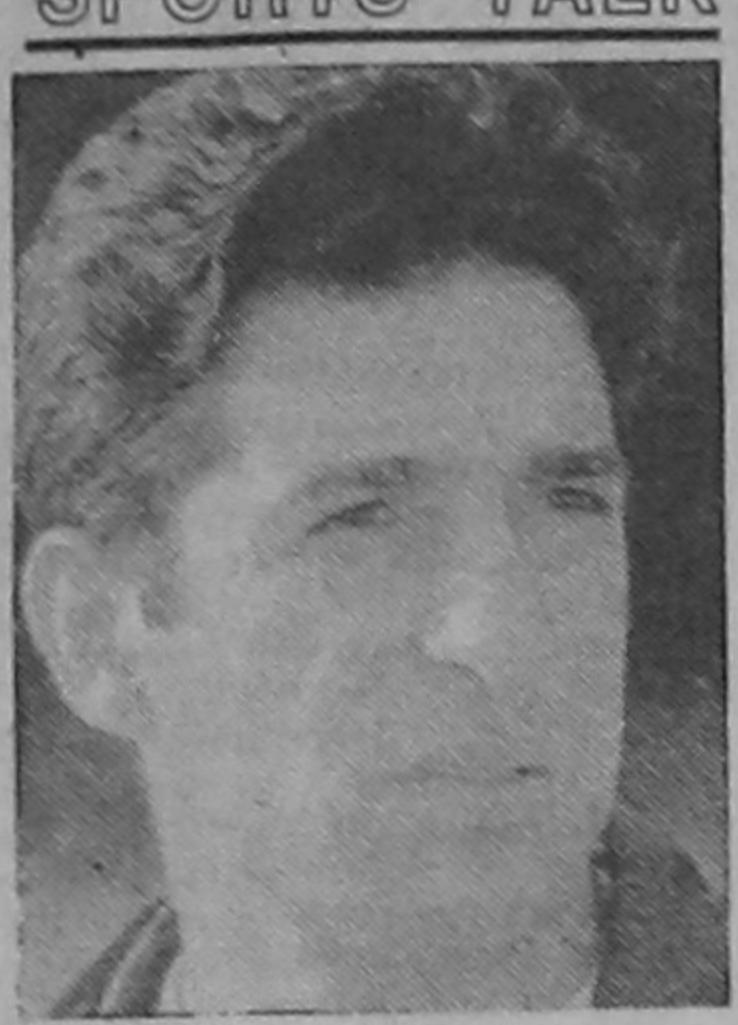


## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Wasim Akram**  
(Former Pakistan cricket captain)

"I want to concentrate on the world record of most wickets in Test cricket."

Talking about Kapil Dev's mark after quitting captaincy.

### 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 18, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1	How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One	Two
Two	Three
3	Who won the last ever European Cup Winners Cup soccer?
Lazio	Barcelona
4	Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Klusener	S Waugh
5	Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens	Seville
6	Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong	Sylhet
7	Name .....
8	Class .....
9	Roll No. ....
10	School Address .....
11	Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH  
EN-VITS

Ctg to host  
charity match  
for Munna

From Sports Reporter

CHITTAGONG, Feb 12: Abahani will play a charity football

match against Mohammediann Sporting Club of Chittagong at the MA Aziz Stadium here on February 19 to raise funds for ailing former national captain Monem Munna.

The Chittagong Football Khelo Samity and the Chittagong Zilla Krira Sangstha have jointly organised the match to extend their helping hands to Munna, who is now receiving treatment in Bangalore for his damaged kidneys.

Former national footballers Ashrafuddin Chunnu and FI Kamal formally announced it in the evening.

Without mentioning names, they said that some stars of yesteryears would play for both teams. The match is scheduled to start at 5 pm.

Two Dhaka giants Abahani and Mohammediann will feature in the first charity match for Munna at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on February 16.

Air Force v'ball

TANGAIL, Feb 12: The annual inter-base volleyball championship of the Air Force got underway at the Paharkanchampur Base today, reports M. Mustafizur Rahman.

In the opening match, BAF Base Bashir defeated BAF Base Zahrul Haque 3-1.

## Flying start for Abahani

From Hasan Masood

CHITTAGONG, Feb 12: Federation Cup champions Abahani Krira Chakra began their Nitol-Tata National Football League campaign in style, thrashing Netrokona Mohammediann Sporting Club 4-1 in their Group Two opener at the MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

In an entertaining encounter, forwards Rokonuzzaman Kanchan, Shahjuddin Tipu, Kennedy and midfielder Arman Mia scored one goal each for the popular Dharmondi outfit while striker Salful Islam pulled one back for Netrokona. The winners led the first half 3-0.

Abahani, who looked more balanced side than that of the Premier League last year, dominated the proceedings right from the word go with a formation of 4-3-3. Abahani hardly gave their unheralded opponents any time to settle in as they took a swift 2-0 lead even the match could be seven minutes old.

Kanchan, who played the Premier League for Farashgong Sporting Club, put Abahani ahead in the very fourth minute capitalising on a defence error. Midfielder Iqbal Hossain initiated the move with a cross from the left side that fell inside dan-

ger area. Neither goalkeeper Dulal Hossain Dhanu nor central defender Kamal followed the ball that dropped in front of an unmarked Kanchan, who then placed it neatly into the net with a header (1-0).

Tipu gave the finishing touch of a brilliant right side attack to double the margin three minutes later. The speedy forward, who donned Rahmatganj Muslim Friend's Society jersey last year, side-footed the ball into the near post after being nicely fed by Kanchan.

Mercurial midfielder Arman lived to his old self, playing magnificently throughout the proceedings today. He sealed off the first half with a sudden 30-yard angular shot from the left flank that swerved onto the far corner of the net with Dhanu at a loss.

After the breather, Abahani kept the tempo on and scored their fourth goal in the 57th minute with Ghanaian forward Kennedy sending home a right side Tito cross.

After conceding the fourth goal, Netrokona Mohammediann SC Dhanu, Govinda, Kamal, Chotton, Din Mohammad, Jalal, Shuvro, Reazuddin, Monir (Roman), Masud Khan (Rukul) and Salful.

**Man-of-the-match:** Arman Mia (Abahani Limited)  
**Referee:** Maruf Hossain.

fore, overcame an offside trap while receiving a Shuvro through and then made no mistake in sending the ball over the onrushing goalkeeper.

In the remaining time Abahani got two easy opportunities to make the victory even bigger but it was experienced midfielder Zakir Hossain who spoiled both the chances with his poor finishing.

It was the last of the first four matches of the inaugural National League held in Chittagong. The next four first round encounters will be played at the Khulna Stadium. The League is likely to resume either on February 25 or 26, said Bangladesh Football Federation joint-secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu today.

**Yellow cards:** Charles Ghansha and Iqbal Hossain (Abahani)

### TEAMS

Abahani: Aminul, Partho, Tito, Ghansha, Kingshuk (Fattai), Iqbal, Arman (Sentul), Zakir, Tipu (Mintul), Kennedy and Kanchan.

Netrokona Mohammediann SC: Dhanu, Govinda, Kamal, Chotton, Din Mohammad, Jalal, Shuvro, Reazuddin, Monir (Roman), Masud Khan (Rukul) and Salful.

**Man-of-the-match:** Arman Mia (Abahani Limited)  
**Referee:** Maruf Hossain.

## Asia Cup starts from May 28

Sports Reporter

The seventh Asia Cup will begin in Dhaka from May 28 with hosts Bangladesh taking on Sri Lanka in the opening match of the four-nation meet at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Syed Ashraful Haq, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), disclosed this while talking to a host of journalists yesterday.

Ashraful, who returned from Singapore on Thursday, was discussing the prospect of Bangladesh's getting the Test status in the June ICC meeting at Lord's.

"This is the revised fixture of the Asia Cup and there will be no further change of dates", said Ashraful confirming that Pakistan would arrive in the capital after the start of the tournament. Pakistan will fly in Dhaka straight from West Indies, where they will play in Test and one-day series.

The meet, which also included India, has been deferred on a number of occasions by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) due to the non-availability of all the three Asian giants together at the same time. The tournament will be a day-night affair.

### Fixture

Day	Match
May 28	Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
May 29	Bangladesh vs India
May 31	India vs Sri Lanka
June 1	Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
June 2	Pakistan vs Bangladesh
June 4	Pakistan vs India
June 6	Final
June 7	(Rain-reserve day)

**Zia draws with top-rated GM**

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman extended his unbeaten record to six when he drew with world runner-up Grand Master Vladimir Akopian of Armenia in the sixth round of the 11th Goodricke International Open Chess Tournament in Calcutta yesterday.

Playing with white pieces, the talented Biman player adopted the Catalan Opening and forced the highest rated player in the meet to settle for a draw only after 12 moves. The creditable draw left Zia with 4 points and at the third position with another nine players. In search of his second Grand Master norm, Zia needed at least another three points from the remaining five games to achieve the feat. It was Zia's fourth draw against two wins, all against GMs.

Another International Master Reefat-bin Sattar defeated Raktim Bandopadhyay of India yesterday. It was his third win against as many defeats.

Reefat played with black pieces and adopted the familiar Sicilian Defence against Raktim's Rozolimo Variation and won after 30 moves.

In the 7th round games Zia will play against Chinese Grand Master Peng Xiaomin and Reefat against Indian Gurpreet Pal Singh.

### Malek lifts American Cup golf

Sports Reporter

Tanveer Malek of Bangladesh and Mrs Jin Sook Yoon became men's and ladies' champions respectively in the American Millennium Cup tournament that concluded at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

Malek joins an elite club -- the sixth Bangladeshi winner of the prestigious event.

Manzur Moshud took home the senior title and Faizan Moshud bagged the junior crown.

A prize-giving ceremony took place at a city hotel later in the evening.

Chief of Army and president of the club Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman gave away the trophies. US ambassador to Bangladesh John C. Holzman was present as the special guest.

The two-day prestigious event saw nearly 300 golfers take the 18-hole course.

**OTHER WINNERS**

**Best Gross:** Shawakat uz-Zaman; **Second Best Gross:** Sadiq Qudus; **Men's Runner-Up:** Ralyan Islam; **Ladies' Runner-Up:** Jung Sook Jung; **Senior Runner-Up:** Jung Sook Jung; **Junior Runner-Up:** Farhan Abedin; **Men's Front Nine:** Air Cdre Fakhrul Azam; **Ladies' Front Nine:** Elni Zukifly; **Men's Back Nine:** G. N. Park; **Ladies' Back Nine:** S. L. Lee; **Most Birdies/Eagle:** Hissam Ahmed; **Nearest to Pin (Day 1):** Brig Abdullah Hassan; **Nearest to Pin (Day 2):** Anuar Kasman; **Longest Drive (Day 1):** Robert Jenkins; **Longest Drive (Day 2):** Frans Van Hoorn; **Ladies' Longest Drive:** Terry Alexander.

### NBL v'ball

Bangladesh Police and Water Development Board won their respective matches in the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League yesterday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Police beat Sonali Bank Club by 3-1 in a nail-biting match while Water Development Board earned a comfortable 3-0 victory over Wari Club.

In the day's First Division match, East End Club earned full points beating Jibon Bima Corporation by 3-0 sets.

### Shoaib Akhtar

The board officials to give a break from Pakistan's assignments in Dhaka and Sri Lanka so I can play a full season."

As it stands, the Rawalpindi Express is uncertain of playing in the first Test with Sri Lanka in his home city on February 26.

"As far as his availability is



Scene from the 26th National Chess Championship qualifiers at the NSC yesterday.

—Star photo

## Cautious Lanka v new-look Pakistan

## First one-dayer today

KARACHI, Feb 12 (Reuters/AP): Sri Lanka will attempt to extend a six-match unbeaten run when they face a new-look Pakistan in the first one-day international of a three-match series at the National Stadium on Sunday.

Sri Lanka defeated Australia by eight wickets in the final of a triangular series in Colombo in August and then made a clean sweep of a five-match series against Zimbabwe later in the year.

Pakistan, meanwhile, is undergoing a major shake-up, with five players dropped in the wake of a disastrous tour of Australia.

Playing with white pieces, the talented Biman player adopted the Catalan Opening and forced the highest rated player in the meet to settle for a draw only after 12 moves. The creditable draw left Zia with 4 points and at the third position with another nine players. In search of his second Grand Master norm, Zia needed at least another three points from the remaining five games to achieve the feat. It was Zia's fourth draw against two wins, all against GMs.

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