

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Hicham Arazi
(Moroccan tennis player)

"It was the best win of my career."

After beating world number one Andre Agassi in the first round of the Masters Series.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-127

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
March 24, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who won the tri-series down under?

India	Pakistan	Australia

2. How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test?

49	50	51
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3. What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthews' father?

Jack	Stephen	Bill
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4. Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?

Ronaldo	Raul	Vieri
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5. Who is the captain of Birmah cricket team?

Amirul	Faruque	Athar
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Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Reeefat clinches

IM crown

Sports Reporter

STR UNITED INSURANCE

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS

CHESS TOURNAMENT 2000

International Master Reeefat-bin-Sattar emerged unbeaten champion in the fifth United Insurance International Masters Chess Tournament concluded at the NSC yesterday afternoon.

In the eleventh round Reeefat defeated Ye Win Aung of Myanmar.

The Bangladesh IM adopted a Sicilian defence against Aung and won after 27 moves. It raised his tally to eight and a half points.

Fellow International Master Ziaur Rahman and Htun Lynn Kyaw of Myanmar finished with 7.5 points each and so had to go through a tie-breaker.

Zia clinched it to collect the runner-up spot.

Reeefat took home 500 dollars while Zia and Htun each received 250 dollars.

In the last round Zia beat Moniruzzaman Khan and Kyaw beat International Master Abdullah Al Rakib.

Rakib, International Master Vakhidov Tahir of Uzbekistan, Enamul Hossain Rajib and Shuvrojit Saha of India finished with seven points apiece.

In tiebreaker, Rakib got the 4th position, Tahir earned the 5th position, Razib clinched the 6th position while Shuvrojit finished 7th. Each player earned 87 dollars.

Besides, Amirul Islam and two Indians Roktim Bandyopadhyay and Dipanjan Das earned 6.5 points each.

Dipanjan was placed 8th followed by Roktim. Amirul Islam finished in 10th spot. The three earned 50 dollars each.

Later in the evening, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader gave away the prizes as the chief guest.

Saber plans strategically

In the last third and last part of our interview series on Bangladesh's current position as a potential Test nation, Daily Star Sport caught up with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President **Saber Hossain Chowdhury (SH)**.

A proven organiser, Saber has over the years played a laudable role in enhancing the image of Bangladesh cricket at world stage. As Bangladesh edges ever closer to Test status, the BCB supremo gives his independent opinion on some important topics via internet.

DSS: The whole country is bubbling with excitement over the possibility of Test status. For some reason, if we do not get it in near future, what sort of impact do you think it will have on the development of cricket in Bangladesh?

SH: Implicit in your question is the assumption that Bangladesh being granted Test Status in June of this year is a formality only. I believe we still have a long way to go and should not take anything for granted. The report of the ICC Inspection Sub-Committee will be routed through the Cricket Committee Playing to the Executive Board and it will be for the Board to make its final recommendation to the Council. I would however be less than honest if I said I would not be disappointed if we fail to obtain the status this year as this may actually not only set Bangladesh cricket but also the globalisation initiative of ICC back. I firmly believe it is not just a matter of Bangladesh seeking to become the tenth Test playing nation - world cricket also desperately needs to embrace and welcome 130 million people into its fold.

DSS: Is Bangladesh ready to meet the challenges of Test cricket?

SH: Our performance in first class cricket over the past six months against the full West Indies Test side, England A and the MCC, where we more than held our own, would strongly indicate that we are as ready for Test cricket as we are an Associate Member will ever be. I am not for one moment suggesting that we will initially be winning all our matches but I do believe that we can compete and perform with honour and distinction as the newest member at Test level.

DSS: How prepared is the BCB?

SH: A Strategic Development Plan, which also incorporates a mission statement, to ensure that BCB is able to develop the game and meet the challenges of a competitive and increasingly

demanding operating environment, has just been formulated and should be in motion in the immediate future.

DSS: The BCB does not have a single permanent cricket ground. Will it not hamper our prospects?

SH: We have already identified three venues in Bangladesh for Test matches and these have been inspected and approved by the ICC Inspection Sub-Committee. I do acknowledge however that grounds are a major resource constraint for us and this will become even more so both from a national level as well as Club cricket point of

The Daily Star Sport has met three top-notch cricket organisers of the country in a bid to know their opinion about some burning issues that need to be addressed immediately. Their views have been appearing in the Star Sport in phases. We want our knowledgeable readers to let the organisers know about their observations on the betterment of the game. We therefore request you (readers) to contribute your views, advice and criticisms by just sending a write-up or an e-mail to dssports@bdonline.com.

—Star Sport

view when we enter the Test fold since Test venues cannot sustain the same level of activity and number of matches.

DSS: Critics claim that the Board has given a false impression to the ICC inspection team about the existing infrastructure of our cricket. What is your answer to that criticism?

SH: I welcome and encourage objective and constructive criticism but I have no wish to lend credibility and respectability to so-called critics by attempting to answer questions based on immature and baseless reasoning.

DSS: It's being heard that the ICC is not pleased by the way the BCB is functioning at the

moment. There have also been unconfirmed reports that the Council has suggested specific guidelines for the BCB to run professionally. Is the BCB planning on becoming a professional organisation?

SH: As a member of ICC's Executive Board, let me tell you in clear and categorical terms that



it is neither ICC policy to intervene in domestic and internal affairs of its members nor does it hand out prescriptions on what is to be done. With regard to plans for the Board, we must move with the times and be well positioned and capable of responding and adapting to the needs of the day.

DSS: If you do go professional, what sort of changes would you like to bring in? Will you be favouring a major change in the Board's structure or just shuffle personalities?

SH: Although the most unchangeable aspect of change is change itself, I do not believe in change for the sake of change. I have never been in favour of

cosmetic changes and playing musical chairs with positions. What we must understand is that the system or structure of the Board should in reality be linked to our aims, targets and objectives. First we have to define in crystal clear terms where we currently are, what our objectives are and where we want to be. Then only can we consider what structure or system we require to help us get there and realise our aims and targets. This is precisely the reason for formulating and putting into motion the Strategic Development Plan that I referred to earlier.

DSS: Your general secretary wants a small but effective set-up in the Board that includes three paid executives. Do you agree with his opinion? (If you endorse his view) Do you think that the trio would be able to work independently under the existing constitution of the Board?

SH: Same response as above. **DSS:** Local cricketers in recent times have gone for movements to press their various demands. Do you consider players' movement as a positive sign for our cricket?

SH: I have all along strongly advocated the need for commitment, support and active involvement of cricket's many stakeholders in developing the game. The internal relationship between two of the important stakeholders - players and organisers - must be based and founded on mutual appreciation, respect and trust for each other. The impasse that we witnessed earlier in the season was a part of our 'growing up' process and hopefully has made us all more alive, alert and sensitive to the fact that all the stakeholders of cricket must work together to move the game of cricket forward.

DSS: Time and again you have said that the national player's would be brought under the Board's payroll. Your plan is yet to see the light. When do you expect the contract to be signed?

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Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis (L) is being congratulated by teammates after the dismissal of Sanath Jayasuriya (R) on the fourth day of the Karachi Test yesterday. —AFP photo

Pakistan win at last

KARACHI, Mar 15: Pakistan downed Sri Lanka by an emphatic 222-run margin in the third and final cricket Test in Karachi on Wednesday to restore some of their damaged pride, reports AFP.

The home team dismissed Sri Lanka for 228 on the fourth day and kept intact an unbeaten record at the National Stadium after holding off their first home whitewash.

Sanath Jayasuriya's men faltered in their chase of a mammoth target of 451 to finish in disappointing style a series they dominated.

Earlier Pakistan were dismissed for 421 in their second innings after an hour's play with skipper Moin Khan leading the way with a fiery 70.

The victory comes as a big relief for Pakistan who came off from a 3-0 whitewash by Steve Waugh's invincible Australia, then lost the first two Tests of this series and had to handle off-field problems in their cricket.

Wasim Akram and Saeed Anwar each stepped down as captain and coach Intikhab Alam resigned before the final Test to compound Pakistan's management problems.

Former captain Javed Miandad took over as coach while Moin was appointed captain on the eve of the Karachi Test.

Wickets fell at regular intervals in the Sri Lanka second innings on Wednesday with captain Jayasuriya departing as early as the seventh over.

The visitors were left trying to beat India's record 406 for four fourth innings stand against the West Indies at Port of Spain in 1976.

Jayasuriya was adjudged leg before wicket off Waqar Younis for 10, offering no stroke to an incoming delivery.

"It was disappointing to lose the dead Test like this but overall we enjoyed the series and are happy to have won against a tough opponent like Pakistan," Sri Lankan captain Jayasuriya said.

Jayasuriya, however, won his third consecutive series in

charge after beating Australia 1-0 at home last August and Zimbabwe by the same margin in the away series in November-December last year.

Sri Lanka's highest fourth innings score to win a Test is 326-5 against Zimbabwe in Colombo three years ago.

But with experienced Aravinda de Silva not playing in the match due to injury the visitors never looked settled enough to handle the pressure of a big target.

At lunch the tourists were 37-1 with all hopes of prolonging the result resting on grafter Marvan Atapattu.

Atapattu and Russel Arnold fell in successive overs, leaving Sri Lanka reeling at 41-3.

Sri Lanka won the first Test in Rawalpindi by a narrow two-wicket margin and the second at Peshawar by 57 runs.

Pacer Mohammad Akram had Atapattu when the batsman played a wild cut shot off a rising delivery but was caught by wicketkeeper Moin.

Atapattu's 23 had four

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Shane scales Aussie mountain

SYDNEY, Mar 15 (Reuters/AP): Shane Warne added another chapter to his remarkable career today when he passed Dennis Lillee's record for the most Test wickets by an Australian bowler.

The flamboyant leg-spinner finally edged past Lillee's Test tally of 355 wickets when New Zealand tallender Paul Wiseman gloved a simple catch to wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist to hand Australia victory in Auckland.

While Warne's 356th Test scalp may not have been as spectacular as some of his previous wickets, it still ranked among the most significant of his career.

Warne said the pressure of going for the record had affected

after he was dropped from the Australian Test team during their tour of the West Indies that he publicly admitted he wanted to quit.

But he regained his confidence with a series of brilliant displays during the World Cup in England, helping Australia win the tournament for a second time.

Recalled to the Test side, Warne refocused his attention on Lillee's record.

He became the first slow bowler in history to reach 350 Test wickets when he passed the milestone against India in December, then slowly but surely reeled in Lillee's record.

Warne's genius has rarely been questioned since he produced what pundits hailed as 'the ball of the century' to remove England's Mike Gatting at

Old Trafford in 1993, and in fact he has developed into a prospective skipper of the national team. Although he has attracted as many headlines for his off-field behaviour too.

Warne was embroiled in a Pakistan bribery scandal after making accusations against leading Pakistani players following a tour in 1994. It emerged in 1998 that he'd been paid for supplying information to an Indian gambler on a tour of Sri Lanka.

Warne and Mark Waugh, twin brother of Steve Waugh, pleaded naivety in giving the Indian bookmaker 'wicket and weather information' and were censured and fined by the Australian Cricket Board but escaped a suspension.

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FACT FILE

SHANE WARNE

Born: 13 September 1969 Melbourne.

Test Debut: 1991-92 v India, Sydney.

TEST RECORD

82 Tests, 3,830 overs, 1,170 maidens, 9,239 runs, 356 wickets, 25.95 average, Best 8-71, 5-wickets 16, 10-wickets 4.

SEASON BY SEASON ANALYSIS

(Season, Opponent, Venue, Matches, Balls, Maidens, Runs, Wkts Avg, Five wickets in an innings, Ten wickets in a match, Best figures):

1991-92 India	Aust	2	408	9	288	1	228.00	0	0	1/50
1992-93 Sri Lanka	S Lanka	2	229	8	158	3	52.67	0	0	3/11
1992-93 West Indies	Aust	4	680	23	313	0	31.30	1	0	7/52
1992-93 New Zealand	NZ	3	954	73	256	17	15.06	0	0	4/8
1992-93 England	England	6	2539	178	977	34	27.57	1	0	5/82
1993-94 New Zealand	Aust	3	328	49	305	6	16.94	1	0	6/31
1993-94 S Africa	Aust	3	1251	63	307	6	17.06	2	1	7/56
1993-94 S Africa	S Africa	3	1145	69	336	5	22.40	0	0	4/86
1994-95 Pakistan	Pakistan	3	1030	50	54	8	28.00	2	0	6/136
1994-95 England	Aust	5	1537	84	549	27	20.33	2	1	8/71
1994-95 West Indies	W Indies	4	888	35	406	5	27.07	0	0	4/70
1995-96 Pakistan	Aust	3	680	32	198	9	10.42	1	1	7/23
1995-96 Sri Lanka	Aust	3	988	43	433	2	36.08	0	0	4/71
1996-97 West Indies	Aust	5	1303	6	594	22	27.00	0	0	4/95
1996-97 S Africa	S Africa	3	798	47	282	11	25.64	0	0	4/43
1997 England	England	6	1423	69	577	24	24.04	1	0	6/48
1997-98 New Zealand	Aust	3	1024	36	476	9	25.06	1	0	5/88
1997-98 S Africa	Aust	3	1123	9	417	2	20.85	2	1	6/34
1997-98 India	India	3	1022	37	540	0	54.00	0	0	4/85
1998-99 England	Aust	1	234	7	110	2	55.00	0	0	1/43
1998-99 West Indies	W Indies	3	503	18	268	2	134.00	0	0	1/70
1999-00 Sri Lanka	S Lanka	3	337	20	115	8	14.38	1	0	5/52
1999-00 Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	1	319	13	137	6	22.83	0	0	3/68
1999-00 Pakistan	Aust	3	780	37	370	2	30.83	1	0	5/110
1999-00 India	Aust	3	782	36	335	8	41.88	0	0	4/92
1999-00 New Zealand	N Zealand	1	225	9	148	5	29.60	0	0	3/68
TOTAL:		82	22980	1170	9239	356	25.95	6	4	8/71

TOP AUSSIE TEST BOWLERS

(Collate as player, matches, wickets, average, best bowling):					
Shane Warne	82	356	25.95	8-71	
Dennis Lillee	70	355	23.92	7-83	
Craig McDermott	71	291	28.63	8-97	
Glenn McGrath	59	276	22.42	8-38	
Richie Benaud	63	248	27.03	7-72	
Graham McKenzie	61	246	29.79	8-71	
Ray Lindwall	61	228	23.03	7-38	
Clarrie Grimmett	37	216	24.22	7-40	
Merv Hughes	53	212	28.38	8-87	
Jeff Thomson	51	200	28.01	6-46	

Non AC boxes sold out

Sports Reporter



All the 22 non-air-conditioned hospitality boxes at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, each costing Tk 40,000, have been sold out for the forthcoming limited-overs cricket match between the Asia Eleven and Rest of the World Eleven on April 8.

The day-night exhibition arranged as part of the first World Cricket Week, will be sponsored by cricketnext.com.

This was disclosed by Bangladesh Cricket Board joint-secretary Mahmud Ul Haq Manu last night.

Manu also revealed that almost all of the 20 air-conditioned (AC) hospitality boxes have been snapped up too. Each costs Tk 50,000.

Pakistan's legendary left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram will lead the Asians and former West Indies captain Brian Lara will skipper the World.

Tickets for the galleries will be available at different city branches of Al-Baraka Bank three or four days before the match.

Well done Warney

SYDNEY, Mar 15 (Reuters/AP): Australian fast bowling legend Dennis Lille was one of the first to offer his congratulations to Shane Warne after the leg-spinner broke his record for the most Test wickets by an Australian bowler.

"It makes me smile that I took it from one of the greatest leg-spinners, Richie Benaud, and now possibly the greatest leg-spinner of them all has repeated the dose on me. "Congrats, Warney. Well done, keep it going, and I look forward to buying you a congratulatory ale soon."

S Africa pull one back

FARIDABAD, India, Mar 15: South Africa survived a late wicket haul by Sachin Tendulkar to register their first win in the third match of the five game one-day series against India here Wednesday, reports AFP.

The tourists won by two wickets after notching up 251 for eight in reply to India's total of 248.

Make-shift spin bowler Tendulkar took four wickets to rip apart the South African middle order and turn the tide in favour of India at the 40-over stage of the game.

But a useful eighth-wicket stand by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and Shaun Pollock saw South Africa through the danger, and Boucher hit the winning boundary with two overs to spare.

A century partnership between opener Gary Kirsten and skipper Hansie Cronje laid the foundation for the victory.