

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Alec Stewart
(England Cricketer)
"I will be the first to acknowledge that England's recent batting has failed to achieve real consistency."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-125

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 31, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Test?

Langer Ponting Inzamam
Akram Fleming McGrath

2. Who was the highest wicket-taker in the Australia-Pakistan Test series?

15 16 17

3. How many Test hundreds has Mark Waugh scored to date?

15 16 17

4. Who became champions in the Keya Premier soccer?

Mukljodha Mohammedani Aramagh

5. Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?

Prasad

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

StanChart chess

Ejaz, Soham share lead

Ejaz Ahmed and Soham Das jointly lead the Standard Chartered schools chess competition with seven points after the eighth round matches at the NSC chess room yesterday, reports UNB.

Ejaz of Maple Leaf International School, lost his solo lead after sharing point with Ayan Lahiri of India in the day's match.

Soham of Kedarnath Institute in Calcutta brightened his title hope beating Riaz Ahmed of West End School in the eighth round.

Two players — Ayan Lahiri and Nazir Salehin — followed the leaders securing six and a half points. Nazir of Rajarbagh Police Lines School beat Puneet Jaiswal of India.

In the day's other matches, Mustafa beat Shuvom Das, Ratul beat Rabi, Robin beat Nilav, Udas beat Ali, Farhad beat Rashed, Rajib beat Shahrukh, Faruque beat Obaidul, Salahuddin beat Sajib, Ujjal beat Ferdous and Arefin beat Kibria.

Zia, Halim and Imran got walkovers against Shaheen, Mahmood and Suprakash.

The ninth and last round matches will be held on Sunday at the same venue.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will distribute the prizes as chief guest.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Dec 18: Friends Ideal Cricket School recorded a 156-run win over Metropolitan City Club in the Birshrestha Captain Mahiuddin Jahangir Smriti cricket tournament played today at Railway ground.

Friends Ideal batted first after winning the toss and made 213 for seven in the allotted 22 overs.

In reply, Metropolitan were all out for 57 in 45.1 overs. Golap was the top scorer with 89 for the winners.

Zamil Smriti Sangha posted a 104-run win over Rajshahi University campus in the second match of the day.

Winning the toss, the winners batted first and managed 166 for seven in the stipulated 22 overs.

In reply, Rajshahi University were all out for 62 in 18 overs.

Aminul smiles at last

Sports Reporter



After a prolonged spell of disappointing results, the much-vaunted Dhaka Division finally had something to cheer about in the ongoing National Cricket League—they posted a 53-run win against Barisal yesterday.

The first victory for Aminul Islam's star-studded side in the championship came at the Barisal Stadium when the hosts, set to score 242 in their second innings, were bundled out for 189 in 75.3 overs.

Dhaka, who rarely appeared cohesive in their previous six engagements, finally got their act together thanks to sterling individual performances by Naimur Rahman and Al-Shahriar.

Naimur, the resourceful national all-rounder, spurred Dhaka to victory with a 10-wicket haul.

The off-spinner, who captured five wickets in the first innings to restrict Barisal to 162, was the wrecker-in-chief with as many wickets in the second.

He was later adjudged man-of-the-match ahead of Al-Shahriar, who followed up his first innings 47 with a cracking half-century when it was Dhaka's turn to bat again.

Arriving at the crease, the dashing stroke-maker Shahriar hammered a rapid-fire 56 as the visitors, resuming the final day on 60 for no loss, amassed 175 for four before Aminul declared after 46 overs.

Dhaka's two other national openers Mehrab and Shahriar Hossain made healthy contributions of 39 and 32 respectively.

Barisal never looked comfortable chasing the target despite a fine 53 from opener Rashedul and a gritty 47 by opener Babu.

The hosts lost their way once Babu ran himself out three runs short of a well-deserved half-century.

Babu's departure with the score on 124 triggered panic within the Barisal dressing room. They lost four wickets for the addition of only two runs.

It was Naimur who ripped through the middle and lower order to finish with five for 81 in his 33.3 overs. Earlier he collected 5-26.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National League match between Dhaka and Barisal at the Barisal Stadium yesterday:

DHAKA: First innings 229 all out in 83.5 overs (K Mahmud 60, Al-Shahriar 47, Javed 36; Moin 3/18, Totam 48).

BARISAL: First innings 162 all out in 62.4 overs (Babu 39, Faruque 32, Moin 25; Naimur 5/26).

DHAKA: Second innings (overnight 60 for no loss in 21 overs) Shahriar run out 39, Mehrab c Sohail b Faruque 32.

BRIEF SCORES

JATRABARI: 178 all out in 49.5 overs (Mostaq 38, Jewel 33, Azam 31; Shaheen 3/30, Antu 2/26, Firaz 2/40).

LALMATIA: 179 for 3 wickets in 41.4 overs (Babu 55, Kalim 38, Shaon 21).

Result: Lalmatia won by 7 wickets.

UTTARA: 200 all out in 48.5 overs (Sajal 64, Mahfuz 56; Topu 3/25, Ripon 2/34, Chayan 2/49).

WANDERERS: 175 all out in 49.5 overs (Topu 33, Bazlu 27; Arif 2/17, Mahfuz 2/26, Shipon 2/29).

Result: Uttara Sporting Club won by 25 runs.

Lalmatia, smarting after their sensational one-wicket defeat in the just-concluded Damal Smriti final against Khelaghar, pulled off a facile seven-wicket victory over Jatrabari Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The easy sail of Lalmatia was a collective effort from their bowlers followed by a watchful half-century from Babu.

Babu, the villain of Lalmatia's defeat against Khelaghar where he conceded nine runs in the last overs including a four off the final delivery, slammed 55.

Lalmatia, chasing a modest Jatrabari total of 178 in the stipulated 50 overs, reached their target for the loss of three wickets and with more than nine overs to spare.

Babu apart, Kalim hammered an unbeaten 38 off 69 balls.

In the other match at the Dhakamandir Cricket Stadium, Uttara Sporting Club rode on two half-centuries from opener Mahfuz and middle-order bat Saja to post a 25-run win over Dhaka Wanderers.

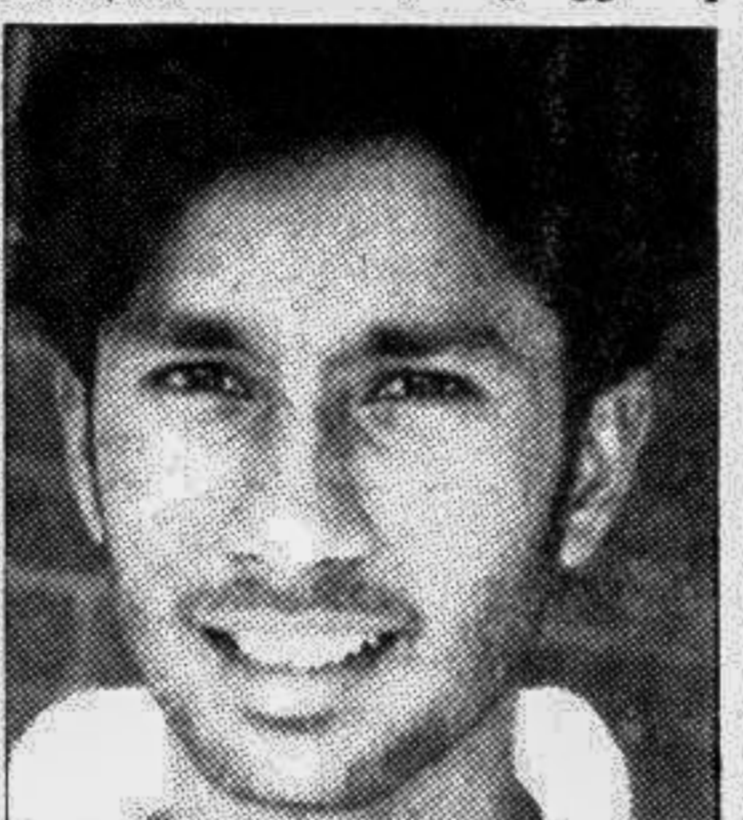
Sajal scored a polished 63 off 97 balls and Mahfuz, who later took two wickets, hammered a whirlwind 40-ball 56 as Uttara, batting after winning the toss, scored exactly 200 all out in 48.5 overs.

In reply, Jatrabari could muster 175 all out with one ball to spare in their share of 50 overs.

For Jatrabari, skipper Topu top-scored with 33. Arif, Mahfuz and Shipon evenly shared six wickets for Uttara.



NAIMUR ... m-o-m
Javed c & b Sohail 26
Al-Shahriar c Mazharul 56
Aminul not out 5
Extras: (lb-11, nb-2, w-4) 17
Total: (For 46 overs) 175
Bowler: O M R W



AL SHAHRIAR ... 56
Sanwar 3 1 12 0
Al-Shahriar 9 2 28 1
Mehrab 7 3 7 0
Result: Dhaka won by 53 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Naimur Rahman (Dhaka).

Lacklustre Indians



HOBBART, Dec 18: The touring Indians were described by Australian cricket fans as boring after playing meaningless cricket against Tasmania here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The Indians gained little from the second day's play in the four-day tour match at the Bellerive Oval as the Tasmanians exposed the limitations of the reserve bowling strength.

India, resuming at the overnight score of 241-6, prolonged their first innings till lunch before stand-in captain Sourav Ganguly declared at 316 for nine.

Tasmania made 166 for no loss in reply before stumps were drawn on a dreary day's cricket which produced 241 runs for the loss of three wickets.

"This is like a boring net session," said a local fan, who was among the 100-odd spectators who braved chilly winds to watch the Indians in action.

"I thought India were an exciting team to watch, but they've set me up for a good night's sleep."

Ganguly was expected to declare soon after the Indians lost three wickets for 19 runs within the first hour's play, to take advantage of the overcast conditions.

Instead, he allowed the last-wicket pair of Venkatesh Prasad and Debashish Mohanty to defend stoutly till lunch.

The pair put on 47 runs to boost the score after left-arm seamer Andrew Downton had taken five wickets to reduce India to 269 for nine.

Downton, a product of the Australian Cricket Academy in Adelaide, finished with five for 90 in only his second first-class match.

He had taken eight wickets on his debut against New South Wales earlier in the season.

When the Indians fielded, Tasmanian captain Jamie Cox and Dene Hills comfortably negotiated the new ball attack, which lacked bite in the absence of the rested Jagavallu Srinath and Ajit Agarkar.

Cox, who also leads Somerset in English county cricket, was unbeaten on 88 at stumps. Left-hander Hills provided good support with 67 not out.

Seamers Debashish Mohanty and Thiru Kumaran, hoping to stake their claims for the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, failed to impress on the slow wicket.

Mohanty ended the day with 0-49 from 13 overs. Kumaran, a pupil of former Australian great Dennis Lillee's pace academy in Madras, finished

with 0-26.

There was little joy for off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who expects to get a look-in on the dry Sydney cricket ground wicket for the third Test in January.

Singh, whose only other appearance on the tour was during a festival one-day match in Canberra, returned with none for 34.

Coach Kapil Dev admitted his bowlers struggled in the cold, but expected them to be more enterprising.

"If conditions don't help, try something new," said Kapil. Test cricket's most successful bowler with 434 wickets.

"They pitched too short on the easy-paced wicket. I can see the fielders found it too cold out there."

"Many did not want to take their hands out of the pocket."

Kapil said he had asked the groundsman to leave grass on the wicket, a request that was turned down.

"He told me to let the batsmen have a good time," Kapil said. "They did, but the bowlers had nothing to gain."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day in the four-day match between India and Tasmania at the Bellerive Oval here on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 241-6)

Laxman c Atkinson b Wright 0
Ramesh c Marsh b Downton 34
David c Atkinson b Wright 107
Kanjikar lbw b Kremerskothen 58
Bharadwaj run out 14
Ganguly c Atkinson b Downton 5

Mongia c Kremerskothen b Downton 5
Kumaran b Downton 15
Prasad not out 17
H Singh c Hills b Downton 15
Mohanty not out 22
Extras: (lb-2, lb-10, w-1, nb-11) 24
Total: (For nine wickets dec) 316

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-55; 3-169; 4-227; 5-233; 6-235; 7-250; 8-253; 9-269

Bowler: O M R W
Wright 22 3 77 2
Downton 30 10 90 5
Miller 32 14 43 0
Young 13 5 23 0
Kremerskothen 17 2 52 1
Marsh 10 3 19 0

TASMANIA: First innings

J Cox not out 88
D Hills not out 67
Extras: (lb-4, nb-7) 11
Total: (for no loss in 58 overs) 166

Bowler: O M R W
Prasad 12 2 30 0
Mohanty 13 1 49 0
Ganguly 6 0 15 0
Kumaran 8 3 26 0
Harbhajan 14 4 34 0
Bharadwaj 5 1 38 0

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter
Lalmatia Club and Uttara Sporting Club won their respective First Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

BRIEF SCORES

JATRABARI: 178 all out in 49.5 overs (Mostaq 38, Jewel 33, Azam 31; Shaheen 3/30, Antu 2/26, Firaz 2/40).

LALMATIA: 179 for 3 wickets in 41.4 overs (Babu 55, Kalim 38, Shaon 21).

Result: Lalmatia won by 7 wickets.

UTTARA: 200 all out in 48.5 overs (Sajal 64, Mahfuz 56; Topu 3/25, Ripon 2/34, Chayan 2/49).

WANDERERS: 175 all out in 49.5 overs (Topu 33, Bazlu 27; Arif 2/17, Mahfuz 2/26, Shipon 2/29).

Result: Uttara Sporting Club won by 25 runs.

Lalmatia, smarting after their sensational one-wicket defeat in the just-concluded Damal Smriti final against Khelaghar, pulled off a facile seven-wicket victory over Jatrabari Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The easy sail of Lalmatia was a collective effort from their bowlers followed by a watchful half-century from Babu.

Babu, the villain of Lalmatia's defeat against Khelaghar where he conceded nine runs in the last overs including a four off the final delivery, slammed 55.

Lalmatia, chasing a modest Jatrabari total of 178 in the stipulated 50 overs, reached their target for the loss of three wickets and with more than nine overs to spare.

Babu apart, Kalim hammered an unbeaten 38 off 69 balls.

In the other match at the Dhakamandir Cricket Stadium, Uttara Sporting Club rode on two half-centuries from opener Mahfuz and middle-order bat Saja to post a 25-run win over Dhaka Wanderers.

Sajal scored a polished 63 off 97 balls and Mahfuz, who later took two wickets, hammered a whirlwind 40-ball 56 as Uttara, batting after winning the toss, scored exactly 200 all out in 48.5 overs.

In reply, Jatrabari could muster 175 all out with one ball to spare in their share of 50 overs.

For Jatrabari, skipper Topu top-scored with 33. Arif, Mahfuz and Shipon evenly shared six wickets for Uttara.

Sajal scored a polished 63 off 97 balls and Mahfuz, who later took two wickets, hammered a whirlwind 40-ball 56 as Uttara, batting after winning the toss, scored exactly 200 all out in 48.5 overs.

In reply, Jatrabari could muster 175 all out with one ball to spare in their share of 50 overs.

For Jatrabari, skipper Topu top-scored with 33. Arif, Mahfuz and Shipon evenly shared six wickets for Uttara.

Rivaldo voted world player



LONDON, Dec 18: Brazilian international forward Rivaldo of Barcelona has been voted World-player-of-the-year by readers of World Soccer magazine, reports Reuters.

He finished the overwhelming winner of the poll, collecting 42.27 per cent of the votes. Manchester United's England international midfielder David Beckham was second (26.55 per cent) followed by Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko of AC Milan (9.02 per cent).

None of the players who finished in the top three last year — winner Zinedine Zidane, Michael Owen or Ronaldo — managed to get into the top 10 this year.

Manchester United were voted World Team of the Year following their triumphs in winning the European Cup, the English Premier League and the FA Cup, with their manager Alex Ferguson voted world-manager-of-the-year.

The World Soccer award began in 1982 and Rivaldo is the third Brazilian to win the honour following Zico (1983) and Ronaldo (1996 and 1997).

Rivaldo is expected to be named European-player-of-the-year in the poll organised by France Football magazine on Tuesday.

Rifles V-Day v'ball champs

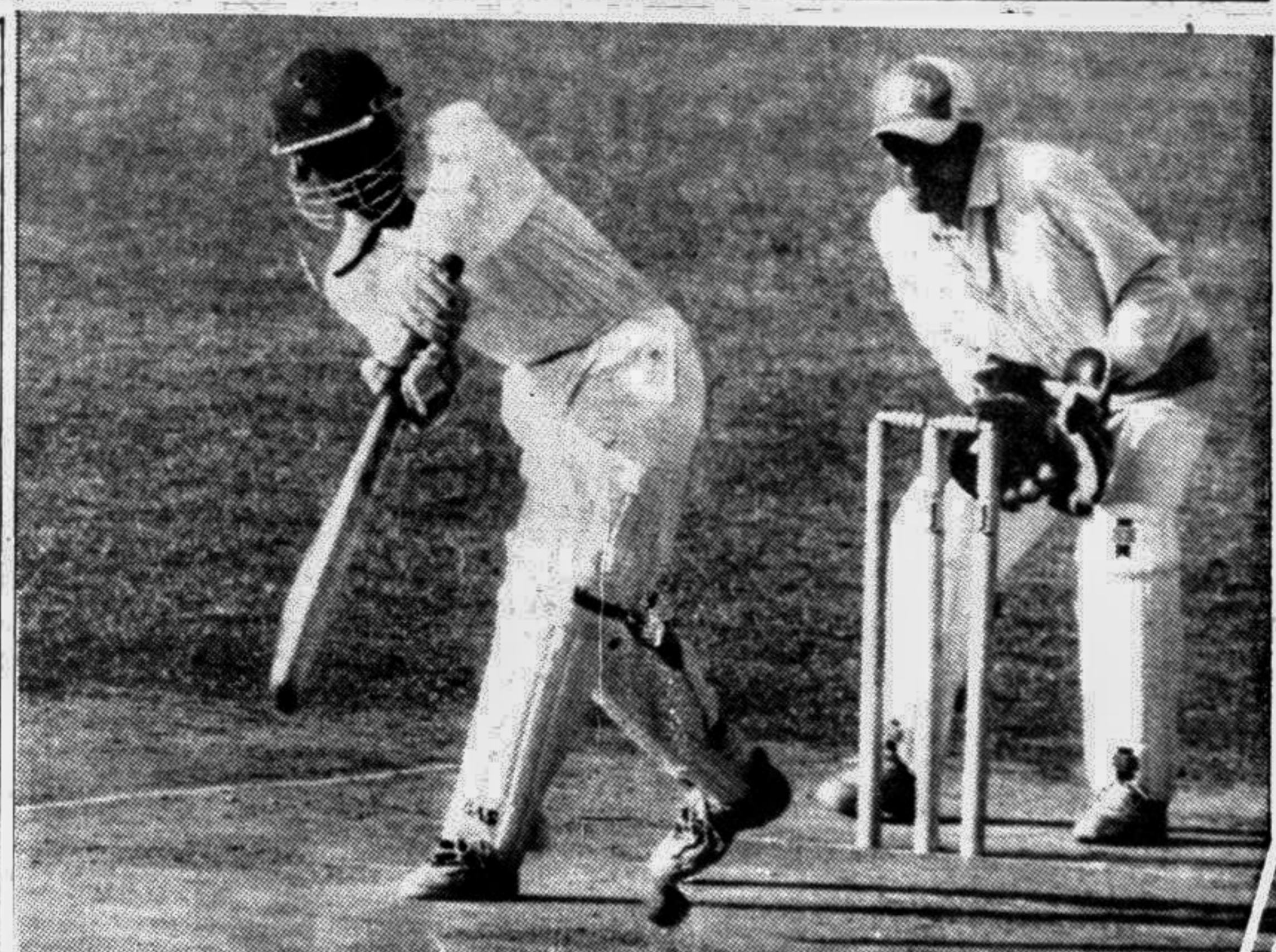
Bangladesh Rifles emerged champions of the Victory Day volleyball competition beating Bangladesh Army by 25-20, 22-25, 25-20, 25-21 at the Volleyball Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the third position deciding match, Bangladesh Navy beat Bangladesh Air Force 25-20, 25-21, 16-25, 25-17.

Managing Director of National Bank Limited Rafiqul Islam Khan distributed the prizes as chief guest.

A moment during the Victory Day volleyball final between Bangladesh Army and BDR yesterday.

— Star photo



Babu of Lalmatia, who made a brilliant 55 against Jatrabari, plays one on the on-side at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Wkt No 425: Astle

Hosts press home advantage



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Dec 18: New Zealand missed a golden opportunity to shut the West Indies out of the first Test, but they still held a slight advantage at stumps on Day Three Saturday, reports AFP.

The West Indies faced one maiden over from Daniel Vettori before stumps, after New Zealand had made 393 in reply to the West Indies first innings of 365.

Stephen Fleming, Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan all scored half-centuries but did not carry on to three figures when it looked like New Zealand could build a useful first innings lead.

New Zealand started the day on 113 for three, with Fleming and nightwatchman Vettori together.

The pair started solidly, adding 49 to the overnight score before Vettori, on 29, cut Reon King straight to Jimmy Adams at point. They had added 55 for the fourth wicket, with Vettori more than doing his job by batting 84 minutes.

Fleming continued impressively, going to lunch on 52, his 22nd Test half-century.

But on 66 he tried to cut leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine and touched an edge to wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs to end his 227-minute innings.

Nathan Astle had helped Fleming add 53 for the fifth wicket and carried on the momentum, looking likely to post his ninth Test 50 until he mistimed a hook on 48 off a Courtney Walsh bouncer and lobbed it to Ramnarine at square leg.

Astle, who scored successive centuries the last time he played the West Indies in the Caribbean in 1996, became the veteran fast bowler's 425 Test Wicket.

McMillan was joined by Cairns, who almost ran himself out off the first ball he faced when Shivnarine Chanderpaul made a direct hit.

He was given not out after a long deliberation by third umpire Dave Gooden.

Cairns then took over, bringing up his 50 off 50 balls in 73 minutes, but on the way had another slice of luck when he was caught at second slip off a Franklyn Rose no-ball on 15.

He moved to 72, and as the field spread and cut down his options, he tried to hit Ramnarine over long off but found the safe hands of Sherwin Campbell instead.

Cairns faced just 82 balls and batted for 123 minutes, hitting nine fours and two sixes.

He and McMillan added 116 for the seventh wicket in 121 minutes, with Cairns scoring the first 37 runs of the partnership before McMillan made a contribution.

McMillan later brought up his 50 off 127 balls in just over three hours but next ball hit a thick edge to Jacobs off King.

Nine runs later Adam Parore was run out on a tight third umpire call and Dion Nash was caught at second slip off King for six to end the innings.

King, who took his first Test wicket Friday playing in his second Test, won the Test West Indies bowler with 4-61 off 26.2 overs.

Ramnarine bowled with

good control through out and finished with 3-82 off 36 and Walsh moved within 10 wickets of Kapil Dev's world Test record of 434 with his 2-81 off 29.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first cricket Test between the West Indies and New Zealand at Hamilton, New Zealand, Dec 18:

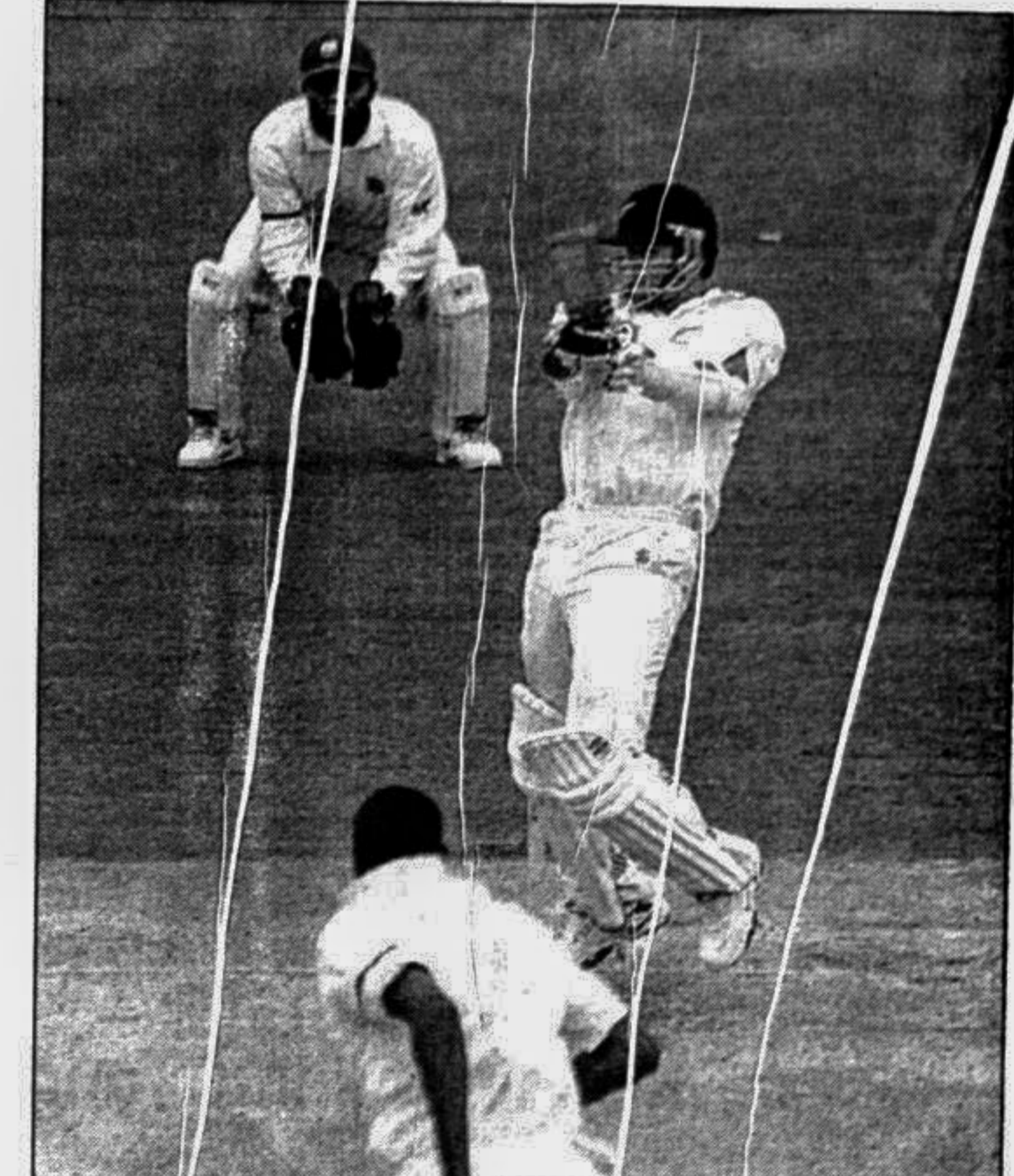
WEST INDIES: First innings 365 (S Campbell 170, A Griffith 114; D Vettori 4/83, C Cairns 3/73).

NEW ZEALAND: First innings (113-3 overnight)

Stead b Walsh 22
Home c Rose b King 32
Spearman c Ramnarine 27
Fleming c Jacobs b Ramnarine 66
Vettori c Adams b King 29
Astle c Ramnarine b Walsh 48
McMillan c Jacobs b King 51
Cairns c Campbell b Ramnarine 72

See page 14

Ramnarine bowled with



New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns square-cuts