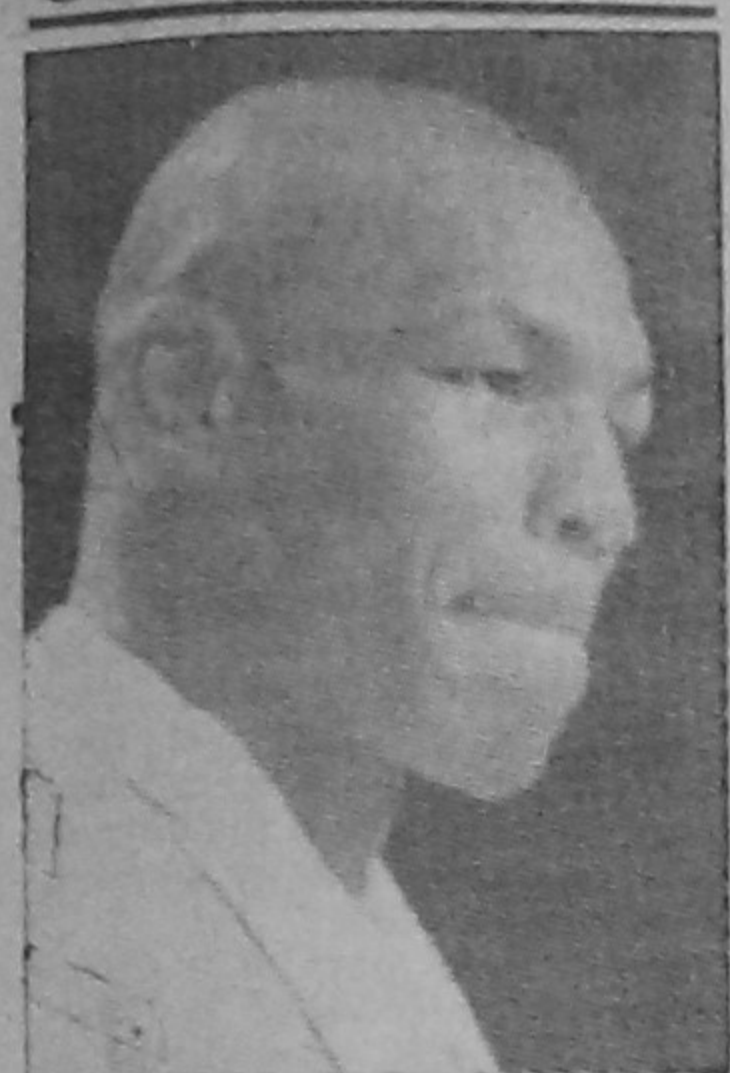


## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



Mike Tyson

(Former world heavyweight champion)  
"We're in the hurt business. If you're not prepared to get hurt, you shouldn't step in the ring."

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-128  
Feb 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- ✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to the Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Feb 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?  
Rusener 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) .....



## Office League hockey

### Easy wins for Bima, Army

Sadharan Bima and Bangladesh Army started their Shah Sports Office League campaigns with victories over their respective rivals at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sadharan Bima defeated Bangladesh Navy 2-0 in the day's first match after leading the first half 1-0.

Hasan opened the winners' account in the ninth minute with a field goal while national striker Kamal doubled the margin in the 54th minute also by a field goal.

In the day's other match, Army beat Bangladesh Air Force also by an identical margin.

After a barren first half, Abu Sayeed put the armymen ahead by a field goal in the 40th minute.

Mustafa netted the second field goal for the winners eight minutes later.

**Sunday's match:** Sonali Bank Club vs Blue-Berry Travellers (3:30pm).

## Bashundhara to sponsor five cricketers

Sports Reporter

A corporate business house has come forth with a very lucrative sponsorship deal for five national cricketers.

The one-year contract is reportedly going to set a new mark in the history of the country's sports sponsorship, says a press release of the sponsor, Bashundhara Group of Companies, yesterday.

Bashundhara offers its sponsorship to Bangladesh captain Aminul Islam, Naimur Rahman Darjoo, Sanwar Hossain, Mehrez Hossain and Zaved Omar Belim.

A formal announcement in this regard will be made at the company's Corporate Office today.

## Mighty club in a mess

Al-Amin

### Premier League

#### Mohammedan SC



ATHAR ALI: Captain?

Mohammedan Sporting Club has always been considered a top force in the domestic sports. But cricket-wise it tells a different story. In recent years, the popular Motijheel outfit has been missing out on their share of glory, much to the discontent of their countless supporters.

For the past two seasons, they have not only miserably failed to maintain their lofty standard--to be among the top two, but also struggled to stop an ominous slide down the mountain. They finished fourth in the 1997-98 and slipped to fifth the following year.

The waning syndrome has trapped Mohammedan for too long, raising upsur among bewildered bulls of the premium club. Observers point their fingers of blame at mismanagement and cash-crisis for the decline of the once-revered outfit for the past few seasons.

Their acute monetary problem surfaced during this year's inter-club cricketers' transfer where Mohammedan did not even dare to lure top-notch players. So, that had left them to carry on with almost what they had last season. Moreover, when most of the aspirants are shaping up ahead of the prestigious Premier League, Mohammedan are yet to announce their captain.

Mohammedan did appoint a coach (Abdul Hadi Ratan) recently, but he does not know yet who could be in his list of eleven players, at the least. The lack of proper planning, unimaginative thinking and inclination towards non-cricketing officials have now left Mohammedan with as many as four openers, but their suspect middle-order goes without the addition of any steel. The bowling department has also been suffering from the spur-of-the-moment recruiting and the comical combination.

Monjurul Islam, the national left-arm seamer, is the lone new-ball bowler while Mohammad Rashed has been left alone to look after the spin sector. It may dawn on many that Mohammedan have reserved their best of the bowling for part-timers. They do not have five recognised bowlers to do a decent job.

This has put Mohammedan at sixes and sevens.

But the cricket secretary of Mohammedan, Luthfar Rahman Badal claimed, they are going to plug those loopholes with the three foreign recruits.

"Ruwan Kalpage has arrived today and Hasan Tillekeratne will arrive in the city on Monday", said Badal to the Daily Star yesterday. Sri Lanka one-day all-rounder Kalpage played for Mohammedan a couple of years back and his compatriot and former Test cap Tillekeratne is also a frequent visitor in Dhaka cricket. But irony is that neither of them is a pace bowler.

"We tried to get the service of Aravinda de Silva along with Arjuna Ranatunga", Badal said. But the desire of Badal to make it an all-Lanka foreign re-ipe suffered a blow when both Aravinda and Ranatunga were named in the Test squad.

"We are now thinking to see page-14"



The veteran Mohammedan Sporting Club team which took part in the charity match yesterday. —Star photo

## Malaysia stay on course

### India claw past Canada

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19: India scraped to their first victory in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup beating a surprisingly strong Canada 3-2 at the National Hockey Stadium here today, reports AFP.

Following identical 2-1 defeats to formidable Germany and redoubtable Pakistan, India should have found lightweight Canada easy but their opponents turned out to be surprisingly resilient.

The Canadians were first into the lead when Rob Short took a pass on the left and scored from an acute angle, the shot beating second choice Indian goalkeeper RVS Prasad who was deputising for Jude Menezes.

Dhanaraj Pillay, India's best forward, brought his team level in the 7th minute when he whipped in a pass to receive from Baljit Singh Dhillon.

The Indians then scored the Canadian defence in sporadic spells but only in the 33rd minute was Deepak Thakur, in a thrilling run in which he beat three defenders, able to give them the lead with a reverse flick that had class stamped on it.

Jagan Senthil increased the Indian lead three minutes after half-time when he deflected into goal a pass from Dhanaraj.

But Canada were unbowed coming back strongly to pick up a second goal by Rick Roberts in the 53rd minute off their sixth penalty corner.

In all, Canada had seven penalty corners to India's one. Meanwhile, hosts Malaysia continued their triumphant progress with a 4-2 win over New Zealand.

It was the Malaysians' third victory in as many outings and positions them to emerge as one of the two top teams in this seven-nation one round league in which the table topped and runner-up clash again in the final on February 26.

Malaysia got off to a soaring start in the third minute when

## Pak-SL 3rd Test starts a day early

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 19: The third Test match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has been rescheduled to start one day early, the Pakistan Cricket Board said today, reports AFP.

The third Test was originally scheduled for March 13-17 but it will now commence a day earlier as the Muslim religious festival of Eid-ul-Azha falls on March 17.

The three-Test series starts with the first Test scheduled to get underway on February 26 at Rawalpindi.

Chairil Anwar Aziz deflected into goal a long cross from the right from Kuhan Shanmuganathan.

Scarcely had the cheers from the partisan crowd died down than Kuhan, star of a rare 2-1 Malaysian victory over Germany earlier, fed Chairil this time from near the top of the circle for the opportunistic forward to sweep the ball in the seventh minute for his and his team's second goal.

But the Malaysians could not sustain their bright start and in the lull, New Zealand came back to pressure them.

Off their first penalty corner in the 19th minute, Ryan Archibald relayed into goal Brett Leaver's pass from the penalty corner pushout.

The second half saw the Malaysians renew their taste for the attack with Shaiful Azli Rahman scoring a lovely field goal in the 43rd minute and Suhaimi Ibrahim collecting his first goal of the match but third for the tournament in the 53rd minute.

Both goals came when the Malaysians opted to stream their attack down the flanks where their pace and stick work stretched a New Zealand side that was tiring fast in the oppressive humidity.

Craig Russ reduced the deficit for New Zealand in the 68th minute with a field goal netted from the top of the circle.



LIKE OLD TIMES: Former Abahani ace striker Sheikh Salahuddin (C) having a chat with his once teammates Chunnun (L), Gaffar (2nd from L), Helal (4th from R), Motaleb (2nd from R) and F.I. Kamal (R) during the charity match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## Peace, for once at least!

Sports Reporter

For once the infamous 'cold war' between our football and cricket organisers melted away as they assembled at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday for a noble cause - to raise funds for ailing former footballer Monem Munna.

Munna, who damaged both kidneys, is now in India awaiting a transplant.

The two federations played out a one-all draw before Obaidul Quader blew the final whistle amidst applause from a 10,000 crowd, who thronged the big bowl to show their love for Munna.

The match, that brought a host of diverse characters together, gave the audience sheer enjoyment. Remarkably, the cricketers led by their president Saber Hossain Chowdhury stole a march over the booters with a burly Akram Khan running up and down the whole length of the field.

The footballers on the other hand were not that fortunate to be graced with the presence of their president Mayor Mohammed Hanif, who seldom visited his office at the stadium arena in past few years.

The fun-filled 25-minute game suddenly got a political flavour as State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader replaced referee Z Alam to take the charge midway through the first session. His presence in the middle came as no surprise as he made some bizarre decisions to appease both warring parties. He ruled out a definite penalty for BFF and then declared Akram's last, minute goal null and void only to make sure that the contest ended fair and square.

## Football the winner

National footballers of the present and past yesterday assembled for a gala show before at least 10,000 spectators at the Bangabandhu National Stadium to raise funds for ailing former national skipper Monem Munna, reports BSS.

The show was divided into four parts with the players of sixties and seventies of Mohammedan played against their Abahani counterparts at the beginning.

Reputed footballers like Zakaria Pintoo, Protap Hazra, Zahir Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed, Amlesh, Chunnun, Khurshid Babul, Nannu, Mutaleb, Ashish Badra, Gaffar, Helal, Sabbir, Badal Roy, Aslam, Salam Mursheidi, Kaiser Hamid took part.

The Mohammedan veterans won 2-0. Salam and Joshi scored once each. The second part was a game between Bangladesh Football Federation led by Shah Abul Kashem and Bangladesh Cricket Board captained by president Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

The match, partly conducted by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader to the fanfare of the spectators, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Cricketer Khaled Mahmud gave BCB the lead while Gaffar leveled the margin.

Former national cricket captain Akram Khan enthralled the crowd with his superb footwork.

The exhibition match between Mohammedan and Abahani ended in a goalless draw.

The event was rounded off by a cultural function, participated by leading artistes - Shakila Zafar, Tapan Chowdhury, Shubra Dev, Film stars - Ilias Kanchan, Deet and others.

The proceeds of the matches will go to the fund for Munna, who is now at Bangalore for treatment.

## Olive honour for Wasim

LAHORE, Feb 19 (AFP): Star Pakistan fast bowler and former skipper, Wasim Akram, has been given a gold medal as a lifetime achievement award by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

The medal was given on Thursday at a function attended by Pakistan and Sri Lankan teams and officials.

This award comes as a satisfaction and is an acknowledgement of my contributions for Pakistan," he said.

"I have been under tremendous pressure due to baseless allegations on me and due to some other reasons and this comes as a relief," he said.

Wasim relinquished the team captaincy after Pakistan were beaten 3-0 in the Test series by Australia, in Australia late last year. They were later beaten 2-0 in the tri-series finals by Steve Waugh's world champion team.

You tend to get so much disturbed but awards and acknowledgement soothe you and give you self pride," he said.

"My 410 wickets (in one day internationals) is a record for Pakistan and I take pride in it," Wasim said.

"I am fit and can do this, I am motivated to achieve that for Pakistan," he said.

Wasim is 51 wickets away from Indian pacer, Kapil Dev's world record of 434 wickets in Test cricket.

Asked if Pakistan could again fall back on him as captain in the wake of a dismal current showing against Sri Lanka, he said: "I have enough of it, no way."



VETERAN THWARTS VETERAN: Abahani custodian Motaleb blocks a header by Salam Mursheidi of Mohammedan. —Star photo

## Pakistan Lanka-washed

LAHORE, Pakistan, Feb 19 (Reuters): Sri Lanka crushed Pakistan by 104 runs on Saturday to complete a 3-0 rout in their one-day series.

Pakistan were shot out for 137 after in-form Marvan Atapattu hit 77 out of Sri Lanka's total of 241 for nine.

Pakistan made a poor start and lost opener Aamir Sohail for six when he edged paceman Nuwan Zoysa behind.

Sri Lanka then struck two rapid blows at the same total of 48. Skipper Saad Anwar fell for 30 to a brilliant diving catch

by Russel Arnold at short cover off Pramodya Wickremasinghe. Five balls later, Younus Khan was lbw to Zoysa for 11.

Debutant Faisal Iqbal, nephew of former Pakistan captain Javed Miandad, was run out by a fine throw from Mahela Jayawardene at mid-on. He made four.

Yousaf Youhana was dismissed in similar fashion for seven, failing to beat Sanath Jayasuriya's throw from mid-off.

Pakistan plunged to 96 for six when Moin Khan was bowled by Jayasuriya with a delivery that stayed low. He scored 14.

Abdur Razzaq hit three quick fours, all off Muttiah Muralitharan, in his 22 before the seasoned off-spinner uprooted his leg stump.

Wasim Akram was the second highest scorer with 29, hitting two fours and a six before he was last out, bowled by Jayasuriya.

All-rounder Azhar Mahmood was unable to bat because of back trouble.

Atapattu, who finished the series with 253 runs, claimed his second man-of-the-match prize. He batted for 91 balls and hit four fours in posting his 21st half century in his 92nd one-day game.

He shared a three-wicket partnership of 84 with Jayawardene. Sri Lanka's second highest scorer with 43.

Opener Kaluwitharana made the other significant score of 35 when he was adjudged leg before by debutant umpire Nadeem Ghauri off paceman Razzaq, the best home bowler with four for 36.

The youngster was on a hat-trick when he removed Tillekeratne Dilshan and Muralitharan with successive deliveries in his ninth over.

Akram, who made the first breakthrough with the wicket of Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya for 10, finished with three for 38.

Pakistan captain blamed batting failure for the defeat. "We were simply outplayed by the Lankans and also faced fitness problems. We have to devise some other strategy for the Test series."

Jayasuriya said: "It was the all-round performance of the team which contributed to the victory. Our batting, bowling and fielding had been consistent throughout and we hope to carry it into the Test series."

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third one-day international match between Sri Lanka and Pakistan on Saturday:

**SRI LANKA**  
Jayasuriya c Akram Mahmood 10  
b Wasim 35

Kaluwitharana lbw b Razzaq 36  
Atapattu c Saad Anwar b Wasim 77  
Jayawardene c and b Saqlain 43  
Arnold run out 4

Dilshan c Moin Khan b Razzaq 17  
Vaas c Sub (Imran Nazir) b Razzaq 6  
Chandana b Wasim 16  
Muralitharan b Razzaq 0  
Wickremasinghe not out 10  
Zoysa not out 3  
Extras (lb-11, w-8, nb-1) 20

Total: (For nine wickets in 50 overs) 241  
Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-64; 3-148; 4-161; 5-196; 6-205; 7-224; 8-224; 9-228.

**Bowler:** O M R W  
Akram 10 3 38 3  
Nazir 10 0 48 0  
Razzaq 10 0 36 4  
Mahmood 1 0 6 0  
Saqlain 10 0 43 1  
Sohail 7 0 43 0  
Iqbal 2 0 16 0

**PAKISTAN**  
Anwar c Arnold b Wickremasinghe 30  
Sohail c Kaluwitharana b Zoysa 6  
Younus Khan lbw b Zoysa 11  
Youhana run out 7  
Faisal Iqbal run out 4  
Moin Khan b Jayasuriya 14  
Razzaq b Muralitharan 22  
Akrom b Jayasuriya 29  
Saqlain lbw b Vaas 2  
Shahid Nazir not out 0  
Mahmood retired absent 0

Extras (lb-7, w-5) 12  
Total: (All out in 39.3 overs) 137  
Fall of wickets: 1-26; 2-48; 3-48; 4-57; 5-60; 6-96; 7-112; 8-125; 9-137.

**Bowler:** O M R W  
Zoysa 8 2 30 2  
Vaas 7 0 12 1  
Wickremasinghe 7 0 19 1  
Muralitharan 8 2 29 1  
Akrom b Jayasuriya 22  
Saqlain lbw b Vaas 2  
Shahid Nazir not out 0  
Mahmood retired absent 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 104 runs for 3-0 series win.  
Man-of-the-match: Marvan Atapattu.

First match: Sri Lanka won by 29 runs.  
Second match: Sri Lanka won by 34 runs.

## Pegasus beat Ajax

Young Pegasus earned a 24-run victory over Ajax SC in the Metropolitan First Division League at the Rajshahi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

**BRIEFSCORES**  
YOUNG PEGASUS: 197/9 in 50 overs (Rojel 62, Mostaq 25, Labu 28, Rashed 18, Ujjal 21 n.o., extras 22; Mithu 1/24, Chapol 3/14, Azam 1/26, Babu 3/37).

**AJAX SC:** 173/10 in 47.4 overs (Babu 37, Sumon 21, Nayeem 33, Dulu 10, Azim 10, Mithu 15, Raja 14, extras 23; Sad 2/25, Mostaq 1/27, Sajid 1/26, Jony 2/28, Sohail 3/15.)

A steady 62 by Rojel helped young Pegasus reach a respectable 197 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs.

Opting to bat, Pegasus made a disastrous start losing five top order batsmen for 29 runs but Rojel and Mostaq repaired the damage putting together 45 runs for the sixth wicket.

Rojel made 62 off 104 balls that featured five boundaries and two six while Mostaq added 25 runs off 40 deliveries with two hits across the rope.

Rojel figured in a useful 75-run seventh wicket stand with Labu, who scored 28 off 50 balls. Last batsman Ujjal scored an unbeaten 21 facing only 18 deliveries.

Pacer Chapol claimed three wickets.

for only 14 runs while Babu also took three wickets giving away 37 runs.

In reply, Ajax were all out for 173 in 47.4 overs.

Openers Babu and Sumon added 63 runs.

Babu scored 37 off 51 balls that included four boundaries while Sumon added 21 off 58 balls with one four.

Pakistan Nayeem and Dulu combined for a third-wicket stand of 47. But after both were dismissed the innings lost its way.

Nayeem hit 33 runs off 39 balls while Dulu added 20 runs off 36 balls with two fours.

Jahangirnagar secured third place beating Islami University by 43 runs today.

Hosts Rajshahi will take on Dhaka in the final.

Rajshahi booked their final berth defeating Islami University by 121 runs while Dhaka moved into the little match crushing Jahangirnagar by 8 wickets.

Jahangirnagar secured third place beating Islami University by 43 runs today.

Pacer Chapol claimed three wickets.

Pacer Chapol claimed three wickets.