

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
Jan 14, and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Tests?
Langer, Potting, 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?
Mukijodha, 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



Rivaldo
(Barcelona's Brazilian superstar)

There is no reason to force my departure from such a great club. I have never wanted to leave and my family is very happy in Barcelona.

While dismissing speculations that he was quitting the Spanish club.

Shoaib saves kid's life

BRISBANE, Jan 11: Pakistan's controversial fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar saved the life of a young boy by snatching him from the path of a speeding taxi, police said here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The incident happened outside the Brisbane Cricket Ground late Monday after Pakistan beat India.

Police said the Pakistani team were about to board a bus when Akhtar, 24, was besieged by young autograph hunters, one of whom ran across the road in front of a passing taxi.

Police said Akhtar saw what was happening and grabbed the boy, aged about nine, and pulled him to safety.

"He saved the kid's life," sergeant Manuel Papoutsakis said.

Warne worry for Aussies

BRISBANE, Jan 11: Australian spin king Shane Warne may miss the rest of the one-day tri-series against India and Pakistan because of a side strain, reports AFP.

The leg-spinner felt pain during Sunday's opening game against Pakistan here and MRI scans conducted in Melbourne on Monday revealed a tear below his left shoulder.

A spokesman for the Australian Cricket Board said Warne needed two to four weeks of rehabilitation, forcing him out of at least the preliminary league which ends on January 31.

The Australians will pick from the remaining 12 for the next match against India at Melbourne on Wednesday, the spokesman said, adding a decision on a replacement will be made soon.

A disappointed Warne said he did not plan to rush back until he was absolutely fit.

"I won't rush back because there is a lot of cricket coming up," the spokesman quoted Warne as saying.



Cricketers (L-R) Al-Shahriar, Naimur Rahman, Fahim Muntasir and Shafiuddin Ahmed chat outside the BCB office yesterday after informing the board of their refusal to play against the touring MCC. —Star photo

Players refuse to play under BCB banner

Stalemate continues

Sports Reporter

The drama gripping local cricket took a fresh twist yesterday as the players picked for three-day match against touring MCC, refused to play their opponents.

Nine players came to the BCB office casually dressed in the afternoon only to insist that the Board lift its ban on seven cricketers.

Akram Khan, captain of the 12-man BCB selection, Shaheen Ahmed and Mushfiqur Rahman Babu were not present at that time.

Later in the evening, Akram did come and also lent support to his nine teammates.

Talking to The Daily Star, he said that he would abide by the decision of the CWAB and

not lead the BCB President's Eleven.

"The BCB did not ban us but I still feel for my seven comrades. Let's hope good sense prevails at the Board," said the former national skipper.

The BCB, acting on a recommendation of CCMD in early January, slapped temporary ban on Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam, vice-captain Khaled Mahmud, Minhazul Abedin, Faruque Ahmed, Enamul Haque, Mohammad Rafique and Mahbubur Rahman.

The CCMD has accused the rebels of misconduct and making objectionable remarks against top officials during the Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh's (CWAB) agitation programme for early interclub transfers in November.

The Board has formed a two-member committee to look into the complaint and submit a report by January 21.

But the cricketers began a fresh movement under the banner of CWAB on January 6 when they refused to collect tokens for the forthcoming transfer unless the ban was lifted on the seven.

After receiving no response from either the Board or its president, the CWAB has stepped their one-point demand by refusing to play for any team under a BCB banner.

Meanwhile, the BCB, in the absence of president Saber Hossain, who is likely to return from the States within a couple of days, called an emergency meeting last night. It was going on till filing of this report.

Asian Youth soccer in Dhaka

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will stage the Group 4 preliminary round matches of the 32nd Asian Youth (under-19) Football Championship.

Apart from the hosts, Iraq, Nepal and the Maldives are the other countries in the group.

The round begins at the end of July.

The winners will qualify for the final round to be held in Iran from November 12 to 26.

MCC in town

Sports Reporter

A 16-member Marylebone Cricket Club team arrived in a city on Monday to play some friendly matches against different selections of Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The visitors, led by Kent all-rounder Min Patel, will begin their three-week long tour with a three-day match against Bangladesh Cricket Board Eleven at the Rajshahi Stadium starting on January 14.

The tourists then play a four-day match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from January 18.

After the longer versions, MCC will turn their attention to four limited-overs matches in Jessore, Chittagong and Dhaka.

The Jessore match will be held on January 23 while the one in Chittagong match is on January 25. Dhaka will host two 50-over games on January 28 and 29.

The visitors had a light practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday morning and will go to BKSP in Savar this morning for another practice before they fly to Rajshahi tomorrow.

LIFE IN LANKA

From Al-Amin in Colombo

HIGH COMMISSIONER WHERE ARE YOU?

Bangladesh High Commissioner in Colombo Ashraf-ud-Doula is yet to make his time to meet the youth team in Colombo.

"We have been here for the last seven days. But unfortunately, our High Commissioner is yet to pay us a visit," said manager Azmal Ahmed Tapan to the journalists after the practice session at the Police Ground on yesterday.

"I tried to reach our 'local guardian' over phone on January 7. But he was not available. I have left a message providing all the details of our location. But we are yet to get even a courtesy call from him," said Tapan adding that his presence would definitely have motivated the boys.

COLOMBILE!

Mobile phone is perhaps the most available commodity in Colombo. The managers of all the 16 participating teams got a phone from the organisers to get instant information. The liaison officers have got it and if you walk down the boulevards, the neat and tidy streets, you will find it almost everyone with a cell phone.

The three journalists from Bangladesh realised the extent of this mobile culture while travelling on a three-wheeler.

"Excuse me sir," said the driver when a mobile phone rang up suddenly from no where much to the surprise of the newsmen. When they were looking around to get a clue of where the sweet metallic ringing was coming from, the driver stopped, picked up a mobile phone and started talking to the caller. After completing his conversation he re-started the engine promptly drove on.

EID OF A LANKAN KIND

Bangladesh youth team here in Colombo passed the Eid-ul-Fitr in an interesting way. The unprepared team offered their Eid prayers at a mosque close to their hotel on January 9, a day before Bangladesh celebrated the festival.

"We were preparing to fast for another day when I got a call at around 2 am (Sunday). The caller told me that Eid will be tomorrow," said Manager Azmal Ahmed Tapan.

The squad however hardly managed any time to enjoy the occasion since they had to play their second practice match against Matale Division Cricket Association. The day finished in disappointment as they lost the low-scoring match by two wickets.

Tapan later injected some cheers in a otherwise gloom bunch by hosting a dinner at Hotel Obroi but cancelled the three-minute telephone (to Bangladesh) luxury for each of the 14 players for the defeat.



Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club during a practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Akram to lead President's XI

Sports Reporter

Former national skipper Akram Khan will lead a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President's Eleven against visiting Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) of England in a three-day match starting at the Rajshahi Stadium on Friday.

Akram after steering Bangladesh to their maiden ICC Trophy victory in Malaysia in 1997, was forced to relinquish the captaincy after disastrous Commonwealth Games campaign in September of the following year. Although the team failed to win a single match nevertheless, the reliable middle-order batsman held his place in the national squad until suffering an Achilles' tendon injury kept him out of action for a few months.

The portly right-hander made a brilliant comeback in the just-concluded inaugural National League as member of champions Chittagong by slamming an unbeaten 118 against Khulna last month.

The 12-man list also includes three new faces—Mizanur Rahman, Shaheen Ahmed and Mohammad Lal. Mizanur is a wicketkeeper who played for Khulna in the National League. Left-arm spinner Shaheen also represented Khulna. Mohammad Lal was the highest wicket-taker in the Damal Smriti tournament for champions Khetlaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha and is the other specialist left-arm twaker.

Azam Iqbal and Sajid Hasan will open the innings. Right-hander Azam scored two centuries for Chittagong in the National League.

Al-Shahriar, Akram Khan, Naimur Rahman, and Mushfiqur Rahman form the middle order. Fahim Muntasir is the lone off-spinner. Medium-pacer Shafiuddin Ahmed and left-arm seamer Monjurul Islam are expected to form the new ball attack.

SQUAD

Azam Iqbal, Sajid Hasan, Naimur Rahman, Akram Khan (captain), Al-Shahriar, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman, Fahim Muntasir, Monjurul Islam, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Shaheen Ahmed and Mohammad Lal.

Four-nation soccer Maldives invites Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national football team has received an invitation from Maldives to take part in a four-nation tournament in Male scheduled to be held in June.

The tournament involving India, Sri Lanka has been organised to mark Maldives' golden jubilee of independence. The hosts will bear all the expenses of the Bangladesh team.

Australia-India match today

MELBOURNE, Jan 11: India are looking for an improved batting display when they clash with Australia in a day-night international here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Both teams lost their opening matches to Wasim Akram's resurgent Pakistan in the Brisbane double-header, but the last-ball defeat for India on Monday hurt the team badly.

ICC to discuss Akhtar issue next month

COLOMBO, Jan 11: The International Cricket Council (ICC) will next month take up the issue of the ban on Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar which was subsequently overruled, a report said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The Daily News quoted visiting ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya as saying that the allegations against the Pakistani bowler were unfair and not justifiable.

The report came as Australian officials said the ICC had set "a dangerous precedent" in lifting the ban on Akhtar, handed out for an allegedly illegal bowling action.

However, Dalmiya said he and ICC cricket committee chairman Clyde Walcott acted after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) lodged an appeal against the original banning of Akhtar from international cricket.

"We don't want to interfere with decisions taken by ICC committees, but there should be proper procedures followed," Dalmiya said. "We have a new situation here and it will be taken up at the ICC meeting coming up on February 9 and 10."

Australian Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers said he was worried at the procedure adopted to overturn the ban, and added that his attempts to clarify the matter with Dalmiya had failed.

"I am worried about the process involved and the precedent it sets," Rogers told a press conference in Melbourne.

"Vetoes are dangerous. And that's why I want to see how this process worked."

Miraculous Pakistan

Sports Reporter

BRISBANE, Jan 11: Saqlain Mushtaq and Waqar Younis scrambled a bye off the last ball to lift Pakistan to a thrilling two-wicket win over India here on Monday, reports AFP.

The eighth-wicket pair added 43 runs off 37 balls as Pakistan, replying to India's 195, fought back from the death to win the day-night encounter in a nerve-wrecking finish.

Man-of-the-match Yousuf Youhana hit 63 to help Pakistan recover from a disastrous 71-6 and post 196-8, their second win in two days in the Carleton and United tri-nation one-day series.

Wasim Akram's men, who stunned hosts Australia by 45 runs in Sunday's opener, ended the double-header at the Gabba with four full points.

Pakistan won despite being given only 49 overs to bat by match referee Carmine Smith of the West Indies for a slow over-rate in India's innings.

"Saqlain and Younis have done it again," a delighted Akram said, referring to the pair's 57-run stand against Australia.

"It shows that we fight all the way and don't give up easily. I am not worried by the top order failing a second time. The main batsmen are too good to fail for long," Akram said.

India's new-ball pair of Javagal Srinath and Ajit Agarkar ripped through Pakistan's top order, before Youhana added 49 for the seventh wicket with Akram and 33 for the eighth with Saqlain.

Srinath, however, deceived Youhana with a slower ball in the 43rd over which the batsman edged to the wicketkeeper and made Pakistan 153-8.

Saqlain and Younis narrowed the gap with abdicuous hits, and left themselves 14 runs to get in the last two overs.

They took eight in the penultimate over bowled by leg-spinner Anil Kumble, including a cut to the point boundary by Saqlain.

Needing six off the last six balls, the pair cobbled up three off the first four deliveries before Prasad sent down a wide from the fifth.

A single off the fifth legitimate ball ensured Pakistan a tie, and Saqlain and Waqar sealed a win with a bye off the last ball as wicketkeeper Sameer Dighe fumbled with the leg-side take.

Saqlain remained unbeaten on 27 and Younis was 13 not out when teammates rushed out to hug their unlikely heroes.

It was Pakistan's first win over India in four meetings on Australian soil, and avenged the World Cup defeat at Old Trafford in June.

A disappointed Indian cap-

tain Sachin Tendulkar said the 43 runs conceded in the end proved too costly.

"The bowlers did well at the start, but we could not finish it," Tendulkar said.

"Last-ball finishes can go either way. We did our best, but Saqlain and Younis took the game away from us."

Shoaib Akhtar's lethal three for 19 appeared to go in vain as Pakistan, who had successfully defended 184 on Sunday, found runs hard to come by against the Indians.

Srinath, who finished with four wickets, and Agarkar rattled the top batsmen, before Youhana led Pakistan's gritty fightback.

India, electing to bat after winning the toss, slipped to 77-4 before Ganguly and Robin Singh added 66 for the fifth wicket.

Left-hander Ganguly, who opened the innings, made 61 before he was fifth out in the 40th over, bowled by Shoaib.

All-rounder Singh hit 50 off 84 balls, but India failed to register 200 when they lost their last three wickets for one run.

The lower order batsmen undid the good work by Ganguly and Singh as both Agarkar and Kumble ran themselves out attempting a second run.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-series one-day international between India and Pakistan at the Gabba on Monday:

INDIA

Laxman c Afridi b Waqar	9
Ganguly b Akhtar	61
Dravid c Moin b Akhtar	8
Tendulkar b Razaq	13
Kanitkar c Moin b Saqlain	0
R Singh c Waqar b Saqlain	50
Dighe lbw b Akhtar	6
Kumble run out	16
Agarkar run out	2
Srinath b Akram	0
Prasad not out	0
Extras: (b-1; lb-8; w-14; nb-7)	30
Total: (All out in 48.5 overs)	195
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-50, 3-76, 4-77, 5-143, 6-150, 7-186, 8-194, 9-195	

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Akram	9.5	1	45	1
Waqar	8	0	30	1
Razaq	8	1	31	1
Akhtar	8	1	19	3
Saqlain	9	0	35	0
Afridi	6	0	26	0

PAKISTAN

Anwar c R Singh b Srinath	24
Afridi c Laxman b Srinath	0
Ijaz lbw b Agarkar	13
Inzamam lbw b Agarkar	4
Youhana c Dighe b Srinath	63
Razaq lbw b Kumble	6
Moin c Dravid b Srinath	3
Akram b Ganguly	24
Saqlain not out	27
Waqar not out	13
Extras: (b-1; lb-9; w-6; nb-3)	19
Total: (For 8 wickets in 49 overs)	186
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-36, 3-42, 4-55, 5-64, 6-71, 7-120, 8-153	

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Srinath	10	0	49	4
Agarkar	10	0	39	2
Prasad	10	2	27	0
Kumble	10	0	35	1
Ganguly	6	1	26	1
R Singh	3	0	10	0

Result: Pakistan won by two wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Yousuf Youhana.



Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq, who scored an invaluable 27 not out, runs towards the dressing room after their victory over India was ensured at the Gabba. — AFP photo

Kiwis 5, Windies nil

Sports Reporter

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Jan 11: West Indies, cricket's one time superstars, were completely routed here Tuesday when New Zealand thrashed them 5-0 in the one-day cricket match series, reports AFP.

For New Zealand, long cricketer's wooden spooners, the defeat of the Windies, both in the one-day and test arenas, was a long overdue reward for the country's long-suffering fans.

Their next task comes in March with the arrival of Australia.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming saw his dream of a test and one-day series clean sweep realised.

"To whitewash them is fantastic," he said.

"All the way along we expected some magic from the West Indies batting, and it was a great contest tonight."

Widies skipper Brian Lara conceded his team were outplayed by the New Zealanders throughout the test and one-day series.

"New Zealand played 15 days of good cricket and they deserved their win," he said.

A record one-day cricket partnership against the West Indies of 170 by Roger Twose and Nathan Astle helped New Zealand Tuesday.

Twose and Astle's heroes helped New Zealand to a total of 302 for six and an eventual 20-run win.

The West Indies at last showed some spine, lasting until the final over in their chase on a good pitch, with Sherwin Campbell leading the way with 71 in the total of 282.

New Zealand's total was their seventh highest one-day score and their eighth time past 300.

Twose claimed the man of the match award with his 97 off 90 balls, beating his previous highest one-day score of 92 against the United Arab Emirates in the 1996 World Cup.

Astle wasn't far behind with 85 off 109 balls. It was his third

50 of the series and brought his run tally in the five games to 320 at an average of 80.

The pair's third-wicket stand of 170 beat their own record against the West Indies of 149, set three days ago in the previous game in Wellington.

Twose also contributed in the field, taking catches to dismiss Ridley Jacobs off the second ball of the innings then Brian Lara for 37.

Relative newcomer Scott Styris took his seventh wicket in two matches to be the best bowler with four for 57 off 9.5 overs.

The result sent the West Indies home with a winless record in their nine matches on tour.

After drawing their two first-class games, they lost the test series 0-2 before the five straight one-day losses.

It left them with the worst record of any team to embark on a full tour of New Zealand, worse even than the 1982-83 Sri Lanka team who won one game out of 10.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between New Zealand and the West Indies on Tuesday:

NEW ZEALAND

Spearman run out	5
Astle c Lara b Campbell	85
Fleming c Adams b Perry	8
Twose b King	97
Harris not out	37
Calms b Campbell	24
McMillan c Lara b Walsh	23
Parore not out	2
Extras: (b-1; lb-5; nb-5; w-10)	21
Total: (For 6 wickets in 50 overs)	302
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-35, 3-205, 4-217.5, 5-255, 6-297	

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Dillon	10	1	42	0
Walsh	10	0	70	1
Perry	10	0	63	1
Adams	3	0	21	0
King	10	0	54	1
Campbell	7	0	46	2

WEST INDIES

Jacobs c Twose b Cairns	4
C'paul c Parore b Vettori	30
Griffith c Spearman b Styris	35
Lara c Twose b Harris	37
Adams c Styris b Harris	26
Campbell c Astle b Styris	71
Powell run out	2

Perry c Harris b Vettori 28
Dillon c Penn b Styris 8
King not out 7
Walsh b Styris 18
Extras: (b-1; lb-6; nb-2; w-7) 15
Total: (All out in 49.5 overs) 282
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-58, 3-102, 4-111, 5-164, 6-167, 7-221, 8-242, 9-261, 10-282.

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Cairns	4	0	31	1
Penn	6	0	49	0
Styris	9.5	0	57	4
Vettori	10	0	40	2
Harris	10	1	44	2
Astle	10	0	54	0

Result: New Zealand won by 20 runs and win series 5-0.
Man-of-the-match: Roger Twose.

Lara looking forward

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Jan 11: Brian Lara has warned his West Indian cricketers they must be ready for "a big series in England" after losing both Tests and all five one-day internationals in New Zealand, reports Reuters.

West Indies completed their disastrous tour when they lost the day-night fifth and final limited overs match against New Zealand by 20 runs today.

Lara's side new return to the Caribbean for consecutive Test and one-day series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan between March 16 and May 23. West Indies then open a five-Test tour of England at the end of May.

Captain Lara said the clean sweep defeats by 2-0 and 5-0 in the Tests and one-dayers respectively in New Zealand were an experience that would put his young squad "in good stead" for the challenges to come this year.

He also acknowledged that Zimbabwe might now be eyeing the opportunity to beat West Indies at home.

"I wouldn't say (they are) easy opposition — I think they'd be hoping they can come to the Caribbean and upset us," Lara said after today's defeat.