

Column One

ROOST 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 11 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One Two Three
- Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?
Lazio Barcelona Man United
- Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Klusener S Waugh David
- Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens Seville Toronto
- Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



SPORTS TALK



Saurav Ganguly
(India cricket vice-captain)
"All these days I had been saying that Wasim Akram is the most difficult bowler that I have faced. But now I place McGrath in the same rank. He was simply great."

Doull returning

WELLINGTON, Feb 9: Experienced swing bowler Simon Doull has been recalled by New Zealand after a lengthy absence through injury, reports Reuters.

He was included today in a 12-man squad for the first two one-day matches of a six-match series against Australia starting in Wellington next week.

Doull injured his right knee during the tour of England last year and subsequently underwent two operations.

He comes in for all-rounder Dion Nash who has a stress fracture of the back.

Convener of selectors Ross Dykes said of Doull: "Simon is vastly experienced in international cricket and on his day can make significant inroads at the top of the innings."

Canterbury bowler Warren Wisneski has won his first call up for the senior international side after good performances for New Zealand A and in domestic one-day games.

"We need a bowler who is effective in getting players out, can swing the new ball as well as being able to cope under pressure at the end of an innings and Warren has shown us he can do that," Dykes said.

SQUAD

Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle, Craig Spearman, Roger Twose, Chris Cairns, Craig McMillan, Chris Harris, Adam Parore, Daniel Vettori, Scott Styris, Simon Doull, Warren Wisneski.

American Cup golf Feb 11-12

The two-day American Millennium Cup golf tournament will be held at the Kurmitola Golf Club on February 11 and 12, reports BSS.

Chief of Army Staff and club president Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafa Rahman will be present at the tee-off on February 11 at 7:30 am as the chief guest.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman will be present as special guest.

At least 300 golfers including ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats in Dhaka, expatriates and leading businessmen are expected to take part in the two-day tournament — sponsored by American companies operating in Bangladesh.

The prize-giving ceremony will be held at Sonargaon Hotel on February 12 at 7:30 pm.



BIMAN ON THE RUNWAY: Bangladesh Biman cricketers limbering up at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday during their first practice session of the season. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

A Rajin-Sajid show

Sports Reporter

The three-day conditioning match between the BCB Green Eleven and the Red Eleven ended in a draw.

but not before generating some excitement and drama on the third and final day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

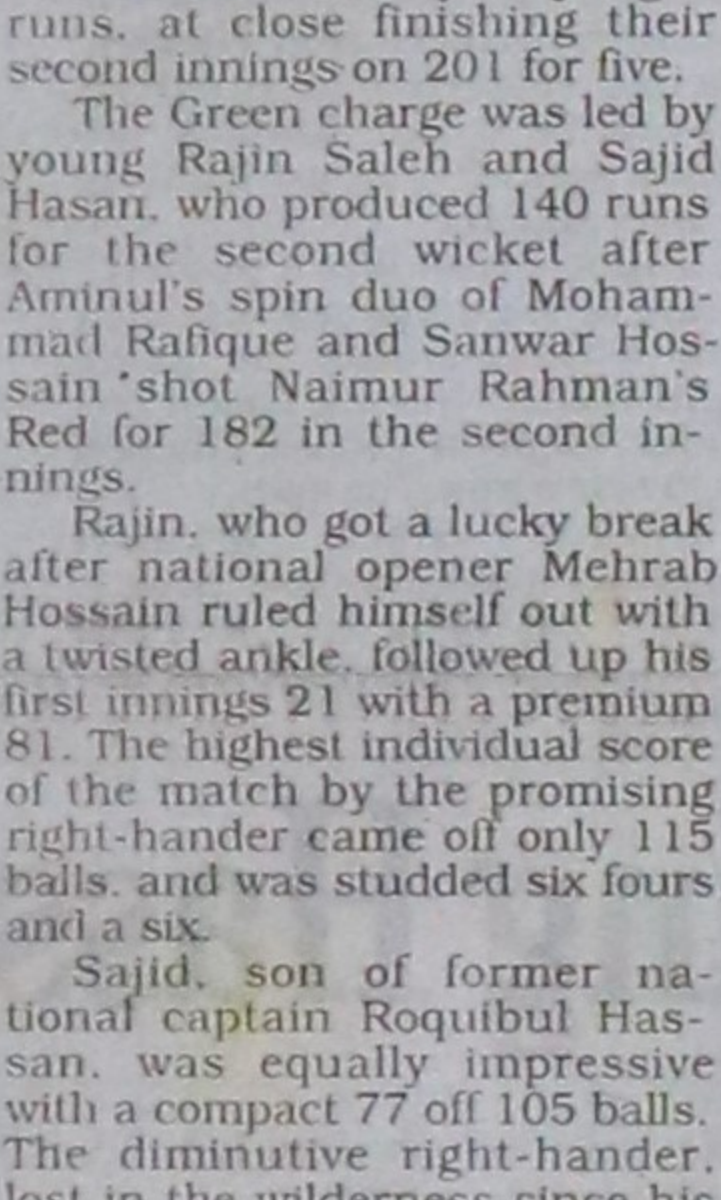
Set to score 210 runs in 42 overs for victory, Aminul-led Green responded gallantly but missed the mark by only eight runs, at close finishing their second innings on 201 for five.

The Green charge was led by young Rajin Saleh and Sajid Hasan, who produced 140 runs for the second wicket after Aminul's spin duo of Mohammad Rafique and Sanwar Hossain shot Naimur Rahman's Red for 182 in the second innings.

Rajin, who got a lucky break after national opener Mehrab Hossain ruled himself out with a twisted ankle, followed up his first innings 21 with a premium 61. The highest individual score of the match by the promising right-hander came off only 115 balls, and was studded six fours and a six.

Sajid, son of former national captain Roquibul Hassan, was equally impressive with a compact 77 off 105 balls. The diminutive right-hander, lost in the wilderness since his inclusion in the team that played the ICC Trophy championship in Kenya in 1994, showed a lot of maturity in his first national test call after a long time.

The century stand between the duo however upstaged yet another impressive performance by Rafique, who followed up his first innings haul of five wickets with three more in the second. The versatile left-arm spinner, in his marathon spell of 24 overs, gave away only 40 runs.



RAJIN SALEH...81

Meanwhile, the four-day match (scheduled to start on February 11) between the two teams has been called off by the Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day conditioning match between BCB Red Eleven and Green Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

RED ELEVEN: First innings 229 for 9 dec (Naimur 44, Ashraful 33 not out, Parvez 29; Rafique 5/66, Anis 2/24)

GREEN ELEVEN: First innings 201 for 7 dec (Rafique 44, Sanwar 31, Sajid 26, Rajin 21, Ahmed Kamal 3/34, Naimur 2/46, Ashraful 2/48)

RED ELEVEN: Second innings (overnight 41 for 2) Parvez c Rajin b Sohail 10 Azim Ilyas b Sohail 11 Sajid c Sajid b Rafique 33 Hasanuzzaman c & b Rafique 29 Naimur b Rafique 33 Asadullah b Mushiqur 23 Mizan c & b Sanwar 23 Ashraful c Sohail b Sanwar 18 Sabir c Mushiqur b Sanwar 5 Bikash c Aminul b Sanwar 0 A Kamal not out 1 Extras: (b-5, lb-12, nb-1) 18 Total: (fall out in 63.4 overs) 182

Fall of wickets: 1/17; 2/24; 3/81; 4/114; 5/115; 6/135; 7/163; 8/170; 9/170

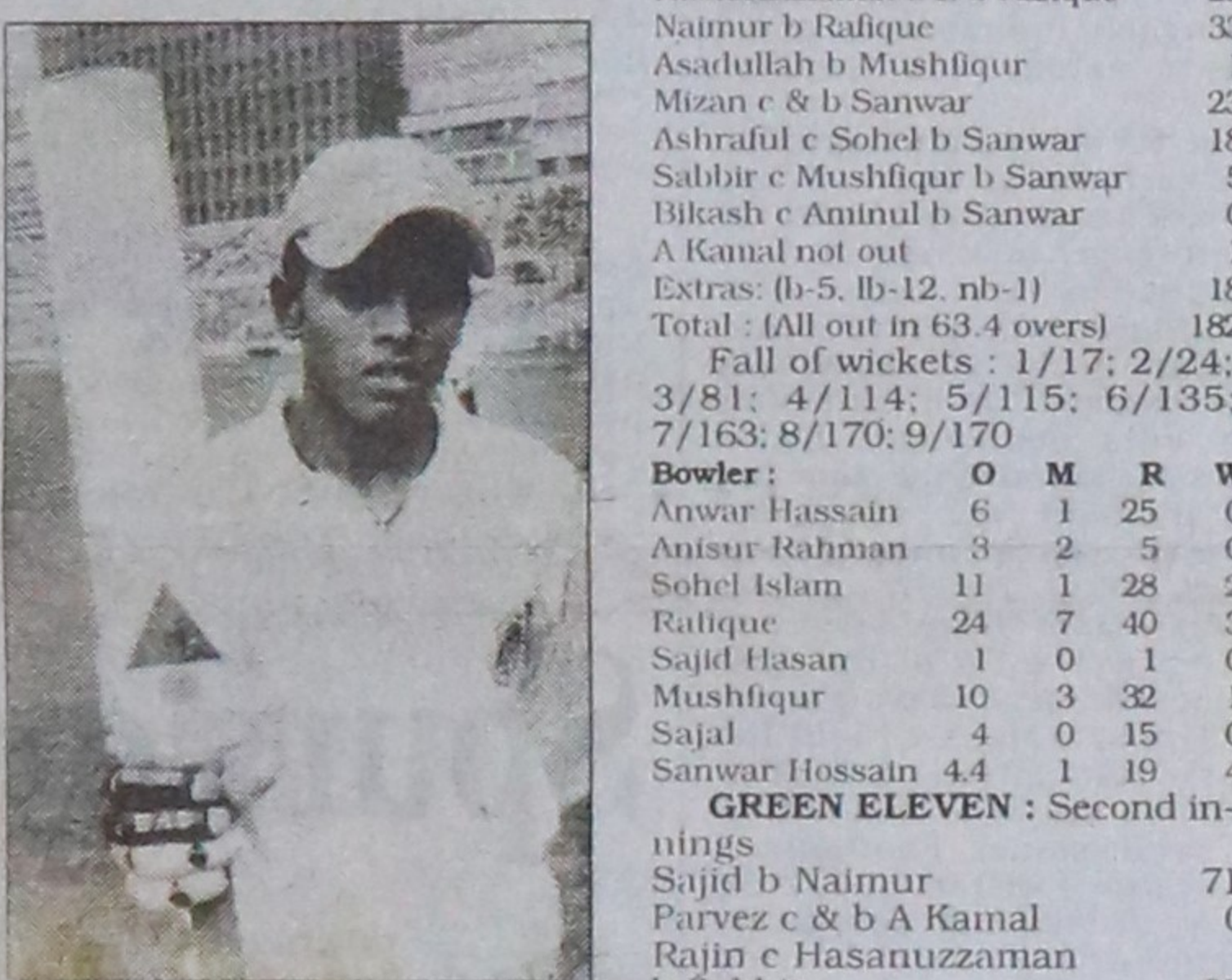
Bowler: O M R W Anwar Hassan 6 1 25 0 Anisur Rahman 3 2 5 0 Sohail Islam 11 1 28 2 Rafique 24 7 40 3 Sajid Hasan 1 0 1 0 Mushiqur 10 3 32 1 Sajal 4 0 15 0 Sanwar Hossain 4 1 19 4

GREEN ELEVEN: Second innings 182 for 9 (Sajid 71, Parvez c & b A Kamal 0, Rajin c Hasanuzzaman b Sabir 81, Rafique run out 10, Aminul run out 14, Sanwar not out 10, Mushiqur not out 10, Extras: (b-3, lb-5) 8 Total: (for 5 wickets in 42 overs) 201

Fall of wickets: 1/3; 2/143; 3/161; 4/185; 5/197

Bowler: O M R W Ahmed Kamal 7 2 47 1 Bikash 5 1 13 0 Naimur 15 3 54 1 Ashraful 6 1 25 0 Sabir Khan 9 0 54 1

Result: Match drawn.



SAJID HASAN...77

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day conditioning match between BCB Red Eleven and Green Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:



STEVE WAUGH

SYDNEY, Feb 9 (Reuters): Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh was in a Sydney hospital on Wednesday receiving treatment for a skin infection around his right elbow.

An Australian Cricket Board spokesman said Waugh was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday afternoon and was expected to be discharged in the next 24 hours.

He said Waugh's condition should not affect his availability for the tour of New Zealand starting on Monday.

Waugh was equally optimistic, saying: "It's just a precaution and I'm feeling better already. I'll be back to normal in the next day or so."

Coach John Buchanan meanwhile rallied behind Waugh when The Age's Martin Blake at the weekend said it was time for the 34-year-old Waugh to quit one-day cricket in order to prolong his career as Test skipper.

He argued that former captain Mark Taylor and wicket-keeper Ian Healy both admitted their Test careers were extended by getting the one-day axe.

Waugh made 195 runs at 27 in the recent limited overs tri-series and 334 runs at 37 in the six Tests earlier in the summer.

Buchanan, fresh from his first season in charge, was blunt.

"Australia cannot do without Steve Waugh at the moment, at least in the medium to long term," he said.

His leadership and his personal mental approach to his cricket, whether it be one or five-day cricket, is an essential component of the Australian team and to be without him would definitely be a backward step for Australian cricket at the moment.

"That's not a criticism of anyone else in the team but an indication of my 100 per cent support for him."

"He's the man for the job for now and as long as he can keep himself in the game."

Waugh, at his home ground Bankstown Oval where a new pavilion was yesterday named after he and brother Mark, was more reserved.

"With life so good, he wondered why the Taylor option was posed."

"We're the No. 1 side in the world and our record's really good so it seems strange to be getting asked these questions now at the peak of our careers," he said.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense."

Beckenbauer's call to help Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 9: German footballing legend Franz Beckenbauer has jumped to the defense of troubled Argentine superstar Diego Maradona after his latest battle with drugs, reports AFP.

The "Kaiser", who led Germany to World Cup victory both as a player in 1974 and as manager in 1990, is here to promote Germany's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

"The footballing world must help Diego Maradona in this difficult period for him, as he has given so much to football," Beckenbauer said.

Maradona is currently in a detoxification clinic in Havana, Cuba after a cocaine overdose last month.

The former World Cup winner's ongoing problems with drugs led him to admit that he faced death if he relapsed into his addiction.

"In football, Maradona has always been an example to others, but sadly his dependence to drugs has seen society turn against him," added Beckenbauer.

Nitol-Tata League

Muktis versus Chaturanga

From Hasan Masood
CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: Title aspirants Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra will take on Chaturanga Juba Sangha of Sylhet in their Nitol-Tata National League Group B opener at the MA Aziz Stadium here tomorrow.

The match will kick off at 4.30 pm with the Bangladesh Television and the Bangladesh Betar providing live coverage of the proceedings. Having gone through a dismal last season the all-reds are quite upbeat to regain their supremacy this year.

Muktijoddha captain Jewel Rana however opted to focus only tomorrow's match against an unknown opponents. "The only problem is that we don't know anything about our opponents. But that should not pose much threat if we play our own game."

"We are still not thinking about the second round. We want to take it match by match. Right now, our concentration goes to the first match. And, I think, we have a good chance to win."

His opposite number in Chaturanga, Jahan-e-Alam Chowdhury Rahel believes that his team has the ability to spring a surprise against the more colourful opponents. "They are a very strong side. We also have a set of good footballers. We will not give up without a fight."

TEAMS
MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD (from): Jewel Rana, Biplob Bhattacharya, Masud Rana, Rajani Kanta, Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, Rezaul Karim Liton, Mansoor Ali, Mamoon Joarder, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Arif Khan Joy, Bakhtiar, Saiful Bari, Tushar, Pradeep, Arun, Hasan-al-Mamun, Mojibur Rahman and Saiful Islam Khokon.

CHATURANGA JUBO SANGHA (from): Jahan-e-Alam, Biaka Lusal, Tutul, Ekhlakur Rahman, Milon, Kamruzzaman, Jahangir, Habi, Chanchal, Masud, Zahid, Mithu, Murad, Roky, Sujon and Shaheen Ahmed.

Zia outwits Czech GM

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman continued his excellent run in the 11th Goodricke International Chess Tournament when he defeated Grand Master Pavel Blatny of the Czech Republic in the third round in Calcutta, India yesterday.

Playing with white pieces, the star Biman player, who is looking for his second GM norm, outwitted his more illustrious Czech opponent for his first victory after two draws against two Grandmasters including Victor Korchnoi off Russia in the opening round. With this win Zia improved his points tally to two from three games.

When Zia continued to flourish, his arch-rival in the domestic chess IM Reefat-bin



ZIAUR RAHMAN

Sattar suffered his second defeat to remain content with one point. Reefat lost to Grandmaster Evgeny Vladimirov of Kazakhstan.

Nat'l chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Twenty-two players are leading the board with full points at the end of the second round of the preliminary phase of the 26th National Chess Championship at the NSC room yesterday.

The leaders are— Abdullah Al Rakib, Enamul Hossain Razib, Syed Ruhul Kabir Shipli, Taibur Rahman Sumon, Sawkat Hossain Pollob, Aminul Islam Pollob, Abu Sultan Sakil, Kh. Aminul Islam, Monir Hossain, Rani Hamid, Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, Javed, Arluzzaman Shikder, Sohail Chowdhury, Rafiqul Islam, Kazi Taherul Islam, Al Amin Tipu, Mizanur Rahman Labu, Devraz Chhetarjee, Shafiq Ahmed, Golam Mostafa Bhuiyan & Afroza Haque Chowdhury Poly.

Andre skips San Jose tourney

Sports Reporter

SAN JOSE, California, Feb 9: World number one Andre Agassi has pulled out of this week's \$75,000-dollar ATP Tour event here with a back injury, a tournament spokesman said, reports AFP.

Nitol-Tata Nat'l League on

Solid start for MSC

From Hasan Masood



ALFAZ AHMED ... m-o-m

CHITTAGONG, Feb 9: Fancied Mohammedan Sporting Club got off to a flying start in the inaugural match of the Nitol-Tata National Football League with a comprehensive win over Khulna Abahani Krira Chakra at the MA Aziz Stadium here today.

Midfielder Matur Rahman, captain Alfaz Ahmed and fellow striker Mizanur Rahman struck one goal apiece for the Premier League champions. The black and whites led the first half by a solitary goal.

Mohammedan looked uncomfortable at the beginning and it took them 24 minutes before Matur broke the evening's duck with a neat placing shot. Abahani custodian Himu was partially responsible for the goal as he let loose an Anwar cross from the right. A lurking Matur then shot it home from close.

Mohammedan appeared more cohesive in the second session as they got the second goal in the 59th minute with Alfaz heading home an Anwar float from the right. The Dhaka giants never rested on the lead as they pressed hard for more goals.

Their relentless effort got paid off when the diminutive

forward Mizanur Rahman settled the issue beyond any doubt side-footing the ball into the net past a diving Himu fourteen minutes from the final whistle.

on the receiving end throughout the match, got a couple of chances in the second session, but were only to be denied by Mohammedan custodian Nizamuddin.

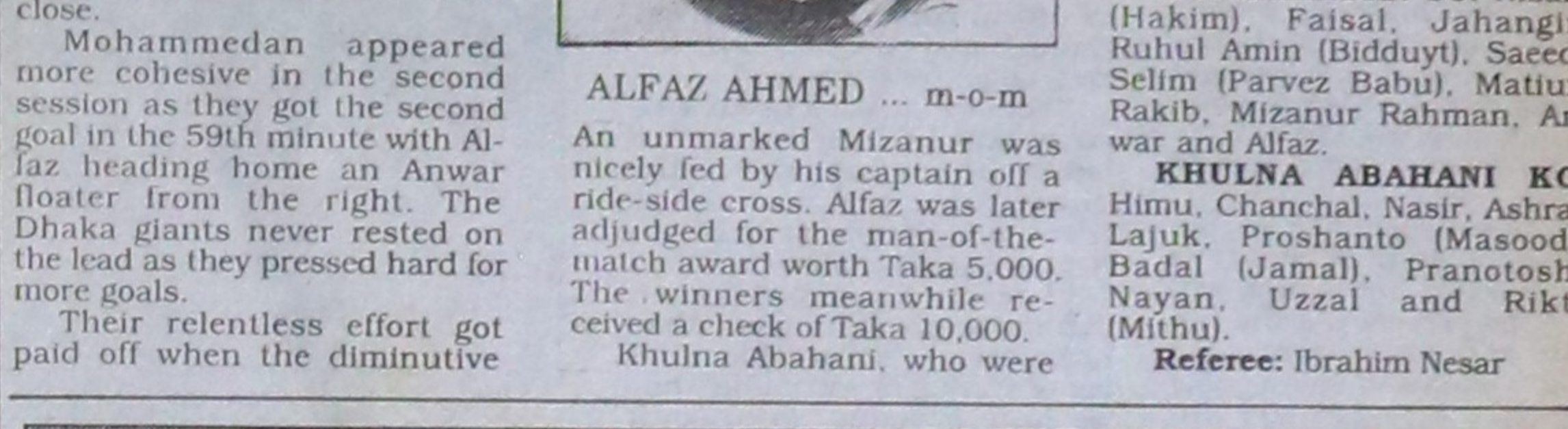
Earlier, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim declared the first-ever National League amidst applause from nearly 12000 crowd. A group of students performed physical exercise and a team of Ansars demonstrated a band show prior to the opening ceremony. Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and Football Federation general secretary Anwar Rashid, MP were also present on the occasion.

Both the state-run media — Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar covered the match live.

TEAMS
MOHAMMEDAN SC: Nizam (Hakim), Faisal, Jahangir, Ruhul Amin (Bidduy), Saeed, Selim (Parvez Babu), Matur, Rakib, Mizanur Rahman, Anwar and Alfaz.

KHULNA ABAHANI KC: Himu, Chanchal, Nasir, Ashraf, Lajuk, Proshanto (Masood), Badal (Jamal), Pranotosh, Nayan, Uzzal and Ritka (Mithu).

Referee: Ibrahim Nesar



Afroza Haque Poly (R) up against Abul Kashem during a national chess qualifying third round fixture at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman



Afroza Haque Poly (R) up against Abul Kashem during a national chess qualifying third round fixture at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Pak players kept guessing

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, Feb 9: The Pakistan team for the first one-day international against the visiting Sri Lanka will be announced on Thursday evening despite being almost finalised on Monday, says a report of The News.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director operations, Yawar Saeed said from Lahore on Tuesday that Lt-Gen Tauqir Zia had finalised the squad and captain before he left for Singapore to attend the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting.

"We will take a final clearance from him on Wednesday, before announcing the team on Thursday evening," said Yawar Saeed.

Team manager Brig (ret'd) Khawaja Mohammad Nasir added from Lahore that the PCB chief had briefed the advisory panel in detail regarding the composition of the squad.

"All the members of the advisory panel will talk about the team after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday," he said.

But a member of the advisory panel, Javed Miandad, said he didn't know what would be the team or who would be leading it. "I have been in Karachi for the last two days," he said at the National Stadium during Sri Lanka's first practice match.

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam said he had no clue whatsoever who is going to be the captain of the team. "I have neither been consulted nor did I attend the chairman's briefing to the advisory panel," he said from Lahore.

As things stand at present, the general has already called for changes in the middle-order while Shoaib Akhtar is not available for the opening match of the series as he has been banned by the PCB on disciplinary ground. There are question marks over the availability of Waqar Younis and Abdur Razaq. Waqar is getting married on Friday while Razaq is nursing groin injury.

Out of the remaining players, some of them face the axe, according to sources in the board.

When pressed, Brig (ret'd) Nasir said the delay in announcement of the team was because the advisory panel wanted to have a last look at some of the younger players in the two warm up games against Sri Lanka.

The announcement of the team on Thursday means that the team would have only one day's practice as the team would assemble on Friday for Sunday's match.

In the backdrop of poor performance in Australia, only one-day practice for the team is considered totally insufficient even on the home ground. The Pakistanis played on the hard and bouncy tracks on the Australian tour while here they would be playing on slow and low bouncy pitches.

B' baria cricket

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 9: Moulvipara Cricket Club defeated Three Star Boys Club by three wickets in the Bangladesh Gas Field Company Limited (BGFCL) Gold Cup Cricket League at the Brahmanbaria Naz Muhammad Stadium today.

Winning the toss, Three Star invited Moulvipara to bat.

Moulvipara collected 237 in stipulated 40 overs losing seven wickets.

Belal was the top scorer for Moulvipara collecting 55 runs from 85 balls while Shadat scored 46.

In reply Three Star were bundled out for 99 in 25.2 overs. Mamun was the top scorer collecting with 36 runs.

Belal was declared man-of-the-match today.

M'singh cricket
MYMENSINGH, Feb 9: Mukul Fouz Green recorded a massive 105-run victory over Gulkibari KC in the Beg Rim Premier Division cricket league here today, reports IJNB.

Batting first, Mukul Fouz scored 190 all out in 37 overs with Omar making highest 61 runs.

Ujjal claimed three wickets for 39 while Iqbal two for 43 runs.

In reply, Gulkibari were bundled out for 85 in 24 overs with Ujjal scoring highest 38.

Masud captured three wickets for 17 runs and Atique two for 22.