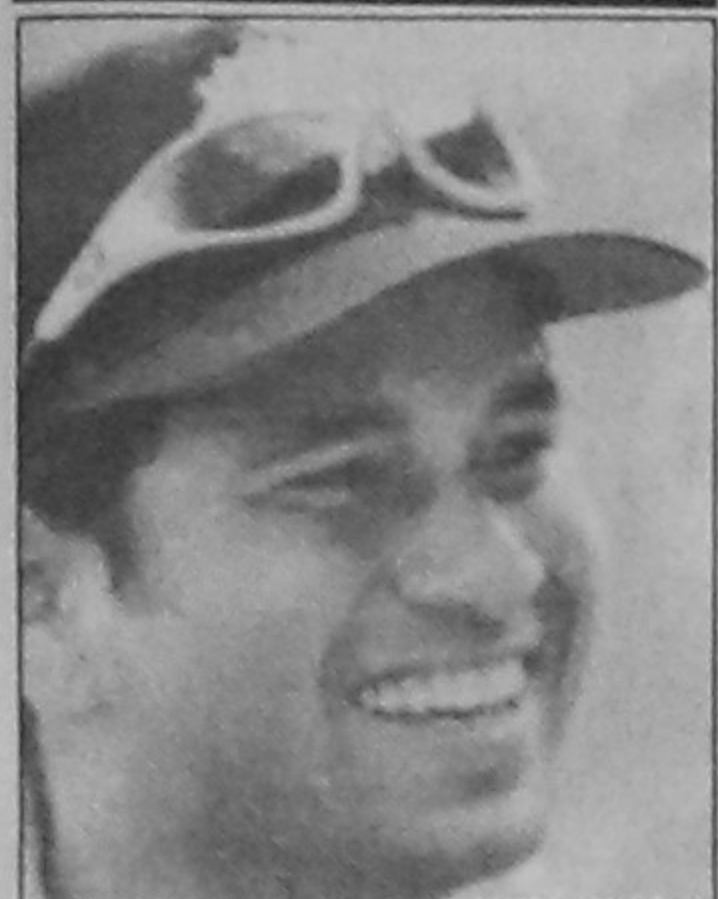


SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian batting maestro)
"I don't think too much about what I've achieved so far. I'm happiest when I can make runs and help the Indian team win matches."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 139

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 1 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the world chess crown?
Kasparov Karpoov Kramnik
- Who lifted the Purabi Div I basketball title?
Dhruvketu Josephites Titus
- Who became Leipzig tennis champ?
Hingis Davenport Clijsters
- Which club lifted NBL Div I soccer title?
Fakirerpool Agrani Bank Wari
- Who was declared man of the match in the Bangladesh-India inaugural Test?
Saurav Amnol Joshi

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 21: Baikali Sangha recorded a 98-run win over Sonali Insurance Club in the first Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Smriti Cricket tournament at the Katakhal Adarsha Degree College ground today.

Winning the toss, Baikali batted first and made 213 runs in 22.3 overs losing all the wickets.
In reply, Sonali went all out collecting 105 runs in 17.1 overs.

HANDBALL

Abahani Krira Chakra and North Bengal Sporting Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division handball league at the A H M Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.
Abahani defeated Diganta Proshery Sangha 9-4 while North Bengal beat Cosmos Club 19-8.

SOCCER

Abahani defeated Rahanpur 3-1 in the Chapinawabganj First Division super league football at the local stadium. Salim netted two goals and Moim one for the winners. Haroon reduced the margin for the losers.

Zia wants results

LAHORE, Nov 21 (Internet report): Pakistan cricket supremo Lt-Gen Taqir Zia says that a concerted effort must be made in Pakistan to produce pitches that offer a better contest between bat and ball.

The first Test between England and Pakistan ended in a draw on Sunday, partly because it was played on a slow, turning pitch.
He added that preparing sporting pitches was part of the PCB strategy to widen the support base of the game by making domestic matches a family affair.

Former Test star Geoff Boycott elaborated.

"Dead tracks were producing dull draws and driving spectators away from Tests in Pakistan and other countries," Boycott was quoted by Dawn as saying.

"This is a tragedy. The game will die an unceremonious death if crowds were not attracted back to the stadia."

"Pakistan can initiate day and night Tests to make them attractive for those lovers of the game, who cannot take leave from their jobs", said Boycott.

Nat'l carnival begins today

Sports Reporter



The 2nd National Cricket League kicks off today with matches being played at different venues of the country.

The eight-team league will be sponsored by Green Delta Insurance Company.

Participating teams play each other on a home and away basis in 11 different centres across the country. The first round will see teams playing a three-day fixture which will be followed by a limited overs game on the fourth day. The second phase of the league will have four-day encounters instead of the three-dayers.

Four matches of the league are scheduled for today, the pick of which is at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) where defending champions Chittagong will take on new comers and title contenders Bangladesh Biman.

Last year's runners up Sylhet play another new team Dhaka Metropolitan at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Rajshahi meet Dhaka at the Rajshahi Stadium while Khulna and Barisal will be in action at the Jessore Stadium.

Chittagong, led by former national skipper Minhazul Abedin, have a very balanced squad.

Fresh Test cap Akram Khan will be the star attraction in a formidable batting line-up consisting of Ehsanul Haque, Jahangir Alam, Azam Iqbal, Nafis Iqbal and the captain himself.

Right arm seamers Shafiqul Alam and Zakir Hossain will lead the pace attack while Pakistani leg spinner Shaleh Mahmud, who took the highest 55 wickets in the league last year, will form an impressive spin trio in company with off-

break bowler Sabir Khan and slow left arm Suja Erlan.

Biman too are as good as any team in the league. Everybody will be eager to watch Test heroes Habibul Bashar and Annuul Islam while captain Faruque Ahmed, Javed Omar, Belim, Hasanuzzaman, Sanwar Hossain and Ziaur Rashid completes a superb batting order. However, Faruque, who is accompanying his ailing brother in India now, will miss the first match. Annuul will act as Biman captain in his absence.

In bowling, Biman are pinning their hopes on the spin of Saifullah Khan, Shariful Haque and Saleh Ahmed.

The battle between Sylhet and Dhaka Metropolitan at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium will also attract many cricket buffs as both teams will feature a number of local stars.

National paceman Hasibul Hossain will skipper Sylhet which includes batsmen Parvez Ahmed, Rajin Saleh, Nasirul Alam, Mohammad Rafique, Iqbal Hossain and Pakistani all-rounder Saifullah Magdi.

On the other hand, former national vice-captain Khaled Mahmud will lead Dhaka Metropolitan. Mehrab Hossain, Mohammad Ashraf, Al-Shahri, Halim Shah and Sajjad Ahmed are the main batsmen in the side. Neeyamur Rashid and left arm medium pacer Morshed Ali Khan will be the new ball bowlers while Sharifuddin Ibn Shahid and Ashraf will follow with spin.

Apart from the four teams, Dhaka Division, under national captain Naimur Rahman, are the other side who will aim at the championship. The team includes proven performers like Rashidul Haque, Harunur

Rashid, Mahbubur Rahman, Saiful Islam, Fahim Mintasir, Mosadded Hossain, Biplab Sarkar, Zakir Hasan, Bikash Ranjan Das and Sajjad Kadir.

Naimur Rahman will, however, miss the first match as he is due to fly to India for treatment on his right wrist. Wicketkeeper Khaled Masood, who has been named as captain of Rajshahi, will also be unavailable for first match as he too is accompanying Naimur with a knee injury sustained on his left knee during the Test against India.

Barisal and Khulna will be led by Hamman Sarkar and Monjurul Islam respectively.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced an attractive package of cash awards for the league. The champions of the two-tier league will bag Taka three lakh while the runners up will be richer by Taka two lakh. Taka one lakh has also been kept for the team securing third spot.

Besides, the Board will also offer Taka 35 thousand cash in each match. The winners of the three-day and four-day matches will earn Tk 15,000 while the losers will get Tk 7,000. The winners of one-day match will earn Tk 5,000 while the losers will take away Tk 3,000. Man-of-the-match of longer version and one-day matches will earn Tk 3,000 and 2,000 respectively.

The budget of the league is Taka one crore and 19 lakh out of which Taka 25 lakh will be paid by the sponsors.

TODAY'S FIXTURE (All three day matches)

Chittagong v Biman (BKSP)
Sylhet v Dhaka Metropolitan (DCS)
Rajshahi v Dhaka (Rajshahi)
Khulna v Barisal (Jessore)



Grand Master Niaz Murshed (R) of Leonine Chess Club makes a move against his Kamalapur Samajkalyan and Krira Sangha opponent in the First Division Chess League yesterday. Leonine won the second round match 3-1. —Star photo

SA do it easily in the end



BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 21: South Africa survived a scare on the final afternoon before beating New Zealand by five wickets in the first Test at Springbok Park on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Inspired by a career-best bowling performance by fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, South Africa seemed set for an easy

win when they needed to make only 101 on an easy pitch.

But the home team were rocked by the New Zealand pace attack, with opening bowlers Shayne O'Connor and Chris Martin both taking early wickets before Daryl Tuffey struck with three wickets in quick succession.

It took a burst of strokeplay by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher, who made an unbeaten 22 off 11 balls, to put South Africa

ahead in the three-Test series.

Boucher finished the match in style with three successive sweep fours off leg-spinner Brooke Walker.

Ntini took six for 66 to end a fighting second innings by New Zealand, who had been forced to follow on. Ntini took three wickets in successive overs after lunch as New Zealand were bowled out for 342 after being 332 for seven at the interval.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who made 57 and 99 to be his team's top scorer in both innings, said he was pleased with the way his side came back.

"But it's icing over the damage that was done early in the match. We would like to have been competing a lot earlier," he said.

Fleming said New Zealand's bowling lacked penetration in the first innings when South Africa made 471 for nine declared and the first innings batting had been "a bit nervous - we played a lot of shots and weren't cautious enough".

New Zealand's hopes Tuesday rested with all-rounder Craig McMillan, who made a fighting 78. He batted watchfully for four hours in reaching his 50 but then played some handsome offside drives, particularly against Jacques Kallis.

But it was Kallis who deceived McMillan with a slower ball which the batsman mistimed to mid-on. McMillan's dismissal shortly before lunch exposed New Zealand's tall and Ntini was ruthless in finishing off the innings.

Ntini, 23, had taken the first wicket of the day when Brooke Walker flashed at a wide ball at the end of three successive maiden overs by Ntini. After lunch he bowled Tuffey off at inside edge, had Adam Parore caught at second slip and bowled Shayne O'Connor.

It was the first time in six

New Zealand's Brooke Walker ducks a rising delivery on the fifth and final day of the first Test against South Africa in Bloemfontein yesterday. —AFP photo

ACC Trophy Hong Kong enter final

SHARJAH, Nov 21: Hong Kong qualified for next year's Asia Cup after they thrashed Nepal by 179 runs in the first semifinal at the Asian Cricket Council Trophy on Tuesday, reports AFP.

A blistering knock of 145 not out from Rahul Sharma set the foundation for Hong Kong's huge score of 268 for three in 50 overs. That total was completely outside the reach of the Nepalese batsmen who panning were bundled out for 89 in 25 overs.

Hong Kong's win will put them in next year's Asia Cup one-day tournament in Karachi, alongside Test-playing nations India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The other qualifier for the ACC Trophy will come from the winner of Wednesday's second semifinal between the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia. The final will be played on Friday.

Court summons Pak cricketers

KARACHI, Nov 21: A Pakistani court Tuesday summoned seven top cricket players including former captain Wasim Akram to answer a petition seeking their suspension on match-fixing charges, officials said, reports AFP.

The Sindh High Court ordered Akram, Waqar Younis, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Saad Anwar, Mushatq Ahmed and Aftab Rehman to appear before a two-judge bench on December 12.

Lawyer Abdul Qadir Mandokhal in his petition demanded the suspension of the players from the national team after they were penalised in Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum's report into match-fixing released in May.

He claimed that since the players were found guilty they should be barred from representing Pakistan.

Malik and Rehman have been banned from the game for life while the other five were fined and censured in the report.

BUET v ball

Sports Reporter

Department of Electric & Electrical lifted the inter-department teachers' volleyball championship defeating Civil Engineering at the court adjacent to the BUET ground on Monday.

Electric and Electrical won the one-sided final 2-0.

Vice chancellor of BUET Prof. Dr. Nooruddin Ahmed gave away prizes among the winners.

ICC to spend huge in Asia

LAHORE, Nov 21: The International Cricket Council (ICC) plans a big increase in allocation of funds for Asia to promote the game in the cricket-crazy continent, an ICC official said Monday, reports AFP.

"Asia has a lot of thrust for the game and people follow it madly. ICC has proposed big funds for the continent which can change the face of the game in this part," Elsan Mani said at the end of ICC's finance committee meeting here.

Asia would get a lot from the money ICC would earn from the World Cup 2003 rights, Mani who chaired the two-day meeting said.

ICC president Malcolm Gray also attended the meeting which reviewed next year's budget and internal working of the ICC.

Mani, a Pakistan native, said most of the money would be spent in non-Test playing countries such as Nepal, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

Honouring Bradman

BRISBANE, Nov 21: Players from the tied Test have paid tribute to Sir Donald Bradman as they marked the 40th anniversary of one of cricket's most famous matches, reports AFP.

Australian captain Richie Benaud and West Indian vice-captain Gerry Alexander said Bradman's influence should not be underestimated in the series tagged as a turning point in Test history.

Benaud and Alexander told a dinner here how Bradman spoke with both teams before they fought out the stirring series, which included the famous tie at the Gabba.

Bradman was then the chairman of the national selection panel and remained a hero to the fledgling Caribbean team. "Sir Donald was an inspiration to both sides and he contributed a remarkable amount to that series even though he had been retired," Alexander said.

"We loved talking to him and hearing his insight and proving that most of the time he was right about what he said."



Action from yesterday's National Bank Premier Division Relegation League fixture between Dhanmondi and Farashganj at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

Dhanmondi fare better

Sports Reporter



Dhanmondi Club put a fitting end to their fantastic run in the National Bank Premier Football when they defeated Farashganj 2-1 in their last match of the six-team Relegation League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The most enterprising side in the relegating zone of the ten-team Premier League, Dhanmondi were tantalisingly close to clinch the Super Four berth but only to be denied by a big-spending Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society.

Although experience at the big stage was the vital thing they lacked, the youthful Dhanmondi boys played attacking football even when they were up against top guns like Abahani, Mohammedan and Mukhtijodha.

The most sensational success of Dhanmondi this year

was a 1-0 win against Abahani in the first leg. They also pulled off a tiebreak win against Mukhtijodha.

Dhanmondi have also discovered an exciting striker in Ashrafur Kader Monju, who scored the second goal in his victory against Farashganj last evening.

Topu gave Dhanmondi a second minute lead before Ruhul Amin struck the equaliser for Farashganj at the stroke of the short whistle. Monju sealed off the fate of the last fifteen minutes into the second session.

With this win Dhanmondi finished their campaign with 23 points. Farashganj, on the other hand, earned 21 points.

The outcome also ensured that both Dhanmondi and Farashganj avoided the three-team relegation playoff.

Arambagh have also avoided the playoff when they thumped down a 4-1 defeat on Badda Jagorani in the second match of

the day. Khokon struck twice while Ritu and Nigerian Oeinu scored one each.

For Badda, Sayeed scored a late consolation goal.

Arambagh, with this win, finished at par with Dhanmondi.

For Badda, the defeat drove the last nail in their coffin. It had also confirmed their demotion to the First Division along with Victoria even before the three-team relegation playoff begins.

Victoria, who will take on Brothers Union in the last match of the Relegation League at the same venue today, have so far earned two points. Badda placed second from the bottom with 12 points.

Although Brothers will be the third team in the playoff, the Gobraghat outfit might consider it an academic interest provided that they win against Victoria today. Brothers have 18 points from 13 games.

Fascinating final day

Dravid holds on to double



NEW DELHI, Nov 21: A bold declaration by India after a batting feast from double-century Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar left Zimbabwe facing defeat in the first Test here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly closed the first innings with a slim lead of 36 runs soon after Dravid reached a career-best 200 not out in the afternoon session on the fourth day.

Ganguly's daring gamble on the batsmen-dominated Feroz Shah Kotla wicket, appeared to pay off as Zimbabwe tottered to 119-5 in their second knock by stumps on the eventful day.

The tourists, who lead by just 83 runs with five wickets in hand, need to bat out the final day's play on Wednesday to force a draw in the first of two back-to-back Tests.

Andy Flower, who made an unbeaten 183 in the first innings, once again stood in India's way with 41 not out.

India's 458-4 in reply to Zimbabwe's 422-9 revolved around Dravid's monumental effort and a sparkling 122 from Tendulkar.

But the tourists faltered with the bat a second time as Indian pace spearhead Javagal Srinath

removed openers Grant Flower and Gavin Rennie for no score before tea.

Srinath had Grant Flower caught behind second ball for a pair - the batsman had also failed to score in the first innings - and then forced Rennie to edge a catch to the slips.

Srinath returned after tea to dismiss Alistair Campbell, and left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi got rid of the dangerous Stuart Carlisle (32) as Zimbabwe slipped to 47-4.

Guy Whittall added 62 for the fifth wicket with Andy Flower before falling to a loose shot off Murali Kartik for 29.

Dravid, who batted for more than nine hours, hit 28 boundaries to surpass his previous best of 190 against New Zealand at Hamilton last year.

But the declaration denied him a chance to overtake India's highest individual score of 236 by Sunil Gavaskar against the West Indies at Madras in 1983.

Dravid, who played second fiddle to the rampaging Tendulkar in the morning session, opened out during his 83-run stand for the fourth wicket with Ganguly.

The Indian captain fell for 27, which included a massive six off Grant Flower, leaving Venkatesh Laxman unbeaten with 18 not out.

Temper flared when Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan disallowed a confident shout for leg-before by Grant Flower against Dravid, who was on 182.

"Flower exchanged words with Dravid, who responded by taking two boundaries in the left-arm spinner's same over."

The frustrated Flower then conceded four overthrows when he picked up the ball on his follow-through and hurled it wide off his wicket-keeping brother Andy.

Earlier, a command performance by Tendulkar helped India put on 102 runs in the two-hour morning session after resuming at 275-2.

Tendulkar contributed 52 of the first 72 runs of the day, before he was caught at point off leg-spinner Brian Murphy attempting his 20th boundary.

His dismissal against the run of play terminated a 213-run stand for the fourth wicket with Dravid, who was content to bide his time after starting the day at 118.

Tendulkar, 70 overnight, raced to his century with a flurry of boundaries, including two in left-arm seamer Bryan Strang's opening over of the day.

It was the 78-match vet-

See page 15



Indian star batsman Rahul Dravid, who scored his maiden double century yesterday, here sweeps Brian Murphy (not in picture) on the fourth day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi. —AFP photo