

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Pele
(Brazilian soccer legend)
"I have to stay with Pele."
Asked to choose his sportsman of the century.

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

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

POWERED WITH
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Amol win under-13 singles

Sports Reporter

Amol Roy of Dhaka Engineers' Club clinched the under-13 singles title of the Joy Bangla national tennis championships yesterday.

Amol recorded straight set win against Dipulal (6-0, 6-2) at the National Tennis Complex.

Meanwhile, Shahriar Haider and Babul reached the final of boys' under-16 category. Shahriar eliminated Turjo 1-6, 6-4, 6-1 while Babul outclassed Kabir Hossain 6-0, 6-2 in the semifinals.

Former national women's champion Shathi Sarkar and Disha Islam will fight for singles crown today.

In yesterday's semifinal, Shathi beat American Naomi Cookson 6-2, 8-1 (retired) while Disha won 6-2, 7-5 against Shaoni.

The finals will be held at the same venue today.

SA name same XI

PORT ELIZABETH, Dec 14 (Internet report): South Africa have named a squad of 12 for the third cricket Test against England at Kingsmead over the Christmas holidays.

All members of the side, who played to a draw in the second Test in Port Elizabeth, have been retained, along with spinner Paul Adams.

Official 12th man for the first two Tests, Boeta Dippenaar, has, however, been released to play for Free State.

With all-rounder Jacques Kallis, who made a surprise six-over appearance at St George's Park on Monday, certain to bowl the SA attack will be back to full strength.

"It wasn't planned that way," said selection convenor Rushdi Magiet of Kallis' return to action. "He just felt good, so we reckoned we could give him a couple of overs."

Kallis took two for 22 and according to Magiet came through his trial without any problems.

SQUAD

Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Daryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Mornantau Hayward, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

Sylhet in Mehmud muddle

Sports Reporter

Shahed Mehmud of Chittagong continued to captivate the National League with his mesmerising leg-spin as hosts Sylhet were forced to follow on yesterday, the second day of the three-day match at the Sylhet Stadium.

The Pakistani leggie, architect of the port city's two previous wins with an astonishing haul of 22 wickets, left the Chittagonians on the verge of an easy victory when he took five wickets to send Sylhet wobbling in front of their home crowds.

With Mehmud at his menacing best, Sylhet were bundled out for 105 in the first innings while chasing a commanding Chittagong total of 276 for nine in their allotted 100 overs.

Things turned even worse for the high-flying Sylhetis when they were reduced to 37 for three in their second innings before the stumps were drawn for the day. And with a long day still to go and Mehmud moving the ball almost square along with slow left-arm Enamul Haq, the chances of avoiding an innings defeat looks bleak for Sylhet.

The belligerent hosts are now left with a monumental task of scoring another 142 runs to make Chittagong bat again.

Although it was expected that the crucial return-leg tie between the two title contenders would be a fiercely contested one, the game turned out to be a one-sided affair as Mehmud made the most of a slow and turning wicket.

After national right-arm seamer Safiuddin made the early in-roads by removing in-form Sylhet opener Parvez for one, the Lahore-based spinner then bemused the Sylhet top and middle-order to finish with five for 49 in his 15.4 overs.

Sylhet looked never at ease in their chase. They lost wickets at regular intervals and were left for only 44.4 overs. Neeamur, with an unbeaten 18, was the highest run-getter for Sylhet.

The inability of Sylhetis to cope with quality bowling was exposed again when they began their second innings. They lost three quick wickets after Parvez departed for a fighting 25.

Earlier, resuming the day on 206 for seven, Chittagong clobbered 70 runs in 14 overs with Enamul and Shahed Mehmud producing invaluable 66 runs for the eighth wicket.

Enamul turned his overnight 26 to a fine half-century. The southpaw made 62 off 119 balls, the highest contribution to the Chittagong total. Mehmud, unbeaten on 4 at stumps on the opening day, meanwhile hammered a quick-fire 35.

Mahmud, who took another wicket second innings wicket, would not mind to be in the thick of things when Chittagong skipper Minhazul Abedin sets his field for seven more wickets to avenge the disappointment at home. A victory will also enable Chittagong to leapfrog Sylhet at the top of the league table.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day National League match between Sylhet and Chittagong played at the Sylhet Stadium on Tuesday:

CHITTAGONG: First innings (overnight 206-7)

Azam c Imran b Iqbal	19
Ihsanul run out	0
Jahangir c Imran b Iqbal	0
Sabbir c Saifullah b Rafique	56
Akram c Rajin b Rafique	35
Minhazul c Parvez b Saifullah	31
Z Rashid c Rajin b Rafique	8
Enamul st Mortuza b Saifullah	62
S Mehmud c Aloke b Saifullah	35
Anis not out	2
Safiuddin not out	0
Extras: (b-5, lb-10, nb-3)	18
Total: (For 9 wickets in 100 overs) 276	
Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-26; 3-38; 4-128; 5-133; 6-157; 7-198; 8-264; 9-274	

Bowler:

Nayem	12	7	12	0
Iqbal	21	5	63	2
Neeamur	13	4	34	0
Rafique	28	5	45	3
Imran Rahim	3	0	13	0
Saifullah	23	2	61	3

SYLHET: First innings

Parvez b Safiuddin	1
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See page 14



OH NO, WHAT HAVE I DONE! Shane Warne (2nd from R) buries his face in disbelief after dropping India's Javagal Srinath off Damien Fleming yesterday. The catch would have given Fleming his second hat-trick in Test cricket. — AFP photo

Prime Bank chess on

Sports Reporter

The Prime Bank international rating chess tournament got underway at the NSC room yesterday.

The tourney is being organised by the Leonine Chess Club. Kazi Abdul Majid, the managing director of Prime Bank, performed the inauguration of the nine-round Swiss league meet.

Fifty-two contestants, of them 33 rated, are taking part in the tournament.

The leading rated players are: IM (International Master) Ziaur Rahman, IM Reefat Bin-Sattar, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib, Fide Master Rezaul Haque, national junior champion Enamul Hossain Rajib, Saifuddin Lovell, Ruhul Kabir Shipu, Abul Kashem Bhuyan, Mahfuzur Rahman Imon, Abu Sultan, Sk Nasir Ahmed and Taibur Rahman.

The first round matches were being commenced at the moment of filing this report.

Rajshahi, Dhaka go for away ties

Sports Reporter

Two sixth round matches of the National Cricket League start at different divisional venues today.

Khulna, who are third in the table with six points, will take on Rajshahi in their return clash at home while Dhaka will meet Barisal in their away match at the Barisal Stadium.

Rajshahi, Dhaka and Barisal have equal collections of two points each from five outings.

StanChart chess

Sports Reporter

Four players were sharing the top spot on completion of the fourth round of the Standard Chartered Bank School chess tournament at the NSC room yesterday.

National sub-junior champion Golam Mustafa of Mymensingh City Collegiate School, Syed Ejaz Hossain of Maple Leaf and Calcutta boys-Puneet Jaswal and Soham Das registered their fourth successive wins to keep overcrowding the top slot.

In their respective matches, Mustafa beat Nakibul Haque Udash, Ejaz checkedmate Nayeem Arifin Ratul, Puneet outplayed Nilav Upadhyaya while Soham won his board against Ayan Lahiri.

Shuvom Das of Calcutta and Rownak Ehsan Sajib of Aga Khan School were trailing behind the leaders with three and a half points each.

Besides, Ratul, Nilav, Ayan, Udash, Farhadur Imam, Nazir Salehin, Mahtabuddin Robin, Obaidul Islam, Riad Ahmed, Rashid Nizam, Abdul Halim, Suprakash Sarkar, Mohammad Ali, Ziauddin Ahmed, Tanvir Chowdhury, Ahmed Rajib, Shahjahan Ali and Shakhawat Hossain remained at the third spot with three points each.

The fifth round will start at the same venue at 10 am today.

V'Day v'ball

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles moved to the final of the Victory Day volleyball tournament yesterday defeating the national under-19 team by 51-34 margin in the inaugural match at the kabadi court adjacent to Bangabandhu National Stadium.

BRD earned three lonas to seal the victory.

In the December 17 final, BRD will meet the winners of the match between Fire Service and national under-17 team.

Four teams are taking part in the knockout tournament.

Fleming finishes India off

S WAUGH... m-o-m

fielded well in Australia's second innings but the wicket had deteriorated a lot during our second innings.

Steve Waugh was named man-of-the-match after scoring 150 in his team's first innings to become the first player in history to make centuries against every Test-playing nation.

Australia were in deep trouble at 52-4 on the first day before Waugh and Ricky Ponting (125) added 239 for the fifth wicket, helping Australia reach an imposing total of 441 to take control of the match.

India made just 285 in reply and were set 396 for victory after Australia declared their second innings closed at 239-8 on the fourth day.

Any hopes the tourists had of saving the match evaporated when they crashed to 76-5 on day four after Tendulkar was controversially given out leg before wicket without scoring after ducking into a McGrath bouncer that kept low and struck him on the shoulder.

Graciously, he refused to blame the umpire when asked about the decision, saying only that he was disappointed not to have made a great contribution to his side.

With victory inevitable, Australia pressed hard from the start of play on the final day. Fleming struck after just 20 minutes, claiming Ganguly when he was brilliantly caught down the legside by wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist.

Agarkar went for a golden duck when he fended a ball to Waugh before Warne dropped Srinath after he poked at a Fleming outswinger.

McGrath finished off Srinath shortly after when he sliced a catch to Michael Slater while Fleming had Mannava caught by Langer at short cover before bowling Kumble to clinch victory.

"At the end of the day, we have the talent," Indian coach Kapil Dev said. "It's just our application that's letting us down."

Australia's win was their fifth in a row after they beat Zimbabwe in a one-off Test in October then completed a 3-0 series clean sweep over Pakistan.

The last Australian side to win five on the trot was Bob Simpson's side of 1968-69 that ran up five in a row against India and England.

"The great thing about this team is that we never really feel like we're in trouble and every one contributes," Waugh said.

"We have confidence in ourselves and we just don't panic. Even when we were 52-4, I still thought we were going to make a big score."

The second Test starts in Melbourne on December 26 with the third and final match in Sydney starting on January 2.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the first Test between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval today:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 441 (S Waugh 150, Ponting 125; Warne 86)

INDIA: First innings 285 (Tendulkar 61, Ganguly 60; Warne 4-92)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 239-8 dec (Blewett 88)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 76-5)

Gandhi c Gilchrist b McGrath	28
Ramesh lbw b Warne	0
Laxman b Fleming	0
Dravid c Gilchrist b Warne	6
Tendulkar lbw b McGrath	0
Ganguly c Gilchrist b Fleming	43
Prasad c Langer b Fleming	11
Agarkar c S Waugh b Fleming	0
Srinath c Slater b McGrath	11
Kumble b Fleming	3
Prasad not out	2
Extras: (lb-1, nb-5)	6
Total: (All out in 38.1 overs)	110
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-3; 3-24; 4-27; 5-48; 6-93; 7-93; 8-102; 9-108	

Bowler:

McGrath	12	2	35	3
Fleming	9.1	2	30	5
Warne	10	6	21	2
Kasprowicz	6	0	23	0
M Waugh	1	1	0	0

Result: Australia won by 285 runs

Man-of-the-match: Steve Waugh (Australia)

Second Test: Dec 26-30, Melbourne

Third Test: Jan 2-6, Sydney.



Australian paceman Damien Fleming appeals for a leg before decision on the final day of the Adelaide Test. — AFP photo

Tourists hit the roof

BANGALORE, India, Dec 14 (Reuters): Indian commentators expressed outrage on Tuesday at the controversial dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar in the first Test against Australia in Adelaide.

Tendulkar was given out without scoring late on Monday after ducking into an attempted bouncer from Australian pace-man Glenn McGrath.

But the ball did not bounce as high as Tendulkar expected and it struck him on the shoulder as he tried to avoid it. India commentators and newspapers fiercely criticised the decision by Australian umpire Daryl Harper who also gave Tendulkar out in controversial circumstances in the first innings.

"Two bad decisions: Is Tendulkar being targeted?" the Indian Express asked in a front-page report headed: "When the Umpire Bats for Australia".

"It was an appalling decision which only underlines the umpiring standards in Australia unless you want to read much more into it," the newspaper said.

"The Indians are definitely doing that (reading more into the incident), given their past experience of Australia."

The Asian Age carried two large pictures of the incident on its front page and said: "Shoulder before wicket: Sachin umpired out again."

Sachin is 65 inches tall and the stumps are 28 inches high. It would have been different if the ball had hit him in the middle of his body," Gavaskar said.

The rest of India's batsmen fell cheaply to some fiery bowling from McGrath and Damien Fleming as India lost by 285 runs.

Tendulkar himself had little to say.

"I think the whole world has seen it. I don't think I should be talking much about it," he said after the defeat.

"I was disappointed so I didn't look at the replay at all."

Australian captain Steve Waugh said he thought Tendulkar was out but added that the decision had little impact on the outcome of the match.

The Indian media agreed.

"Even if umpire Daryl Harper's second blunder in the match against the Indian captain is to be put in perspective, they (the Indian team) still can't atone for their impotent batting performance," the Deccan Herald said.



TENDULKAR

Waqar sends bouncer at Wasim

LAHORE, Dec 14 (Internet report): Discarded Pakistani pace bowler Waqar Younis out Monday hit out at the selectors for ignoring him for the triangular World Series in Australia, says a report of The News.

"My performance was never tested in the Test match series against Australia but still my name was excluded from Australia-bound squad without any reason," Waqar said at a press briefing at the Lahore Press Club.

He alleged that a particular lobby inside the PCB management was working against him and his exclusion from the team was the work of this lobby. He complained the PCB was treating "as if I am a beginner. I am being mated out this treatment for the last one and a half years," he added.

The Burewala Express demanded more chances for himself, saying he was fully fit to deliver for his country. "I am fully fit and can serve the country for at least two more years," he said. "If I am ignored consistently I will start playing county cricket in England."

Talking about his alleged rivalry against team captain Wasim Akram, Waqar said if Wasim had any grudge against him "the best place to settle that is inside a room and not the ground".

The great fast bowler was also unhappy with the way he was under-bowled in the Hobart Test against Australia. "I fully respect Wasim but the way he treated me during the Hobart Test was one of the reasons due to which Pakistan lost the match."

About the process of team selection in Australia, Waqar said it was a one-man show as "Wasim Akram completely dominates the selection of the team which is injustice."

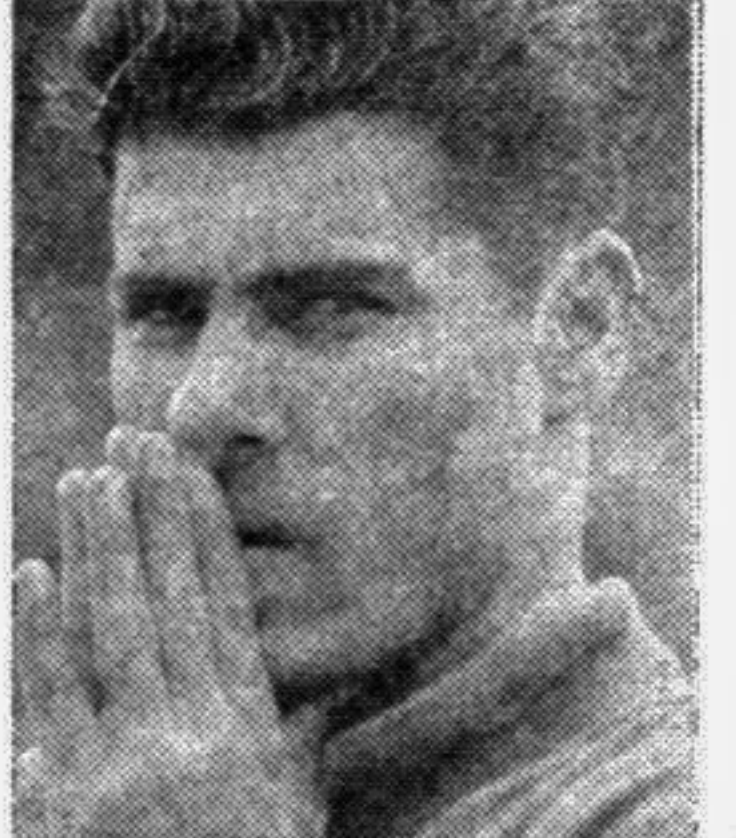
Waqar said he had already talked to team manager Yawar Saad and also planned to meet PCB chairman Zafar Iqbal on the issue. About the performance of the team, Waqar said "at present there is no combination in the team and each player is concentrating on his own performance."

"Wasim Akram is a good skipper but his intentions are not clear. I do not want to indulge in any controversy but due to wrong behaviour of the PCB selectors and captain Wasim Akram, I have been forced to approach the media," he said.

Waqar also sympathised with Amir Sohail who he said was also being treated badly despite his brilliant performances in the current domestic cricket season.

He questioned the use of domestic season if players could not be picked up for the national team despite performing excellently in the season.

About Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar said it was due to inexperience that the young bowler was not taking enough wickets. "After sometimes, he will show his mettle," he said.



WAQAR YOUNIS

Army Gen named PCB boss

ISLAMABAD, Dec 14: An army general, Tauqeer Zia, was named head of the Pakistan Cricket Board, officials said Tuesday.

Zia takes over a troubled cricket board that has gone through four changes of leadership in the last six months.

Zia replaces Zafar Altaf, who had served for barely three months. Altaf replaced Mujibur Rehman, who has been in army custody since the military takeover of Pakistan on Oct 12.

A former military corps commander Zia, 53, promised to turn the cricket board fortunes around.

"It will be my top priority. I want the team to play like Australians do," he said.