

# Star Sport

DHAKA TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-128

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Feb 4, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

1. How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?

One Two Three

2. Who won the last ever European Cup Winners Cup soccer?

Lazio Barcelona Man United

3. Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?

Klausner S Waugh David

4. Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?

Athens Seville Toronto

5. Who lifted the National Cricket League title?

Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name .....

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

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED BY EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

JENNIFER CAPRIATI

(American tennis player)

"I think I'm just a lot stronger mentally."

After reaching the quarter-finals at the Australian Open on Sunday.

RAJSHAHI CRICKET

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 24: Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Club beat Friends Club by 41 runs in the Shaheed Zia Smriti tournament played at the Rajshahi Government College ground today.

The winners made 162 for seven in stipulated 25 overs after winning the toss. Pappa 50 was the top scorer. Russell followed him with 38.

In reply, Friends Club were all out for 121 in 19.5 overs.

Diganta Prasari Sangha defeated Alam Ekadashi by seven wickets in other match of the day.

Meanwhile, Sun Rise Sporting Club defeated Nari Nagar Cricket Club by 29 runs in the Rajshahi First Division Cricket League at the Rajshahi Stadium today.

The winners made 109 in 23.4 overs after winning the toss. Rumeel 29 was the top scorer for the winners.

In reply, Nari Nagar were bundled out for 80 in 18.1 overs.

SCHMEICHEL-LESS MU DOESN'T IMPRESS WENGER

LONDON, Jan 24 Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger claimed on Saturday that the reigning champions are not such a great team without goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel who left for Sporting Lisbon in the summer on a free transfer, reports AFP.

Wenger believes United have failed to fill the huge gap left by their Danish goalkeeper.

"Peter Schmeichel played an important part. He had a kind of charisma and was a winner," Wenger told The Sun newspaper.

"Maybe Mark Bosnich will do the same this season but I feel Schmeichel had the kind of belief and aggression that makes winners. They have struggled to replace him."

Schmeichel was a thorn in the Gunners' side last season, saving a Dennis Bergkamp penalty as United beat the London side in classic FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park.

Wenger added: "I'm not saying they don't have a great keeper now, but last year Peter Schmeichel was involved in important moments, especially in crucial games, and that was an important part of their success."



PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES: Workers and groundstaff smartening up the Bangabandhu Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## Three-day match starts today

# MCC versus Bangladesh

Sports Reporter



Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) get the chance of testing the strength of Bangladesh for the first time on their tour when they take on the hosts in a three-day match, starting at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

Weather permitting, the First Class match kicks off at 9:30 am with both the state-run electronic media—Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar—providing live coverage from the big bowl.

This would be their fourth match since they arrived in Dhaka on January 10 on a three-week tour. The first two matches—a three-day affair against BCB President's Eleven in Rajshahi and a four-day encounter against Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last week—ended in dull draws. The visitors got a big boost before their important match against the national team when they beat BCB Eleven by six wickets in a limited-over match at the Jessore Stadium on Sunday.

The four-day match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last week was supposed to be held between Bangladesh national team and the visitors. But because of the cricketers' boycott, BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) was forced to field an inexperienced side under the banner of Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven.

Thanks to the intervention of Board president Saber Hossain

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Chowdhury, the agitating players withdrew their boycott on Saturday and went to play in the one-dayer in Jessore.

With the crisis now over, leading cricketers are hoped to make the matches against the tourists more interesting. This three-day match however holds extra significance as far as Bangladesh's Test bid is concerned. It has been particularly organised to enable the visiting ICC (International Cricket Council) inspectors have a close look at Bangladesh's playing standard.

The team comprising three former Test players—Nasimul Ghani of Pakistan, Andy Pycroft of Zimbabwe and Graham Dowling of New Zealand, was supposed to see the national team in action in the last week's four-day, but failed to do so because of players' strike. Having the inspection on cricketing facilities done, Pycroft however left for Harare in Saturday night.

The Board had to cancel two scheduled limited-over matches in Chittagong and Dhaka to organise the match for the ICC fact-finders.

Meanwhile, national skipper Aminul Islam, who led the BCB Eleven to the crushing six-wicket defeat in Jessore, appeared adamant to stage a turnaround against the combination of English county cricketers.

"We had a little bit of co-ordination problems in Jessore as I had four young boys in the side but now I've got my full strength back. I am looking forward to winning this match," said Aminul after having a three-hour long net at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in the morning yesterday.

He however admitted that much was depending on his bowlers to do well in the match. "The bowlers have to give their best as we need to bowl them out twice in three days," he added.

His batting line-up meanwhile seems to be a bit weaker in absence of in-form middle-order batsman Akram Khan. The former national captain is now attending his ailing elder brother in Chittagong.

Opener Mehrib Hossain,

overlooked by the selectors in the 14-man squad, has been called up in place of Akram. Aminul revealed. He, however, refused to name the playing eleven saying that it would be decided after inspecting the pitch in the morning.

MCC skipper min Patel on the other hand looked pretty confident yesterday.

Talking to the reporters at his hotel lobby last evening, the Kent all-rounder said that his team wanted to remain on the winning way that started in Jessore.

MCC are to make one change in the squad that played in Jessore, said Patel. Opener Bill Athey will be replaced by former Australian Test all-rounder Tony Dodemaide.

Bangladesh umpire Nadir Shah and English umpire John Hampshire will officiate the match.

## TEAMS

**Bangladesh:** Aminul Islam (captain), Khaled Masood, Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain, Mehrib Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud (wicketkeeper), Enamul Hoque.



MIN PATEL

Hasibul Hossain, Monjurul Islam, Fahim Muntasir and Shaifuddin Ahmed.

**MCC:** Min Patel (captain), Paul Nixon, Bill Athey, Matthew Wood, Will House, Ben Smith, Anthony McGrath, Richard Johnson, Ryan Sidebottom, Gary Yates, Mark Boccock, Neil Killeen, Barry Hyam and Tony Dodemaide.

## World Youth C'ship SL reach final

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Jan 24: Sri Lankan paceman Prabath Nissanka bowled a telling final over against Pakistan to clinch a 10-run victory that put his team in the under-19 cricket World championship final today, reports Reuters.

Pakistan, chasing Sri Lanka's 219 all out in 49.1 overs, were dismissed for 209 in exactly 50 overs in the first semifinal.

Pakistan needed 15 runs in the last over to win but Nissanka conceded only four runs off his first five deliveries. He then bowled Zahid Saeed with the last ball of the match to take Sri Lanka into Friday's final where they will play India or Australia, who contest the second semifinal in Colombo on Tuesday.

Sri Lanka's innings was lifted by Ian Daniels with a fine 58 which included seven fours. Pakistan lost two early wickets but were steadied as Faisal Iqbal scored 53 off 72 balls, hitting one six and five fours.

## BRIEFScores

Sri Lanka 219 in 49.1 overs (Ian Daniels 58, M Pushpakumara 47, Irfan Fazil 2-28)

Pakistan 209 in 50 overs (Faisal Iqbal 53, Hassan Raza 44)

## BFF donation for Munna

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) will donate five lakh taka to former national skipper Monem Munna who needs an immediate kidney transplant.

This was decided by BFF in its meeting last night. A charity football match between Dhaka giants Mohammedan SC and Abahani Krira Chakra will also be played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 1.

The BFF however, failed to announce a date for the opening match of the inaugural National Football League.

Talking to The Daily Star, BFF joint-secretary and league committee secretary Sirajul Islam Boshu said that BFF members would meet again tomorrow evening.

## Masuda tops the table

Sports Reporter

Masuda Begum, Nazrana Khan, Eva, Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira, Jahan Ara Haque Runu and sisters Firoza Haque Chowdhury and Afroza Haque Chowdhury qualified for the final round of the 21st National Women's Chess Championship on completion of their seven-round Swiss League at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Masuda topped the list with six points while Eva and Nira collected five and a half points respectively. The other three finished with equal five points.

The six players will now join defending champion International Women Master Rani Hamid, last year's runner-up Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa and Tanima Parveen and Zakia Sultana in the final round which starts in the city from January 27.

## 15th BAGC begins tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The 15th annual Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship begins tomorrow at the Kurmitola Golf Club course.

The prestigious four-day competition which often attracts a good participation will include some lady players from Malaysia.

Golfers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal are also expected to take part.

## Chess course

Sports Reporter

A five-day chess coaching course for women organised by Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) begins today at the NSC chess room.

Participants have been asked to report at the BCF by 2 pm.

# India's do-or-die clash



ADELAIDE, Jan 24: Sachin Tendulkar's beleaguered India play four one-dayers in the next six days from Tuesday in a last-ditch attempt to salvage the dismal Australian tour, reports AFP.

The Indians have lived up to

their reputation as the worst tourists in world cricket — they have won just one Test abroad since 1986 — by losing all three Tests and the first four games of the limited-overs tri-series.

They must not only beat Pakistan and Australia in back-to-back matches here on Tuesday and Wednesday, but repeat the sequence on the fast Perth wicket later in the week to qualify for next month's finals.

World champions Australia have ensured their place in the finals with 10 points from six games. Pakistan, with six points, need one win in to joint the hosts in the play-offs.

Tendulkar, frustrated at his team's inept display so far, was under no illusion about the gravity of the task at hand.

Jadeja, a former vice-cap-

"It's going to be very, very difficult to play — and win — four matches in six days," he said.

"But it's a situation we have created ourselves, and now it's our job to get out of it."

Pakistan, whose loss to Australia in Melbourne on Sunday resurrected India's slim hopes, are in no mood to show their arch-rivals any mercy.

"We may be better placed than the Indians, but that does not mean we will be taking it easy," Pakistani captain Wasim Akram said.

"An India-Pakistan match is always special for players from both sides. We are determined to win here."

A win for Pakistan on Tuesday night will knock India out of the series and make the last three matches meaningless.

The Indians have more than just a place in the finals at stake. The team's failure in Australia could see heads roll in the upcoming home series against South Africa.

Apart from the big three in batting — Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly — and bowlers Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad, the rest have contributed little.

Venkat Laxman, a last-minute inclusion for the one-dayers after a brilliant century in the final Test, has managed just 20 runs in four innings.

Jacob Martin (0 and 16), Devang Gandhi (six) and Hrishikesh Kanitkar (zero) have not convinced critics they are better batsmen than the experienced duo of Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja, who were left behind at home.

Azharuddin, who has played more one-dayers (323) than anyone else in the world, was reportedly not wanted by both coach Kapil Dev and Tendulkar.

Jadeja, a former vice-cap-

tain, was not considered after a shoulder injury, although the South African doctor who treated him passed him fit for the tri-series.

"I am surprised Jadeja is playing domestic cricket when he should have been here," Kapil said.

Injury-prone seamer Ajit

Agarkar let the tourists down again by straining a hamstring which kept him out of the last two matches, and will also not be fit for the double-header here.

"He may be fit for Perth, but it may be too late by then," said Kapil, whose request to fly in an extra seamer was turned down by the Indian board.

Meanwhile, two of the three spinners selected, Nikhil Chopra and Sunil Joshi, find themselves cooling their heels on wickets not suited for the slow bowlers.

"It's not been a good tour," Kapil admitted. "We will not improve till we forget the turning wickets at home and play our domestic cricket on green tops."

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