

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-126

✓ 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?

Kluisener S Waugh Dravid

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

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former Indian cricket captain)

"I still have a few years of cricket left in me. I am motivated to come back and just make a few people realise that I am not finished as a cricketer."

Trinidadians' salary put on hold

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Feb 2: Trinidad and Tobago's cricket board is refusing to pay the national cricket team until it explains its poor performance in an ongoing regional tournament, a local newspaper reported Tuesday, reports AP.

Cricketer board chief executive Alloy Leqay told The Trinidad Guardian newspaper that he has put the players' paychecks on hold until team manager Bryan Davis, gives an official explanation for the team's "disgraceful" performance in the Bupa Cup tournament in Jamaica. He called the team's play against Jamaica "pathetic".

Trinidad lost their scheduled four-day match against Jamaica on Sunday after just two days of play, leaving themselves out of the semifinals. The team will play its final match in the series against Barbados starting Thursday.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 2: Jubo Cricket School moved into final in the Shaheed Zia Smriti tournament played at the Rajshahi Government College ground today.

The winners beat Al Rashid Club by 19 runs in the first semifinal. Winning the toss, Jubo Cricket batted first and scored 139 in stipulated 30 overs losing all wickets. Arshad (34) was the top scorer for the winners.

In reply, Al Rashid all out for 120 in 28.3 overs. Khaled (59) was the top scorer. Meanwhile, Rahanpur Friend Society emerged champions in the Russel Smriti Cricket tournament at Gomaschapur School ground. Friend beat Sonthapur Pritilota Ekdosh by two wickets. Winning the toss Priti batted first and made 127 for nine in 30 overs.

In reply, Friend reached the target losing 6 wickets.

Saber caved in secretly!



Numbers of local cricketers are destined to stay out of the Premier League action as the BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) president has reportedly given his consent to increase the quota of foreign players this season.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury is learnt to have given his verbal approval to the CDDM (Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan) to end the crisis between the hosts of colourful Dhaka cricket and the CWAB (Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh) last month. Foreign players' quota played a key role in the BCB boss' latest cricket diplomacy. By allowing three foreign players (two players were allowed in the previous year) to play in the Premier League Saber successfully lured the CDDM men to back out of their war against the cricketers. In return, the CDDM withdrew their proposed ban on seven leading cricketers including national captain Annuul Islam at the end of last month.

But the alleged approval of Saber kicked up yet another controversy in the cricket arena for the last few days. The Board did not make the decision public yet, letting the confusion grow further. But it was a common knowledge shared by the representatives of Dhaka clubs and the Board, but not by the cricketers.

Some CDDM men privately confessed that a deal did exist. "I can not show it now, but I have seen a letter of the president few days back that approved raising of foreign players' quota this year," said a CDDM official, seeking anonymity.

When contacted, Tanvir Haider, chairman of the CDDM, said that he did not see the letter yet. "But it should be lying with Mahmud Ul Haq (the secretary of the CDDM)," Mahmud



SABER HOSSAIN

such decision. Whatever we know we learnt it from newspapers," said national vice-captain Khaled Mahmud yesterday. As the BCB president, Saber does have the authority to take any important decisions on his own. But what shocked all was that it was done very secretly. Until today, cricketers are expecting that the Board would make a decision before the transfer starts. The transfer is scheduled to start on February 5.

CDDM's decision to promote foreign players caused a widespread criticism among the cricket-lovers as well as the cricketers of the country. The previous year 24 local players were deprived of playing the Premier League. Now that the foreign quota has been increased, 12 more local players would be deprived of playing in the Premier League, Am'ul said to the Daily Star.

"I might not be affected by the decision. But I'm really feeling sorry for those 36 players," he said.

Even the clubs were also distinctly down on the decision. "I do not support even the idea of playing two foreign players. I had vowed to reduce it to one. Unfortunately, I was not present in the last CDDM meeting. Had I been there I would have strongly opposed it," said Jalal Younus, the cricket secretary of Abahani Limited.

"If you field three foreign players it means the trio will play most of the 50 overs depriving our local players," Jalal said.

Wanderers win a thriller

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Wanderers Club: 209 all out in 49.5 overs | Chayon 43, Tapon 39, Nehal 27, Jewel 2/31, Rezwan 2/45

Jatrabari KC: 202 all out in 49.5 overs | Jashimuddin 54, Rezwan 42, Mustaqe 37, Bipul 24, Topu 4/41, Ripon 3/37

Result: Dhaka Wanderers Club won by 7 runs.

Dhaka Wanderers Club recorded their fourth win in the First Division Cricket League with an exciting 7-run victory over Jatrabari Krishna Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Opting to bat first, Wanderers scored 209 before they were all out in 49.5 overs.

Middle orders Chayon and Tapon scored 43 and 39 for Wanderers.

In reply, Jatrabari were all out for 202 also in 49.5 overs with Jashimuddin hammering highest 54. Rezwan, with 42, was the other notable Jatrabari scorer.

Topu was the most successful Wanderers bowler. He took four wickets for 41 runs while Ripon captured three for 37.

Asif leaves Dhaka

Sports Reporter

International Cricket Council (ICC) official Asif Iqbal, who arrived in the city on Tuesday to work out the details of a day-night exhibition match between Asia and the Rest of the World, left the capital for Lahore last night.

The match, which will be organised as a part of the International Cricket Week celebrations, is scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on April 8.

During his two-day visit, Asif, the former Pakistan captain, had discussions with State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury on Tuesday.

Asif also had a meeting with BCB officials yesterday before leaving the capital. A coordinator of ICC Isabella Wood accompanied Asif during the trip.

Charity match for Munna in doubt

Sports Reporter

The charity football match for ailing former national footballer Monem Munna, scheduled to be held tomorrow at the Bangabandhu National Stadium under the auspices of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), may not take place apparently for lack of coordination among the federation officials.

"I don't know when this match will be held because nothing has been finalised yet," said a visibly disgusted BFF general secretary Harunur Rashid MP last night.

Badal Roy is the man nominated to organise the match with the help of Abahani Director Ashraffuddin Ahmed Chunnu and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) joint-secretary Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul. But Badal is out of town and no efforts have been made for holding the game," Harun said adding that both Abahani and Mohammedan were ready to play the match.

"It may be mentioned that Munna, the former national skipper, left for Bangalore, India last week for kidney transplantation.

Lancer golf tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The day-long Lancer Millennium Cup golf tournament 2000 will be held at the Kurmitola Golf Club tomorrow.

The event will tee-off at 6:30am while the prize giving ceremony will be held at 7pm at the pool side.

McGrath massacres Pakistan



MELBOURNE, Feb 2 (AP/Reuters): Australia, led by early assault bowling of Glenn McGrath, scored a comfortable six-wicket victory over Pakistan in Wednesday's opening match in the best-of-three limited-overs cricket series finals.

The home side passed Pakistan's total of 154 with six wickets in hand and 7.2 overs to spare.

Mark Waugh went cheaply but half centuries by Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan ensured Australia were never in danger of defeat.

The home side now have the chance to wrap up the tri-series in Friday's second final in Sydney, with the third final also to be played at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday if required.

Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan, who clubbed 47 off 48 balls, provided the only resistance to the Australian bowlers.

delivery, could not get his gloves out of the way giving Gilchrist a regulation chance. McGrath, who won Australian cricket's highest individual award by 10 votes from skipper Steve Waugh on Monday night, did even more damage in his second over when he took two wickets.

The first was Ijaz Ahmed who edged straight to Shane Warne at first slip while Inzamam-ul-Haq's difficult series continued when he fell second ball, shuffling across his crease to be trapped lbw.

All three batsmen had failed to score and Waugh soon employed three slips.

While the rate of wickets inevitably slowed, the Pakistan run rate barely lifted thanks to some tight bowling in the middle overs from Warne and Shane Lee.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening match of the best-of-three tri-series finals between Australia and Pakistan on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN

Anwar c Warne b Lee	7
Afridi c Gilchrist b McGrath	0
Ijaz c Warne b McGrath	0
Inzamam lbw b McGrath	0
Youhana lbw b Lee	24
Razaq c S Waugh b Lee	24
Mahmood c S Waugh b Bevan	16
Moin c Martyn b Warne	47
Akram b Symonds	15
Saqain c Gilchrist b Lee	6
Akhtar not out	3
Extras: (lb-2, w-9, nb-1)	12
Total: (All out in 47.2 overs)	154
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-4; 3-4; 4-12; 5-28; 6-59; 7-78; 8-108; 9-147	

AUSTRALIA

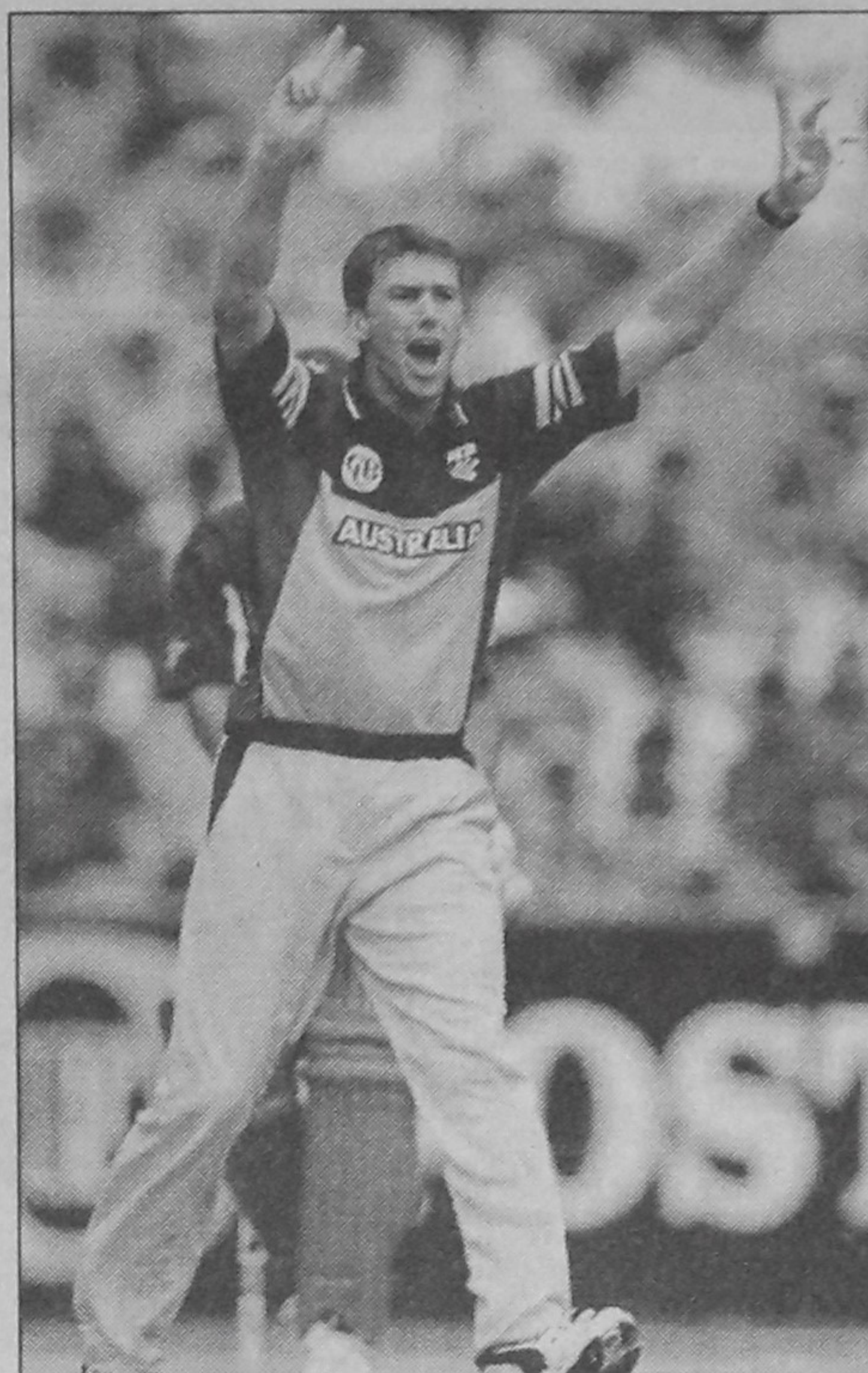
Gilchrist c Mahmood b Shoaib	9
M Waugh lbw b Shoaib	10
Ponting c Razaq b Afridi	50
Bevan c Razaq b Saqlain	54
S Waugh not out	19
Martyn not out	4
Extras: (lb-4, nb-5)	9
Total: (For four wickets in 42.4 overs)	155
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-27; 3-104; 4-147	

Result: Australia won by six wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Glenn McGrath

Second final at Sydney on Friday.

The third, if required, also at Sydney on Sunday.



Man-of-the-match Glenn McGrath of Australia successfully appeals for a leg before wicket decision against Inzamam-ul-Haq during the first final of the Carlton and United tri-series at Melbourne yesterday.

— AFP photo

The win was set up by a superb spell of bowling by McGrath, who took three wickets in his first two overs to ensure Pakistan were never going to score a big total.

McGrath finished with 3-17 while Brett Lee took 3-18 as the tourists were bowled out in the 48th over.

The Australian reply began badly when Adam Gilchrist and

The dismal total exceeded Pakistan's lowest total against Australia of 132 in last year's World Cup final but was not enough on a flat wicket.

The rout began on just the fifth ball of the day when a superb off-cutter from McGrath lifted alarmingly off a good length.

Pakistan opener Shahid Afridi, who was facing his first

'Give us time to settle down'



CHENNAI, Feb 2: Sachin Tendulkar, the worst ever performance by an Indian cricket team on tours abroad, skipper Sachin Tendulkar and coach Kapil Dev yesterday advocated the need to persist with the team that toured Australia and give them more time to settle down, reports PTI.

Speaking to newsmen at the Radisson Hotel after the team's arrival here from Australia yesterday afternoon, Tendulkar said the youngsters were inexperienced when they got into the side. They could only shine after that and had to be given more time.

On the team's performance down under, Kapil said the Indians had been outplayed in the

"Test-series." If people feel that captaincy affects my own batting and I am under pressure, I really cannot help it."

Tendulkar felt unhappy over certain umpiring decisions and hoped it did not recur. "I am disappointed. When you are declared out by an umpire, you have to walk out and that is the way the game is played. Under the circumstance, I take them in a sporting way and nothing much I could do on these."

Thanking Indian supporters, he said the team was proud of representing the country and nobody liked to lose a game. "We really appreciate their support, even during hard times. That is going to give us strength to get into winning ways."

On preparation of sporting wickets in India, Tendulkar said, "We need to improve domestic cricket, so that players who graduate to higher levels are not surprised by the kind of cricket they need to play abroad. These wickets would only improve the standard of Indian cricket," adding that youngsters would have to face fast bowlers abroad 90 per cent of the time.

Substantiating Tendulkar's view on the team composition for the future, Kapil said, "We have been given a team by the selectors and we did not have enough time to plan for the Australian tour as we left for down under soon after the completion of the New Zealand tour."

Stating that a strong team could not be built overnight, he said one had to plan better for the future. He had learnt many things on the Australian tour, going there after a nine-year gap. "It will take a lot of time for me. Sachin and the physio to make the team a winning one." Everybody has a role to play in making a team a winning one," he added.

Reiterating his stand to give more time for youngsters to blossom, Kapil opined that scheduling a tour was a matter between the respective boards. The itinerary for the South African tour was decided well before Lee was chosen as coach.

On the short time available for preparing the team against South Africa, he said, "It is difficult for players to jump from one series to another. We would be happy if more time is available, but the decision is not in my hands."

He was cautious when referring to individual performances of players in the Australian tour and repeatedly harped on

confidentiality. "We did not play well and out (his own, Sachin's and manager's) report would narrate in detail, all the factors of our tour."

Asked about his experience on his first tour abroad as the coach, Kapil said he had faced difficulties. "It mounts when you do not win matches, which makes things harder."

Expressing happiness over the cooperation extended by all the players, he said the team's strength could easily be gauged when one saw the opposition perform well.

He said he would try to bridge the performance gap between different players, for which a lot of planning was necessary.

"I call a spade. I will not hide my feelings to pull up a player who is not performing."

Asked if he had recovered from the knee problem after an operation, Kapil said, "My knee problem is personal. I want the team to have strong knees."

While team members left from here for their homes, five Karnataka players — Rahul David, Jagavajal Sriniath, Venkatesh Prasad, Anil Kumbale, and Sunil Joshi — stayed back in the aircraft, which later left for Bangalore.

Kapil was cryptical when asked if the team missed Ajay Jadeja and Mohammad Azharuddin. "I missed Sunil Gavaskar. I can only deal with the squad that has been given to me by the management. Definitely, we missed the players who have gone to Australia in the past."

On his comments about Azharuddin that he was "unpopular with the teammates", Kapil said, "I do not think it is more important than Indian cricket."

Locals vocal against foreigners



Former captains of Bangladesh cricket team and current national players yesterday expressed deep concern at the increase of foreign players' quota in the domestic league, reports BSS.

They said the standard of Bangladesh cricket — which they said was stepping up gradually — would decline as a result of it.

They accused the concerned quarters, who are in favour of more foreign players in domestic cricket, of working with a ploy of conspiracy to destroy the growing standard of cricket, when the country is awaiting long cherished Test status.

Div II cricket

Kakrail Boys Club outplayed Udayachal Parishad by seven wickets in the Metropolitan Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Udayachal Parishad batted first to bundle out for 63 runs in 12 overs.

In reply, Kakrail Boys made their winning score 64 for the loss of three wickets in 10.4 overs.

Daryll, Makhaya disciplined

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 2: South Africa Test players Daryll Cullinan and Makhaya Ntini were handed suspended sentences on Tuesday following a verbal confrontation in the final of the Supersport Series, reports Reuters.

Gauteng batsman Cullinan was suspended for two matches while Border fast bowler Ntini was banned for one match. Both sentences were suspended until the end of the 2000-2001 season.

The incident took place on the final day of the match on Monday.

"Vested quarters are working behind it and the policy-makers should look into it," most of the past captains of Bangladesh cricket team told the news agency separately.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) approved a recommendation of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) that each club can register a maximum of five foreign players for the domestic Premier Division league this year. Of the five players, three can be fielded in a match.

Last year the clubs were allowed to register four foreign players and of them two were eligible to play in a match.

Former captain Gazi Ashraf

in that case the clubs would be looking for quality foreign players, from whom our local cricketers could be benefited."

Ashraf's successor Minhazul Abedin said, "Once we needed foreign players to improve ourselves but right now we are at the stage where we need one or two quality foreign players — not more than that."

"The increase of foreign players in the domestic cricket is nothing but a ploy to destroy the future of our cricket, tarnish the image of our cricket and the cricketers," he said.

Akram Khan, before leaving Dhaka for Calcutta, said, "It is not at all a wise decision for the future of our cricket. The Board should reconsider the decision immediately."

Amnuul Islam, who led Bangladesh in their first ever World Cup in England last year, criticised the decision and said, "It is just against the interest of Bangladesh cricket. The board still can revise the decision in the greater interest of country's cricket."

Former national cricketer Jalal Younus, current players including Naimur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman and Khaled Mashud also criticised the decision and requested the Board to revise it.

The Premier Cricket League starts in the third week of this month.

Bangladesh squad For Davis Cup qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) yesterday named a five-member squad to take part in the Group Three qualifiers of the Davis Cup Oceania Zone to be held in Sri Lanka from February 7 to 13.

The team will fly to Colombo tomorrow. Eight teams — Bangladesh, Qatar, Kuwait, Pacific Oceania, Sri Lanka, Syria, Singapore and Tajikistan — will take part in the week-long meet which will be played on clay courts.

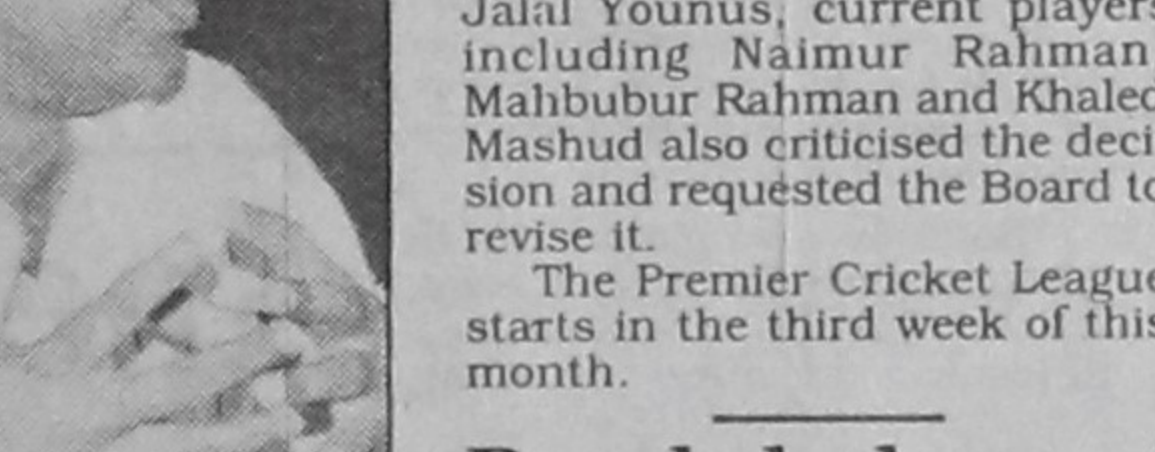
The following tennis players will represent Bangladesh in the Davis Cup qualifiers: Samiur Razzak (captain), Dilip Passia, AH Taswar, SKM Waliullah and Nadeem Kamran Khan.

GAZI ASHRAF HOSSAIN Hossain sharply criticised the decision and said, "We need foreign players of certain level to help improve our standard, but that should not happen at the cost of our local players."

"The increase of one more player means 12 local players of 12 clubs can't play and that they will have to watch matches from sidelines like spectators."

"The players who will sit out will definitely lose their concentration, perfection, approach and it will have a bad impact on our cricket," Gazi Ashraf said.

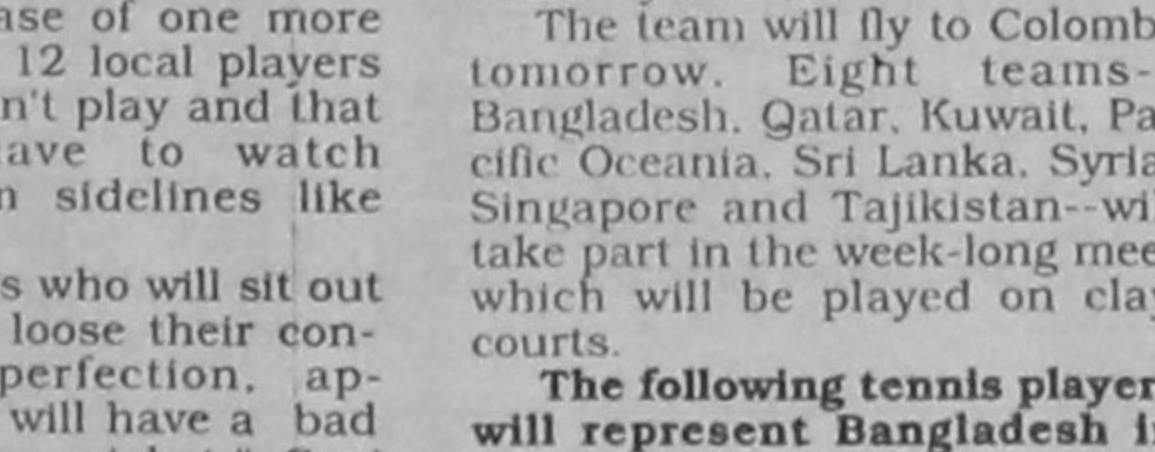
He further said, "If one or two foreign players are allowed,



The Bangladesh Davis Cuppers.



The Bangladesh Davis Cuppers.



The Bangladesh Davis Cuppers.



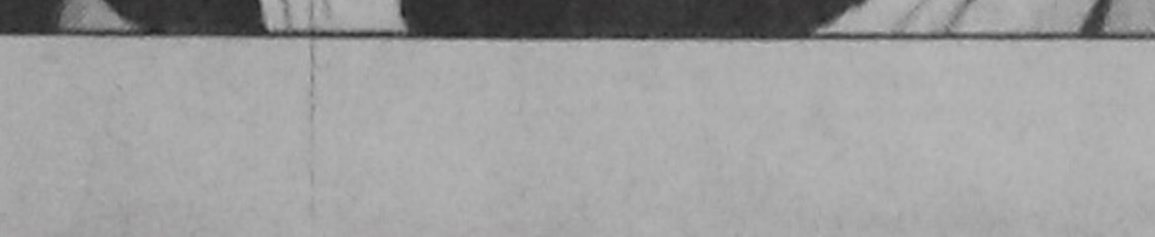
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