

## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

#### Competition-128

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
April 14, 2000 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one women's tennis player?

Hingis Davenport Seles

2 Who won the United Insurance IM chess title?

Reedat Zia Aung

3 How many Tests did Walsh need to break Kapil Dev's world record?

114 115 116

4 Who was adjudged man-of-the-series in the West Indies-Zimbabwe Test?

Rose Walsh Adam

5 Who are the First Division cricket champions?

Dhanmondi Y Cricketers Khelaghar

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

Kapil Dev

Former Indian star

"I am genuinely and sincerely happy for him. I broke somebody's record and Courtney broke mine."

On Courtney Walsh's becoming Test cricket's highest wicket-taker.

Radiant ride on Mr Sundries

Sports Reporter

Radiant International School beat Hammadia High School by two wickets in one of the three Dhaka metropolitan qualifying matches of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 18th national school cricket championship at the Uttara Police Lines ground yesterday.

Chasing Hammadia's commanding 193 in 35 overs, Radiant scored 194 in 29 overs for the loss of eight wickets, thanks to Mr. Sundries who contributed 60 runs to the winners' account.

Middle-order batsman Nabil top-scored with 38 followed by lower-order Hannan who was undefeated on 36.

Batting first, Hammadia, who had only ten players in the squad, scored 193 for 9 in 33.4 overs with opener Robin making highest 24.

At the nearby by Uttara Friends Club ground, Barnamala Adarsha High School defeated Shaheed Selim Shikhyalaya by five wickets.

One-down Morshed smashed an unbeaten 44, as Barnamala, chasing Shaheed Selim's 144 in 35 overs, reached 148 in 23.3 overs with five wickets to spare. Mazhar chipped in with 27.

Earlier in the morning, Shaheed Selim were shot out for 144 in 34 overs after being put into bat. Opener Faisal scored 38 while middle-order batsman Qayum added 33.

In the other match of the day, Khilgaon High School posted a six-wicket win over Ahmed Baniwa High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Electing to bat, Ahmed Baniwa were bundled out for 118 in 28.2 overs.

In reply, Khilgaon reached 120 in 20 overs with six wickets in hand. Opener Prodeep was unbeaten on 39 while Robin scored 22.



Abahani opener Mehrab Hossain, who made a brilliant 75, square-cuts during yesterday's Premier Division Cricket League encounter against Surjo Tarun at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

## Abahani's tenth in a row

Sports Reporter

### Premier League

#### Abahani v Surjo Tarun

Abahani Krira Chakra took a solo lead in the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League when they defeated Surjo Tarun Club by 38 runs in a crucial match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The popular Dhanmondi outfit raced to their tenth straight win when they, defending a fighting total of 207 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, shot the big-spending Tarun out for 169 in 45.5 overs.

National opener Mehrab Hossain returned to form with a fine 75 to lay the foundation of Abahani's total on a slow and turning wicket.

The right-hander, who had a disappointing run at the start of the League, clubbed six fours in his polished 118-ball knock. It was his second fifty after his 61 against Mohammedan.

Mehrab kept the Abahani together after Surjo Tarun skipper Minhazul Abedin won the toss and decided to field first.

He produced 59 runs for the opening stand with Azam Iqbal. The little batsman was eventually out in the 39th over, leaving Abahani comfortably placed on 165 for five.

He was holed out in the deep off slow left-arm Enamul Hoque, the most successful Surjo Tarun bowler with four for 42 in his 10 overs.

Lower-order batsman Sanjay also scored a vital 25 not out to make sure Abahani crossed the 200-mark.

Surjo Tarun, in their chase, lived up their dubious reputation of a team without a batting order.

It was an all too familiar top-order collapse for Surjo when they were reduced to 17 for three in 9.1 overs.

Minhazul Abedin fought a lone battle with a defiant 65 off 102 balls, but he hardly got any support from the other end after in-form Khaled Masood de-

parted for one.

The national wicketkeeper, carried away by a sudden rush of blood, danced down the wicket to break the shackles but missed the line completely and was stumped by Mizanur off off-spinner Naimur.

Minhazul however threw caution to the wind by putting on 66 runs for the sixth wicket with Enamul.

But once Abahani's Pakistani pacer Waqas, returning for his second spell, bowled Minhazul with a gem of a yorker a defeat for Tarun was a forgone conclusion.

Enamul, who remained unbeaten with 40, watched as the fragile tail perished quickly. Surjo Tarun lost their last four wickets for the addition of only seven runs to the total.

Naimur with three for 39 was the top performer in a disciplined Abahani attack. Pakistani left-arm spinner Mohammed Hussain was a mean customer with the ball, conceding only 18 runs in his 10 overs.

He also took the wicket of Al-Shahriar, who scored a matured 33.

It was Surjo Tarun's third defeat in nine games.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Janakantha Premier Division Cricket League match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Surjo Tarun Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

ABAHANI

Azam st K Masood b Minhazul 29

Mohammedan SC v Wari Club (Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Agrani Bank v Sadharan Bima KS (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

TODAY'S MATCHES

Mohammedan SC v Wari Club (Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Agrani Bank v Sadharan Bima KS (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

Star Sports will show the match from 7.30pm (BST) onwards

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## Rashed rules the day

Sports Reporter

### Premier League

#### City Club v Victoria

An all-round performance by Rashed Hanif guided Victoria Sporting Club to their fourth win in the Janakantha Premier Division cricket league with a four-wicket win over promoters City Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Rashed, one of the three Pakistani recruits playing for Victoria, took three wickets for 43 runs with his slow left-arm deliveries to help his side restrict City Club to 219 for five in the stipulated 35 overs.

The left-handed middle-order batsman then went on to score a match-winning knock of 61 to take Victoria to 220 in 46.5 overs with four wickets to spare.

Rashed, in his 80-ball innings, hit four boundaries.

Rashed's compatriot Fahad Khan scored 33 while opener Sajjad Ahmed added 28 runs to the winners' account.

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## Booters going to Maldives

Bangladesh National Football team will participate in the Golden Jubilee Football Tournament of the Maldives to be held in the Male National Stadium on May 1-11, reports UNB.

The Maldives Football Federation (MFF) has requested the Bangladesh Football Federation to send a 25-member team to Male with 20 booters and five officials by April 29.

The host MFF will bear the entire expenses of the Bangladesh team during the trip.

Meanwhile, the Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship has been deferred for two weeks due to the Maldives' tour of the Bangladesh National team.

The tournament will now begin on the first week of May instead of April 15.

## ICC watching it closely

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: International Cricket Council (ICC) president Jagmohan Dalmiya said on Tuesday he was monitoring developments in South Africa over the Hansie Cronje affair, reports AFP.

"We are awaiting a detailed report from the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) and only then we will act upon it," Dalmiya said.

"ICC is in constant touch with the South African Board through its head office in London. Any decision will be taken only after we get the full report on the issue."

Indian coach Kapil Dev, meanwhile, blasted Cronje, saying he had "let the game down."

"As a sportsman I feel terrible," Kapil told Star television from London.

"He (Cronje) has let down the game and everyone connected with it."

Earlier on Tuesday, UCBSA managing director Ali Bacher said Cronje had been withdrawn from the upcoming one-day series against Australia after he admitted having been "dishonest" with the board over his activities in India last month.

Cronje acknowledged receiving between 10,000 and 15,000 dollars during a triangular series in South Africa in January and February.

However, he continued to deny taking part in any match-fixing in India. Bacher told a press conference here on Tuesday.

Indian police levelled the match-fixing allegations last Friday against Cronje and three other team members following last month's one-day series here, which India won 3-2.

## UCB, govt 'deceived'

DURBAN, Apr 11 (Internet report): Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), told the world's press that the UCBSA had been "deceived" by Hansie Cronje.

Bacher said: "After I had spoke to him in the early hours of this morning he phoned the president (Percy Sonn) at 10 past 3 and repeated the same comments he had made to me. The president and myself met at 3:30 and decided to suspend Hansie."

"During the triangular one day series between England, South Africa and Zimbabwe contact was made with him by a local South African whose name we cannot mention at this point in time and also with a bookmaker of Indian origin based in London."

"Discussion took place and the results is that Hansie Cronje was given between 10 and 15 thousand US dollars which he took home. As yet he has not deposited the money. During the tour of India he was harassed by bookmakers."

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## Locals distressed

Sports Reporter



As the whole world was coming to terms with the sensational confession of South African star Hansie Cronje, shock-waves were sweeping through the cricket community in Bangladesh also.

The country was the centre-stage of world cricket just three days ago when the main attraction of the International Cricket Council's 'Cricket Week' celebrations—a limited overs exhibition match between the Asian XI and Rest of the World XI—was held in Dhaka.

Now the euphoria following that event has been overtaken by a sense of gloom, disappointment and disbelief.

"I am shocked," was the immediate feeling of national skipper Aminul Islam.

"This will ruin the image of cricket. Now whenever a team will lose everybody will speak of match-fixing," Aminul said.

"I have heard many stories about betting and match-fixing from former Pakistan batsman Basit Ali. I think Sharjah is the centre of all these criminal activities," added Aminul.

Aminul's predecessor Akram Khan said that he was totally taken aback by the news.

"It's very hard to believe that a man like Cronje is involved with match-fixing," said Akram.

"We earn a very poor amount of money by playing cricket in Bangladesh. But even

then I can not think of doing such things," Akram added.

Former national captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu also echoed Aminul's sentiment and added it was high time that the players came out of such unholy practice.

"I can not tolerate some one who betrays his country," said Faruque.

Another former national captain Minhazul Abedin, was not at all surprised.

"It has been going on in cricket for a long time. Lots of international cricketers were involved in match-fixing in the past as well," said Minhazul.

"This will obviously damage the essence of the game," Minhazul added.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashraful Haq said that he was not ready to believe all these things as he knew Cronje as a man of high dignity.

"It's not expected from a person like Hansie Cronje. I can not think he has done it," said Ashraful adding that he understood that Cronje has resigned instead of the South African board sacking him.

"He is a level headed person and a gentleman," said Ashraful.

He, however, dismissed any possibility that this incident would affect Bangladesh's prospect of getting Test status in the June meeting of the ICC.

When asked whether he thinks any body in Bangladesh was involved in match-fixing, Ashraful replied: "I doubt it."

SYED ASHRAFUL HAQ

"They (cricketers) should be happy with whatever they earn from the game and other commercial endorsements," said

## Delhi feels relieved



NEW DELHI, Apr 11: Indian police said on Tuesday the sacking of Hansie Cronje by the South African cricket board vindicated New Delhi detectives who levelled charges against the cricketer for match-fixing, reports AFP.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, told a press conference in Durban on Tuesday that Cronje had acknowledged receiving between 10,000 and 15,000 dollars during a triangular series in South Africa in January and February but continues to deny taking part in any match-fixing in India.