

# Star Sport

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### Roost 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 21, '99 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Test?

Langer Ponting Innamam

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 champions in the Keya Premier soccer?

Muktijodha Mohammedan Arminagh

5 Who lifted the Expatriates' Open chess title?

Resful Za Tanveer

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

POWERED WITH  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## SPORTS TALK



Brett Lee

(Australia's pace sensation) I don't know precisely why but I always wanted to bowl fast.

On why he became a fast bowler.

Nat'l soccer league

Sponsorship for Dhaka trio

Three business houses — Nitel, Tata and Niloy Groups — will sponsor jersey of the country's three leading clubs in the ensuing Nitel-Tata National Football League, reports UNB.

The eight-team national football meet is likely to begin at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium either on January 26 or February 1.

Nitel Group will provide jersey to the Federation Cup champions Abahani, Tata to league champions Mohammedan SC while Niloy to the Federation Cup runners-up Muktijodha Sangsok KC in the first ever national league.

The three popular soccer clubs will receive Taka four lakh each from the companies under an agreement of using sponsor logo in the team jersey during the league.

General secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Harun-ur-Rashid MP stated this at a press briefing, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room yesterday.

Chairman of the Nitel Group Abdul Mubib Ahmed, country manager of Tata Automobile in Bangladesh Dharmendra Thoria, League Committee secretary Sirajul Islam Bachehu and Manager of the Leisure Sports Management Sunanda Dhar were present on the occasion.

They also have a plan to announce special award for the best player, highest scorer and league champions team as well as for the best report on league match.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Jan 18: Al-Helal Sporting Club defeated Mukul Faouz (Red) Club by five wickets in the Beg Rim Premier Division cricket league at the local Circuit House ground today, reports UNB.

Opting to bat, Mukul Faouz were all out for 118 in 37.5 overs with Sumon making 50.

In reply, Al-Helal were in dire straits when five wickets fell for 60 but an unbeaten fifth wicket partnership of 54 between Santus and Apu helped it reach the target making 122 for five in 32.2 overs.



TRYING TO STAY RELAXED: Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB) officials and fellow players watching proceedings of the MCC-Dhaka Metropolitan XI match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## BCB fields team from nowhere Twelve let CWAB down

Sports Reporter

With the country's national cricketers refusing to play Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) went on a face-saving mission and managed to field a team comprising of little known in-experienced First Division players for the four-day game against the visiting MCC yesterday.

The national cricketers, under the flag of their organisation Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB), boycotted the match on Monday in protest of the date-shifting of the inter-club cricketers transfers by the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).

The substitute team, which was named Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven, had all but one First Division player. Paceman Ashfaq Ali, who played for Mohammedan Sporting Club last season, was the lone player from the Premier Division.

Although, none of the 39 cricketers, selected by the BCB, appeared at the board office during the scheduled 3pm reporting time on Monday, eight of them — Mahfuzur Rahman (Uttara SC), Jashimuddin (Eskaton SC), Salahuddin Ahmed (Orient SC), Zahiruddin (Uttara SC), Shaheer Ahmed (Lalmatia), Ashfaq Ali (Mohammedan SC)

and Rezaul Karim (Young Cricketers) and Mohammad Lal (Khelaghar) some time later, surprisingly decided to serve the board's interest.

Apart from the eight, the other four in the 12 man squad were: Raju Parvez of Lalmatia Club, Ashrique Hossain of Dhaka Wanderers, Nadim Ahmed of Bangladesh Boys and Aslam Ali Khan of Lalmatia Club.

BCB acting General Secretary Mahmud Ul Haq Manu said that the board was going to issue show cause notices to the 31 cricketers who did not report.

"The show cause notice would be served to them by tomorrow," said Manu yesterday evening.

Manu, however, did not elaborate what action the BCB was going to take against those players.

Meanwhile, a large section of the rebel cricketers, came to the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday and witnessed the four-day match for a couple of hours.

The players sat at the Club house enclosure and witnessed the whole of the first session of Day One.

CWAB President Minhazul Abedin, General Secretary Faruque Ahmed, national skipper Aminul Islam, were

present among the prominent cricketers.

Talking to the reporters, Faruque Ahmed said that they were still undecided about their future course.

Replying to another query, Faruque revealed that all the 12 cricketers who were in the four-day match against the MCC, were members of the CWAB.

When asked whether the CWAB plans to take any action against those cricketers who have betrayed the organisation, Faruque said that they haven't thought about that yet.

"At the moment, we are much too engrossed with solving our main problem — the transfers. Let the whole uncertainty be resolved first. Then we may shift our attention to the details," Faruque said.

The questionable conduct of those 12 players was the main topic of discussion among the journalists and fans present at the stadium. There were unconfirmed reports of them being kept captive by the BCB on Monday night. One of the players had apparently confessed that he was pressured into playing following a threat on his career. An opening bowler broke into tears when some pressmen asked why he had played. The player in question did not answer, clearly out of fear.

Cricket, now has a mountain to climb, to overcome this crisis, which has come at a time when the Bangladesh Cricket Board is vying to "arrange" Test status for the country. With the MCC team and the ICC president, as well as another fact-finding ICC delegation in the city, the timing of this comedy of errors could not have been more inauspicious. Unfortunately, we have no one to blame but a handful of officials, who are once again out to prove that they are the only sharks monopolising the muddy waters of our cricket administration.

## Patel plays diplomat

Sports Reporter

MCC skipper Min Patel would have been happier had the Bangladesh national team played against them yesterday.

He however thinks that the ongoing row between the cricketers and the board is absolutely an internal affair and they have nothing to do with it.

The shaven-headed Kent all-rounder expressed his views to the press after the end of first day's play against Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"We are here to play against any eleven the Bangladesh Cricket Board turns out," said the MCC captain.

"It's unfortunate for Bangladesh that the national team did not play. But MCC has got no real say about this.

"Well, to be honest, you know playing the national side would be good. But you know we are not our problem. It's complicated, that Bangladesh Cricket Board must address the issue. We are just here to play and concentrate on our game. Hope the problem will be over before the limited-over matches start," he added.

## Nat'l Jr Chess

Sports Reporter

Five players — Enamul Hossain Raib, Syed Ezaz Hossain, Mehdi Hasan Parag, Nakibul Haque Udas and Nayeem Arefin Ratul — were jointly leading the 21st national junior chess championship table after the fourth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the day, all the five leaders won their matches to remain atop with full four points.

Ratul beat Golam Mostafa, Ejaz overcame Sabir Ahmed Sentu, Parag conquered Nazir Salehin, Udas defeated Rawnok Ehsan Sajib and Ratul outwitted Md. Javed.

Mostafa, Santu, Javed, Salehin, Sajib, Waliullah, Ziauddin, Mahtabuddin Robin, Sadequul Haque Romance, Omar Farooq, Abdul Muttakin, Biswajit Mondal, Zaimul Abedin, Shahjahan Ali, Mukut, Aslam, Arzu Mia, Jamaluddin, Md. Bashir and Sihaz Tanveer were in the crowded second spot with three points each after the round.

The fifth round will start at the same venue today at 3 pm.

## Nat'l eves' chess qualifiers on

Sports Reporter

The qualifying round of the 21st national women chess championship began at the NSC chess room yesterday with 38 players vying for six berths of the final phase.

On the opening day of the seven-round Swiss League, 17 players earned full points winning their respective boards. They are Syeda Afana Parveen Nira, Afroza Khanam Bably, Masuda Begum, Jahannara Haque Runu, Nazrana Khan Iva, Farzana Khan Ava, Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly, Samiha Sharmin Simmi, Firoya Haque Chowdhury Popy, Hamida Mahmood, Saima Almas, Shamima Aktar, Afroza Haque Chowdhury Poly, Faria Zaman, Sabrina, Shahrin Sarna, Firoya Begum and Afroza Khanam.

On the day, Nira beat Mahfuz, Bably beat Suravi, Masuda beat Ridi, Iva beat Fahtema, Ava beat Aliva, Runu beat Tamanna, Moly beat Shahana, Simmi beat Lackey, Popy beat Simu, Firoya beat Kawsar, Saima beat Mahbuba, Shamima beat Chaiti, Poly beat Daizy, Faria beat Habiba, Sarna beat Sima and Afroza beat Salma.

Top six finishers in the qualifying round will join reigning champion Rani Hamid, runner-up Syeda Shabana Parveen and two rated players Tanima Parveen and Zakia Sultana in the final phase.

The second round starts at 10 this morning at the same place.

## Fatwa against chess

TEHRAN, Jan 18: Chess players in the central Iranian city of Kashan were agast when their local Ayatollah issued a religious decree or fatwa against their favourite game, the daily newspaper Arya said today, reports AFP.

The decree, issued by Ayatollah Jafar Saburi, has had a negative impact on the Kashan population and their religious life, chess association chairman All Hashemi-Tehrani was quoted as saying.

The municipality, he complained, "does not want chess boards in the parks any more."

But, "the annual budget of our association is only some 100,000 rials (13 dollars), not even enough for us to buy several sets of pawns," he added.

Banned because it was seen as a "royal game" and "militaristic" from the 1979 Islamic Revolution until the middle of the 1980s, the game of chess has today been rehabilitated in the Islamic republic. Both men and women can play the game, although they are not allowed to play one another.

Iran claims to have invented chess and it has always been very popular in the country.

## McGrath hits another ton

Sports Reporter

Anthony McGrath scored his second successive century to take MCC to a strong position against an inexperienced Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven on the first day of the four-day match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Although Bangladesh National team was supposed to play the match against the visitors, a baffled Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), in the face of players' boycott, could finally gather eleven unheralded cricketers to get the tie on.

Mahfuzur Rahman of the Uttara Sporting Club led the surprise pack, who were seen sneezing into the field with a distinct mark of guilt and embarrassment stamped all over their faces.

Electing to bat first, the batsmen overcame an early collapse to reach 259 for 9 playing 99 overs.

McGrath, the gritty middle-order man who scored 119 not out against BCB President Elemen in a three-day match at Fajshahi on Friday, was batting on 131 when the stumps were drawn for the day.

On a low and turning wicket, the right-handed Yorkshireman put his head down to get accustomed with paces of the pitch first, but kept punishing the loose ball at the same time whenever it came by.

McGrath reached his fifty in 117 minutes and by playing 103

balls. He took another 136 minutes to reach the magical three-figure mark. In his 253-ball innings, McGrath smote one six and 14 boundaries.

McGrath apart, one down Ben Smith scored 31 while Will House clipped in with 18 runs.

The raw selection of BCB however rocked the visitors early reducing them to 58 for 3

bowler Ashfaq Ali, who finished with three for 69 off 24 overs, ably supported him.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first-day of the four-day match between Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven and MCC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Tuesday:

MCC First Innings  
Athey b Ashfaq 4  
Wood b Zahir 15  
Smith c Jashim b Zahir 31  
McGrath batting 131  
Nixon c Nadim b Zahir 11  
House b Shaheen 18  
Johnson b Ashfaq 16  
Patel b Zahir 5  
Yates lbw b Ashfaq 4  
Killen c Jashi b Aslam 6  
Side bottom batting 4  
Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-2, w-3) 14  
Total: (For 9 wks in 90 overs) 259  
Fall of wickets: 1-6: 2-4: 3-56: 4-70: 5-143: 6-170: 7-188: 8-197: 9-220.

Bowler O M R W  
Ashfaq 24 6 69 3  
Mahfuz 9 3 23 0  
Shaheen 11 3 26 1  
Zahir 23 6 72 4  
Aslam 16 2 40 1  
Salauddin 3 0 18 0  
Rezaul 4 2 2 0

## DHAKA METROPOLITAN ELEVEN:

Mahfuzur Rahman, Raju Parvez, Ashrique, Zahiruddin, Rezaul Karim, Nadim Ahmed, Jashimuddin, Shaheen Ahmed, Aslam Ali Khan, Salahuddin Ahmed and Ashfaq Ali.

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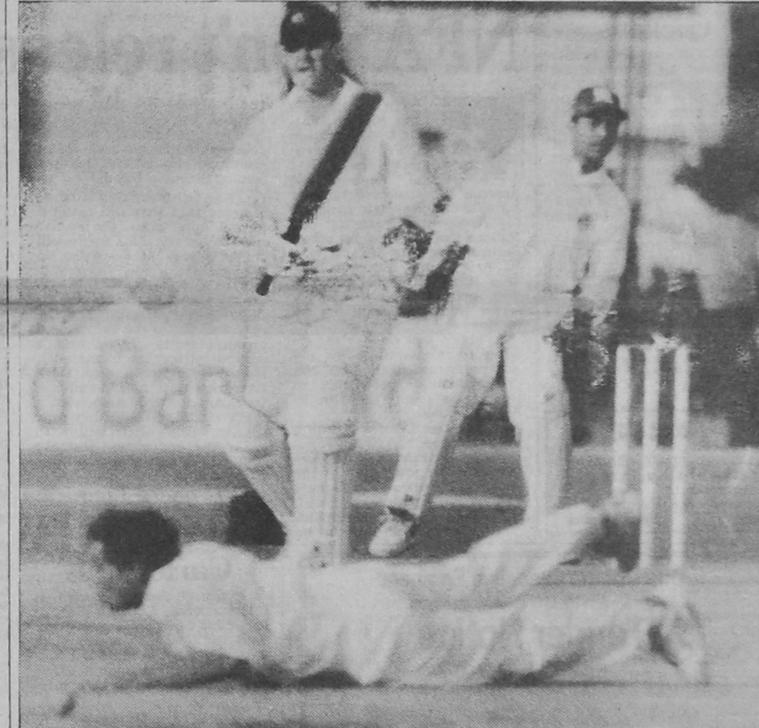
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MCC's centurion Anthony McGrath drives past a diving Dhaka Metropolitan XI bowler Aslam yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Australia, Pakistan lock horns today

# SCG may hold the key

Sports Reporter

SYDNEY, Jan 18: Australia and Pakistan could face a batting calamity when they clash in the tri-series on the rogue Sydney Cricket Ground pitch here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The SCG wicket, a spinners' paradise in the past few seasons, has transformed this year into a sizzling fast bowlers' haven, generating both bounce and seam movement.

If the outcome of the last two international matches played on this pitch is any indication, the batsmen have little hope of changing the trend in the day-night clash.

Australia swamped India in three days during the Test match earlier this month.

Then in the tri-series last Friday, Australia shot India out for 100 and were then themselves reduced to 59-5 before the modest target was overtaken.

With both Australia and Pakistan facing a famine of

done enough to merit another game.

With Abdur Razzaq also sealing his place with 51 against Australia on Sunday, Mahmood's fate will be known only before the toss.

## PROBABLE TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh

Pakistan: Wasim Akram (capt), Saeed Anwar, Wajahatullah Wasti, Abdur Razzaq, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamamul Haq, Yousof Youhana, Moin Khan, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar.

Waugh's men hold the edge after their six-wicket romp at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday, but the captain was not taking anything for granted.

"Pakistan have one of the best attacks in the game, so you have to go out there and put in your best," he said.

Pakistan, who have won two of their three matches, also find themselves in a dilemma over the inclusion of all-rounder Azhar Mahmood.

Mahmood missed the first two games with a hamstring injury and was kept out of the third because both Shoaib Akhtar and Waqar Younis had

## STANDINGS

Team M W L D Pts  
Australia 4 3 1 - 6  
Pakistan 3 2 1 - 4  
India 3 - 3 - 0

## Some solace for England

Sports Reporter

CENTURION. South Africa, Jan 18: Alec Stewart and Michael Vaughan set up a thrilling two-wicket victory for England in the fifth and final Test against South Africa at Centurion Park Tuesday, reports AFP.

England reached a victory target of 249 in 76 overs with five balls to spare. The veteran Stewart made 73 and Vaughan, in his first Test series, hit 69.

They shared a fifth wicket stand of 126 but South Africa then grabbed four wickets in four overs before the win was sealed when Darren Gough pulled Mornantam Hayward for four off the first ball of the last over.

It was a consolation victory for England, with South Africa winning the series 2-1.