said he
was not aware of a request by
the tourists to be told of the um-
pires for the last two Tests of
the summer.

Courtesy: The Sydney Morning Herald



SHOAIB AKHTAR

National Fbl League

Big three keep BFF guessing

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federa-
tion (BFF) did not receive any
official consent from three lo-
cal powerhouses Abahani Lim-
ited, Mohammedan Sporting
Club and Muktijoddha Sangsad
Krira Chakra till the filing of
this report last night about
their participation in the forth-
coming Nitel-Tata National
Football League.

The inaugural National
league, which also involves five
divisional teams, is likely
kick-off from January 21.

The three giants, who in
principal agreed to take part in
the league after a successful
meeting with BFF on January 9,
were supposed to send their
formal consent by yesterday.

BFF joint-secretary and
league committee secretary Sirajul
Islam Bachchu told The
Daily Star last night that he
was expecting the official
replies of the three clubs by to-
day.

When contacted Abahani of-
ficial Dewan Shaiful Arefin Tu-
tul, who represented the club
along with former national
footballer Ashrafuddin Ahmed
Chunnu in Thursday's BFF
meeting, said that the club have
agreed to take part in the league
and the club secretary had been
instructed to send a letter to the
BFF yesterday morning.

"I think the letter would
reach BFF tomorrow," said Tu-
tul over telephone last night.

While Abahani seemed ready
for the league, Premier Division
league champions Mo-
hammedan Sporting Club was
yet to make up their mind.

By principal we have
agreed to play in the NFL. But
we need to go through the term
and conditions, specially the
by-laws of the league before giv-
ing our final consent. We have
sent a letter to BFF to provide us
with the by-law. We will only
then give our official consent,"
said club general secretary
Lokman Hossain yesterday.

When asked about this
Bachchu, said that the draft by-
laws have been put forward to
the BFF for approval. It would
be sent to the clubs after the ap-
proval of the federation.

Div I cricket from Dec 17

Sports Reporter

The sponsor-less 12-team
First Division cricket league
will commence from December
17 in the capital.

Orient Sporting Club relegat-
ed to the First Division after
only one season in the top eche-
lon last year, will take on pro-
motees Young Pegasus at the
Bangabandhu National Sta-
dium in the opening match.

The Premier Division's
other relegated side Ajax Sport-
ing Club face newly-crowned
Damal Smriti champions Khe-
laghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha
in another match billed for the
day at the Dhamondri Cricket
Stadium. Khelaghar also earned
promotion to the First Divi-
sion.

After the first phase top six
teams will play in the super
league to decide the champi-
onship while the bottom six
will battle it out in a relegation
league.

DIV II CRICKET

Meanwhile, the Acme Sec-
ond Division league start at
four different city venues from
Wednesday.

In the opening day's action
Azad Sporting Club take on
Azad Boys Club at the Dhan-
mondi Cricket Stadium, Rupali
Bank meet Bangladesh Railway
at the T&T Club ground, Anir-
ban Sangha face Lalbagh Union
at the Mirpur Outer Stadium
and GMCC take on SSC Blues at
the Uttara Friends Club ground.

In the first phase, 32 teams
will be split into four groups.
Top three teams will then again
be divided into two groups for
the second round. The second
round group winners, who will
be promoted to the First Divi-
sion next year, will face each
other in the final.

Gavaskar has
the answer

ADELAIDE, Dec 12: The
touring Indians have called on
former great Sunil Gavaskar to
correct their batting technique
as Australia went for the kill in
the first cricket Test here today,
reports AFP.

Gavaskar was requested by
team coach Kapil Dev to speak
to the players on the nuances
of playing genuine fast bowling
after the Indians were bundled out
for 285 in their first innings.

Gavaskar, the first batsman
to score 10,000 runs in Test his-
tory and with a record 34 cen-
turies under his belt, willingly
accepted to Kapil's request.

"I will talk to any player who
needs my advice," said
Gavaskar, who is here as a tele-
vision commentator.

Gavaskar's first words of
wisdom went to opening bats-
man Devang Gandhi, who was
dismissed for four on Saturday,
awkwardly fending off a rising
ball from paceman Glenn Mc-
Grath.

"I told Devang his stance was
very square-on," Gavaskar said.
"He is a good player. I am
confident he will do well on this
tour."

Nat'l Cricket League Top-of-table clash starts today

Sports Reporter

The sixth round of the Na-
tional Cricket League kicks off
today with joint-leaders Sylhet
and Chittagong facing off at the
Sylhet Stadium.

Both teams are leading the
six-team table with equal 14
points from five matches.

Chittagong, buoyed by their
innings and 41-run win over
Rajshahi on Sunday in Brah-
manbaria, will be looking for
their fourth win in a row.

The Pakistani leg spinner
Shahed Mehmud with an amaz-
ing haul of 22 wickets from just
two matches, is likely to pose a
major threat to the Sylheti
batsmen.

The Lahore-based tweaker
was instrumental in Brahman-
baria taking 12 wickets and on
debut against Barisal he cap-

tured 10 wickets.

Sylhet, however, hold a
slight advantage having secured
two points by virtue of a first
innings lead when the two sides
met in the first round last
month.

Sylhet's right-arm medium
pacer Hasibul Hossain, who
missed the last three-day match
against Dhaka for his academic
reasons, is likely to return to-
day for the crucial clash.

The other two sixth round
matches will start from Decem-
ber 15. Third-placed Khulna
host Rajshahi while Dhaka
meet Barisal in an away tie.

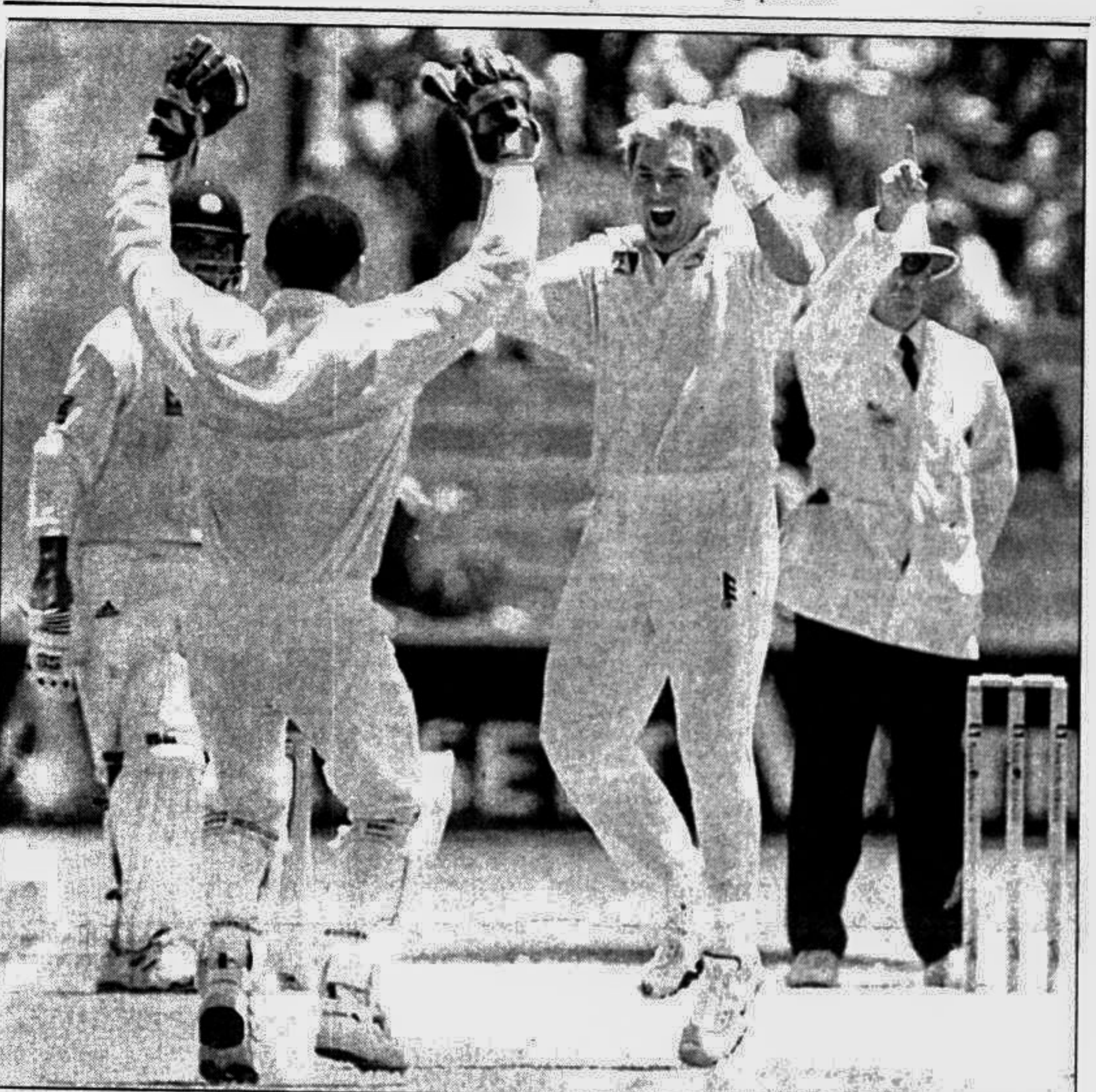
Khulna have six points
while Dhaka, Rajshahi and
Barisal each have two points af-
ter playing five matches so far.

StanChart schools chess

Ten players jointly led the
table of the Standard Chartered
Bank schools chess table with
full three points at the end of
third round yesterday, reports
UNB.

They are: Ejaz Hossain of
Maple Leaf, Puneet Jaiswal of
Keshob Academy, India, Soham
Das of Kedarnath Institute, In-
dia, national sub-junior cham-
pion Golam Mustafa Bhuiyan of
Mymensingh Collegiate School,
Shuvom Das of Kedarnath In-
stitute, India, Nilav Upadhyaya
of Sunrise School, India, Naim
Arefin of Dhamondri Boys'
School, Ayan Lahiri of Laban
Hrad Bidyapith, India, Naqibul
Haque of Spectrum School and
Rawnak Ehsan of Aga Khan
School.

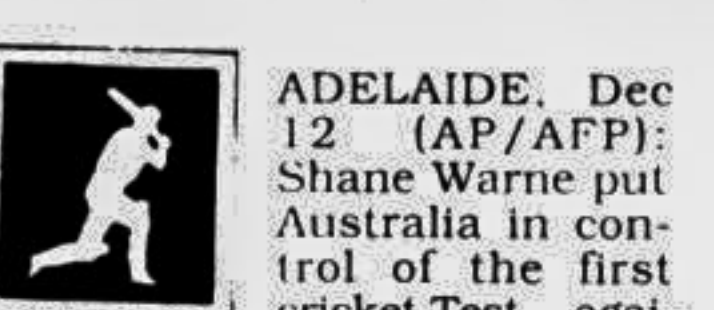
Two players—Omar Faruque
of Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla
School and Masruur Rahman of
Sreepur Pilot School—followed
the leaders with two and a half
points.



THE BIG ONE! Shane Warne (C) is over the moon after getting the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar at Adelaide yesterday. — AFP photo

Indians avert follow-on

Australia nicely poised



ADELAIDE, Dec 12 (AP/AF):
Shane Warne put
Australia in con-
trol of the first
cricket Test agai-
nst India with four wickets at
the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

After inspiring Australia to a
first innings 441 with a
swashbuckling 86, Warne pro-
duced his best bowling effort of
the summer to take 4-92 in 42
overs as India were dismissed
for 285 to give the hosts a 156-
run lead.

At stumps on the third day
Australia was 71 for two in
their second innings extending
the overall lead to 227 with two
days remaining to force a vic-
tory.

Greg Blewett was unbeaten
on 24 in two hours and Mark
Waugh was yet to score.

Even the magic of Sachin
Tendulkar could not shake
loose Australia's iron grip.

The Indian skipper crafted
an exquisite 61 but it was sim-
ply not enough to wrest control
from the world's top Test na-
tion.

On a day when Tendulkar
and Saurav Ganguly decided to
boldly take attack to the Aus-
tralians, Warne bowled with
control and patience to claim
his best figures against India on
home soil.

Coming out of uncertainty
when they stumbled to an
overnight 123 for four, the pair
raced to half centuries with
some characteristically aggres-
sive batting that produced 108
runs in the two-hour morning
session before a rot set in before
after lunch.

While the fifth-wicket pair
showed respect for Australia's
champion paceman Glenn Mc-
Grath, they savagely punished
his speed assistants, Damien
Fleming and Michael Kaspro-
wicz, both quickly removed from
the firing line by a worried Aus-
tralian captain, Steve Waugh.

Having laboured for 89
minutes on the second evening
for 12 runs, Tendulkar hit three
fours of successive deliveries in
a Kasprowicz over to reach his
22nd fifty in his 72nd Test.

When he was dismissed he had
scored 885 runs in 10 Tests
against Australia including
four hundreds and two fifties.

Ganguly matched his nimble
partner's shot-for-shot and
reached his fifty off just 90
balls before switching off to
play a sheet anchor role.
When Warne struck his first

big blow to remove Tendulkar,
in somewhat controversial cir-
cumstances, even the local
crowd were disappointed they
were to see no more of the
artistry of the little right-han-
der.

Tendulkar was adjudged by
umpire Daryl Harper to be
caught at short leg by a lurking
Justin Langer. The batsman
looked disappointed, perhaps
indicating he believed the ball
had ballooned from a pad. TV
replays were inconclusive.

"I did not believe he was out,"
Warne said.

The Indian innings never re-
covered from the setback, as the
last six wickets toppled for a
mere 70 runs.

Tendulkar's knock em-
braced edge boundaries, featur-
ing honey-sweet strokes on
both sides of the wicket. Left-
hander Ganguly was a more
than capable accomplice, also
hitting eight fours in his 60 in
an innings notable for his abili-
ty to handle the deft deliveries
of Warne.

It was the spin king, though,
who finally trapped him, luring
him forward and enabling
wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist to
make the second stumping of
his four-test career.

Warne also produced the ball
of the innings to remove a stub-
born Mannava Prasad after
lunch.

He bowled a delivery that
drifted wide down legside,
bounced and turned sharply to
bowl the Indian wicketkeeper
'around his legs.

Warne enjoyed bowling to
the Indians on Australian
pitches offering more bounce
and carry after his 10 wickets
in India in March 1998 had cost
him 450 runs.

"This is the best I've bowled
since my shoulder operation,"
Warne said. "As a spinner if you
take wickets against these
blokes you know you're bowling
really well."

"Taking the wicket of Sachin
before lunch gave us a big lift
and from there was bowled re-
ally, really well," Warne added.

Warne, with career tally of
347 wickets is nine wickets
short of passing Dennis Lillee's
Australian record of 355 wick-
ets in 70 Tests.

"If we can get 400 in front
and have plenty of time to bowl
them out the second time I'll be
licking my lips on the fifth
day," Warne said.

The 30-year old described
his wicket of Prasad as "a rip-
per" and put in amongst the top
dozen of best deliveries in a 79-
match career. "It's up there."

"It would have been nice to
bowl a few more of those," he
added.

Ajit Agarkar was the most
stubborn of the Indian tall, de-
fying Australia for 88 minutes
while making 119 runs. Fleming
carried out an effective mop-up
operation, capturing 3-5 over
his final five overs to convert
unflattering lunch figures of 0-
65 to 3-70.

Australia's usually impecca-
ble fielding was not without
blemish, and both Agarkar and
Srinath (11) had lives as Mark
Waugh and Warne tumbled slips
chances. Unfortunately for In-
dia, neither player took advan-
tage of the let-off.

Fast bowler Javagal Srinath
gave India an early boost in
Australia's second innings
when he ousted opener Michael
Slater for a duck, but Blewett
and Langer (38) then dug in to
hold out for 101 minutes until
just before stumps when leg-
spinner Anil Kumble trapped
Langer.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the third day
of the first Test between Aus-
tralia and India at the Adelaide
Oval on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
(overnight 123-4)
Gandhi c Kasprowicz b McGrath 4
Ramesh run out 2
Laxman c S Waugh b McGrath 41
Dravid c Langer b Warne 35
Tendulkar c Ganguly b Warne 61
Ganguly c Gilchrist b Warne 60
Prasad b Warne 14
Agarkar b Fleming 19
Srinath c S Waugh b Fleming 11
Kumble not out 17
Prasad lbw b Fleming 0
Extras: (lb-1, w-2, nb-19) 21
Total: (All out in 113 overs) 285

Fall of wickets: 1-7: 2-9: 3-
90: 4-107: 5-215: 6-229: 7-240:
8-266: 9-275.

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 30 13 48 2
Fleming 24.4 7 70 3
Kasprowicz 11 2 62 0
Warne 42 12 92 4
Blewett 6