

Column One SPORTS TALK



Gary Kirsten
(South African opener)
"You guys have put me under pressure."
Speaking after scoring 275 against England last week.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-125
Tick the Correct Answers
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Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 7, and draw shortly afterwards

1. Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Tests?
Langer Fleming 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

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

5. Who lifted the Expatriates Open chess title?
Rezaif Zia Tanveer

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Liton sparkle soils Pegasus

Sports Reporter

An all-round performance by Liton guided Jatrabari Krira Chakra to a comprehensive seven-wicket win over Young Pegasus in one of the first Division Cricket League matches played at the Bangladesh National Stadium yesterday.

Liton captured two wickets for 31 runs from his ten overs to restrict Young Pegasus to 194

BRIEF SCORES
Young Pegasus: 194 for 7 in 50 overs (Arshad 49, Labbu 26, Sobel 20, Liton 2/31)
Jatrabari KC: 195 for 3 in 46 overs (Liton 72, Safdar 44 n.o., Jewel 43, Sohag 2/26)
Result: Jatrabari Krira Chakra won by 7 wickets.

Dhanmondi Club: 177 for 8 in 50 overs (Sumon 46, Hossain 30, Azim 29, Joy 26, Ripon 2/27)
Dhaka Wanderers: 178 for 9 in 49.3 overs (Karim 41, Tapan 39, Alam 30, Avjeet 20, Tahmin 3/37, Hossain 2/28)
Result: Dhaka Wanderers won by 1 wicket.

for seven in the morning session and then went on to score a match-winning 72 to help his side reach 195 for the loss of three wickets with four overs in hand.

In his swashbuckling 61-ball innings, Liton hammered two sixes and nine boundaries. Safdar, with an unbeaten 44, and Jewel, who scored 43, were the other notable run-getters for Jatrabari.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Young Pegasus's 194 for 7 was built around a 49 from Pakistani opener Arshad.

Wanderers win
In the other match of the day, Dhaka Wanderers posted an exciting one-wicket win over Dhanmondi Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat, Dhanmondi scored 177 for 8 in the stipulated 50 overs with middle-order Sumon Barua scoring highest 46.

In reply, Wanderers lost nine wickets to reach 178 with only three balls to spare.

Opener Karim topscored with 41 followed by middle-order Tapan and Alam, who added 39 and 30 runs.

Nitol-Tata National Football League Dhaka teams bag the elite

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday disclosed the name of the eight teams to take part in the Nitol-Tata National Football League. The inaugural national league is likely to start from the fourth week of January.

Three teams from Dhaka City -- Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra and Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra -- who were nominated earlier, have already deposited their list of players. The five divisional teams have a deadline of January 5 to submit their lists.

The divisional teams are: Netrokona Mohammedan Sporting Club, Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra, Rajshahi Abahani Krira Chakra, Khulna Abahani Krira Chakra and Sylhet Chaturanga Jubo Sangha.

Although the federation announced earlier that teams from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna Divisions would get direct entry, and that the winners of a playoff between teams from Sylhet and Barisal would be the fifth side in the format, the Sylhet side were also given direct entry after Barisal refused to take part in the playoff.

Among the three Dhaka-

India in shambles

SYDNEY, Jan 2: Australian pace bowlers Glenn McGrath and Brett Lee combined to destroy India's brittle batting on the rain-hit opening day of the third and final cricket Test here today, report agencies.

McGrath ripped the top order with 3-34 and Lee chipped in with 4-25 as India, electing to take a first strike in difficult conditions, crumbled to 121 for eight before bad light halted play.

Just 60 overs of the scheduled 90 were possible because of rain. The umpires scheduled an early start on Monday to make up for lost time.

A sell-out crowd of 42,193 at the Sydney Cricket Ground watched the Australian bowlers use the greenish wicket and overcast conditions to make the Indians hop.

Batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar was the lone Indian to defy the hosts, making a belligerent 45 off 53 balls, studded with eight hits to the fence.

The only Australian dampener on the day was Glenn McGrath's over-the-top reaction at claiming the prize scalp of Tendulkar in one of cricket's extraordinary overs.

Tendulkar pulled McGrath's first ball of the over in the air to fine leg and ran two before smacking a further two consecutive short balls to the square leg boundary.

McGrath delivered another bouncer which Tendulkar ducked before the Indian master batsman produced an off drive for four from the next ball.

The paceman then trapped Tendulkar lbw with an in-dipper and ran down the pitch, glaring at the Indian skipper while shouting "yes!".

McGrath was cautioned for his reaction by match referee Ranjan Madagalle and umpires Darrell Hair and Ian Robinson.

Indian bowler Venkatesh Prasad had been fined 35 per cent of his match fees by Madagalle for similar gestures after removing Michael Slater in the second Test at Melbourne last week.

The rest of the Indian batting caved in once again -- just as it had done in the first two Tests which Australia won convincingly.

The tourists, who crawled to 27-1 in 21.5 overs before lunch, slid to 69 for four in 40 minutes of play during the afternoon session.

Tendulkar watched helplessly from the other end as two other frontline batsmen, Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly, departed within a run of each other shortly before tea.

The out-of-touch Dravid, who survived a dropped chance by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, made his second

Duck distinction for Agarkar
SYDNEY, Jan 2 (Reuters): Indian batsman Ajit Agarkar claimed an unwanted place in cricket history on Sunday when he registered his fourth consecutive golden duck on the opening day of the third and final Test against Australia.

Agarkar, who had already been dismissed first ball in each of his three previous innings on India's tour of Australia, made the familiar walk back to the dressing shed after his fourth first-ball duck at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

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BCB bar on 7 players

Sports Reporter

In a surprise move, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) formed a two-member committee to probe into the CCDDM recommendation for punitive measures against seven leading cricketers -- Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam, vice-captain Khaled Mahmud, Minhazul Abedin, Faruque Ahmed, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Rafique and Mahbubur Rahman Selim.

The committee, headed by the Additional DG of Special Branch Nurul Alam, will look into the alleged 'misconduct and objectionable remarks' against top CCDDM officials. The body has been asked to submit its findings within three weeks, starting from Dec 31.

The other member of the committee is Mahfuzur Rahman Siddique, the Director of Passport and Immigration.

Until the BCB acts on the findings, the seven cricketers would not be allowed to take part in the inter-club cricketers' transfer, starting from January 17.

BCB however did not disclose in their belated press release when it had formed the probe body. It was also notoriously tardy in announcing its decision to the press. Playing ignorance to the inquiring reporters, BCB kept the resolution of Dec 31 meeting to itself and waited until January 2 to circulate it to the press. The circular reached the Daily Star at around 10.40 last night.

Meanwhile, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan disclosed late last night that the tokens for the inter-club cricketers' transfer would be on offer on January 6.

The organisers of the Dhaka cricket however stuck to their previous decision of holding the bourse from Jan 17 to Jan 19.

Cricketers have been asked to collect their tokens from the BCB office in between 6pm-8.30pm on the above-mentioned day. In case of the Sri Lanka-bound youth team cricketers, the organisers will announce a fresh date on their return.

Munna suffering from kidney disorder

Sports Reporter

Former national football captain 'Mohammad' Monem

Munna is seriously ill with damaged kidneys and is admitted at a city clinic in Kalabagan.

Munna, the former Abahani defender and now the manager, was admitted to Kidney Dialysis Centre under the supervision of Kidney Specialist Prof. Harunur Rashid on December 30, two days after his return from Bangkok where he went for treatment.

He informed press reporters that his right kidney was already damaged while the left one was partially impaired.

Munna also revealed that he would go to Vlore in India for better treatment after the Eid ul Fitr.

Bangladesh Football Federation General Secretary Harunur Rashid and Joint Secretary Badal Roy visited the ailing former footballer at the clinic last evening.

Meanwhile, the State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader assured that the National Sports Council would assist Munna to go abroad for better treatment. He gave the BFF General Secretary necessary instructions in this regard.

National Cricket League Champs Ctg face Dhaka

Sports Reporter

The final round of the inaugural National Cricket League will start at three different venues across the country this morning.

Chittagong, who have already clinched the title, winning seven of their nine matches, will take on Dhaka at the Comilla Stadium while Sylhet, who have also confirmed the runners-up spot with four wins, will meet Rajshahi at the Sylhet Stadium.

The other match between hosts Barisal and Khulna will be held at the Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium in Barisal.

Chittagong are leading the six-team table with 30 points from nine matches while Sylhet have earned 22 points, also from nine outings.

Dhaka, already assured of the third position, have 14 points while Khulna and Rajshahi have six points each. Barisal are at the bottom with only four points.



Mushtaq of Jatrabari attempting to drive during yesterday's First Division encounter against Young Pegasus.
— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Pakistan outplayed

PERTH, Jan 2 (AFP/Reuters): Pakistan crashed to a 52-run defeat in a one-day clash they so desperately wanted to win to get their new Australian campaign off to a confidence-boosting start here Sunday night.

Seemingly dazed by the loss of banned fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar, Wasim Akram's side went down to an Australia A team at the WACA ground.

Hungry for an early victory after their 3-0 Test drubbing by Australia late last year, Pakistan failed despite a marvelous 100 not out by number six batsman Azhar Mahmood.

It was the first of three warm-up matches to be played by the tourists before the start next Sunday of a lucrative triangular limited-overs contest also featuring Australia and India.

After winning the toss and sending in Australia A, Pakistan saw the home team romp to 281-9 from their allotted 50 overs.

They then made 229 with the bat as Australia A skipper Shane Lee starred with the ball, taking 4-32 from six overs with his medium-pacers.

Lee, 26, is the elder brother of firebrand Brett Lee, 23, who captured four more Indian wickets for Australia earlier in the day as the third Test began at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The game slipped out of Pakistan's grasp in the early overs as Australia A openers Matthew Hayden (128) and David Fitzgerald (85) hit 191 as they maulled an attack which looked painfully innocuous without the lightning pace of Akhtar.

Hayden, not considered good enough to warrant an Australian senior role, pounded his runs from 115 balls, helped by

two towering sixes and a bagful of 17 fours.

The match was 33.2 overs old before Pakistan struck their first blow with Shoaib Malik ousting Fitzgerald.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq saved Pakistan to some degree with 10 beautifully flighted overs which earned him 5-40 as the home team's middle order and tail caved in.

In their big chase, Pakistan skidded to an embarrassing 82-6 in the 19th over before Mahmood and Abdur Razzak (35) injected some steel into the innings.

They cracked an enterprising 81 from 82 balls before Razzak departed.

Mahmood completed his splendid century from only 89 balls, stroking 14 powerful boundaries.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the day/night match between Australia A and Pakistan at the WACA in Perth on Sunday.

AUSTRALIA A:
Hayden c Inzamam b Anwar 128
Fitzgerald c b Malik 85
Symonds c Mahmood b Razzak 24
Hodge b Akram 12
Lee c Akram b Saqlain 11
Harvey c Akram b Saqlain 13
Haddin st Moyn b Saqlain 0
Bichel st Moyn b Saqlain 0
MacGill not out 1
Williams st Moyn b Saqlain 2
Wilson not out 0
Extra: (lb-2, w-3) 5
Total: (For nine wickets in 50 overs) 281
Fall of wickets: 1-191; 2-230; 3-249; 4-265; 5-265; 6-271; 7-271; 8-281; 9-281.

Bowler O M R W
Akram 10 3 27 1
Razzak 10 0 66 1
Mahmood 8 0 55 0
Saqlain 10 2 40 5
Malik 10 0 68 1
Anwar 2 0 23 1

PAKISTAN
Anwar b Bichel 16
M Wasim lbw Lee 23
Ijaz c Haddin b Lee 13
Inzamam c Hayden b Wilson 5
Youhana lbw Lee 0
Mahmood not out 100
Moyn c Haddin b Wilson 2
Razzak lbw Wilson 35
Akram b MacGill 1
S Malik c Haddin b Lee 18
Saqlain c and b Harvey 3
Extras: (lb-7, w-4, nb-2) 13
Total: (All out in 41.5 overs) 229
Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-49; 3-62; 4-62; 5-78; 6-82; 7-163; 8-166; 9-224.

Bowler O M R W
Williams 7 0 35 0
Bichel 6 0 50 1
Lee 6 1 32 4
Wilson 10 1 34 3
Harvey 6.5 0 32 1
MacGill 6 0 39 1
Result: Australia A won by 52 runs.

Astle's all-round show

West Indies on Sunday:
WEST INDIES
Campbell st Parore b Vettori 51
Cairns lbw Harrow 65
Lara c Nash b O'Connor 71
Chanderpaul run out 11
Powell c Twose b Nash 35
Rose c McMillan b O'Connor 2
Perry not out 2
Adams c Fleming b Astle 0
Dillon not out 13
Extras: (lb-4, lb-6, w-3) 13
Total: (For seven wickets in 50 overs) 268
Did not bat: R. King, C. Walsh.
Fall of wickets: 1-111; 2-131; 3-158; 4-249; 5-253; 6-253; 7-255.

Reon King bowled superbly to keep New Zealand's early batting in check and score after 15 overs when fielding restrictions ended was 71 for three, compared with the West Indies' 96 without loss at the same stage.

But Cairns joined Astle and the New Zealand innings with a partnership of 136. Cairns' 75 contained with two fours and six sixes.

After Cairns and Astle went, the New Zealand innings suddenly took on a different complexion. Roger Twose was dismissed quickly, but Chris Harris carried on after Adam Parore was out and he was helped to the winning target by Dion Nash.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard in the first one day international match between New Zealand and the

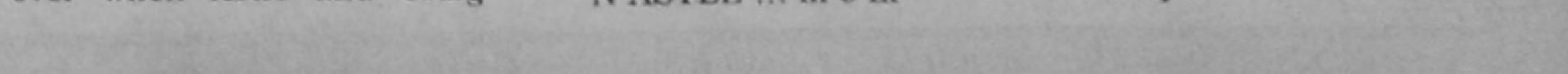
West Indies got off to a flyer in their innings, with an entertaining opening stand of 111 from Jacobs and Campbell. After 15 overs they had knocked up 96.

The innings was becalmed from the 16th to 30th overs after Jacobs and Campbell were dismissed. It picked up when Lara and Ricardo Powell together for a fourth wicket stand of 91.

Powell's departure after a bright 53 prompted a flurry of West Indies wickets. Lara, dropped when 59, hit his 76 off just 81 balls with three fours and two sixes.

New Zealand's best bowling came from left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, who gave away only 28 runs and took one wicket in his full complement of 10 overs.

New Zealand started sedately, but exploded in the sixth over when Astle and Craig



N ASTLE ... m-o-m