Steve Waugh

Sudney in front of an Aus-

tralian crowd. I think he de-

break Dennis Lille's record 355-

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-125

Post to Chr Paile Star

Win attractive prizes

Commetition closes at 8 pm

shortly afterwards

the Australia-Pakistan Tests?

Porting

Who was the highest icket-taker

in the Australia-Pakis in Test

How many Test hundreds has

Mark Waugh scored 1- date?

4 Who became champines in the

Muktijoddha Mohammedan Arambagh

Who lifted the Expatriates' Open

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

India League

Bagan beat

rivals Bengal

From Our Correspondent

minute strike by medio James

Singh enabled Mohun Bagan to

overcome arch-rivals East Ben-

gal in a crucial match of the

Coca-Cola National League at

the Salt Lake stadium here to

step forward in winning the

coveted title. At the moment the

two contenders from Calcutta

Mohun Bagan thus took a big

CALCUTTA, Jan 3: A 73-

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Keva Premier soccer?

chess title?

Inzamam

Tanveer

Fleming McGrath

Jan 7, and draw

Who was the man-of-the-series in

Tick the Correct Answers

serves to get it here."

wicket mark.

series?

(Australian cricket captain)

"He'd love to get it here in

On Shane Warne's attempt to

Column One Minhaz makes Dhaka pay

again portrayed his tenacity as born fighter when the chips are down.

The Chittagong skipper hammered a brilliant 108, his second ton in the National League, against Dhaka to guide his side to an impressive total of 284 for nine at the end of the first day's play of the their three-day match at Comilla vesterday.

BRIEF SCORES

Chittagong vs Dhaka CHITTAGONG: First innings 289 for nine in 91 overs (Minhaz 108, Enamul 46, Azam 23, Ehsanul 18, Akram 18; Mukul 3/41. Sanwar 2/42, Saiful 2/35)

After Chittagong clinched the first-ever National League title the affair only left academic interest.

The experienced middle-order bat led a spectacular recovery operation with veteran Enamul Haq after the port city outfit was reduced to 146 for

Dropped thrice, Minhaz struck twelve fours in his 187ball knock. The former national captain scored his first ton, 113, against Barisal exactly a last month ago. A leading run scorer Minhaz raised his aggregate run total to 535 from eight matches, averaging 59.44.

While Minhaz led his side from the front in what was supposed to be billed a grudge match. his Dhaka counterpart Sports Reporter

Minhazul Abedin Aminul Islam was a study of striking contrast. The national captain, who scored a lone fifty in the League,



MINHAZUL ... 108

skipped the final engagement. Star-studded Dhaka, who lost their first leg match against Chittagong at Mymensingh, finished a distant third behind Sylhet.

In the absence of Aminul, his deputy Khaled Mahmud led a demoralised Dhaka. Acting skipper Mahmud had Chittagong on the ropes courtesy of his spin duo of Mukul and Sanwar who made good use of the turning pitch. Off-spinner Sanwar gave

Chittagong a scare by sneaking one through the defences of Akram Khan on 18. But Dhaka's success ended at that point with the Enamul's arrival

Enam. who played the perfect foil scoring a gritty 86-ball

For Dhaka off-spinner Mukul captured three wickets giving away only 41 runs in his 21 economical overs. Sanwar returned with two for 42 in his 16.4 overs. Discarded national right-arm seamer Saiful also took two wickets for 35 runs.

NAT'	L LEAGUI	E CEN	TURIONS	Section.
ers	Team	Runs	Against	Date
ıllah Maksi	Sylhet	173	Chittagong	Nov 16
es Khan	Chittagong	126	Sylhet	Nov 17
que	Rajshahi	104	Barisal	Nov 17
n Iqbal	Chittagong	105	Barisal	Dec 3
azul Abedin	Chittagong	113	Barisal	Dec 3
m Khan	Chittagong	118*	Khulna	Dec 21
d Omar	Dhaka	187	Sylhet	Dec 21
edul Haque	Barisal	124	Rajshahi	Dec 21
bul Bashar	Barisal	101	Rajshahi	Dec 21
n Iqbal	Chittagong	128	Rajshahi	Dec 25
nazul Abedin	Chittagong	108	Dhaka	Jan 3

Bashar saves Barisal blushes

Minh

Azan

Sports Reporter



Habibul Bashar scored a half-century to save the Barisal blushes against Khulna on the first day of their three-day

National League match at the Abdur Rab Serniabad Stadium vesterday. With the wickets tumbling at

the other end, the home side skipper got his head down and went on to hit 67 as Barisal reached 158 before being all out in 55.2 overs.

Electing to bat first, Barisal soon plunged into deep trouble. the scoreboard reading at one

stage five for 74. Coming in to bat at number three after the fall of first wicket on 4 in the very first over bowled by Monjurul, Habibul batted out another 34 overs carefully, taking the score to 117. The inform right-hander perished, edging to wicketkeeper Tuhin off the bowling of medium pacer Jamaluddin. In his 100-ball innings.

Habibul hit eight boundaries. Habibul shared the highest Barisal partnership of 42 with lower middle-order Totam, who scored 13. Number nine and ten batsmen Saleh Ahmed (20) and Milon (12) were the other batsmen who could reach double

figure mark. For the visitors, Jamaluddin took highest four wickets for 51 runs from his 17.2 overs. Fellow left-arm seamer Manjurul and Ahmed Kamal evenly shared six wickets among them. conceding 36 and 21 runs respectively

In reply. Khulna negotiated 34 overs before the close of play



BASHAR ... 67

and produced 93 for three, with opener Sajid Hasan batting on 43. Middle-order Saeed scored a 64-ball 32.

Khulna need another 66 runs today to take a first innings lead over the home side.

Khulna have carned six points so far from nine matches while Barisal have only 4 points.

SCOREBOARD



Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-35; 3-

63: 4-64: 5-74: 6-116: 7-117: 8-

See page 14

127: 9-158.

Crisis again over cricket

Sports Reporter Crisis seems to engulf domestic cricket once again as the BCB has opted to act in favour of the clubs on the issue of players' rebellion for an early interclub transfer.

The Board, who was playing the role of negotiator to end rift between the cricketers and CCDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan), suddenly came down hard on the submissive players on Sunday by imposing injunction on seven leading cricketers including Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam. The others six cricketers are vice-captain Khaled Mahmud. Minhazul Abedin. Faruque Ahmed, Enamul Hoque, Mohammed Rafique and Mahabubur Rahman.

BCB, in a rather surprise move, formed a two-member committee to probe into the CCDM recommendation for disciplinary action. The organisers of Dhaka cricket earlier bracketed the 'seven' and decided to boycott them from any competition under the banner of CCDM.

Boycott threat however first came from the cricketers. They hurriedly formed Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) and then decided to stay out of any domestic competition unless the bourse commenced sometimes in November. They however gave up the agitation and returned to play once the BCB president Saber Hossain weighed in with the assurance of a solution suitable to all par-

The irony was that the solution of Saber came after nearly one and half months but in the form of banishment of players. be it on temporary basis.

The probe committee, headed by the Additional DG of Special Branch Nurul Alam. will look into the alleged misconduct and objectionable remarks' hurled by the CWAB leaders at top CCDM officials and then submit its report by January 20.

And since then all but the seven cricketers will be allowed to take part in the transfer business, starting on January 17. Until BCB acts on the findings, the players under investigation would be kept out of ac-

Once-promising and nowbewildered CWAB however sent a letter to Saber Hossain requesting him to allow the seven players to participate in the transfer, whose token will be on offer on January 6.

And it is learnt that if Saber does not act discretely, the CWAB may fall back to their original stand and resume the second innings of the boycott

Sylhet on the ropes

Sports Reporter

A seven-wicket burst by Raishahi seamer Mushfi-qur Rahman shot hosts Sylhet out for a meagre 101 yesterday, the first day of their last National Cricket League match.

virtually steeped on to a minefield, with only three of their batsmen could reach doubledigit mark. Bowling with venom, the

Opting to bat first, Sylhet

right-arm bowler of Rajshahi conceded only 33 runs in 18 menacing overs that yielded eight maidens.

BRIEF SCORES Sylhet: First innings: 101 all

out in 44.3 overs (Tushar 46, Alok 29, Parvez 15; Mushfiq 7/33. Imran 2/20) Rajshahi: First innings 107 for 4 in 45 overs (K Masood 35 n.o., Imran 29, Rafiqui 23; Saifullah 2/21, Rafique

For Sylhet, who have already ensured the runners-up spot collecting 18 points from nine matches, Tushar scored highest 46. The middle-order played 104 balls and hit five fours. Alok Kapali, with 19, and opener Parvez Ahmed (15) was the other mentionable run-get

In reply, the visitors were comfortably placed at 107 for 4 in 45 overs. Having overhauled the first innings score of the hosts, Rajshahi have ensured two batting points provided that the match ends in a draw.

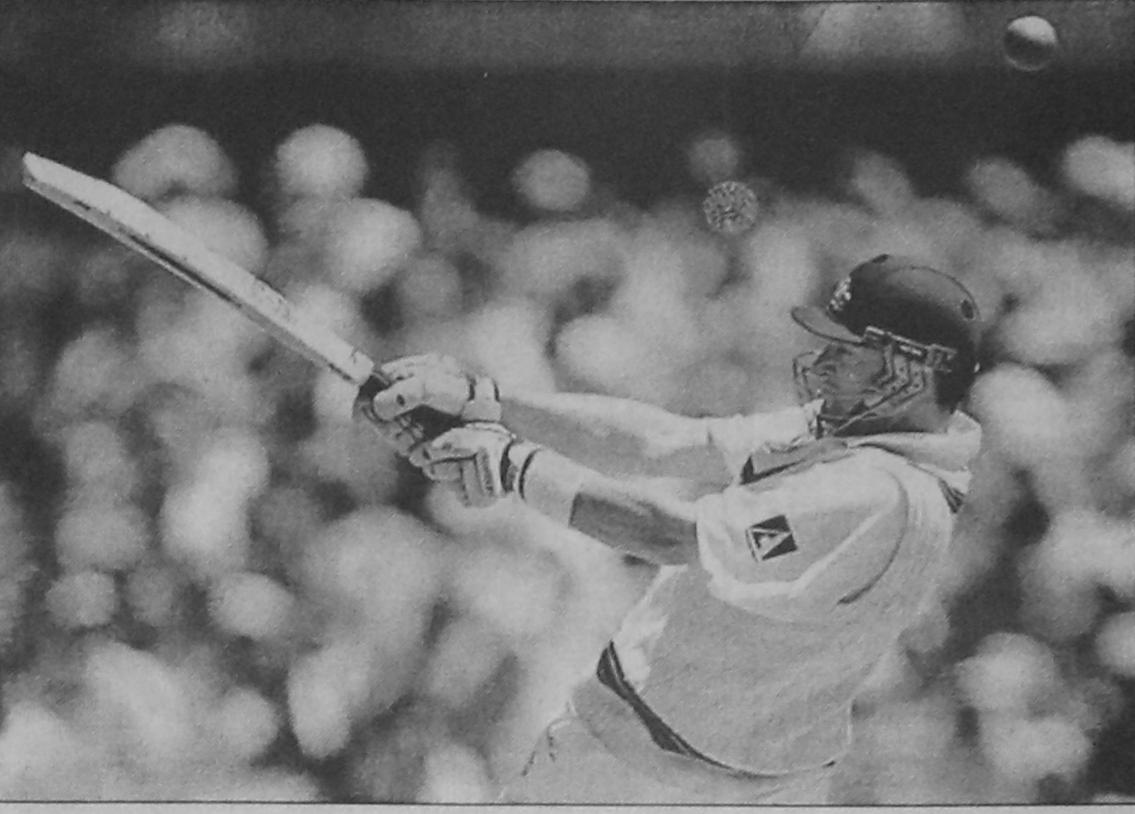
In-form Rajshahi skipper Khaled Masood was batting on 35. Imran and Rafiqul meanwhile chipped in with 29 and

Off-spinner Saifullah Maksi and left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique evenly shared four Rajshahi wickets, conceding 21 and 31 runs. Rajshahi have collected 6 points from their previous nine

outings. Leo voted Ghana's best

ACCRA, Jan 3: Sprinter Leo Myles-Mills has been elected Ghana's sports personality of 1999 by the country's association of sports journalists, reports AFP

Myles-Mills, who is based in the United States and who is one of the world's top sprinters, won the gold medal in the 100m at last September's African Games in South Africa.



Australian Mark Waugh tries and misses to hook yesterday.

Zimbabwean umpire lan

Robinson turned down the loud

West Australian was compre-

a no-ball from Srinath.

hensively beaten and bowled by

when television replays showed

him glove a leg-side catch off

Sourav Ganguly to the wicket-

keeper, but Robinson once

season -- he made two in succes-

sive matches against Pakistan

Langer's third century of the

again remained unmoved.

-- contained 23 boundaries.

Then, on 45, the 29-year-old

Langer had moved to 82

Justin just too much



the tourists cursing their luck here on Monday, reports AFP. The left-hander survived three close calls as the hosts. replying to India's modest 150,

recovered from a shaky start to reach 331 for four by stumps on the second day. Some 40,000 fans at the sun-

drenched Sydney Cricket Ground watched the Australians put themselves in line for a 3-0 sweep by taking a 181run lead with six wickets in hand.

Langer added 97 for the third wicket with Mark Waugh and 121 for the fourth with skipper Steve Waugh, after Australia were reeling at 49 for two.

At stumps, Ricky Ponting was batting on 34, having put on a further 64 runs for the lifth wicket with Langer.

Mark Waugh, welcomed to the crease for his 100th Test by a standing ovation from his home crowd, made 32.

His twin brother Steve hit 57 before being trapped leg-before by Javagal Srinath off the first delivery with the second new

The Indians were convinced they had Langer leg-before on nine when he padded up to a

"We ran out of luck today," Indian coach Kapil Dev said. There is little one can do when luck favours one person

straight ball from Srinath, but

so much, like it did for Langer. "It's to his credit that he hung around after so many close calls. It was all very frustrating to watch," Kapil said. Umpires Darrell Hair and Robinson added to India's woes when they refused captain

Sachin Tendulkar's request for sawdust near the bowlers' runup in the afternoon session. An Australian Cricket Board spokesman said later the um-

pires believed it was a "trivial request". "If no sawdust was needed at the start of play, when the field may have been wet because of

overnight rain, surely it was not needed in the afternoon, the spokesman said. The crowd, angry at India's slow over rates, jeered them for

appealing almost every time the ball beat the bat.

Steve Waugh applauded Langer's determination, saying

he kept the pressure on the Indians by holding one end up. "We needed someone to stay there and Justin was our man." Waugh said. "He as put us in a

good position. Earlier, Glenn McGrath finished with five for 48, his 16th five-wicket haul in Tests. as

India added 29 runs to their overnight score of 121-8 before being all out 35 minutes after the start. McGrath took both wickets in the morning to leave Brett

Lee stranded on four for 39. Lee had taken seven wickets on his Test debut in Melbourne last week. Tail-ender Kumble boosted

India's score by making 25 of his team's last 29 runs, including four boundaries. He finished with 26 not out. When Australia batted, Sri-

nath struck in his third over by having Michael Slater caught behind by Mannava Prasad for Greg Blewett and Langer car-

ried the score from 9-1 to 49 when Blewett was bowled by Venkatesh Prasad for 19. The run-a-minute stand be-

See page 14

Pakistan pursues ICC

- AFP photo



bowling action.

istan has lodged an appeal against the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision to ban paceman Shoaib Akhtar for an illegal

Australian southpaw Justin Langer pulls majestically

through the on-side during his belligerent 167 not out

Akhtar arrived with the Pakistan team here Monday for Tuesday's one-day match against Australia A.

at the SCG yesterday.

Team manager Brigadier Mohammad Nasir said Pakistan had requested the ICC reconsider its decision to ban

"The appeal has already been lodged, let's hope that they reconsider," Nasir told reporters. "That's what we've asked, that they should reconsider their decision."

A nine-man ICC committee banned Akhtar over concerns with his bowling action last week.

The decision ruled Akhtar out of the tri-nation one-day series involving Pakistan, Australia and India, starting on January 9.

The ICC planned to review its decision in a month's time. After the ICC ruling, he was expected to fly home to Pakistan on Sunday. But he travelled with the Pakistan squad

on Tuesday. "They've got to clear me . . .

there's no other option." Akhtar said in Adelaide.

Akhtar said he could not understand why the ICC had waited until December 31 to



SHOAIB AKHTAR

ADELAIDE, Jan 3 Monday to Adelaide to build up make its decision after receiv-(AFP/AP): Pak- for a match against Australia A ing footage of his action on December 2 They let me come over to

Australia and after an eighthour journey they said I can't play. They decided my future on the phone," Akhtar said.

"My manager, my team and my coach and my skipper have backed me up."

When the temporary ban was imposed. Akhtar said the ICC had told him his short-pitched deliveries caused concern.

Nasir said Pakistan had requested the ICC to reconsider its decision to ban Akhtar and had therefore opted not to send him home. Nasir said that if the deci-

sion of the ICC illegal deliveries committee was based on one or two suspect deliveries, and the committee accepted that his basic action was legal, then the ICC should agree to reconsider the ban. "It's therefore on those basis

we have requested them to reconsider and that's why I've been instructed to hold him back," he said.

Nasir said he did not know how long it would take before the Pakistan team was advised on its appeal but said he would find out in a day or two whether Akhtar was to stay in Australia.

have played five matches each. While Mohun Bagan took their tally to 10 points. East Bengal remained stagnant on seven. Mohun Bagan were clearly the dominant and the more positive side today. They really wanted to win and ultimately it was their desire that saw them through in a game that rarely rose above scrappy heights. They could have easily won

by a margin of 3-0. Other than goal, James Singh had the mortification of seeing another shot of his hitting the crosspiece, right after the interval. And then in the dying minutes of the match, a lovely floater from the centre by Dulal Biswas had Dipendu Biswas in the clear. But he shot straight into the body of the advancing East Bengal goalie Prasanta Dora.

The four midfielders of Mohun Bagan. James Singh. R.P.Singh. Satyabrata Bhowmik and Basudeb Mondal took control of the middle third right from the word go.

For East Bengal only Emanuel Opuku shone as a medio. However, even though, he was brilliant individually. he was guilty of hanging onto I the ball at times. A number of East Bengal attacks fizzled out simply because, he did not re-

lease the passes on time. Quader visits Munna

State Minister for Youth Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader visited the ailing footballer and former national captain Monem Munna at Kidney Dialysis Centre in the city yesterday, reports BSS. He passed some time there

and enquired about his condi-

tion with the doctors.

Kirsten torments tourists



CAPE TOWN, Jan 3: Gary Kirsten continued to torment England as South Africa moved into a strong position on the second day of the fourth

Test at Newlands on Monday. reports AFP. Kirsten followed up his South African record-equalling 275 in the third Test in Durban with an unbeaten 80 as South Africa reached 200 for one at

the close, just 58 runs short of England's 258 all out. Kirsten and Jacques Kallis (80 not out) put on an unbeaten 157 for the second wicket after England had collapsed on a

good batting pitch, losing five wickets for 43 runs on Monday. Fast bowler Allan Donald completed his 20th five-wicket haul in 60 Tests while Kirsten earned another entry in the record books when he held his fourth catch of the innings, joining six other players who share the South African Test record for most catches in an

Kirsten, who equalled Daryll Cullinan's South African individual record after South Africa had been forced to follow on in Durban, took 37 minutes and 28 balls to score his first run. He reached his fifty off 128

balls and faced 195 balls in an innings which had lasted 294 minutes by the close. Kallis made the same number of runs off 164 balls. Both batsmen hit eight fours and

Kallis added a six off Chris Silverwood. Kallis survived a low chance to wicketkeeper Alec Stewart off Silverwood when he had 11 and when he was on 77 he was hit on the helmet by a bouncer from the same bowler, for the second time in the series. He played some fine strokes, however, including a hooked six off

Silverwood. The only South African wicket to fall was that of Herschelle Gibbs, who looked in superb form as he made 29 off

49 balls before steering a drive from Chris Silverwood to Michael Vaughan at backward point when the total was on 43. England's collapse followed pressure exerted at the start of

the day by fast bowlers Donald and Shaun Pollock. England added only 12 runs for the loss of Vaughan's wicket in 12 overs against the new ball pair before the innings was

wrapped up by Kallis and Lance Klusener, who took two wickets

Andrew Flintoff tried to hit his way out of trouble after struggling against Donald and Pollock. He hit 12 in Pollock's last over of an eight-over spell before falling for 22 to Klusener's first delivery of the day, skying the ball wide of backward point for Jonty Rhedes to take a sensational diving catch after sprinting about 15 metres. It was Klusener's first wicket

See page 14

CUSTOMER

South African fast bowler Allan Donald is jubilant after claiming the wicket of Michael Vaughan on the second day of the Cape Town Test yesterday. -AFP photo