

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Juan Antonio Samaranch
(International Olympic Committee President)

"She gave us — to all the players in the world — a lesson in how athletes must behave in sport."

About Steffi Graf.

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

- Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Tests?
Langer Ponting Inzamam
 - Who was the highest wicket-taker in the Australia-Pakistan Test series?
Akram Fleming McGrath
 - How many Test hundreds has Mark Waugh scored to date?
15 16 17
 - Who became champions in the Keva Premier soccer?
Muktijoddha Mohammedan Arambagh
 - Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?
Refaat Zia Tanveer
- Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)



Acme Div II Cricket

Sports Reporter
Nabin Sangha, Indra Road Krira Chakra and GMCC won their respective Acme Second Division Cricket League matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Nabin Sangha defeated Millbarack by 75 runs. Batting first, Nabin Sangha scored 263 in 40 overs with Bulbul Sr. notching 73 runs. In reply, Millbarack managed 188 for nine wickets in their share of 40 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Indra Road handed a 106-run defeat on Azad Boys. Defending 229 for six in 40 overs, Indra Road shot Azad out for only 123 in 36.2 overs. Bapji scored 59 and Zeeshan made 52 for the winners.

Away at the Uttara Friends Club ground, GMCC posted an exciting one-wicket win over Uddy Club. Chasing Uddy's 193 in 40 overs, GMCC reached 197 for nine with one ball to spare.

Cute h'ball

Satirtha Club and Arambagh KS won their respective matches in the Cute First Division handball league at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday, reports UNB.

In the first match, Satirtha defeated Mansoor Sporting Club 14-9 after leading the first half 8-5.

Rafiqul struck eight while Solaiman and Kamrul scored two goals each for the winners. Dhanu netted five goals for the losers.

In the day's other match, Arambagh KS beat Dhaka Mariner Young's Club 14-6 after dominating the first half by 8-5 goals.

Rajshahi soccer

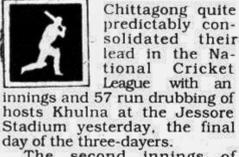
From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Dec 22: Helenabad Colony Club defeated Serail Sporting Club 1-0 in the Rajshahi First Division football league at the A H M Kamruzzaman Stadium today.

Jibon scored the lone goal in the 35th minute.

Digonto Prasari Sangha will take on Alif Lam-Mim Sangha in tomorrow's match.

Ctg complete Khulna-rout

Sports Reporter



Chittagong quite predictably consolidated their lead in the National Cricket League with an innings and 57 run drubbing of hosts Khulna at the Jessore Stadium yesterday, the final day of the three-dayers.

The second innings of Khulna, needing 201 runs to avoid an innings defeat, caved in for only 144, thanks to a painstaking half-century from Jamaluddin.

Khulna scored 159 in the first innings while the visitors, aided by a superb ton from former Bangladesh skipper Akram Khan, hit back with 360 for six declared.

Chittagong, with their fifth win in a row, tallied 22 points from seven matches and extended their lead over chasers Sylhet by eight points. Chittagong are also the only side in the six-team League who do not taste a defeat yet.

On the other hand, it was the first defeat for Khulna in seven outings that kept them glued to their previous collection of 6 points.

Back to the day's proceedings, Khulna, resuming the day at 18 for 2 in 10 overs, could last for another 57.5 overs to score 126 runs further.

Chittagong's left-arm pacer Anisur Rahman made a major hole on the Khulna line-up by picking up three wickets. Sensational Pakistani Shahed Mahmud then stepped in to mop up the Khulna tail with his enticing leg-spinners.

Anis, with his overnight haul of one wicket, finished the day with four for 23. His partner-in-crime Mahmud meanwhile captured three second-innings wickets for 64 runs.

The leading wicket taker in the League also took four wickets in the first innings. The Lahore-based wrist-spinner has

kept on tormenting all the Divisions to raise his astonishing haul to 39 scalps in only four matches.

For Khulna, middle-order Jamaluddin scored highest 56 off 103 balls with the help of seven boundaries. Jamaluddin apart, Asadullah Khan chipped in with 32 off 45 balls.

Khulna would not have crossed the three-figure mark had not Jamaluddin combined with Asadullah to put on 64 runs for the 6th wicket.

For his unbeaten 118 Akram Khan was adjudged man-of-the-match.

The eighth round will start from December 25.



AKRAM ... m-o-m
Chittagong will now travel to Rangpur to face Rajshahi

while Khulna will take on Dhaka in Jessore.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National League match between Khulna and Sylhet at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

KHULNA: First innings 159 all out in 64.2 overs (Asadullah 51, Mofizul 17, S Mehmud 4/74, Zakir 2/23, Ziaur 1/11)

CHITTAGONG: First innings 360 for 6 in 95.2 overs (Akram Khan 118 n.o., Minhazul 69, Azam 42, Jahangir 41, Enamul 31; Salauddin 3/76)

KHULNA: Second innings (overnight 18 for 2 in 10 overs)

M Ali b Zakir 0
Selim c S Mehmud b Anis 16
Sajid b Anis 12
Masudul b Anis 0
Mofizul c Nurul b Anis 36
Jamaluddin b Enamul 56
Asadullah c Nurul b S Mehmud 32
Ahmed c Anis b S Mehmud 30
Monirul c Ziaur b S Mehmud 6
Salauddin run out 0
Khairozaman not out 1
Extras: (b-8, lb-7, nb-3) 18
Total: (All out in 67.5 overs) 144

Fall of wickets: 1/3; 2/7; 3/21; 4/22; 5/42; 6/106; 7/106; 8/114; 9/121

Bowler:	O	M	R	W
Anis	17	7	23	4
Zakir	8	2	23	1
Enamul	16.5	10	16	1
S Mehmud	23	6	64	3
Ehsanul	2	0	12	0

Result: Chittagong won by an innings and 57 runs.

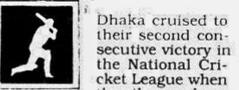
Man-of-the-match: Akram Khan (Chittagong)

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

Team	M	W	D/2 pts	D/O pts	Lost	Points
Chittagong	7	5	1	0	0	22
Sylhet	7	2	3	0	2	14
Dhaka	7	2	1	3	1	10
Khulna	7	0	3	3	1	6
Barisal	7	0	2	3	2	4
Rajshahi	7	0	2	4	1	4

Dhaka drub Sylhet

Sports Reporter



Dhaka cruised to their second consecutive victory in the National Cricket League when they thumped down a humiliating innings and 138-run defeat on the crestfallen Sylhet at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday.

The predictable win for the star-studded Dhaka was ensured only two hours in the morning after Sylhet, resuming their second innings on the final day at 41 for three, were bundled out for paltry 99 in 42.1 overs.

Sylhet were left with a monumental task of scoring 223 runs to save the match, but wickets tumbled like nine pins before the lunch break in the face of some accurate bowling from Khaled Mahmud and Saiful Islam, who evenly shared eight wickets.

Mahmud, who with his military medium pace took four first-innings wickets to shoot Sylhet out for 121, was equally impressive in the second innings, where he finished with four for 31 runs.

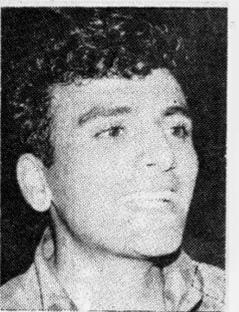
Veteran right-arm seamer Saiful, who returned to the form with four for 13 in his nine overs, ably supported the national all-rounder on rampage.

The defeat served yet another blow in Sylhet's chase for the title. Although Sylhet started the National League on an impressive note, they lost their way as the championship progressed.

Still holding a distant second position with 14 points, eight points behind leaders Chittagong, the cricketers from Surma Valley face a tough challenge from Dhaka to keep their current status in the race. A resurgent Dhaka are poised to push them down after collecting 10 points on completion of the seventh round matches yesterday.

Although Mahmud and Saiful stole the limelight on the final day, it was Javed Omar with a magnificent 187 set the stage for Dhaka's impressive victory. The imposing ton by the diminutive Bangladesh opener helped Dhaka to score a massive 358 for eight before skipper Aminul declared the innings on the second day.

Javed was adjudged man-of-the-match for his highest individual knock in the League so far.



JAVED OMAR ... m-o-m
SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National League match between Dhaka and Sylhet at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday.

SYLHET: First innings 121 all out in 57.4 overs (Parvez 58, Rafique 19; K Mahmud 4/45, Morshed 2/8)

DHAKA: First innings 358 for 8 dec. in 97.2 overs (Javed 187, Aminul 54; Neyamur 3/77, Iqbal 2/47, Rafique 2/91)

SYLHET: Second innings (overnight 41 for 3 wickets in 15 overs)

Parvez c K Mahmud b Morshed	10
Alok c Aminul b K Mahmud	1

Tushar c Atiar b Mukul 14
Neyamur b K Mahmud 14
Hasibul c Atiar b Saiful 14
Nasrul b K Mahmud 8
Saifulah c Harun b Saiful 6
Rafique b Saiful 5
Iqbal b Saiful 1
Mortuza c Al-Shahriar b K Mahmud 2
Mitsu Das not out 0
Extras: (b-11, lb-6, nb-6, w-1) 24
Total: (All out in 42.1 overs) 99

Fall of wickets: 1/15; 2/17; 3/41; 4/60; 5/70; 6/80; 7/82; 8/90; 9/99

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Morshed Ali	12	4	25	1
Khaled Mahmud	16.1	6	31	4
Saiful Islam	9	5	13	4
Naimur	1	0	7	0
Mukul	4	1	6	1

Result: Dhaka won by an innings and 138 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Javed Omar (Dhaka).

Mukti camp start tomorrow

Sports Reporter
Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra yesterday called up 16 players in the residential camp to prepare for the forthcoming National Football League, scheduled to begin in January.

The camp will start tomorrow at the Uttara Armed Police ground at 3 pm.

The all-reds, one of the three giants in the domestic football, will compete in the first-ever National League along with Mohammedan, Abahani and five divisional outfits.

The invited booters are: Biplob, Hasan-al Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Masud Rana, Bakhtiar, Arif Khan, Mamun Joarder, Arun Bikash Dewan, Monsur Ali, Saiful Bari Titu, Propid Kumar, Tushar, Liton and Nazrul.

Dull draw in Barisal

Sports Reporter

The three-day National Cricket League match between Barisal and Rajshahi ended in a dull draw at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium in Barisal yesterday. The hosts however ran away with two points by virtue of their 111-run first innings lead.

The outcome of the match left both teams at the bottom of the six-team League, each having collected four points.

On the final day, Rajshahi scored 252 in their second innings before being all out in 96.4 overs. Skipper Khaled Masood top-scored with 54 off 131 balls followed by Mustadrir with 43 off 105 balls.

The visitors scored a moderate 202 in their first innings while Barisal, who did not get any time for second innings batting, amassed 113 in their first innings. Opener Rashedul Haque (124) and skipper Habibul Bashar (101) hammered two brilliant centuries to raise a glimmer of hopes for Barisal on the second day.

Rashedul was declared man-of-the-match later.

Barisal will meet Sylhet at the same venue on December 25.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day National League match between Barisal and Rajshahi at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium in Barisal yesterday.

RAJSHAHI: First innings 202 all out in 84.5 overs (Mushfik 59, Farid 38; Monju 4/36, Moin 3/26)

BARISAL: First innings 313 all out in 93.5 overs (Rashedul 124, Habibul 101, Mustadrir 4/36, Saifullah 2/72, Nayan 2/68, Ripon 2/64)

RAJSHAHI: Second innings

Rafiqul c Monju b Moin 48
Ranak b Totam 26
Farid b Totam 8
K Masood lbw b Totam 54
Sanchoy c Sohel b Moin 10
Mustadrir c Monju b Moin 43
Ripon c Mridul b Sohel 20
Nayan c Monu b Monju 11
Mushfik c Monu b Moin 10
Shahnawaz not out 12
Saifullah c Mridul b Moin 2
Extras: (b-11, lb-5, nb-1, w-2) 19
Total: (All out in 96.4 overs) 252

Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-47; 3-101; 4-133; 5-171; 6-212; 7-233; 8-238; 9-241.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ashfaq	6	1	16	0
Rashedul	6	0	25	0
Moin	21.4	5	49	5
Monju	14	5	29	1
Sohel	28	7	66	1
Totam	18	6	42	3
Mridul	3	0	9	0

Result: Match drawn. Barisal earned two points by virtue of their first innings lead. Man-of-the-match: Rashedul Haque (Barisal).

D'mondi, Young Pegasus victors

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Club and Young Pegasus recorded easy wins in their respective First Division cricket league matches at different city venues yesterday.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhanmondi, aided by a handy all-round performance by Sumon Barua, posted a comprehensive five-wicket win against Young Cricketers.

Barua took three wickets giving away only 24 runs in his 10 overs as Young Cricketers, sent into bat, were bundled out for 177 with one ball to go in their share of 50 overs.

BRIEF SCORES
Eskaton SS vs Young Pegasus Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

ESKATON: 227 all out in 49.2 overs (Jashim 69, Farid 22, Rabi 21; Rana 2/23, Jony 2/37)

YOUNG PEGASUS: 228 for 6 wickets in 46.3 overs (Rosel 79 not out, Bidyut 36; Taposh 2/45)

Result: Young Pegasus won by 4 wickets.

Dhanmondi Club vs Young Cricketers
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

YOUNG CRICKETERS: 177 all out in 49.5 overs (Kapoor 66; Wilson 44/3; Barua 3/24, Tahmid 2/26)

DHANMONDI: 180 for 5 wickets in 42.3 overs (Anis 62, Barua 51; Paltu 2/13)

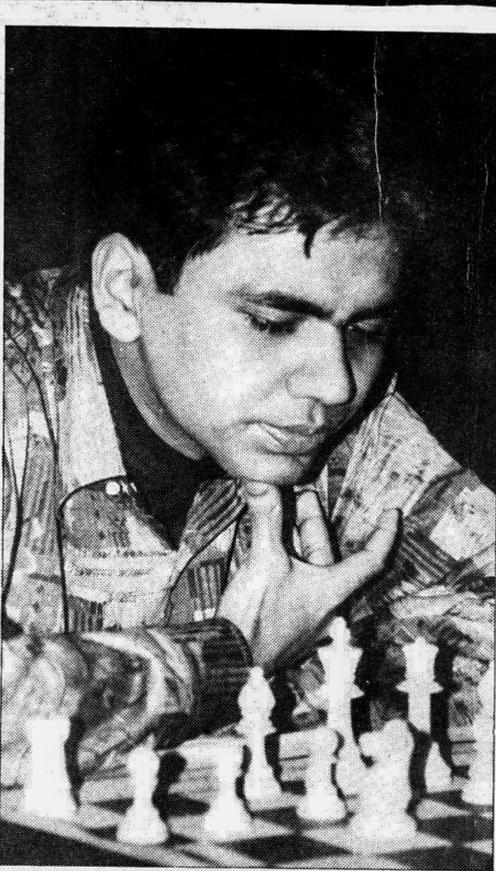
Result: Dhanmondi Club won by 5 wickets.

The first change Dhanmondi bowler then hammered a fine 51 to help his side reach 180 for five in 42.3 overs. Coming in to bat at number four, Barua put on 82 runs for the third wicket with his captain Anis, who made a dazzling 62 off 97 ball.

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Young Pegasus rode on a superb unbeaten half century from lower-order Rosel to defeat Eskaton by four wickets.

Coming in to bat at number seven with his side limping at 108 for five in reply to a fighting Eskaton total of 227, Rosel scored a fluent 79 in his 97-ball undefeated knock to guide Young Cricketers to safety — 228 for six in 46.3 overs.

Rosel, with the assistance of Bidyut, led a spectacular late-order recovery and together they put on 97 runs for the sixth wicket before the latter departed for 36 leaving Young Cricketers 10 runs short of victory.



International Master Ziaur Rahman, who became champion in the Prime Bank International Rating chess competition yesterday.

Prime Bank Chess

Zia clinches another one

Sports Reporter

International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman clinched the Prime Bank Second International Rating Chess title at the NSC room yesterday.

On the final day of the nine-round Swiss League tournament, Zia agreed to a draw with Sheikh Nasir Ahmed and thus finished the tournament with highest 7.5 points out of possible 9.

IM Abdullah Al-Rakib finished second with seven points. In the final round, Rakib managed a draw with Enamul Hoassin Rajib.

Three players— Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Tayebur Rahman Sumon and Saifuddin Lovlu— finished third with 6.5 points each. It was yet another disappointing performance by IM Reefat-bin-Sattar, who ended up fourth along with five others — Enamul Hossain Rajib, Rezaul Haque, Mahfuzur Rahman, Shafige Ahmed and Dewan Shahidul Tipu.

Best to be in Hall of Fame

ZURICH, Dec 22: Former Manchester United and Northern Ireland striker George Best is to be inducted into the International Football Hall of Champions during next month's FIFA World Player gala, reports Reuters.

Best will join former Brazilian internationals Didi and Zico and ex-Dutch striker Marco van Basten as new members in the group, the only hall of fame recognised by FIFA.

Some 26 leading soccer journalists voted for the new members. The ceremony will take place during a gala Brussels on January 24.

ICC objects to Shoaib's action

KARACHI, Dec 22 (Reuters/ AFP): The International Cricket Council has raised objections to the bowling action of Pakistan's tearaway fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, officials said on Wednesday.

They said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had received a letter and a 20-minute video on Tuesday from ICC manager of cricket operations Clive Hitchcock on Shoaib's bowling action.

"We received a video and a letter from Clive Hitchcock on Tuesday afternoon," PCB secretary Shaqfat Rana said from Lahore.

The ICC has referred Akhtar's case to its nine-man advisory panel on illegal deliveries, which will discuss the issue on December 30 in a conference call," Rana said.

Pakistan will be represented on the panel by its legendary fast bowler and World Cup winning captain Imran Khan, who has supported Shoaib's bowling.

Imran is currently travelling in Saudi Arabia but will return home on Thursday to discuss the matter with officials.

Pakistan cricket officials last month denied reports in two Australian newspapers that they had received an official complaint on Shoaib's bowling.

Shoaib's bowling action was questioned by John Reid during the three-test series between Australia and Pakistan last month. Reid was the match referee.

Rana said Shoaib Akhtar would not be withdrawn from the 14-man squad for the Australian tri-nation limited-overs series beginning January 9.

"The legality of his bowling action has been challenged, but

Shoaib, whose fastest delivery in the series was 95 miles an hour, managed only six wickets at almost 66 runs per wicket.

However, Rana disagreed with Reid's observation. "A panel of Test stalwarts watched the video on Tuesday afternoon and everyone was convinced that Shoaib Akhtar has a text-book bowling action," he said.

Rana said the panel comprised former captains Javed Miandad and Rameez Raja, and team manager Intikhab Alam. Shoaib also watched the footage.

Shoaib, who featured in a limited over match between the Pakistan team and a Reserved XI on Wednesday, refused to comment.

"This looks absurd and we have objected that the conference be held on December 26 or after the tri-series in Australia," Rana said.

Pakistan will return to Australia on December 29 to compete in a triangular limited-overs tournament also involving bitter rivals India.

Pakistan withdrew another tearaway bowler Shabbir Ahmed from the first leg of the Australian tour after ICC advised them to improve his bowling action in October.

Australian captain Steve Waugh earlier in the month called on cricket's ruling body to find a more effective way of dealing with bowlers with suspect actions.

India also raised suspicions over Australian new sensation pacer Brett Lee's action although the New South Wales bowler was included in the squad for the second Test with the Indians which starts on Boxing Day in Melbourne.

Lazio in \$62m bid for Rivaldo!
ROME, Dec 22 (Reuters/ Internet): Lazio are prepared to pay a world record 120 billion lire (\$62.57 million) to bring Barcelona's European footballer-of-the-year Rivaldo to Rome, Gazzetta dello Sport said on Wednesday.

The paper said Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti had been trying for two weeks to reach an agreement with the Brazilian, who has been dropped from the Barcelona first team after a row with coach Louis van Gaal.

Gazzetta said that if Lazio completed the deal, they would sell Chilean striker Marcelo Salas to Juventus for around 50 billion lire (\$26.07 million) to help meet the cost.

The current world record transfer fee is \$49.5 million, paid by Inter Milan to buy Italian striker Christian Vieri from Lazio in June.

the ICC has not told us to withdraw him from the squad."

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