

Column One

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 Tests?
Langer Ponting Inzamam

2 Who was the highest 'icket-taker in the Australia-Pakistan Test series?
Akram Fleming McGrath

3 How many Test hundreds has Mark Waugh scored to date?
15 16 17

4 Who became champion in the Keya Premier soccer?
Muktijoddha Mohammedan Arambagh

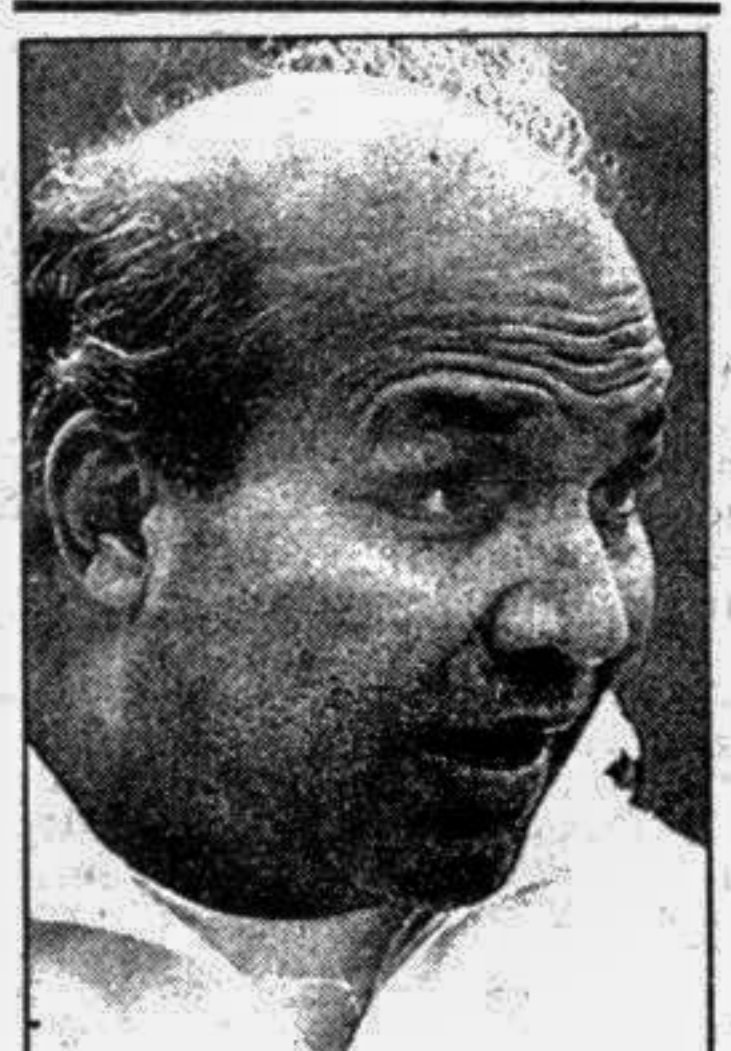
5 Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?
Refaat Zia Tanveer

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Intikhab Alam

(Pakistan cricket coach)
"He has been cleared by the PCB panel and I am confident that he will earn the ICC's nod as well."

On the issue of Shoaib Akhtar's bowling action.

BCB revise National pool

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a revised list of 23 national pool players for the season 1999-2000, releasing seven cricketers from the previous list of 30 players.

The seven cricketers excluded from the list are: Sajjad Ahmed Monsur, Harun-ur Rashid, Hasanuzzaman, Fahim Muntasir, Moshed Ali Khan, Khaled Masood and Jahangir Alam. The board however did not give any reasons for recasting the elite group, which will be regarded as a guideline for the 12 Premier League outfits during the inter-club cricketers' transfer.

According to the board rules, each club shall not be allowed to register more than four players from the pool.

The 23 players in the national pool are: Aminul Islam, Shahriar Hossain, Khaled Mahmud, Akram Khan, Mehrez Hossain, Naimur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque, Hasibul Hossain, Saifuddin Ahmed, Monjurul Islam, Neezamur Rashid, Al-Shahriar, Javed Omar, Belim, Nasirul Alam, Ahmed Kamal, Mosaddik Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Sabir Khan, Bikash Ranjan Das, Mushfiqur Rahman, Aminul Islam (Jr.) and Mahabubur Rahman.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

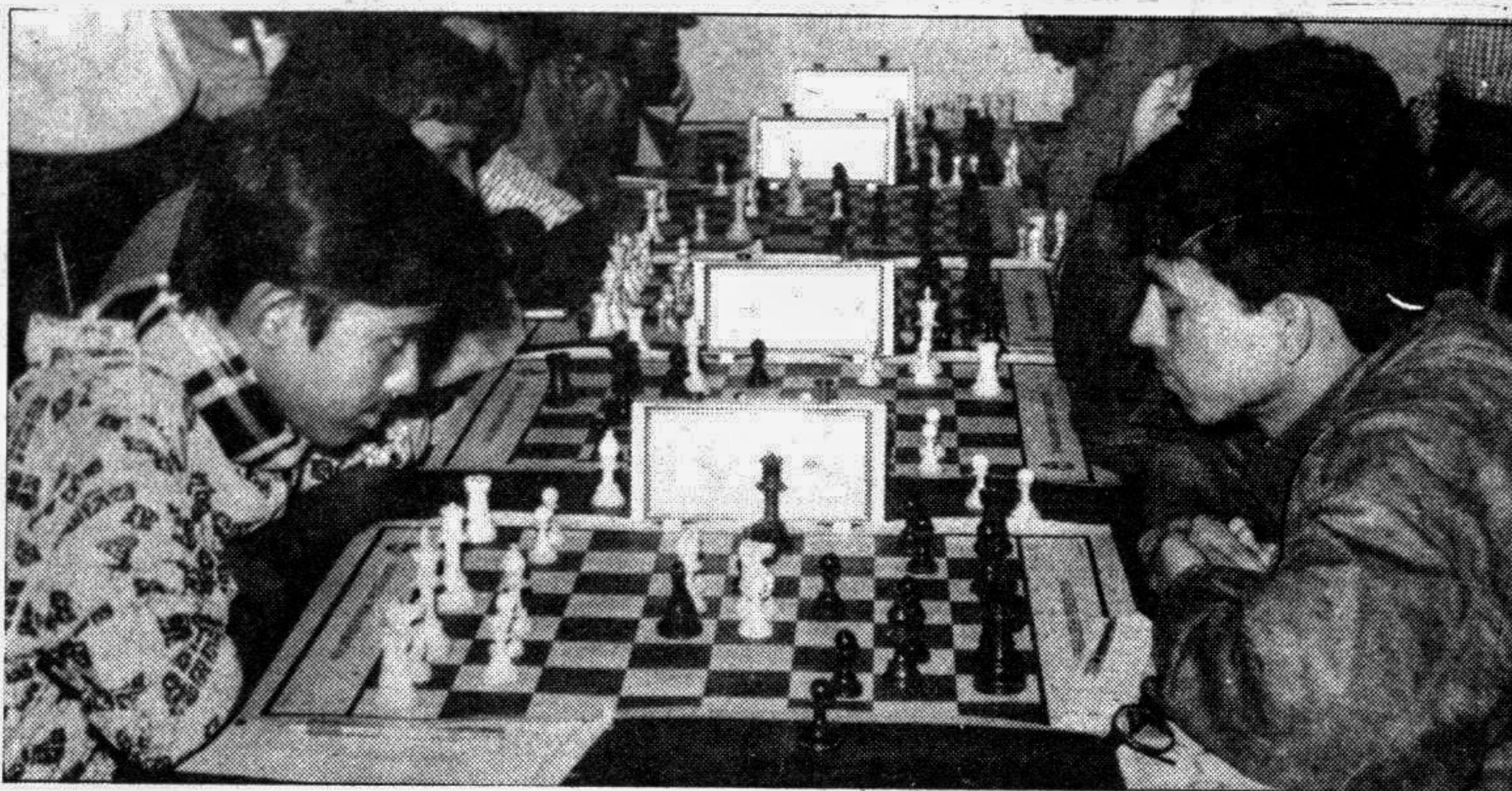
RAJSHAHI, Dec 29: Aunkur Smriti Sangha defeated Golden Star Sporting Club by eight wickets in the fifth Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti tournament at the local Railway ground today.

Winning the toss, Golden Star batted first and scored 100 in 22.1 overs losing all wickets.

In reply, Aunkur Smriti Sangha reached the target 101 losing two wickets in 20.1 overs. Sakil with 45 was the top scorer for the winners.

In other match of the day, Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti (Green) beat Sonju Smriti Sangha by 78 runs.

Jahangir Smriti scored 187 for five in 23 overs. In reply, Sonju Smriti managed 109 for nine in 23 overs.



Scene from the ninth and final round matches of the 20th sub-junior chess championship at the NSC yesterday.

— Star photo

Khulna in Maksi maze

Sports Reporter



Saifullah Maksi bewitched Khulna with a scintillating display of off-spin bowling to put Sylhet in the driving seat on the first day of their three-day National Cricket League encounter at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

The Pakistani finger-spinner, who also scored the first century of the inaugural League, took seven wickets as the hosts, after being sent in to bat on a daisy-cut pitch, were tumbled out for a meagre 142 in 67.3 overs. Saifullah, whose previous best figures were 4/34 and 4/31 against Rajshahi in a first round match last month, conceded only 35 runs in his marathon 27.3 over spell which yielded 12 maidens.

Another slow bowler Imran Rahim, with 2 for 40, also shone for Sylhet, who missed the service of their main strike bowler Hasibul Hossain. But left-arm 'twister, Mohammad Rafique, who bagged nine scalps in their previous match, went wicketless off ten overs.

For Khulna, opener Sajid Hasan fought a lone battle with a patient 53. Sajid hung on to the crease for nearly two hours to score his first half-century in the League. In his 114-ball innings, the diminutive batsman hit seven fours.

His 52-run opening stand with Islam (20) was the highest partnership of the Khulna innings. Khairuzzaman (15 n o) and one-down Sohail Islam (10) were the other two Khulna batsmen who reached double-figure mark.

In reply, Sylhet negotiated 26.4 overs of the day and remained comfortably placed at 83 for one at close. Sylhet's right-handed opener Parvez continued his superb form in the League and was unbeaten on 43 off 78 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 29: Agomoni Kriha Chakra defeated Begi Jannat Club by 48 runs in the Shaheed Zia Smriti tournament at Rajshahi Government College ground today.

Agomoni gathered 168 for six wickets in stipulated 25 overs after winning the toss. In reply, Begi Jannat made 120 losing all wickets in 19.5 overs.

Golden Sun Shine beat Tarun Smriti Sangha by 15 runs in the other match of the day.

of the three-day National Cricket League match between Sylhet and Khulna began at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday:

KHULNA: First innings				
Islam lbw b Saifullah	20			
Sajid c Parvez b Saifullah	53			
Sohail run out	10			
Hasanuzzaman c Parvez b Imran	10			
Masudul lbw b Saifullah	5			
Asadullah c Parvez b Imran	6			
Jamaluddin b Saifullah	6			
Kairuzzaman not out	15			
Nuruzzaman lbw b Saifullah	0			
Saifuddin b Saifullah	6			
Manzurul c sub b Saifullah	0			
Extras: (b-15, lb-3, nb-3)	21			
Total: (All out in 67.3 overs)	142			
Fall of wickets: 1/52; 2/87; 3/87; 4/97; 5/100; 6/111; 7/113; 8/116; 9/134.				

SYLHET: First innings				
Parvez batting	43			
Mowla c Tuhin b Sohail	9			
Nasirul batting	18			
Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-4)	12			
Total: (For 1 wkt in 26.4 overs)	83			
Fall of wicket: 1/32.				

Bowler: O M R W				
Neyamur	5	2	17	0
Iqbal	8	3	12	0
Rafique	10	4	20	0
Saifullah	27.3	12	35	7
Imran	17	6	40	2

Barisal rattle Chittagong

Sports Reporter



Skipper Minhazul Abedin and his elder brothers Nurul Abedin lifted Chittagong from a disastrous start to a face-saving total on the opening day of their three-day match against Barisal yesterday.

Chittagong, already preparing for a party, went into the penultimate match needing only two points to confirm the championship. But after deciding to bat, the visitors were awestruck by the hosts at the Serinabat Stadium who bundled them out for exactly 200 in 81.3 overs.

Barisal, who have already forfeited their title hopes, in reply were 23 for no loss at stumps.

It was a dreadful day for Chittagong, the most impressive team in the meet who did not expect such a fight from Barisal. The port city outfit were off to a horrible start losing four wickets for only 29 runs before the Abedin brothers came to the rescue.

Coming in to bat at number four, Minhazul scored a fighting 49 off 117 balls while Nurul Abedin remained undefeated on 53. Although Minhazul is well known for his exploits when the chips are down, it was also a superb innings from Nurul

Abedin. Playing his first match in the championship, the former national opener relived the memories of his hay days in an unlikely position at number seven. He shared 63 runs in the fifth wicket with his captain after Akram Khan had departed for 20.

Chittagong suffered another sudden slump when Minhazul lost his wicket leaving his side at 98 for five in 38.3 overs. They were at one stage reeling at 128 for eight before Anisur Rahman joined Nurul Abedin to produce 61 runs for the ninth wicket. Anis chipped in with an invaluable 27.

Mofizur Rahman, the discarded national right-arm seamer, started the Chittagong rot by removing opener Ehsanul for two. He also captured the prized scalps of one-down Jahangir Alam and Zaur Rashid to finish with three for 14 in his eight overs.

But it was off-spinner Saleh Ahmed who was responsible for the Chittagong debacle after Mofizur had made the early inroads. He ripped through the Chittagong middle and lower-order to finish with five for 48 from his 22.3 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening

day of the three-day National Cricket League match between Chittagong and Barisal at the Serinabat Stadium in Barisal yesterday:

CHITTAGONG: First innings				
Azam c Monju b Ashfaq	6			
Ehsanul b Mofizur	2			
Jahangir c Nayan b Mofizur	4			
Minhajul lbw b Mofizur	49			
Zaur lbw b Mofizur	20			
Akram c Mofizur b Saleh	53			
N Anedin not out	27			
Enamul b Saleh	4			
S Mofizur c Faruque b Saleh	41			
Anis c b Saleh	27			
Saifuddin c Tuhin b Saleh	0			
Extras: (b-5, lb-3, nb-1, w-2)	26			
Total: (All out in 81.3 overs)	200			
Fall of wickets: 1/7; 2/13; 3/23; 4/29; 5/98; 6/100; 7/113; 8/121; 9/182.				

Bowler: O M R W				
Ashfaq Ali	14	3	31	1
Mofizur	8	3	14	3
Faruque	4	0	31	0
Tuhin	12	7	15	0
Saleh Ahmed	22.3	7	48	5
Moin	16	3	32	1
Monju	6	3	12	0

BARISAL: First innings				
Rashedul batting	12			
Moin batting	6			
Extras: (lb-4, nb-1)	5			
Total: (For no loss in 11 overs)	23			

Bowler: O M R W				
Anis	4	1	4	0
Saifuddin	4	0	9	0
S Mofizur	2	0	6	0
Enamul	1	1	0	0



Players and officials of the Arambagh Kriha Sangha who became champions in the CUTE First Division handball league yesterday.

— Star photo

Udash upsets Medi march

Sports Reporter

Mehdi Hasan Parag squandered a good opportunity to lift the 20th national sub-junior chess championship straightway when he lost his final round clash to Nakibul Haque Udash at the NSC room yesterday.

Needing only a draw for the title, Parag succumbed to his itchy nerves to concede his first defeat of the nine-round Swiss League meet.

The outcome of the match left both Parag and Udash at the top of the table with each having collected 7.5 points. They will now take part in a play-off match at the same venue today at 1 pm.

With 7 points each, three-players—Nayem Arefin Ratul, Rownak Ehsan and Nazir Salehin—occupied the third place.

Masood shines for Rajshahi

Sports Reporter

Two brilliant half-centuries by skipper Khaled Masood and lower middle-order Babul helped Rajshahi post a respectable total against the star-studded Dhaka at the Cricket Garden in Rangpur yesterday. Masood scored a captain's

knock of 77 while Babul chipped in with 65 as the home side, electing to bat, went on to score 246 before being all out in 95 overs on the first day of the three-day National Cricket League match.

Masood smote two huge sixes and eight boundaries in his 188-ball innings while Babul faced 132 balls for his 65 that included six fours.

The two apart, Mithu, with 31 off 49 balls, was the other notable run-getter for Rajshahi. Off-spinner Fahim Muntasir, who inspired Dhaka to a seven-wicket win over Khulna in the previous match with a match haul of ten wickets, was again among the thick of things. He finished with four for 72. Shahnewaz Kabir ably helped Fahim to rock Rajshahi, taking two for 59.

In reply, Dhaka scored only one run in three overs before the stumps were drawn for the day.

Aram bagh Div I h'ball champs

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 29: A brilliant hat-trick by Jaill paved Alide Club's way to score a massive 6-0 win over Seroll Colony Club in the lone match of the Arambagh First Division football league at the AHM Kamruzzaman Stadium today.

Jaill scored in the 25th, 39th, 55th and 61st minutes after Iko had opened the account in the seventh minute. Moon got the other goal in the 62nd. Helenabad Colony Club will take on Rajshahi Kriha and Sangskritik Sangha tomorrow.

The winners led the first half 11-5. Ujjal scored 7, Zahid 5, Zubaid 3, Tareq and Raju, 2 goals each for the winners while Nurun Nabi netted 4. Shahadat 2 and Badiuzzaman one for the losers.

In the day's other match, Prime Sports Club beat Mansoor Sporting Club 16-13. The match was locked at 6-6 in the first session.

Rajshahi soccer

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Second Test nicely poised



MELBOURNE, Dec 29: Australia snatched victory in the second Test here on Wednesday as India's openers

once again found a stiff fourth innings target too hot to handle, reports AFP.

The tourists, chasing 376 for a series-levelling win, were 40 for one at close of the fourth day's play at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

India failed to get a start for the fourth time in the series when Venkat Laxman hooked Damien Fleming down fine-leg Glenn McGrath's throat after making only five.

India's best opening stand in the series has been 11, putting great pressure on the renowned middle-order of Rahul Dravid and captain Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly.

Left-hand opener Sadagopan Ramesh was unbeaten on 26 at stumps, having survived a dropped catch at the wicket off Shane Warne and a painful blow on the helmet and left hand by a vicious lifter from Brett Lee.

Dravid, whose best in the series is 35, defended stoutly at the other end to return with a determined 10 off 49 balls against his name.

The script resembled the one at Adelaide in the first Test where India, set 396 to win, crashed to 48 for five on the fourth day before being shut out for 110 on the fifth morning.

As Australia go for the kill on the final day, India's escape routes on the wearing MCG pitch may be confined to the prolific Tendulkar and the forecast of showers on Thursday.

Tendulkar made 116 in India's first innings score of 238, his 22nd Test century preventing the embarrassment of a follow-on.

Earlier, Australia helped themselves to 208 for five in their second innings, before captain Steve Waugh declared an hour-after tea.

Adam Gilchrist followed his 78 in the first innings with an aggressive 55, while Mark Waugh ensured he will play his 100th Test in Sydney from Sunday with 51 not out.

Delighted by his return to form, Mark Waugh believed Australia were well-placed to win the Test and wrap up the series.

"We are in the box seat," he said. "It's not easy to bat out there because the wicket is hard."

It's just the surface to suit Warney. We need early wickets to turn the screws."

The Australians gained a first innings lead of 167 after India, resuming at their

overnight score of 238-9, were bowled out for 238 within five minutes of the start.

Australian batsmen were slowed by two rain interruptions in the morning session which allowed just 12.1 overs of play.

Soon after the first interruption which lasted 32 minutes, Australia lost Michael Slater for three, given out leg-before while padding up to seamer Ajit Agarkar.

A sharp shower drove the players back in for another 46 minutes, and when play resumed, Greg Blewett and Justin Langer were tied down by the Indian bowlers.

Agarkar conceded just 17 runs in his first 10 overs, claiming Slater and Langer on either side of the lunch interval.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who went wicketless in the first innings, recovered to dismiss

hit four boundaries before being caught at long-on by Javagal Srinath attempting a fifth.

It was Gilchrist's third half-century -- he also has a hundred to his credit -- in his first eight Test innings.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Wednesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 405 (Michael Slater 91, Adam Gilchrist 78, Ricky Ponting 67; Javagal Srinath 4-130).

INDIA: First innings (overnight 235-9) 4

Ramesh b Lee 4
Laxman c M Waugh b McGrath 5
David c Gilchrist b Lee 9
Tendulkar c Langer b Fleming 116
Ganguly c M Waugh b McGrath 31
Kanjikar lbw b Warne 11
Prasad b Lee 6
Agarkar lbw b Lee 0
Srinath c M Waugh b Lee 1
Kumble not out 28
Prasad c M Waugh b McGrath 10
Extras: (lb-8, nb-9) 17
Total: (76.1 overs) 238

Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-11; 3-31; 4-108; 5-138; 6-167; 7-167; 8-169; 9-212; 10-235.

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 18.1 3 39 3
Fleming 15 0 62 1
Lee 28 2 47 5
Warne 24 5 77 1
M Waugh 1 0 5 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Slater lbw b Agarkar 3
Blewett c Ganguly b Kumble 3
Langer c M Prasad b Agarkar 9
Gilchrist c Srinath b Kumble 55
M Waugh not out 51
S Waugh lbw b Agarkar 32
Ponting not out 21
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3, w-1) 6
Total: (For five wickets declared) 208

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-32; 3-91; 4-109; 5-167

Did not bat: S Warne, D Fleming, B Lee, C McGrath

Bowler O M R W
Srinath 14 0 45 0
Agarkar 17 3 51 3
V Prasad 10 0 38 0
Kumble 18 3 72 2

INDIA: Second innings
Ramesh not out 26
Laxman c McGrath b Fleming 1
Dravid not out 10