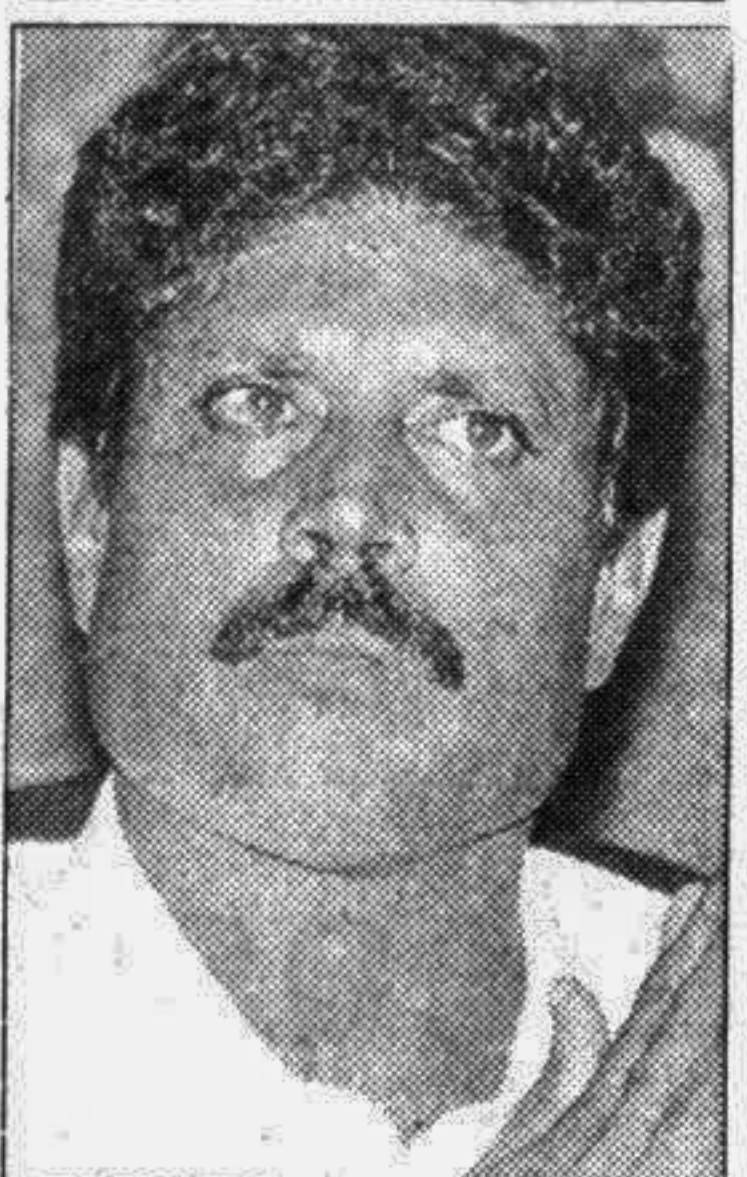


## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Kapil Dev**

(Indian cricket coach)  
"He's got the talent, now it's his big chance to prove himself."

On Hrishikesh Kanitkar after he was chosen for the second Test.

## Boost sports

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**Competition-125**

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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 Tests?

Langer Ponting Inzamam

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

Akram Fleming McGrath

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

15 16 17 18

4. Who became champions in the Keya Premier soccer?

Mukijoddin Mohammed Arinob

5. Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?

Rafiq Zia Tanveer

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## Div II cricket

### Tareque takes Railway home

Sports Reporter

An unbeaten half-century from lower middle order Tareque guided Bangladesh Railway to a three-wicket win over Kakrail Boys Club in their Acme Second Division match at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Tareque, the number seven batsman, scored 51 not out as Railway, chasing a paltry Kakrail total of 131 in 40 overs, reached 132 for seven with more than four overs to spare.

Tareque faced 93 balls for his half-century which included a huge six and five boundaries. Shakil contributed 28 runs.

Earlier, electing to bat, Kakrail No. 3 batsman Imran had to retire hurt on one as his team managed to 131 for nine in 34 overs.

Railway's Ziauddin, the man behind Kakrail's debacle, finished with 4 for 17 from his 5.5 overs.

In the other match of the day, Uttara Friend's Club recorded a thrilling one-run win over Partex at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Uttara scored 116 all out in 36.1 overs in the morning session after being put in. Mr Sundries with 26 was the major contributor.

In reply, Partex were all out for 115 in 36.2 overs. Uttara's Baten and Bablu evenly shared six wickets conceding 13 and 32 runs while Palash took two for 34.

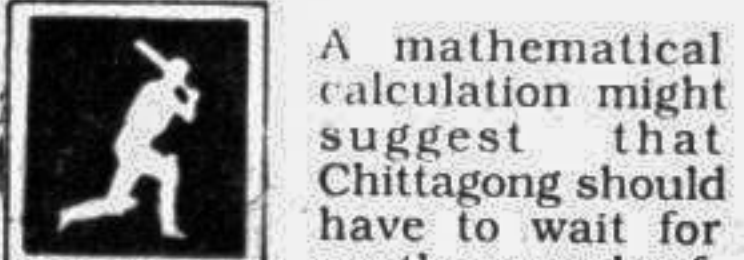
## Filippini injures wrist while playing polo

MONTEVIDEO, Dec 26: Uruguayan tennis player Marcelo Philippini fractured his left wrist while playing polo in Mercedes in the north west of the country, regional daily newspaper El Telegrapho revealed on Friday, reports AFP.

The 32-year-old Philippini, world-ranked 106th, will be out for about two months following an operation.

## Ctg prepare to party

Sports Reporter



A mathematical calculation might suggest that Chittagong should have to wait for another couple of days to crown themselves as champions of the first-ever National Cricket League. But the resolute side of a charismatic Minhazul Abedin set the stage for an early celebration when they recorded a massive innings and 178 run win over Rajshahi yesterday.

The easy sail of Chittagong was confirmed inside two days at the Rangpur Cricket Garden when Rajshahi, chasing 374, caved in meekly in the face of some quality bowling from Shahed Mehmud, Enamul Hoque and Safiuddin Ahmed.

Rajshahi were forced to follow on when they were shot out for only 122 in 44.1 overs.

To make a mockery of a contest, Rajshahi batsmen did even worse in the second innings. Needing another 252 runs to make Chittagong bat again, they were bundled out for 74 in only 25 overs.

Although there was no devil on the pitch, Rajshahi wickets tumbled like nine pins after Chittagong, resuming the day on 335 for six, posted a mammoth 374 for nine in their share of 100 overs.

Rajshahi batsmen wobbled in the spinning maze of Shahed Mehmud, who took five wickets for 45 runs in the first innings. Rajshahi misery was compounded when Safiuddin took the new ball to rip through the top-order, settling the issue beyond any doubt. The tall Bangladesh seamer took three wickets for 14 runs in his six overs.

After the early destruction of Safiuddin, Enamul Hoque stepped in to mop up the fragile Rajshahi tail. He returned with fantastic figures of 6-5-1-3.

Azam Iqbal was adjudged man-of-the-match for his brilliant century. The young opener scored a polished 128, his second ton in the championship.

With this win Chittagong improved their tally to 26 points from eight games. They will now travel to Barisal to play their penultimate match



**AZAM IQBAL** ... m-o-m

against the hosts. The match will start from December 29.

Victory for Chittagong there will more than enough to get a confirmation for the title. Even two points from a draw would settle the issue in favour of the runaway leaders. Only Sylhet, with 18 points from eight outings, harbour an outside hope of finishing at per with Chittagong, provided that they win their remaining two matches and Chittagong lose their ones.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day National

League match between Chittagong and Rajshahi at the Rangpur Cricket Garden yesterday.

**CHITTAGONG:** First innings 374 for 9 wickets in 100 overs (Azam 128, Jahangir 50, Akram 59)

**RAJSHAHI:** First innings 14 for 9 wickets in 25 overs (Rafiqul c Enamul b Safiuddin 14, Uzzal c Ehsanul b Zakir 0, Farid c Jahangir b S Mehmud 23, K Masood c Jahangir b Safiuddin 7, Sanchay c Jahangir b Enamul 26, Mushfiq b Enamul 5, Mustadir c Sabbir b S Mehmud 4, Rokanul b S Mehmud 4, Ripon c Minhazul b S Mehmud 4, Aminul c Minhazul b S Mehmud 14, Safiullah not out 0, Extras: (b-15, lb-3, nb-5, w-1) 24, Total: (All out in 44.1 overs) 122

Fall of wickets: 1/1; 2/21; 3/35; 4/55; 5/64; 6/76; 7/80; 8/92; 9/122

**Bowler** O M R W  
Zakir 6 1 12 1  
Safiuddin 10 1 21 1  
Sabbir Khan 3 2 7 0  
S Mehmud 13 1 3 45 5  
Enamul 12 5 27 2

**RAJSHAHI:** Second innings 74 for 9 wickets in 25 overs (Rafiqul c Akram b Safiuddin 6, Sanchay c S Mehmud b Safiuddin 2, Uzzal b Safiuddin 0, Farid c Jahangir b Zakir 1, Mushfiq not out 26, K Masood c Jahangir b Zakir 7, Safiullah st Jahangir b Enamul 5, Aminul c Enamul 8, Ripon b Enamul 0, Mustadir ret'd, hurt, Rokanul did not bat, Extras: (b-11, lb-4, nb-4) 19, Total: (For 8 wickets in 25 overs) 74

Fall of wickets: 1/8; 2/8; 3/9; 4/9; 5/40; 6/42; 7/59; 8/72

**Bowler** O M R W  
Zakir 6 1 11 2  
Safiuddin 6 2 14 3  
S Mehmud 7 1 32 0  
Enamul 6 5 1 3

**Result:** Chittagong won the match by an innings and 178 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Azam Iqbal (Chittagong).

## Sylhet need 28 runs

Sports Reporter

Sylhet were closing in on their third win in the National Cricket League as they needed only 28

runs to wrap up the low-scoring match against hosts Barisal with eight of their second innings wickets still in hand

Sylhet, resuming the day with 96 for 6 in reply to Barisal's paltry first innings score of 111, went on to garner 175 before they were all out in 67.2 overs.

The lower order trio of Neeayamur, Hasibul and Iqbal rose to the occasion, giving

the same score. But then came the crucial ninth wicket partnership between Hasibul Hossain and Iqbal Hossain who shared 46 runs to take the tourists to a respectable total. The two tail-enders frustrated Barisal bowlers, with Hasibul hitting 25 and Iqbal 24.

Hasibul, the right arm seamer who destroyed the home side with a six-wicket burst, faced 57 balls while his new ball partner played 42.

Beginning their second innings, Barisal plunged into deep trouble again. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and Hasibul generated some inspirational spells to get the beleaguered hosts out for only 108.

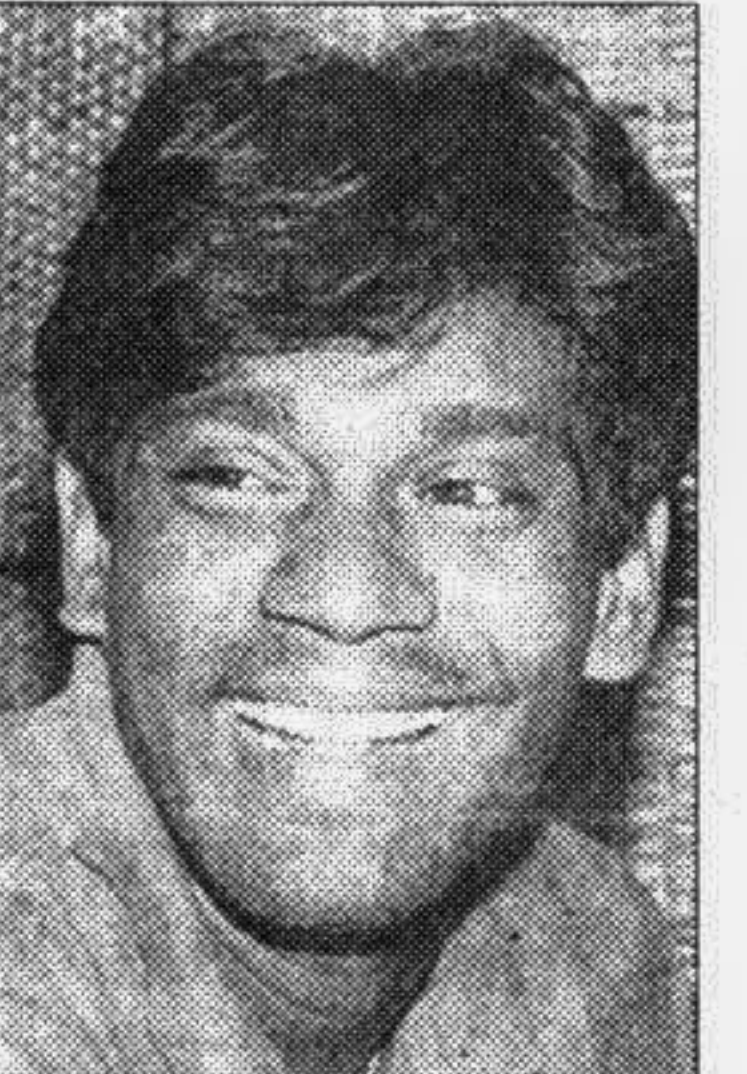
Rafique captured five wickets for 25 runs to finish with a match haul of nine wickets for 43 runs. On the other hand, Hasibul took 6 for 24.

## ERRATUM

In Sunday's issue of the Star Sport it was mentioned that Chittagong opener Azam Iqbal scored 188 off 182 balls. In fact, Azam scored 128 off 188 balls. The inadvertent mistake is regretted.



**HASIBUL** ... 10-wkt match haul



**RAFIQUE** ... 9-wkt match haul

and the whole final day left to achieve it.

On a dicey wicket at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium, where 16 wickets tumbled in three sessions yesterday, the visitors battled hard to gain a vital 62-run lead over the home side, who scored 219 runs in two innings.

Sylhetis a match-winning edge on a seemingly under-prepared pitch.

Neeayamur, the number seven batsman who began the day with 10, scored 25 before he was out off a Totam delivery.

Following the departure of Neeayamur at 119 for 7, Sylhet lost the wicket of Mortuza (2) on

## Dhaka in sight of victory

Sports Reporter

Dhaka took an imposing 162-run lead over Khulna on the second day of their three-day National Cricket League encounter at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

Lower-order batsman Saiful Islam scored an unbeaten 47 as Dhaka, resuming at 92 for 3 in

reply to Khulna's first innings total of 118, piled up 280 before being all out in 88 overs.

Coming in to bat at number ten, the discarded national right-hander shared 72 runs for the ninth wicket with wicket-keeper Atiar Rahman, who scored 37.

In his 70-ball innings, Saiful smote four boundaries for his highest contribution in the Dhaka total while Atiar, facing 65 balls, clobbered four fours.

Apart from Saiful and Atiar, vice-captain Khaled Mahmud scored a run-a-ball 40. Mahmud hit five boundaries.

For Khulna, veteran Sheikh Salauddin picked five wickets for 76 runs with his off-spinners while Jamaluddin captured two wickets for 59 runs.

Khulna were 68 for 4 at stumps with opener Sajid batting on 21.

Dhaka's off-spinner Fahim Muntasir, who captured six wickets in the first innings, snared two more for 11 runs.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the three-day National



**SAIFUL** ... 47 n.o.

**Khulna:** First innings 118 all out in 88.3 overs (Sajid 32, Salim 20, Al-Amin 19 n.o.; Fahim 6/29, Saiful 2/12)

See page 14

## Div I cricket

### Big win for Boys

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Boys Club and Orient Sporting Club won their respective First Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

A brilliant half-century by middle order Nadim Ahmed guided Bangladesh Boys club to a comprehensive 108-run win over Ajax Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Nadim scored 71 as Bangladesh Boys, sent in to bat, reached 215 in 48.5 overs.

Nadim slammed seven boundaries in his 83-ball knock.

## BRIEF SCORES

**BANGLADESH BOYS:** 215 all out in 48.5 overs (Nadim 71, Majid 41; Rahim 3/47, Ajim 2/23, Chapal 2/28)

**ajax SC:** 107 all out in 44.3 overs (Babu 30, Nayeem 23; Arefin 3/13, Mustakim 3/20, Majid 2/19)

**Result:** Bangladesh Boys Club won by 108 runs.

**ORIENT SC:** 190 for 9 in 50 overs (Aslam 58, Salauddin 31, Shamim 28; Sayeed 2/23, Iqbal 2/47)

**LALMATIA CLUB:** 145 all out in 45.1 overs (Iqbal 38, Raju 27, Moniruzzaman 23; Shamim 3/29, Aminul 2/18, Kamaluddin 2/22)

**Result:** Orient Sporting Club won by 45 runs.

Nadim was well-supported by Pakistani recruit Abdul Majid who chipped in with 41 off 81 balls. They put on 89 runs for the fifth wicket.

In reply, Ajax were dismissed for 107 in 44.3 overs with opener Babu scoring highest 30.

Arefin and Mustakim of Bangladesh Boys shared six wickets.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, an all-round performance by Shahid Iqbal propelled Orient Sporting to a 45-run victory over Lalmatia Club.

Opting to bat, Orient scored 190 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with one-down Aslam Raja notching 58 off 101 balls. Middle order batsmen Salauddin (31) and Shamim (28) were the other notable run-getters.

In reply, Lalmatia Club were all out for 145 in 45.1 overs.

Middle order Shahid Iqbal scored 38 followed by Raju and Moniruzzaman who added 27 and 23 respectively.

Orient's Shamim Hossain, the wrecker in chief, finished with 3 for 29.

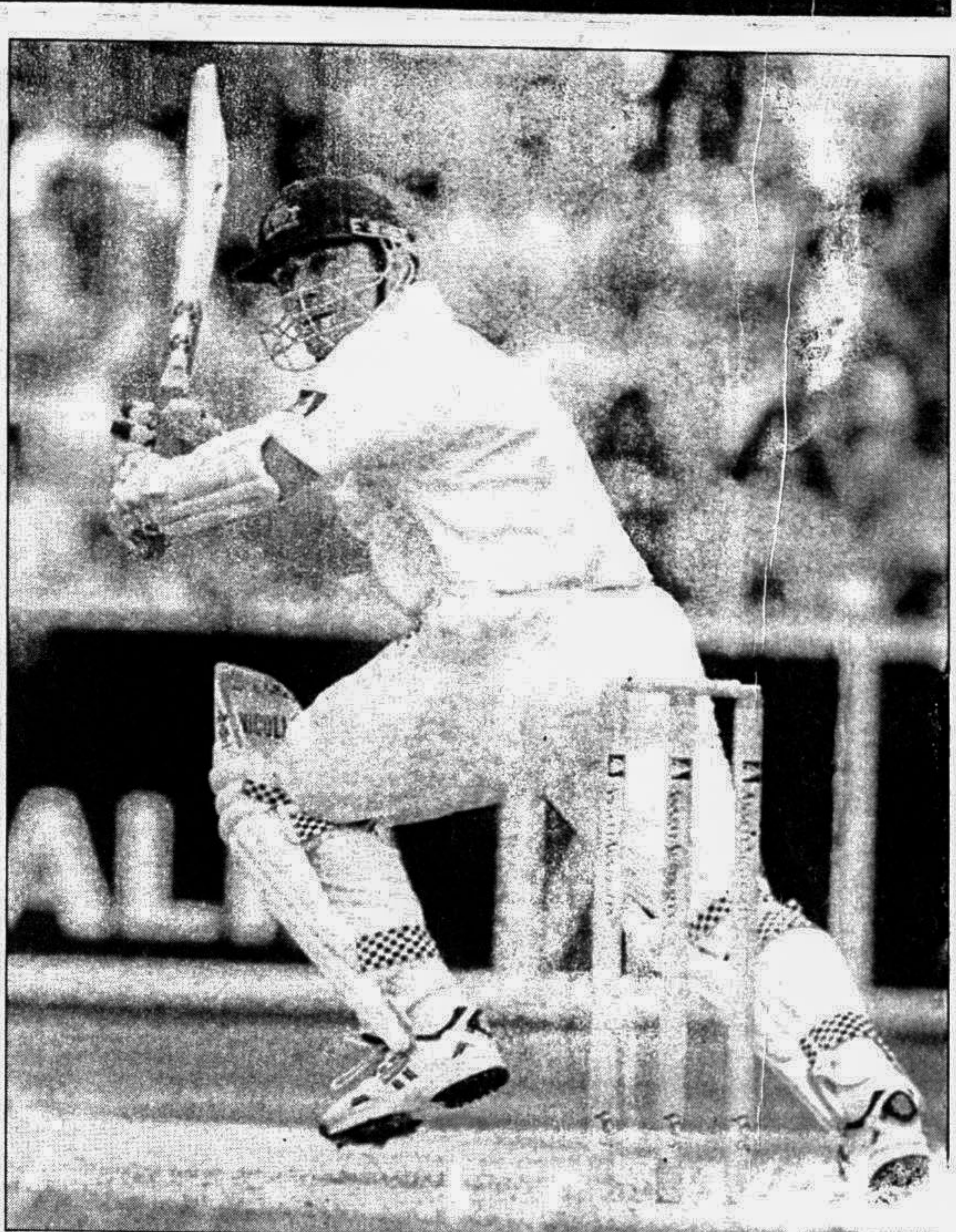
## Sub jr chess

Sports Reporter

Mehdi Hasan Parag and Gollam Mustafa Bhuiyan were jointly leading the 20th national sub-junior chess championship table at the end of the sixth round yesterday.

At the NSC chess room, Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan Sangha's Parag and Mustafa of Myemensingh shared points after agreeing to a draw but still remained atop the table with five and a half points. Both players are unbeaten in the nine-round Swiss league.

Nayeem Arefin Ratul, Farhad Imam, Rownak Ehsan, Moksedul Monir and Ziauddin are following them with five points.



**IRRESISTIBLE SLATER:** Australian opener Michael Slater flicks one during the first day's play of the Melbourne Test yesterday. During the course of an unbeaten 64 on the day, Slater became the fifteenth Aussie to score 1,000 runs in a calendar year.

— AFP photo

## Slater completes 1,000 runs

### First day ends evenly

MELBOURNE, Dec 26 (AP/Reuters): Opener Michael Slater put to rest the demons of the Melbourne Cricket Ground pitch with a fighting half-century in Australia's 138 for three on a shortened first day of the second cricket Test against India Sunday.

On a difficult pitch with the ball bouncing disconcertingly, Slater provided the backbone of the home side in the 48 overs possible after the first session was washed out.

When bad light stopped play at 1748 local time (0648 GMT), Slater was unbeaten on 64 and skipper Steve Waugh was five not out. A total of 42 overs were lost and there will be early starts and late finishes over the next four days.

Fast medium bowler Javagal Srinath vindicated Sachin Tendulkar's decision to send Australia in with two wickets in his first six overs, but once he was removed from the attack Indian bowling looked toothless.

Slater, in the company of an out-of-form Mark Waugh rebuilt the innings in a 95-run stand for the third wicket in two hours.

**Dominating the invaluable stand with 46 runs, Slater, became the first batsman in 1999 to complete 1,000 Test runs in his 14th match.**

Slater nursed Mark Waugh through another difficult innings as Australia took tea on

97 for two after play had started after lunch.

"I am happy with that," skipper Waugh said later. "It's probably a 50-50 day but slightly in our favour in those conditions. We will start again pretty much even."

Waugh said the public was robbed of good cricket after the Indians had refused to the use of floodlight when available in the event of bad light.

"If the technology is there we should make use of it. I can understand the Indian point of view — they haven't had much experience under light," said Waugh.

"I think the conditions are far better when the lights are switched on."

Under international cricket rules, Test matches can be played under lights when the normal light is too bad but only if both teams agree before the series commences.

Indian coach Kapil Dev blamed his bowlers for bowling too short. "We didn't bowl well after the initial burst by Srinath," an angry Dev said.

"We bowled too short. There was plenty for the bowlers but they were prepared to pitch it up. It was a very disappointing end after all."

"We did the same thing in the first Test. We talked about it. The real Test comes when you are out there by yourself."

Waugh, with 5, 0, 5 and 8 in his last five innings, played and missed regularly in his

99th Test and benefited from India's indecision to attack after Srinath's first spell.

Ajit Agarkar, a wily medium paceman troubled the Australians with seam and swing and was finally rewarded for his persistence, trapping Waugh leg before wicket for 41 off 110 balls. It was a soul-searching knock by Waugh and an important one for the home side.

Slater, who has been very successful in his second stint as an opener, hit his 16th half-century in the 58th Test and stood between India and any further inroads to Australia 1,740 runs at an average of 43.20 with six hundreds and as many fifties.

**Slater, who has already made three centuries this year, passed the 1,000-run landmark when he guided an outswinger from Venkatesh Prasad to the third man boundary.**

He became the 11th Australian to complete 1,000 runs in a calendar year and the 15th such instance by an Australian with former captain Allan Border and Mark Taylor achieving the feat three times each.

The Australian innings got off to an inauspicious start when play was finally possible at 1400 hrs (0300 GMT) after morning drizzle.

Anil Kumble dropped a sitter offered by Greg Blewett off the second ball of the innings when Srinath produced a ball that bounced and ballooned to gully

See page 14

## Sinclair steals the spotlight

WELLINGTON, Dec 26: A century on debut by Matthew Sinclair helped New Zealand to a commanding position on Day One of the second cricket Test against the West Indies at the Basin Reserve here today, reports AFP.

New Zealand were 263 for three at stumps after 91 overs, with Sinclair on 123 and Nathan Astle on eight, having been sent in to bat by West Indies captain Brian Lara.

Sinclair, who was on 80 at tea, brought up his century after 211 minutes at the crease with a thick edge through third man for four off Franklyn Rose. It was scored off 166 balls and included 11 fours.

He punched the air and kissed the silver fern on his helmet as the crowd of 10,500 gave him a standing ovation.

"I'm a bit weary, but it's been a great day for New Zealand I suppose, to come through with a not out and to back up what I've been saying and go on with that self-belief," Sinclair said.

"It's a great achievement for me, and it's something we can build on tomorrow."

He and captain Stephen Fleming added 164 for the third wicket until Fleming was dismissed by part-time bowler Shivnarine Chanderpaul for

67.

Fleming tried to pull a short ball from Chanderpaul but hit it straight to Jimmy Adams at backward square leg. His innings lasted 211 minutes and he faced 169 balls.

He was the only wicket to fall in the final session when New Zealand scored 84 runs off 32 overs.

Courtney Walsh was the pick of the West Indian bowlers but couldn't take a wicket, ending the day with none for 50 off 24 overs.

Reon King ended with two for 68 off 21 overs, with Chanderpaul taking one for six off three.

**Sinclair joined an elite group of New Zealand cricket players to score a century on debut.**

He joined Jack Mills, Bruce Taylor, Rodney Redmond and Mark Greatbatch — all left-handers — as the only players to top three figures in their first Test.

He also topped Mills' long-standing record of highest debut score, 117, also at the Basin Reserve against England in 1930.

Sinclair was only included in the side less than a week ago after Matthew Horne had his finger broken on the last day of New Zealand's nine-wicket win in the first Test.

But he handled the step up with ease, giving no chances in

his 315 minute stay.

His most anxious moment came on the third ball he faced — his first from West Indies pace spearhead Courtney Walsh — when it clipped the inside edge and flew past his leg stump for four to get him off the mark.

**Walsh needs nine wickets to make Kapil Dev's world Test record of 434.**

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and the West Indies at the Basin Reserve on Saturday:

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 263 for three at stumps (Sinclair 123, Nathan Astle 8, Courtney Walsh 67, Reon King 2, Shivnarine Chanderpaul 1)

**WEST INDIES:** First innings 84 for 3 at stumps (