

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-126

✓ Pick 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?

Kluseener 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 WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Martina Hingis

(World No 1 tennis player)

"I didn't win the title in Australia again, so it's nice going back home with the victory and positive attitude into the next tournaments."

Speaking after winning the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

Inzamam

sorry

KARACHI, Feb 7: Stylish Pakistani batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq today apologised to cricket fans for his team's failure in Australia and vowed to fight for his place in the coming home series against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

"I am as disappointed as they are. We simply failed to live up to their expectations. I feel very sad at the one-sided loss in the finals," Inzamam told AFP from his hometown Multan, in central Pakistan.

Pakistan were demolished 2-0 by Australia in the best-of-three finals in the Carlton and United tri-series down under.

Top order Pakistani batsmen failed to hold up their own with Inzamam failing miserably, scoring just 97 runs, at ten runs per innings in nine matches.

"We failed to simply adjust to the wickets in Australia and the failure of top order also put a lot of pressure on me," he said.

No Pakistani batsman scored a century in the limited over competition against Australia and India.

Pakistani batsmen came under flak for their poor show and Inzamam was criticised in the press.

"Pakistan top order batsmen did not click especially Inzamam on whom so much depended. He sleep walked from one match to the last," said an editorial in leading newspaper Dawn.

"We play eleven months on slow and low tracks but when batsmen from the sub-continent go to Australia they struggle," he said.

Inzamam burst on to the international scene during the 1992 World Cup with a 48-ball 60 against New Zealand in the semi-final and a quickfire 47 in the final.

Inam Khan, Pakistan captain during their 1992 triumph, tipped Inzamam to be a super star comparable to Brian Lara of the West Indies and Sachin Tendulkar of India.

But the sleepy natured and bulky batsman failed to turn his potential into real performances.

"His carelessness is his biggest enemy. He is enormously talented but slow in doing things," said Ishaq Patel, Inzamam's first coach in domestic cricket.

Rafique rules the day

Sports Reporter

National left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique wrecked havoc on the first day of the three-day match between Red

Eleven and Green Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The versatile southpaw took five wickets for 61 runs as Aminul-led Red restricted the Greens to 214 for seven at stumps.

It was a welcome return for the impermanent cricketer at the top flight after his impromptu retirement from the national team. Having called it quits after a successful World Cup campaign, Rafique came to his senses that he still has lot of cricket left in him and immediately proved his mettle in his first appearance for a national selection trials.

Rafique dictated the terms after acting Red skipper Naimur Rahman, who replaced Akram Khan, won the toss and decided to bat on a damp pitch. Openers Parvez Ahmed and Azam Iqbal put on 56 runs before Rafique gave the much-needed breakthrough in the 25th over trapping Azam leg before for 25.

Two overs later right-arm off-spinner Sohel Islam removed Parvez for 29.

The Reds were exposed further with the loss of two quick wickets before Naimur Rahman and middle order Asadullah Khan set about rectifying the situation, adding 71 useful runs for the fifth wicket.

Just when the Reds thought they came of woods, wily Rafique returned to send both batsmen to the pavilion with the total on 149.

Naimur top-scored with 44 off 70 balls and Asadullah contributed 23.

Lower middle order Mizanur Rahman and Ashrafur produced 59 runs for the seventh wicket to ensure their side crossed the two hundred mark. Yet again Rafique delivered a telling blow to get rid of Mizan for 27. Mizan top-edged an attempted pull and ended up offering a simple catch at gully.

Ashrafur, who replaced injured leg-spinner Mosaddek Hossain, was batting on 30.

The 15-year-old right hander caught the eye of the selectors with his matured batting in his first appearance for the national team.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the first day of the three-day match between Red Eleven and Green Eleven at the Bangabandhu National



RAFIQUE ... 5/61 Stadium yesterday: RED ELEVEN: First innings



Ashrafur of Red Eleven on-drives on the first day of the three-day match against Green Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Parvez lbw b Sohel	29
Azam lbw b Rafique	25
Sajjad c Sajad b Rafique	6
Hasanuzzaman c Raju b Sajad	15
Naimur c Aminul b Rafique	44
Asadullah b Rafique	23
Mizan c Mehrab b Rafique	27
Ashrafur batting	30
Sabbir batting	2
Extras: (b-2, lb-9, w-2)	13
Total: (For 7 wks in 90 overs)	214
To bat: Bikash Ranjan Das and Ahmed Kamal.	
Fall of wickets: 1-56; 2-60; 3-70; 4-88; 5-149; 6-149; 7-208.	
Bowler	O M R W
Anis	9 3 22 0
Anwar	6 0 16 0
Mushfiq	12 1 31 0
Rafique	34 7 61 5
Sohel	11 3 18 1
Zahir	14 1 47 1
Aminul	2 0 6 0
Mehrab	2 0 2 0

GREEN ELEVEN: Aminul Islam (captain), Mehrab Hossain, Sajid Hasan, Raju, Sohel Islam, Anwar Hossain, Mohammad Rafique, Mushfiqur Rahman, Sanwar Hossain and Zahiruddin.

IM Zia makes promising start

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh International Master Ziaur Rahman made an impressive start to the 11th Goodricke International Open chess tournament as he managed a draw against Russian Grand Master Victor Korchnoi in the first round held at the Gorki Sadan in Calcutta last Sunday.

Playing with white pieces, Zia, the Bangladesh champion, played brilliantly against the former World Chess Championship challenger to collect half a point.

Another International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar lost to Grand Master Leonid Yurtaev of Kazakhstan in the first round.

Saber off to Spore

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury left for Singapore yesterday to attend the executive board meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), reports BBS.

The meeting will be held on February 9 and 10.

Saber, who is also a member of the ICC executive board, said the meeting would discuss about the 'Cricket Week' programmes and other pending issues.

The cricket week will be held globally from April 2 to 9.

The inspection report on Bangladesh's Test status by the development committee would be placed before the cricket committee meeting on February 8 and the recommendations by the cricket committee would be discussed in the executive board.

The board meeting would also discuss the one-day match between the Asian Eleven and World Eleven to be held in Dhaka on April 8.

Int'l jr tennis from Feb 14

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 7: Rajshahi International Junior Tennis Championship-2000 will be held at Rajshahi Tennis Complex from Feb 14 to 19.

In co-operation with Bangladesh Tennis Federation, Rajshahi Tennis Complex will organise the tournament.

34 boys and 10 girls from USA, Armenia, Australia, Pakistan, Ukraine, South Korea, Egypt, China-Taipei, India, South Africa, Sweden, Denmark, Romania, Croatia, Uzbekistan, Italy, Thailand and the hosts Bangladesh will take part in the meet.

M'singh Zilla emerge champs

MYMENSINGH, Feb 7: Mymensingh Zilla School emerged the champions in the Padma Region of the inter-schools cricket tournament beating Dhaka Government Laboratory School by four wickets today (Monday), reports UNB.

Dhaka Government Laboratory School batted first and were all out for 101 in 25 overs at the local Circuit House ground with Mithun making 31 and Emon 26 runs.

Rabin claimed three wickets for 17 while Arafat and Almi took two wickets each conceding 17 and 21 runs respectively.

In reply, Mymensingh Zilla reached the winning target 102 for the loss of six wickets in 19 overs with Mona contributing 30 and Arafat 22 runs.

Amir picked up four wickets for 23 while Emon took two for 21 runs.

National chess qualifiers begin

Sports Reporter

The qualifying round of the 26th national chess championship began at the NSC Chess Room yesterday.

A total of 121 players from 38 districts and other affiliated organisations are participating in the 11-round Swiss League qualifying phase.

Egypt to miss Emam

KANO, Nigeria, Feb 7: Egypt's attempt to retain the African Nations' Cup received a terrible blow when star striker Hazem Emam was ruled out of the tournament with an ankle injury, reports AFP.

Emam hurt himself in a crunching tackle with Abdel Aziz Ayman during training at the Kano Pillars' stadium and was rushed to hospital on Saturday evening.

Emam now has his right ankle in plaster and needs crutches to move around.

Egypt coach Gerard Gill said Emam's absence would not stop them from beating Tunisia in Monday's quarter-final.

"Although I will miss the services of Hazem against Tunisia, I don't think it will affect us adversely because we have capable replacements for every player."

Egypt had already lost injured Youssef Mohammed last weekend.



WHERE HAVE THE CRICKETERS GONE? Bangladesh Cricket Board's Conference Room wore a deserted look in the evening yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Cricket-gate conspiracy survives

All quiet on transfer front

Sports Reporter

The inter-club cricketers' transfer came to dreary end at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Conference Room yesterday.

The three-day transfer, which provided a lot of excitement, enthusiasm, drama and speculation over the years, turned into a boring business after all the 12 Premier League clubs struck an off-hand deal, dubbing it as 'gentleman's agreement'.

The controversial pact, an idea taken from football organisers to curb the growing pay demand of players, came in to play for the first time in cricket this season.

The wicked deal however served the purpose of the cash-starved Dhaka clubs, but it certainly robbed off the cricketers' freedom to choose their own clubs and also the right to settle the terms of payment. As per the agreement no club would go after the bracketed top four players of other teams. Clubs survived a false scare of sabotage but were eventually successful in shutting out the enlisted players from the transfer market.

Their unholy alliance had left the demoralised cricketers with no choice but to go all the way with their employers. And, cricket in general was cheated by the so-called gentlemen from Dhaka clubs.

The lull atmosphere in an almost barren BCB Conference Room showcased the mute dissatisfaction of the players on the final day, where only nine cricketers involved in the

bourse. And most importantly out of those nineteen, only a few players are known by their names.

The notable signing on the day was Halim Shah and Salim Shahed, who played for Mohammedan last season.

Halim joined Wari Club while Shahed, a former national opener, decided to play for promotees Gopibagh Friends.

Mohammedan, arguably the worst victim of the 'gentleman's agreement', visited the transfer market for the second consecutive day, being only able to grab some unheralded players on offer. Considered as the most resourceful team over the years, the present Mohammedan offi-

cials appeared to be a pale shadow of their dynamic predecessors. There was a time when Mohammedan swagged in the sports arena, but now they choose to hide their faces in the shadow of a bearded Wasim Khan, a member of Mohammedan cricket committee.

For the sake of record, ninety-seven players collected their tokens and ninety-two took part in the transfer. Sohel Khan was the last cricketer who changed his allegiance from GMCC to Gopibagh Friends.

The nineteen players who took part in the bourse on the final day of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer at the BCB Conference Room yesterday:

Name	Previous Club	Present Club
Masud Rana	Abahani KC	City Club
Zahirul Haq	Brothers Union	Abahani KC
Sajjad Hossain	City Club	Agrani Bank
Saiful Islam	West Jatrabari	Victoria SC
Nuruzzaman	Ajma SC	Victoria SC
Syed M Ali	GMCC	Wari Club
Halim Shah	Mohammedan SC	Gopibagh Friends
Salim Shahed	Mohammedan SC	Gopibagh Friends
Shafat Islam	Mohammedan SC	Mohammedan SC
Fakrul Alam	Uttara Sporting	City Club
Nazif Newaz	Young Pegasus	Mohammedan SC
Ershadul Haq	GMCC	Gopibagh Friends
Ekratul Haq	Victoria SC	Gopibagh Friends
Tanvir Khan	Orient SC	Gopibagh Friends
Anwar Hossain	Amorjoti	Gopibagh Friends
Ishiaq Javed	Amorjoti	Gopibagh Friends
Hedayatullah	Wari Club	Gopibagh Friends
Sohel Khan	GMCC	Gopibagh Friends

Sanath sounds confident

Lankans arrive in Pakistan

KARACHI, Feb 7: Dashing Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya Monday promised his young side will put up a tough fight against Pakistan in the coming tour and warned his team were capable of pulling off a big upset, reports AFP.

"We know the series against Pakistan will be very tough but my young team is positive and full of confidence and has the capability to surprise any team," Jayasuriya told a press briefing a day after his team's arrival in Karachi.

Sri Lanka will play three

limited-over internationals and as many Tests on their 40-day tour of Pakistan.

The team's arrival was delayed by 12 hours due to some technical problems in the flight from Colombo.

Javed Miandad, the former Pakistan captain and now a member of the Pakistan Cricket Board advisory council, received the 15-member team and four officials.

"We know Pakistan are a tough side to beat in their den but we will do our best," the Sri Lankan captain said.

Jayasuriya, 30, known for his career slogging in one-dayers, took over the reins of

the team after a dismal show by the Sri Lankan team in the 1999 World Cup in England.

Experienced captain Arjuna Ranatunga was de-throned after Sri Lanka failed to reach the second round during their defence of the title and he along with renowned batsman Aravinda de Silva lost favour with the selectors.

Neither feature in the Sri Lankan team for one-dayers but are probable for the Test series.

"Ranatunga and de Silva are both experienced but now we want to groom youngsters and this is a team which has performed well against Australia and Zimbabwe recently," Jayasuriya said.

"Facing bowlers like Shoaib Akhtar and Wasim Akram will be a great challenge but the boys are ready for it," Jayasuriya said.

Sri Lanka beat Australia 1-0 in a rain-hampered series in August and won the away series in Zimbabwe by the same scoreline.

Sri Lanka's Australian born coach Dav Whatmore said his young team is heading in the right direction.

"This is a semi-transitional phase for the Sri Lankan team but the way they have performed recently I am sure they can be a very confident outfit in the years to come," said Whatmore, who played seven Tests for Australia in the 1980s.

Whatmore guided Sri Lanka to their first overseas series win on Pakistan's last tour in 1985-86. Sri Lanka came from behind to win the Test and one-day series 2-1.

The golden run culminated in Sri Lanka's triumph in the 1996 World Cup.

"Pakistan and Sri Lanka have always played tough games and I foresee another exciting and competitive series," he said.

The Sri Lankan coach refused to agree Pakistan's team will be at a low point after their 3-0 Test defeat in Australia.

"Every team struggles in Australia and we know Pakistan is a different team at their grounds," he said.

Sri Lanka last toured Pakistan in 1995-96 and came from one Test down to win the series



Sri Lankan cricket captain Sanath Jayasuriya pays attention to a query during a press conference in Karachi yesterday. —AFP photo

Akhtar's Test ban on

CALCUTTA, Feb 7: Shoaib Akhtar, barred from Test cricket because of a suspect bowling action, will not be allowed to return for Pakistan's forthcoming Test series against Sri Lanka, International Cricket Council (ICC) president Jagmohan Dalmiya said today, reports Reuters.

Dalmiya told reporters that the decision of the ICC panel which found Akhtar's action incorrect would be reviewed by an ICC executive board meeting in Singapore on Wednesday and Thursday. The ICC's cricket committee is to meet on Tuesday.

"We are not looking at the technicality of the issue, rather the procedural part of it," Dalmiya said.

"The ICC is fully behind the panel which found Akhtar's delivery action incorrect. We are only going to review the procedural part as found incorrect by Pakistan."

Pakistan has claimed that the panel which found Akhtar's bowling action incorrect lacked the required minimum number to take a decision.

Akhtar was banned by the ICC on December 30 but Dalmiya reversed the decision on January 8.

Akhtar was allowed to play limited-overs cricket but his return to Test matches is subject to clearance by an advisory panel.



SHOAIB AKHTAR

The ICC permitted that on the ground that bouncers, the delivery identified by the ICC's committee on illegal bowling actions as Akhtar's most contentious, were not allowed in one-day matches.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka threw

their weight behind Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar on Monday, saying they wanted to face the fast bowler, who has been banned from Tests, in the forthcoming series.

"We want him to play against us. In fact we want Pakistan to field the strongest possible team because that would help us judge where we stand," Sri Lanka's Australian coach David Whatmore told in Karachi.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) operations director Yawar Saeed said from Lahore that the PCB would still try to have the Test ban overturned.

"The chairman (Taufiq Zia) has left for Singapore and he is fully equipped to get Akhtar cleared for the test series," Saeed said.

But coach Intikhab Alam was bitter.

"How can the ICC announce its decision to ban Akhtar from Test cricket when they haven't reviewed the case?" he said.

"In Australia he bowled with a new action. The ICC advisory panel needs to look at the fresh videos before passing judgment."

"I haven't faced Akhtar but I don't see anything wrong in his bowling action," Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya said.

Whatmore said the Sri Lanka board was also fighting the case of off-spinner Kumara Dharmasena, who was suspended because of a suspect bowling action.

Winning Buchanan's priority

Same Australian squad

BRISBANE, Feb 7: Coach John Buchanan warned the all-conquering Australian cricket team not to be distracted by chasing records on their New Zealand tour which starts next week, reports AFP.

Captain Steve Waugh's one-day and Test teams are both close to records for the number of consecutive international victories.

The World Cup one-day champions need another three wins from their six match series to break the world record of 11 set by the West Indies in 1984 and equalled by England eight years later.

The Test side has three matches with the Kiwis and needs wins in the first two to better the Australian record of eight consecutive victories set by Warwick Armstrong's 1920-

21 team.

But Buchanan said a record chase could cause problems against the in-form New Zealanders.

"The danger is being caught up in the statistics of the game — and while everybody would like to achieve the records it can be a distraction," Buchanan said.

"It will happen if we do the sorts of things we do well."

"We have to stick to the same processes which are in place, making sure the keys of our game are as good as they can be."

"In the end, things like records become attainable but if you put them as the focus, there's a danger they can get further away."

Buchanan said the resurgent New Zealanders, who beat Australia in their World Cup pool clash last May, would keep his players on their toes.

The beauty is that this is a

new series against an opposition playing very well in their home country and in front of their home crowds," he said.

"That will help concentrate (the players) on the task at hand."

The Australian selectors named an unchanged 13-man squad including injured batsman Ricky Ponting, for the opening six-match one-day series which begins in Wellington on Feb 16.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said his panel had no hesitation in sending the same squad to New Zealand after Australia cruised to their ninth consecutive triumph when they crushed Pakistan in the final of the tri-series tournament in Sydney last Friday.

The win capped a happy debut season for Buchanan, who took charge of the Australians

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