

## 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 12 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?

Rhysen 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 ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

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### NOTICE

Due to unavoidable reasons draw of the WHIZZ KID Competition-126 could not be held last night. It will now take place on February 11. Besides, participants have been requested to send their entries to Daily Star's new office at 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. — Sport Editor

### SPORTS TALK



#### Ronaldo

(Brazilian soccer star)  
"I accepted this important appointment in my life because I have seen poverty firsthand. I know what it is to experience hardship, and unfortunately hardship is the common lot in many countries."

Speaking after becoming a United Nations goodwill ambassador.

### Cricketers transfers start today

Sports Reporter

The three-day long inter-club cricketers transfer for the forthcoming Premier Division cricket league begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today. The 12-team Premier League is scheduled to start in the capital from February 17.

The transfer will be held between 5 to 7 pm on the first two days. On the last day, the programme will continue upto 8 pm.

### B'baria cricket

From Our Correspondent  
BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 4: Kazipara Cricket Club (Green) defeated Baganbari Cricket Club (Green) by six wickets in the Bangladesh Gas Field Company Limited (BGFCL) Gold Cup cricket league at the Niaz Muhammad Stadium today.

Winning the toss, Baganbari batted first and collected 143 in 33 overs being all out. Murshed was the top scorer by collecting 22 runs from 22 balls.

In reply, Kazipara reached to their target of 144 runs in 31.4 overs losing four wickets. Shohel was the top scorer by collecting 50 runs from 56 balls.

Shohel was declared man-of-the-match.



Tanima Parveen makes a move against Shabana Parveen in the seventh round of the 21st national women's chess championship at NSC yesterday. — Star photo

## Lillee rallies for umpires



PERTH, Feb 4: Umpires must be given back the power to call bowlers for throwing, legendary Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee argued today.

In a strong attack on the International Cricket Council (ICC) for reinstating Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar, Lillee said umpires should have the authority to no ball bowlers they are convinced are delivering the ball illegally.

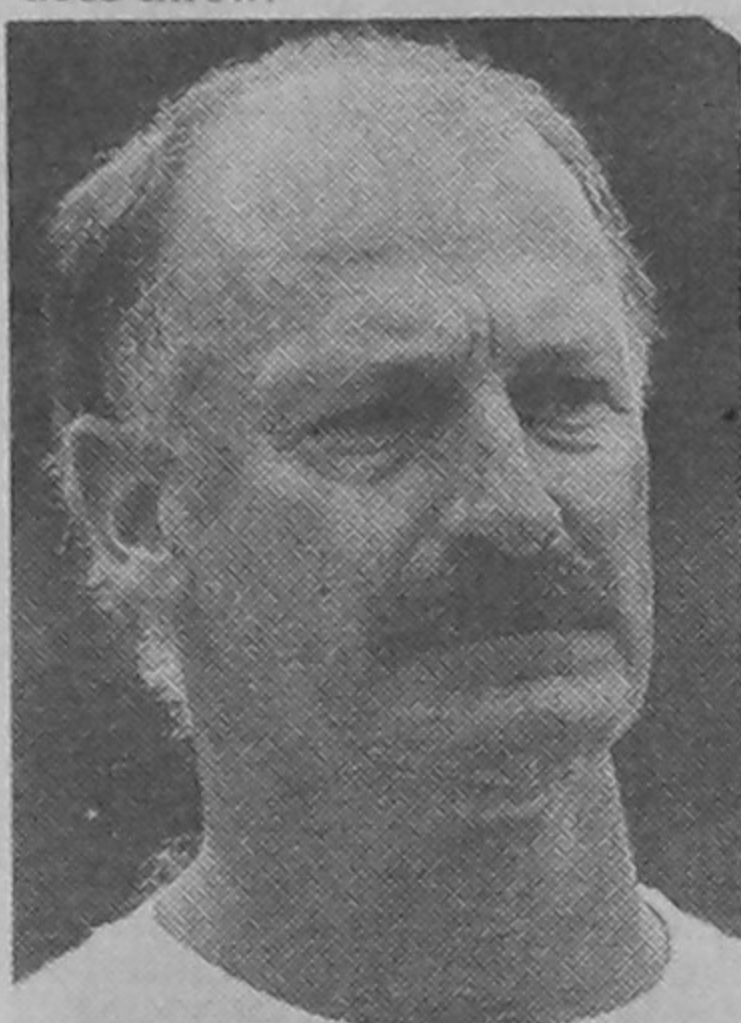
Akhtar, one of the world's fastest bowlers and nicknamed the Rawalpindi Express, was banned by the ICC after a three-Test Pakistan-Australia series here late last year.

But when Pakistan appealed, he was cleared by the same body and allowed to play in the tri-nations one-day series against Australia and India.

"After being completely hoodwinked by Pakistan, the ICC have no alternative but to hand umpires back the power to call bowlers for throwing," Lillee wrote in The West Australian newspaper Friday.

That surely must be the first item on the agenda of the ICC who get together in Singapore for their annual meeting next week.

"The ICC have got themselves into a terrible bind over their handling of Akhtar, and the way things are structured at the moment the Rawalpindi Express could chuck to his heart's content without reprimand — that is, of course, if he does throw."



DENNIS LILLEE

Lillee described Pakistan's appeal against the original ICC decision as a "masterstroke," because they knew there was no avenue of appeal.

"The ICC were totally dumb-

founded by such a brazen tactic, and their explanation — that because Akhtar allegedly threw only his bouncer it was OK to play in limited-overs international because bouncers were outlawed anyway — was a joke."

"So Akhtar, turned up again as large as life to bowl in front of Australian umpires who virtually had their hands tied behind their backs."

Lillee said it was little wonder Australian Cricket Board chairman Denis Rogers admitted his concern over statements that Test captain Steve Waugh and other Australian players had lost confidence in the ICC over the Akhtar affair.

Claiming that the answer to the problem is simple, Lillee said: "Umpires and not modern, slow motion technology must once again be allowed to make the call on whether bowlers throw the ball."

"It's time to get back to basics by giving umpires full command of the situation — and then this time backing them to the hilt."

Under present arrangements, umpires concerned about a bowler's action report, via their national cricket boards, to the ICC, leaving them to study film footage and make a ruling.

### Natl women's chess Tanima stays atop

Sports Reporter

Title aspirant Tanima Parveen maintained her solo lead in the ongoing 21st national women's chess championship with a safe draw with last year's runner up Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa in the seventh round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Playing with black pieces against the Catalan opening of Nipa, Tanima accepted the draw after 20 moves.

With her third draw against four wins, Tanima, the only unbeaten player in the ten-woman meet, raised her account to five and a half points out of possible seven.

On the other hand, the draw kept Nipa in second position along with Nazrana Khan with both having five.

Nazrana defeated Firoza Haque Chowdhury in her fixture yesterday.

Three players—defending champion Rani Hamid, Jahannara Haque and Zakia Sultan—are sharing the third spot with 4.5 points.

Rani, the 12-time champion defeated Firoza Haque Chowdhury while Jahannara beat Zakia in yesterday's round.

The other match between Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira and Masuda Begum was going on till filing of this report.

The penultimate round of the nine-round championship begins at the same venue today at 2:30 pm.

Today's matches: Firoza v Nazrana, Tanima v Jahannara, Nira v Nipa, Nazrana v Zakia and Rani v Masuda.

### First Division cricket

### Big wins for Dhanmondi, Lalmatia

Sports Reporter

Lalmatia Club and Dhanmondi Club won their respective First Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

An all-round performance by Onkar Kishan propelled Lalmatia to a comprehensive 75-run victory over Young Pegasus at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Onkar, the number three batsman, scored a magnificent 90 as Lalmatia, put into bat in a reduced 45-over a side affair, amassed 214 for the loss of only three wickets.

### BRIEF SCORES

**Dhanmondi Club:** 229 for 3 in 50 overs (Shetu 78, Imran 57 n.o., Anis 34, Taj 20 n.o., Aslam 2/42)  
**Orient SC:** 167 all out in 42.3 overs (Masum 59, Uzzal 31, Momin 4/25, Torque 2/28)  
**Result:** Dhanmondi Club won by 62 runs.

**Lalmatia Club:** 214 for 9 in 45 overs (Onkar 90, Babu 32, Ripon 22, Alam 2/36)  
**Young Pegasus:** 95 all out in 25.4 overs (Saad 25, Sohag 16, Alam 14, Onkar 2/9, Firoz 2/19)  
**Result:** Lalmatia Club won by 75 runs.

Onkar smote nine boundaries in his 116-ball innings. He was ably helped by opener Babu who clipped in with 32 off 37 balls with three fours.

In reply, Young Pegasus were shot out for 95 in 25.4 overs.

After dominating the Pegasus bowlers with the willow, Onkar also shone with the cherry taking two wickets for only nine runs from his tight four overs.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhanmondi Club handed Orient Sporting Club a 65-run defeat.

Put into bat, Dhanmondi scored a commanding 229 for three in the stipulated 50 overs.

Opener Shetu scored highest 78 off 124 balls with six boundaries followed by middle order Imran who scored a quickfire 57 off 47 balls inclusive of five fours.

In reply, Orient could muster only 167 before they were all out in 42.3 overs.

Momin, the wrecker in chief, returned with four wickets conceding 25 runs in 7.3 overs while Tareque captured two wickets for 28 runs.

## Invincible Australians



SYDNEY, Feb 4: Steve Waugh's Australia hit their highest one-day score to lift the Carlton and United tri-series

title with a massive 152-run victory over 'psyched out' Pakistan here on Friday, reports AFP.

The world champions took advantage of their rivals' pathetic fielding to pile up 337 for seven from 50 overs after electing to bat in the second match of the best-of-three finals.

Pakistan, described by their captain Wasim Akram as psychologically crushed by the Aussies, folded up for 185 despite perfect batting conditions at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Glenn McGrath, whose deadly three-wicket burst in seven balls won Australia the first final at Melbourne on Wednesday, was Pakistan's destroyer again with 5-49.

It was Australia's ninth consecutive win in the series that also featured India. The one-day title followed identical 3-0 wins over both India and Pakistan in the Test series.

Ricky Ponting led Australia's blast with 78 off 80 balls after opener Mark Waugh and Adam Gilchrist cracked half-centuries in a blistering start.

The pair put on 74 for the first wicket in only 10.4 overs, left-hander Gilchrist contributing 51 off 42 balls.

Mark Waugh made 53, adding 96 for the second wicket with Ponting, who ended up as the top scorer in the series with 404 runs from 10 games.

Andrew Symonds and Steve Waugh smashed 66 off 54 balls for the fifth wicket, which allowed Australia to score 85 runs in the final 10 overs.

Symonds hit a run-a-ball 45 and the captain made 37 as Australia surpassed their previous best of 332-3 against Sri Lanka at Sharjah in 1990.

Pakistan were done in by poor fielding, highlighted by two dropped catches by Yousuf Youhana which set up Australia's leather hunt before a sell-out crowd of 40,000.

Youhana spilled an easy chance at square leg when Gilchrist was on seven. He then misjudged a slider on the mid-wicket fence before Ponting had

settled in. Akram attributed Pakistan's ninth defeat in 11 meetings against Australia to their rivals' psychological hold over his team.



PONTING ... M-O-M

"I don't know what happens when we play Australia, but our game just collapses," he said.

"Frankly, we did not deserve to win. Not only was our batting and bowling poor, but the fielding was just pathetic."

"The Australians are very aggressive and better-organised. They gave us no chance," Akram said.

Waugh said he was happy to end the home season with another victory.

"It's been a great end to a great season," he said.

"We had started out with the aim of winning all six Tests and the one-day series. It feels nice to have achieved that."

With the finals decided, Australia get two extra days off before starting a tour of New Zealand next week.

Pakistan, who lost half the side for less than 100 runs in four of their last five matches against Australia, slipped to 43-4 and then 80-5 by the 15th over.

Youhana hit 41 while Saeed

Anwar reached the 7,000-run mark during his brief knock of 16.

Pakistan were jolted before the start when key batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq joined all-rounder Abdur Razaq on the sidelines with a twisted ankle.

Mohammad Wasim came in for Inzamam, while Waqar Younis replaced Razaq.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second match of the tri-series finals between Australia and Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday:

AUSTRALIA				
M Waugh	run out			
A Gilchrist	c Moin b Mahmood	51		
R Ponting	c Moin b Afridi	78		
A Symonds	st Moin b Saqlain	45		
M Waugh	run out	3		
S Lee	c Youhana b Saqlain	37		
D Martyn	not out	23		
S Warne	not out	4		
Extras	(lb-14, w-12, nb-5)	31		
Total	(For seven wickets in 50 overs)	337		
Fall of wickets:	1-74; 2-170; 3-220; 4-224; 5-290; 6-297; 7-308			

PAKISTAN				
Anwar	c Gilchrist b McGrath	16		
Afridi	c Bevan b B Lee	18		
Ijaz	c Gilchrist b McGrath	0		
Youhana	c Waugh b S Lee	41		
M Waugh	lbw b B Lee	0		
Mahmood	c S Lee b B Lee	27		
Moin	b McGrath	18		
Akram	c S Waugh b McGrath	33		
Saqlain	c Gilchrist b McGrath	0		
Waqar	run out	15		
Akhtar	not out	1		
Extras	(lb-7, w-3, nb-6)	16		
Total	(All out in 36.3 overs)	185		
Fall of wickets:	1-20; 2-21; 3-42; 4-43; 5-80; 6-131; 7-149; 8-153; 9-177			

Bowler				
McGrath	9.3	2	49	5
B Lee	9	0	51	3
Warne	7	2	28	0
S Lee	6	0	20	1
Symonds	5	0	30	0

Result: Australia won by 152 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Ricky Ponting

Australia won the best-of-three finals 2-0.



Australian captain Steve Waugh (R) and his deputy Shane Warne hold the Carlton and United tri-series trophy after the second final at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. — AFP photo

### Serie A preview

## Onus on Del Piero



MILAN, Feb 4 (AFP/Internet): Alessandro Del Piero will be trying to build a new future from an unhappy past this weekend when the Juventus star returns to the scene of a near career-ending injury, reports AFP.

Juventus were away to Udinese in a Serie A match in November 1998 when a bad fall made Del Piero's cruciate ligaments, forcing him to undergo surgery in the United States.

The Turin club were top of the table at the time, but they subsequently plummeted down the table and were knocked out of every cup competition, also missing out on an automatic UEFA Cup slot.

Del Piero has returned this season well short of his true potential, though his team are once again top of the table — one point clear of main rivals Lazio.

This would be the place for Del Piero to turn on the class, just as he did in the same "Friuli" stadium a month before the injury, scoring both goals as Italy beat Switzerland 2-0 in a Euro 2000 qualifier.

He can count on the formidable support of French playmaker Zinedine Zidane, currently enjoying some of his best form ever in the Serie A, and strike partner Filippo Inzaghi on Saturday night.

At the other end, Udinese will be looking to 10-goal Roberto Muzzi for a result to keep them comfortably in the

UEFA Cup zone.

Lazio, just waiting for a chance to return to the top, travel to Juventus' neighbours Torino, currently at the wrong end of the table.

Eriksson will be fielding Chilean Marcelo 'The Matador' Salas and Fabrizio 'Silver Fox' Ravanelli up front, though the line-up in midfield is less clear.

Argentinian Juan Sebastian Veron missed training this week with a high temperature and sore throat, the ominous signs of a flu bug which has ravaged Italy in recent weeks.

The tightest match this weekend is likely to be at Parma, where the hosts face a re-born Inter Milan. Inter have won five and drawn one of the seven matches since Marcello Lippi's splash in the transfer market brought them Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf and tenacious Colombian defender Ivan Cordoba.

Three consecutive league wins — the last two sealed by winners from Roberto Baggio — have taken Inter to third in the table and level on 35 points with AC Milan and AS Roma.

Away performances have been Inter's undoing this season, with five defeats in nine games, so this one should reveal whether Lippi's men really have turned the corner at last.

Baggio keeps his place up front, alongside Christian Vieri, but the defence will need to keep a close eye on 12-goal Hernan Crespo, who lies second in the scoring tables behind AC Milan's Andriy Shevchenko (14).

Parma will have Dino Baggio back from suspension, fellow midfielder Diego Fuser back from injury and Paulo Sousa ready to make his debut after being loaned by Inter last Monday.

It's a crucial game for the hosts. Parma have slipped to sixth in the table, on 32pts, and a defeat now could finish off their championship challenge for good, while a win would lift them back into the running.

Roma are at home to lowly Venezia and all three members of their strike force — Francesco Totti, Marco Delvecchio and Vincenzo Montella — are fit and ready.

Champions AC Milan are meanwhile at home to mid-table Bari with Croatian playmaker Zvonimir Boban doubtful due to tendon trouble. Should he pull out, Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni will probably use Brazilian Leonardo, now back after a thigh muscle pull, to support Shevchenko and Oliver Bierhoff in the club's bid to defend their title.

Juventus have a five-point lead over us — but that car be bridged in a couple of months," Leonardo told reporters this week. "We feel that we are in the title race. We believe we can do it."

Serie A fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated):

Saturday: Cagliari v Perugia, Udinese v Juventus (1930 GMT)

Sunday: Lecce v Fiorentina, AC Milan v Bari, Parma v Inter Milan, Reggina v Bologna, AS Roma v Venezia, Torino v Lazio, Verona v Fiorentina (1930 GMT)

## Better pitches please



Once the world champions, now a team who might very well consider themselves on the bottom rung of the ladder, the his-

tory of Indian cricket team is something of a roller-coaster ride.

The Indians were considered the underdogs in the 1983 World Cup in England, but they certainly turned a few heads when they defeated the then "invincible" West Indies to claim cricket's most coveted prize.

India's astonishing record at home contradicts their appalling record on foreign soil. If one looks for reasons to account for the facts, as to why India's record is so one-sided, one can blame it on a number of things like the player's mental toughness, the big grounds, the pressure of performing in a foreign land, and even bad captaincy. And of course one can always say that playing in front of your home crowd is always easier.

For the last three decades, Asians have been guilty of preparing pitches which suit them. Nine times out of ten, one would find pitches in Sri Lanka to be of assistance to the spinners, with low bounce and with little or no movement off the wicket.

Most of the pitches in India, Sharjah and Bangladesh are not much different. The bats-

man can just look to play through the line of the ball and play most deliveries on the front foot with considerable ease.

Players from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are very good players of spin, and it may

be largely due to the fact that they had played most of their cricket on low, flat, turning pitches. But if the recent Indian team's tour to Australia is any indication, their batting is not even half as good against fast bowling on bouncy pitches.

All throughout the tour, batsmen were troubled by the extra-bounce that the Australian bowlers managed to extract, and if that was not enough, the Indians really struggled against the moving ball. McGrath and Fleming and later on Brett Lee tormented the Indian openers.

Former Indian great Sunil Gavaskar believed the initial footwork of the batsmen should be back and across. But on countless occasions they tried to play deliveries on the front foot but were forced to shift to the back foot.

Aren't we falling in the same deathtrap? The pitches in our country are much like those in India, flat, turning and with low-bounce. If we are trying to gain Test status, why not introduce competitive pitches that do have some bounce and offer movement for the fast bowlers.

The writer is not suggesting that we should introduce these wickets right away, but rather that we ought to prepare them for games at the first class level.

The author is a reader of The Daily Star.

### RESULTS

Winner: Nazmul Haque; Ladies' winner: Hyun Ok Byun; Senior winner: Col Oli Ahmed; Junior winner: Farhan Khan; Best cross: Faisal Khan; Ladies' best gross: Jung Sook Jung; 2nd best gross: M Sabir Afzal; Runner-up: Air Cdre T A Zeatari Ali; Ladies' Runner-up: Yamamoto; 2nd Runner up: Eiji Yamamoto