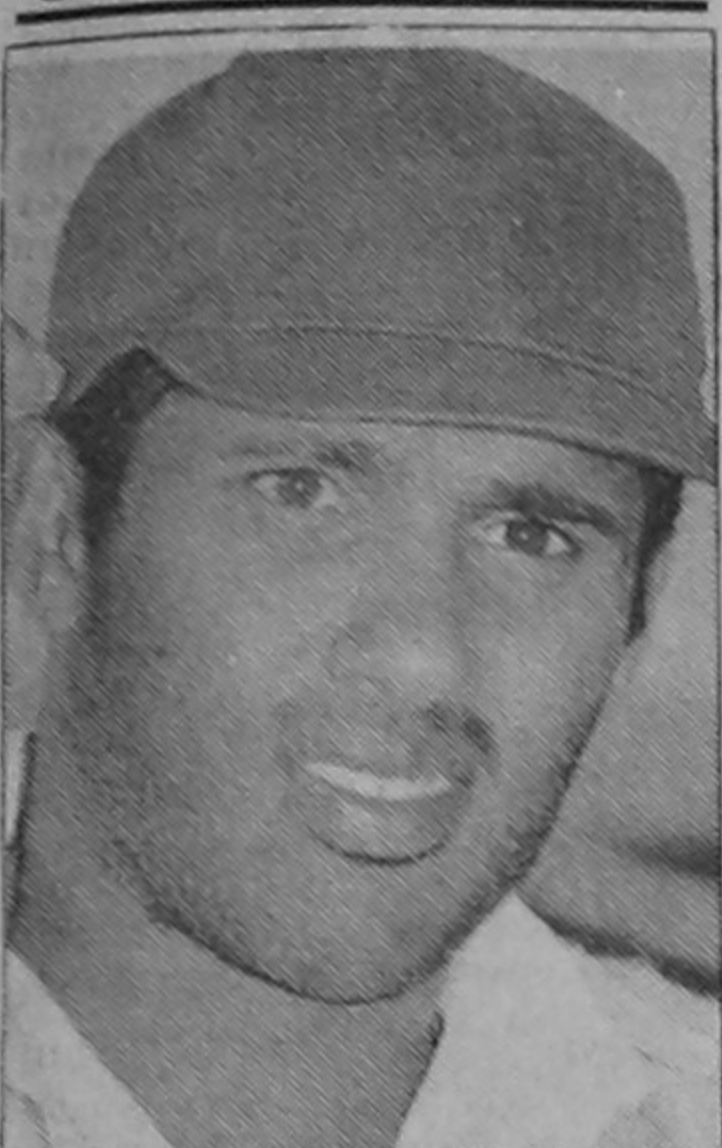


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Abey Kuruvilla

(Indian cricketer)
"I don't have any regrets. At least I got a chance to play for India."

While announcing his retirement from first-class cricket recently.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-129

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 12, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who won the 2000 Trophy in West Indies?

Windsies Pakistan Zimbabwe

2. Who was the man-of-the-series in 2000 Trophy?

Inzamam King Ambrose

3. Who is South Africa's cricket captain?

Kirsten Gibbs Pollock

4. Who was the man-of-the-match in the Asia vs World Eleven cricket match?

Tendulkar Bevan De Silva

5. Who is the fastest man in the country now?

Mahbub Sattar Mizan

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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Pathan Para champions

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, May 10: Pathan Para Juba Sangha lifted the AB Bank Siraj Memorial cricket trophy defeating Cricket Academy by 28 runs at the Nwabganj Stadium today.

Battling first, Pathan Para scored 151 all out in 35 overs with Shamsul notching highest 28 runs.

In reply, Cricket Academy could manage only 123 before being bundled out in 32.4 overs. Mohiuddin scored highest 35 for the vanquished. Gool captured three wickets giving away 13 runs. He was later adjudged man-of-the-final.

Shafiq Uddin, the senior vice-president of the sponsors AB Bank, witnessed the final and gave away prizes.

Shoaib faces fitness test

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, May 10 (Reuters): Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar aims to prove his fitness for the second Test against West Indies when he plays in a four-day match starting in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Friday.

Shoaib missed the rain-rutted first test which ended in a draw here on Tuesday after pulling a side muscle.

Pakistan captain Moin Khan said they would include Shoaib in the side to face the West Indies A team at Kensington Oval.

"We will see if his fitness allows him to play in the second Test match," Moin said. "It depends on him as well. If he feels confident, then definitely he will play."

The Pakistan skipper also said opener Saeed Anwar would be arriving in the Caribbean within the next 48 hours, following knee surgery in England, and would probably play against the West Indies A side.

Kalabagan set up a thriller

Sports Reporter



Kalabagan Krira Chakra set the stage for a fitting finale to this year's Janakantha Premier Division cricket League when they defeated Mohammedan Sporting Club on better run-rate at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The victory for Kalabagan in their penultimate League match changed the complexion of the title race which had looked Abahani's for the taking only a week earlier. Hot on the heels of successive defeats, Abahani now faces a realistic challenge from Kalabagan when the two Dhanmondi neighbors lock horns in the championship deciding match on May 15.

Abahani however, are still favourites as they lead Kalabagan by two points and have a superior net run rate. Kalabagan on the other hand have the difficult task of winning by a substantial margin and thus topple Abahani on net run rate.

In the match, Kalabagan needed a superb unbeaten 74 from their middle-order batsman Mushfiqur Rahman to stymie a rejuvenated Mohammedan.

Mohammedan threw a caution to the wind when they piled up a fighting 225 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs after winning the toss and then had Kalabagan reeling on 48 for three in 8.5 overs.

But a cool and collected Mushfiq lifted Kalabagan out of the hole. Kalabagan were cruising on 196 for four in 43 overs when the umpires called off the game due to bad light. Kalabagan were then awarded the match as their score was better than that of Mohammedan's who were 180 for four at a similar stage.

Mushfiq showed commendable maturity as he led the recovery operation with Rajin.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Super League

Brothers Union v Surjo

Tarun

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Relegation League

Victoria SC v Sadharan

Bima KS

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Saleh after Mohammedan's young right-arm seamer Shamsul Arefin had given Kalabagan a real scare by claiming two wickets including the prized scalp of Pakistani Selim Elahi.

Salim Elahi, the Kalabagan run-machine, was on only 13 when Arefin trapped him lbw. The decision surprised the spectators as well as the bowler because the umpire raised his

dreaded finger without any appeal from the fielders.

Right hander Rajin played a vital 47-ball 30 with three sweetly timed fours before being run out while attempting a sharp single following a misfield at mid-off. Rajin had featured in a 54-run partnership

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THE RELIABLE: Mushfiqur Rahman (R) and Tariq Mehmud of Kalabagan waiting for an umpire's decision over the light situation during their Premier Division Cricket League match against Mohammedan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Procter truly pleased

Sports Reporter



Former South African Test great Mike Procter thinks the next generation of Bangladesh cricket would perform much better than the present national team because of their immense talent. What they need is a little more exposure.

Procter, who arrived in the capital last Saturday as an International Cricket Council (ICC) Ambassador to impart training to local fast bowlers under the ICC's development programme, opined this at a press conference yesterday. The legendary former cricketer coached 14 BCB-selected bowlers and the students of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Prothshan (BKSP) for last three days.

"I worked with lot of kids of different age-group and they have impressed me. What I have seen at the BKSP is the set-up which is fantastic. Even we don't have such unique institution in South Africa," said a visibly pleased Procter.

"About the kids, I can honestly say that the under-13 and under-15, they are exceptional. The way they bat and bowl is amazing. To my opinion, the under-15 team of BKSP is better than the South Africa under-15 team."

The number of young cricketers in BKSP and their passion for cricket is very, very encouraging for Bangladesh and if this

trend continues, Bangladesh have a bright future ahead," said Procter, who is on his second visit in Bangladesh. Procter first came in Dhaka last month as TV commentator for the exhibition match between Asia and Rest of the World.



About the prospect of Bangladesh Test status, Procter said that he would make a strong recommendation in this regard.

"Bangladesh must get full Test status. I will recommend in my capacity as ICC ambassador," added Procter, who is due to leave the city tonight.

When asked about any problem he faced during his coaching on Bangladesh bowlers,

Procter said that the only problem he saw among the bowlers was their pre-occupation with limited-over games.

"They need to understand the difference between bowling in one-day cricket and longer version. This is a common problem everywhere in the world. Even Shaun Pollock or Allan Donald also faces the same problem. I think they will soon grow up an idea about longer version of the game," Procter said.

He revealed that as a coach he believes in exploiting natural ability than going for any other tactics to win a match.

"What Woolmer does is very technical and complicated thing. It may be fruitful in the end but I'm not in favour of that," he said.

His parting message for the young cricketers of the country was 'keep on working and trying hard to establish yourselves in the international cricket.'

DU camp for nat'l soccer c'ship

Sports Reporter

Dhaka University called up 24 players in the camp as part of its preparation for the 21st Sher-e-Bangla national football championship.

See page 14



Bangladesh Rifles A team members celebrate with the trophy of the Premier Division Kabadi after their 81-69 victory over Rifles B in the last match of the league at the court near Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Maldives tourney Sri Lanka emerge champions

Sports Reporter

Sri Lanka won the four-nation Golden Jubilee international football tournament after defeating hosts Maldives in a sudden death penalty shoot out in the final at the National Stadium in Male yesterday.

The match was locked 1-1 in the regulation 90 minutes and 30 minutes of extra time.

The teams were tied 4-4 in the tie-breaker before the Lankans scored the sudden death penalty.

With yesterday's win, Sri Lanka completed their week-long impressive run in the tournament.

In the first round, Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh and India by solitary goals and drew with Maldives 1-1.

Saber off to down under

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury left in Dhaka early Wednesday on a week-long trip to Australia and New Zealand to gain support for Bangladesh's bid for Test status, reports BSS.

The BCB president, at the invitation of the Chairman of Australian Cricket Board (ACB) Denis Rogers, will visit Australia from May 11-12. He will make a presentation about Bangladesh cricket to the ACB board of directors in their meeting at Ayers Rock.

Saber, thereafter, will proceed to New Zealand capital Wellington, where he is scheduled to meet and have discussions with Sir John Anderson and Chris Doig, chairman and managing director of New Zealand Cricket Inc respectively.

Saber, on the purpose of his visit, said, "This visit to Australia and New Zealand to motivate and mobilise the support of the two important boards in favour of our Test aspiration is a very important one and will to a considerable extent determine the fate of our application in June."

The BCB president visited South Africa and Zimbabwe last month on a similar mission.

Agrani lessen relegation fear

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank distanced themselves from the dreaded relegation zone of the Premier Division cricket league with a seven-wicket win over Gopibagh Friends Association at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a paltry Gopibagh total of 153 in 50 overs, the batters surpassed the mark for the loss of three wickets and with more than 14 overs to spare.

Opener Abid Hanif scored highest 49 off 75 balls with the help of seven boundaries while one-down Sajjad Kadir chipped in with 33.

Among others, Mridul and Pakistani all-rounder Shaheen Malik, who took four wickets in the morning session, were not out on 28 and 22 respectively.

Earlier, electing 1st, Gopibagh tumbled into trouble. Only middle-order Farid Hossain, with 41, and Indian Gurmeet Singh (23) stood up to the Agrani attack.

Shahin Malik conceded 26 runs in his 9.5 overs to return with four-wicket haul while medium pacer Mofizur Rahman Munna took three wickets for 23 runs from his seven-over spell.

It was Agrani Bank's fourth win in 14 matches which raised their tally to eight points, two more than that of Wari Club, who are occupying the second slot from bottom in the six-team Relegation League, garnering six points from 14 matches.

On the other hand, it was Gopibagh's 13th defeat in 14 matches. The promotees have already confirmed their trip down to the First Division next season.

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	Pts
Victoria SC	14	6	8	12
Sadharan Bima	14	6	8	12
City Club	14	6	8	12
Agrani Bank	14	4	10	8
Wari Club	14	3	11	6
Gopibagh FA	14	1	13	2

BAF aquatics

Sports Reporter

Base Bashar continued to rule the pool in the annual inter-base aquatic championships of Bangladesh Air Force.

Base Bashar raised their tally of gold to six on the fourth day at the BN Central Swimming pool. Sergeant Gaffar won the 400m individual medley and sergeant Jalal clinched the gold in 200m freestyle for Bashar, who are closely followed by Base Paharkanchampur with five gold.

Meanwhile, in the water polo, Bashar suffered a 7-10 defeat against Base Matir. Base Zahur handed a 10-3 defeat on Air Hq (Unit).

Reefat regains crown

Sports Reporter



Reefat-bin-Sattar clinched the Pro-fessor Abdur Razzak 26th national chess championship title before playing his final match as the International Master beat Arifuzzaman Sikdar at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the penultimate round, playing with white pieces

his 12th win off 14 matches to raise his tally to 13 points. Reefat, who was out of glory for last five years, is now leading over his fellow IM and de-throned champion Ziaur Rahman by one and a half-points.

"I could not give time to chess because of my academic and other commitments in last five years. But now I am back after completing my university

was also ensured in this penultimate round.

In the 14th round, Zia had an easy win over Taibur Rahman Sumon of BUET. Zia played with whites and overran the Dutch defence of Sumon after 26 moves.

With his ninth win against five draws, Zia raised his tally to 11.5 points.

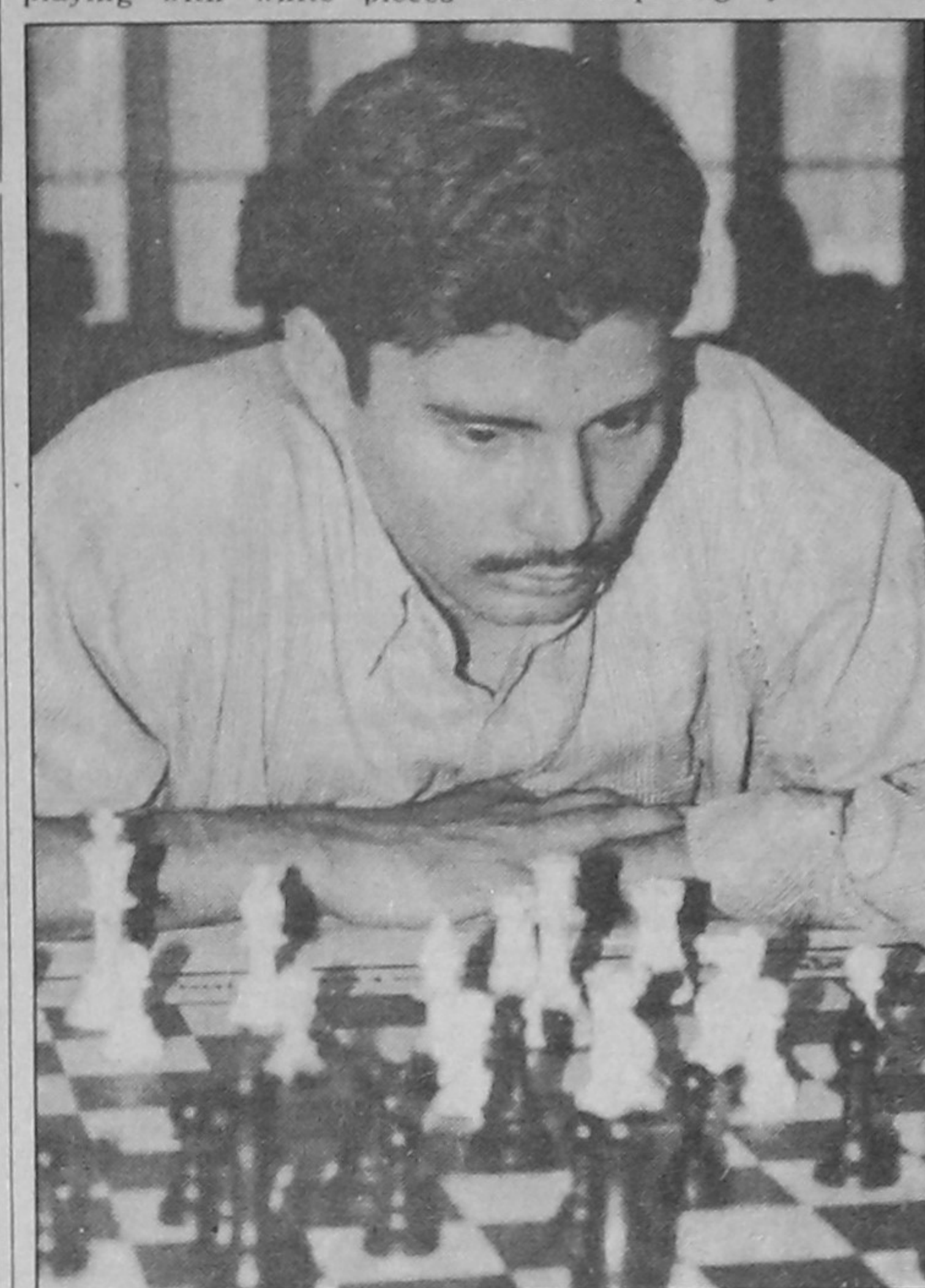
In the other match of the day, Saifuddin Lovlu of Titas Club beat Abu Sufian Shakil. Mainuddin Ahmed of Chittagong beat Monir Hossain of Leonine Chess Club while Sheikh Nasir Ahmed of Ansars beat Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu of Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan Sangha.

Two matches-- IM Abdullah Al-Rakib v Savkat Hossain Pallab and Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib v Syed Ruhul Kabir Shiplu-- ended in draw while the other match between Abul Kashem Bhuiyan and Khandkar Aminul Islam was going on till the filing of this report.

Standings: 13 points-- Reefat, 11.5 points--Zia, 9 points--Rakib, 8.5 points--Rajib, 7.5 points--Amin, Lovlu and Shiplu, 7 points--Mainuddin and Shakil, 6.5 points--Monir and Pallab, 6 points--Nasir, 4.5 points--Tipu, 4 points--Arif, 3.5 points--Sumon and 1.5 points--Kashem.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champion
1974	Mia Abdus Sadek
1975	Mirza Akmal Hossain
1976	Mirza Akmal Hossain
1978	Rezaul Haq
1979	Niaz Murshed
1980	Niaz Murshed
1981	Niaz Murshed
1982	Niaz Murshed
1983	Jamilur Rahman
1984	Younus Hasan
1985	Sayed Ahmed
1986	Zillur Rahman
1987	Zillur Rahman
1988	Ziaur Rahman
1989	Rezaul Haq
1990	Tahmid Hossain
1991	Reefat-bin-Sattar
1992	Reefat-bin-Sattar
1993	Reefat-bin-Sattar
1994	Ziaur Rahman
1995	Reefat-bin-Sattar
1996	Ziaur Rahman
1997	Enamul Hossain
1998	Ziaur Rahman
1999	Ziaur Rahman
2000	Reefat-bin-Sattar



Reefat-bin-Sattar who became champion in the 26th Professor Abdur Razzak National Chess Championship yesterday. — Star photo

against the Pirk Defence of Arif. Reefat checkmated his unheralded counterpart following a marathon 51 move to regain the title he lost in 1996. It was Reefat's fifth title overall.

In past, he won the national championship in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1995. Reefat yesterday registered studies," said Reefat, whose Fide rating is now 2379. "Now I am looking forward to 'earn the required' GM norms," said the champion. Zia, the highest rated player of the country with 2465 points, are going through a lean patch this year. He had to content with the runner-up spot that

Rain ruins fun in Guyana



GEORGETOWN, May 10 (Reuters): West Indies and Pakistan drew the rain-wrecked first Test of their

three-match series on Tuesday after the final day was abandoned because the pitch was unplayable.

The entire fourth day had also been lost after a three-hour torrential downpour on Monday morning left much of the Bourda pitch, which lies slightly below the sea level, under water.

Ground staff were still mopping up on Tuesday morning when another shower speeded up the inevitable.

The match had been delicately poised when bad light stopped play on Sunday, with the West Indies on 222 for seven in reply to Pakistan's first in-

nings total of 288 all out.

Another two hours of Sunday's play were also lost to rain, while bad light cost the teams a further hour in the evening.

The outcome is bound to fuel the controversy over the West Indies Cricket Board's (WICB) decision to play at Bourda, which is notoriously slow to drain, at the start of the rainy season.

It was the first time an attempt had been made to play a Test in Georgetown after the end of the April, when the drier season ends.

The WICB had drawn up emergency measures to move the Test to Jamaica after unseasonal rain during April but backed down when the weather improved.

In the event, CANA (Caribbean News Agency) radio said a move to Jamaica would have been even more embar-

assing as it had rained there on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the first three days of the Test.

The limited action which took place confirmed that both teams, who meet again in Barbados starting on May 19 before the final Test in Antigua, were stronger in the bowling than the batting department.

It was also clear that team spirit in the West Indies side had improved greatly since Jimmy Adams, unbeaten in three Tests in charge, took over as captain from Brian Lara.

"It's disappointing not to play to the finish and a great shame for the people of Guyana," said Adams.

"We did very well to restrict them to 288 and to fight back to 222 for seven. It demonstrates our capacity to fight our way out of situations. That is a very good sign."

"We are still looking to improve in all areas. We dropped several chances, maybe we could have kept them to a smaller total and batted better than we did," he added.

A fascinating match had swung both ways until it was ruined by the weather.

West Indies took the initiative as they reduced Pakistan to 39 for five on the first day. Inzamam-ul-Haq then reaffirmed his status as Pakistan's only world class batsman as he rescued them by scoring 135 for his 10th Test century.

He was ably backed by Abdur Razzaq, who came within 13 runs of his maiden Test century. Inzamam and Razzaq shared a sixth-wicket stand of 206.

Pakistan were eventually bowled out for 288 halfway through the second day but their bowlers, particularly leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, quickly had the home team in trouble.

Mushtaq took three wickets for 91 as the inexperienced West Indies batsman struggled to 139 for six, putting the visitors firmly in the driving seat.

The home team were then rescued by Shivarine Chandepaul who, batting in front of his home fans and having recovered from the fatigue that kept him out of the series against Zimbabwe, showed glimpses of his old self as he hit an unbeaten 46.

Chandepaul shared a record seventh-wicket partnership for West Indies against Pakistan, with fast bowler Nixon McLean, who delighted the crowd with an entertaining 46 which included nine fours, three of them in one over from Mushtaq.



WASH OUT: An unidentified umpire takes a look at the flooded Bourda Cricket Ground during the first Test between the West Indies and Pakistan. The Test ended in draw. — Internet photo