COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-125

Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Compatition closes at 8 pm Jan 21; '99 and draw

shortly afterwards Who was the man-of-the-series in the Australia-Pakistan Tests? 2 Who was the highest wicket-taker

in the Australia-Pakistan Test Fleming McGrath How many Test hundreds has

Mark Waugh scored to date? Who became champions in the Keva Premier soccer?

Muktifoddha Mohammedan Arambagi Who lifted the Expatriates' Open

Name

Class Roll No. School Address

Phone: (If any)





Brett Lee

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

bowler.

Nat'l soccer league

Sponsorship for Dhaka trio Three business houses - Ni-

tol, Tata and Niloy Groups will sponsor jersey of the country's three leading clubs in the ensuing Nitol-Tata National Football League, reports UNB. football meet is likely to begin

at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium either on January 26 or February 1. Nitol Group will provide jer-

sey to the Federation Cup champions Abahani, Tata to league champions Mohammedan SC while Niloy to the Federation Cup runners-up Muktijoddha Sangsad 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 | touring MCC had arrived. As it during the league.

tion Harun-ur-Rashid MP stated this at a press briefin, at the Bangabandhu National Stadium conference room yes-

Chairman of the Nitol Group Abdul Matlub Ahmed, country manager of Tata Automobile in Bangladesh Dharmendra Thoria, League Committee secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu 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 -Star photo at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

BCB fields team from nowhere

Twelve let CWAB down

Sports Reporter

With the country's and Rezaul Karim (Young Cricketers) and Mohammad Lal national crick-(Khelaghar) some time later. eters refusing to surprisingly decided to serve play. Bangladesh the board's interest. Cricket Board

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 Lamatia BCB acting General Secre-

tary Mahmud Ul Haq Manu said that the board was going to issue show cause notices to the 31 cricketers who did not re-The show cause notice

would be served to them by tomorrow," said Manu yesterday Manu, however, did not elaborate what action the BCB

was going to take against those Meanwhile, a large section of the rebei cricketers, came to the Bangabandhu National Stadium vesterday and witnessed the four-day match for a

couple of hours. house enclosure and witnessed that he was pressured into playthe whole of the first session of

CWAB President Minhazul Abedin, General Secretary Faruque Ahmed, national

skipper Aminul Islam, were

present among the prominent cricketers.

Talking to the reporters, Farugue Ahmed said that they were still un-decided about their future course.

Replying to another query, Faruque revealed that all the 12 cricketers who were in the fourday squad 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 havent' 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 lirst. Then we may said our attention to the defaulters . . arugue 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 play-The players sat at the Club ers had apparently confessed ing 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.

Don't kill cricket: Forum

Cricketers' Forum, an association of former cricket play-On why he became a fast | ers of the country, rises to the on-going crisis between the organisers and players. Star Sport appreciates the association's anxiety over the ominous course of events. We hereby publish its statement in full for the knowledge of our readers and for the benefit of all parties concerned.

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 yes-

der the flag of their organisa-

tion Cricketers Welfare Associ-

ation of Bangladesh (CWAB),

boycotted the match on Monday

in protest of the date-shifting of

fers by the Cricket Committee

of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM).

was named Dhaka Metropoli-

tan Eleven, had all but one First

Division player. Paceman

Ashfaque Ali, who played for

Mohammedan Sporting Club

last season, was the lone player

cricketers, selected by the BCB.

appeared at the board office dur-

ing the scheduled 3pm reporting

time on Monday, eight of them-

-Mahfuzur Rahman (Uttara SC),

Jashimuddin (Eskaton SS). Salauhddin Ahmed (Orient SC).

Zahiruddin (Uttara SC), Sha-

heen Ahmed (Lalmatia), Ash-

faque Ali (Mohammedan SC)

Although, none of the 39

from the Premier Division.

The substitute team, which

the inter-club cricketers trans-

The national cricketers, un-

- Sports Editor

Cricket fans and former cricketers of the country are shocked and alarmed at the present state of affairs pre-The eight-team national vailing in the country's cricket

The recent stalemate arising out of the breakdown in communications between the CWAB (Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh) and the BCB (Bangladesh), as well as other affiliated bodies, has pushed cricket to the very edge of the cliff, from where it would be very difficult to recover lost ground. It is indeed shocking, that the authorities did not move positively enough in resolving the crisis before the is, cricket lovers of the country General secretary of had to watch the embarrassing Bangladesh Football Federa- | spectacle of a touring side playing a major four-day match with a hastily picked team of 'sub-standard' players, who are certainly not the best representatives of our talents.

While the authorities have been overly quick to find faults with the players, they have done little to monitor or check the activities and attitudes of some office-bearers of the BCB who seem to operate on personal whims and their own particular agenda.

The BCB must realise that the Dhaka League has traditionally been, for more than forty years or so, the focal point of our country's cricket. To attempt to start the league in February, when more than half the season has elapsed, tantamounts to negligence on the part of both BCB and the CCDM (Cricket Committee for Dhaka Metropolitan). A case in point has been the much vaunted recently concluded National League, which was hastily organised and, played for the most part on underprepared wickets. The three-day matches were played by cricketers who had not played competitive cricket of any consequence this season until the tournament began. To no one's surprise, except from the foreign players, and a few of the experienced members of the national team, there were no performances

The BCB's interest and intentions in organising international matches, such as the Asia Cup and the Asian XI vs World XI in Dhaka, without being able to organise its own domestic cricket, seem to be questionable, and at best misdi-

The CWAB had understandably taken a hardline decision. but the players seemed to have had been left with no choice. They had been given countless assurances, but obviously those were hollow at best. The results are quite obvious to all. This unfortunate state of affairs could have been resolved, had the authorities chosen to look at the bigger picture, rather

than petty considerations. 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 factfinding 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.

Some solace for England

SOUTH AFRICA: First in-

nings (overnight 155-6)

Kirsten c Adams b Gough

Gibbs c Adams b Caddick

Cultinan c and b Mullally

Kallis b Caddick

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 Mornantau Hayward for four off the first ball of the last

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

and final day of the fifth and

final Test between South Africa

and England at Centurion Park

Final scoreboard on the fifth

Cronje c Maddy b Gough Strydom c Stewart b Silverwood 30 Klusener not out Pollock run out (Hussain) Boucher b Mullally

CENTURION. Sou- on Tuesday:

th Africa, Jan 18:

Alec Stewart and

Michael Vaughan

set up a thrilling

Adams not out Extras: Total: (For 8 wkts in 72 overs dec) Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-15, 3-40, 4-55, 5-102, 6-136, 7-196, 8-

20 Gough Caddick 19 Mullally 24 10 Swood Vaughan Did not bat: M Hayward.

ENGLAND: First innings 0-0 SOUTH AFRICA: Second Vaughan innings forfeited ENGLAND: Second innings

Butcher lbw b Klusener Atherton e Boucher b Pollock Hussain c Gibbs b Pollock Stewart c Boucher b Hayward Adams c Boucher b Hayward Vaughan b Hayward Maddy run out (Kirsten/Boucher) Caddick c Boucher b Pollock Gough not out Silverwood not out

90, 4-102, 5-228, 6-236, 7-236. Bowler

Result: England won by 2 wickets.

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-67, 3-

53 Pollock 17.1 Hayward Klusener Cronje Strydom Did not bat: A Mullally.

Series: South Africa won 2-1 Man-of-the-match: Michael Man-of-the-series: Daryll

Total: (For 8 wkts in 71.1 overs) 251

Cullinan

diplomat Sports Reporter MCC skipper Min Patel

Patel plays

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 abso-

lutely an internal affair and

they have nothing to do with it. The shaven-headed Kent allrounder expressed his views to the press after the end of first day's play against Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Sta-

Stadium vesterday.

Eleven in a three-day match at

Faishahi on Friday, was batung on 131 when the stumps

the right-handed Yorkshire-

man put his head down to get

accustomed with paces of the

pitch first, but kept punishing

the lose ball at the same time

117 minutes and by playing 103

McGrath reached his fifty in

On a low and turning wicket,

were drawn for the day.

whenever it came by.

"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 latow as not our problem. It's cometime that Bangladesh Cricket Board must address the issue. We are just here to play and concentrate on our game. Hope the limited-over matches start, he added.

Nat'l Jr Chess

Sports Reporter Five players - Enamul Hossain Rajib, 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. Razib beat Golam Mostafa. Ejaz overcame Sabbir 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, Sadequl Haque Romance, Omar Farooq, Abdul Muttakin, Biswajit Mondal, Zainal Abedin. Shahjahan Ali, Mukitul 's lam. Arzu Mia, Jamaluddin, Md. Bashir and Sihaz Tanveer were in the crowded second spot with three points each after the

The fifth round will start at the same venue 'oday 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 Afsana Parveen Nira. Afroza Khanam Bably. Masuda Begum, Jahanara Haque Runu, Nazrana Khan Iva. Farzana Khan Ava, Mahmuda Haque Chowdhury Moly, Samiha Sharmin Simmi, Firoza Haque Chowdhury Popy. Hamida Mahmood, Saima Almas, Shamima Aktar, Afroza Haque Chowdhury Poly, Faria Zaman, Sabrina Shahrin Sarna, Firoza Begum and Afroza Khanam.

On the day, Nira beat Mahfuza, Bably beat Suravi, Masuda beat Ridi, Iva beat Fahtema, Ava beat Aliva, Runu beat Tamanna, Moly beat Shahana, Simmi beat Lackey, Popy beat Simu, Firoza 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 reining 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

Fatwa against chess

TEHRAN, Jan 18: Chess players in the central Iranian city of Kashan were aghast 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 Ali Hashemi-Tehrani was quoted as saying. The municipality, he com-

plained, "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 sev-

eral 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.

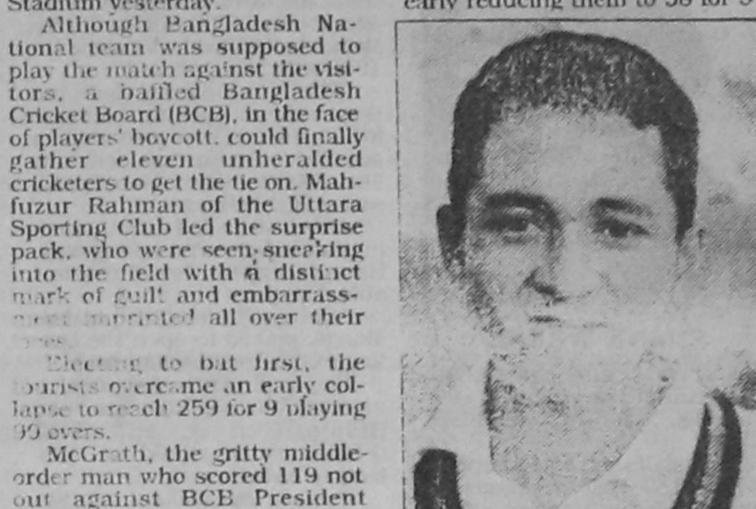
selves reduced to 59-5 before the Iran claims to have invented modest target was overtaken. chess and it has always been With both Australia and very popular in the country. Pakistan facing a famine of

McGrath hits another ton

Sports Reporter

balls. He took another 136 Anthony McGrath minutes to reach the magical scored his second three-figure mark. In his 253successive century ball innings, McGrath smote to take MCC to a one six and 14 boundaries. strong position

McGrath apart, one down against an inex-Ben Smith scored 31 while Will perienced Dhaka Metropolitan House chipped in with 18 runs. Eleven on the first day of the The raw selection of BCB four-day match at the Bangabandhu National however rocked the visitors early reducing them to 58 for 3



ZAHIR ... 4/72

at lunch. MCC however made a good recovery in the second session adding 113 runs at the expense of three more wickets.

For locals, leg-spinner Zahiruddin was the most successful bowler with four wickets for 72 runs off 23 overs. New-ball

bowler Ashfaque 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

MCC First innings Athey b Ashfaq Wood b Zahir Smith c Jashim b Zahir McGrath batting Nixon c Nadim b Zahir House b Shaheen Johnson b Ashfaq Patel b Zahir Yates Ibw b Ashfaq Side bottom batting Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-2, w-3)

Tuesday:

Aslam

Total: (For 9 wkts in 90 overs) 259 Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-4; 3-56; 4-70; 5-143; 3-170; 7-188; 8-197: 9-220 Bowler Ashfaq Mahfuz Shaheen Zahir

Salauddin DHAKA METROPOLITAN ELEVEN: Mahfuzur Rahman, Raju Parvez, Ashrique, Zahiruddin, Rezaul Karim, Nadim Ahmed, Jashimuddin, Shaheen Ahmed, Aslam Ali Khan, Salauddin Ahmed and Ashfaque Ali.

Umpires: Mahbubur Rahman, John Hampshire.



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

Australia, Pakistan lock horns today

SCG may hold the key

runs from the top order, a low

scoring game is again on the

tralia's top scorer with 37 in

their SCG clash against India.

Adam Gilchrist was Aus-

Pakistan's best in the three

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'

STEVE WAUGH

paradise in the past few sea-

sons, has transformed this year

into a sizzling fast bowlers'

haven, generating both bounce

international matches played

on this pitch is any indication,

the batsmen have little hope of

changing the trend in the day-

Australia swamped India in

Then in the tri-series last

three days during the Test

Friday, Australia shot India out

for 100 and were then them-

match earlier this month.

If the outcome of the last two

and seam movement.

night clash.

SYDNEY, Jan 18:

Australia and Pa-

kistan could face

matches so far has been Yousuf Youhanna's 63 against the Indians at Brisbane. "The batting is a bit of a worry," Pakistani captain Wasim Akram admitted. "If the SCG wicket plays the same way it has done in the last two games, the bowlers will be on top again. "But we have the team to deal with all situations," he said.

cards.

Waugh indicated the wicket was unlikely to change it's character so soon. "It's done a lot for the seamers and fast bowlers, there is little to suggest it will be any dif-

Australian captain Steve

ferent here," Waugh said. Australia, with three successive victories from four matches, are almost certain to qualify for the finals if they win again on Wednesday.

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 in-

jury and was kept out of the

third because both Shoaib

Akhtar and Waqar Younis had

done enough to merit another

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



WASIM AKRAM

(capt). Adam Gilchrist, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Damien Martyn, Michael Bevan, Shane Lee, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Ian

Harvey PAKISTAN: Wasim Akram (capt), Saeed Anwar, Wajahautullah Wasti. Abdur Razzaq. Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamamul Haq. Yousuf Youhana, Moin Khan. Saglain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar.

STANDINGS

Team Australia 4 Pakistan 3 2

D Pts India