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Star Sport

DHAKA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2001 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 143
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 2, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Which is FIFA's top ranked country?
Brazil Italy Holland
- How many Test hundreds has Steve Waugh scored?
24 25 26
- Who is the result of the South Africa-Sri Lanka ODI series?
5-1 6-0 4-2
- Who is the lone double centurion in the National Cricket League?
Farhat Javed Omar Aminul
- By which margin did Bangladesh go down to Bosnia in the Sahara Millennium Cup?
2-0 3-0 4-0

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone (if any):



CATCHES OF THE DAY: Former national skipper Minhazul Abedin (R), Pakistani batsman Zahoor Elahi (C) and Sanwar Hossain (L) — who joined Mohammedan Sporting Club — at the BCB office to complete their signing formalities yesterday. —Star photo

Mahmud hops on to Biman

Players' transfer begins today

Sports Reporter

They, however, exacted a sweet revenge by roping in middle-order Sanwar Hossain, who was almost a sure shot for Biman. Sanwar was reportedly hijacked by a group of Mohammedan supporters Monday while travelling by a rickshaw. He however appeared at the transfer market all smiling with words in the air that he agreed to sign for Mohammedan after being offered the fattest purse so far in the transfer.

Mohammedan, who have not won the league title for last five seasons, have otherwise formed a balanced side like their arch-rivals Abahani.

Both the Dhaka giants were able to form combinations, blended with experienced and young cricketers.

Mohammedan, who are desperate to restore some of their

lost pride this season, have reinforced their team by brining back former national skipper Minhazul Abedin in the side. Minhaz, who still hopes to play Test cricket for Bangladesh, returned to his old club after leading Surjo Tarun Club in last two seasons.

Minhaz apart, Zahoor Elahi, the hard-hitting Pakistani opener who played for Kalabagan last season, former national opener Harunur Rashid, Parvez Ahmed, all-rounders Mustadr Litu, Jamaluddin and pacers Shafuluddin Ahmed and Taposh Baishya joined the team. Meanwhile, opener Rashedul Haque and wicketkeeper Golam Mortuza kept their allegiance to Mohammedan.

Defending champions Abahani have also completed their



GUEST APPEARANCES: Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman (L) and national wicketkeeper Khaled Masood sharing a light-hearted moment while visiting the BCB office where cricketers' transfers for the coming Premier and First Division Leagues are being held. The two are not eligible for the Dhaka Leagues as they are under BCB contract. —Star photo

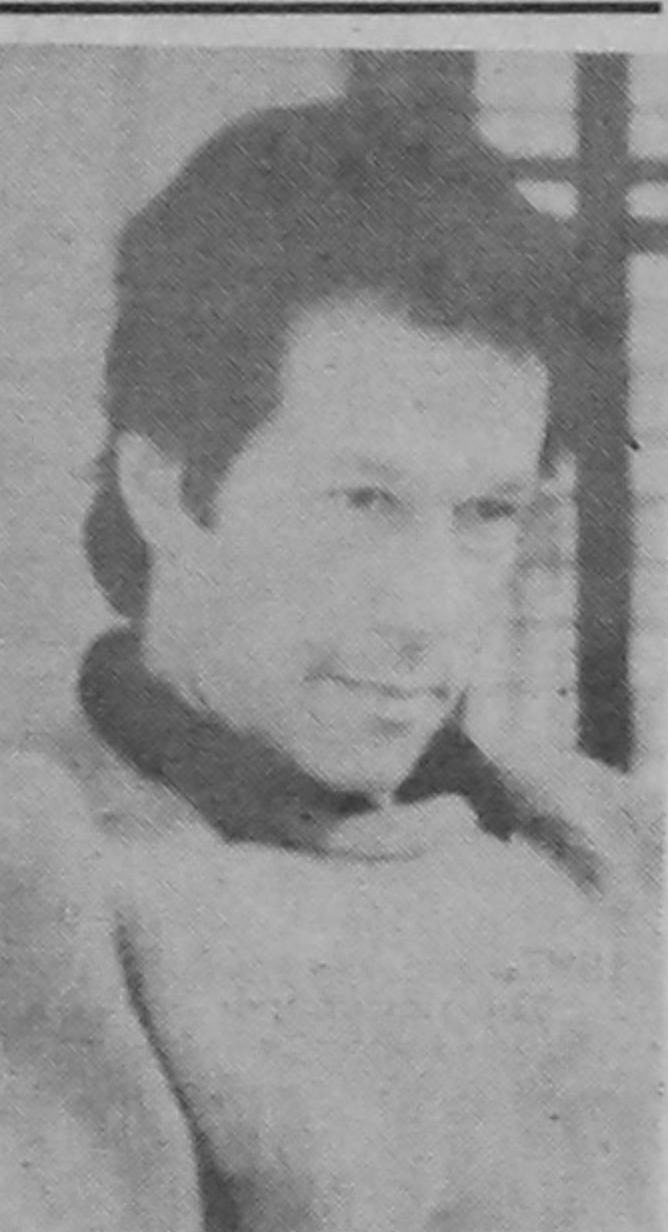
Windies Streak-struck

SYDNEY, Jan 23: Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak led his side to a memorable 47-run victory over the West Indies here tonight with a magnificent performance with bat and ball that keeps his team alive in the 120,000 US dollars Carlton tri-nation contest, reports AFP.

Heath, at number eight, saved his country with the bat, crafting a courageous 45 from 70 balls in a fragile total of 138 before turning on a Herculean performance with the ball at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Opening the attack, the 26-year-old Bulawayo claimed 4-8 from eight overs as the West Indies crumbled for an all out 91 — only four runs better than their lowest-ever one-day total.

It was Zimbabwe's first win in three matches in the contest, placing them level with the Windies on the ladder and reviving their prospects of earning a showdown with Australia in



Imran Khan

(Former Pakistan cricket captain)

"I don't agree they are the all-time greatest side. My all-time great side was the West Indies under Clive Lloyd who had a battery of match-winning bowlers."

On whether Steve Waugh's Australia could be described as the greatest Test team ever.

RU cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Finance and Banking Department head Marketing Department by five wickets in the Rajshahi University Inter-Department Cricket tournament today at the RU stadium.

Battling first, Finance and Banking made 147 for six in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Marketing were shot out for 142 in 29.4 overs.

Crowe to attend ACU inquiry

AUCKLAND, Jan 23: Former New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe is willing to meet the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), his lawyer said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Cricke's match-fixing controversy flared again this week when Australian batsman Mark Waugh declined to be interviewed by the ICC inquiry team or submit to further questioning by Australian Cricket Board (ACB) investigator Greg Melick.

An Indian cricket board report claimed that Crowe received 45,000 US dollars from a bookmaker for information in 1992.

Crowe has admitted receiving 7,500 dollars for what he believed was a series of articles, but broke contact when he realised it was a scam involving a bookmaker. An Indian police report said the bookmaker stated Crowe refused to fix games.

Crowe said he had been advised not to comment because he was involved in an inquiry by New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) investigative team of retired High Court judge Sir Ian Barker, Nick Davidson and assisting counsel Tim Gresson.

Crowe's lawyer, David Howman, said he did not expect the ICC to put unsubstantiated allegations to Crowe. They would be "wasting their time" if they did not put forward anything more substantial than what had been alleged so far in India.

"You always go to meetings to see what people have to say," Howman said.

"We will co-operate with everybody, but what happens depends on what is put on the table. We have said all along that Martin acted properly."

Tista take Milo Under-13 title

Sports Reporter

Rajshahi Tista clinched the Milo under-13 cricket tournament title with an exciting two-run win over hosts Dhaka Metro Blues at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Defending 199 in 45 overs, they restricted Metro Blues to 197 for eight to pull off the sensational win.

Toan of Rajshahi Tista was the wrecker-in-chief taking three wickets for 26 runs followed by Rubel and Shuvo who took two wickets each.

For Dhaka, middle-order Sajid fought the lost battle with an unbeaten 55 while Ayub chipped in with 43.

Earlier, put into bat, Shuvo hammered highest 74 for the visitors.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Rajshahi Tista: 199 for 9 in 45 overs (Shuvo 74, Bappy 39; Ayub 3/30)

Metro Blues: 197 for 8 in 45 overs (Ashraf 55 n.o., Ayub 43; Toan 3/26)

Result: Rajshahi Tista won by two runs.

MILO U-15

Meanwhile, Rajshahi Padma and BKSP moved into the under-15 final winning their respective semifinals in Rajshahi yesterday.

Rajshahi Tista won by 65 runs in the first semifinal at the Rajshahi College ground while BKSP beat Metro Greens by 59 runs at the Railway ground.

The final will be held tomorrow at the Rajshahi College ground.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 23: Town Club recorded a two-wicket win over Mukti Sangha in their Rajshahi Premier Division Cricket League match today at the local district stadium.

Winning the toss, Town Club put Mukti Sangha into bat. They made 172 in 42.2 overs.

In reply, Town Club reached the target in 44.3 overs.

DIVI CRICKET

Meanwhile, Shiroil Cricket Club defeated United Sporting Club by 29 runs in a Rajshahi First Division Cricket League match at the Shaheed AHM Gauruzaman Division Stadium.

Shiroil batted first and made 95 all out in 37.4 overs.

United Sporting were shot out for 66 runs in 31.1 overs.

Jalpaiguri veteran booters in town

Sports Reporter

A 30-member Veteran Sports Club football team from Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, arrived in the capital yesterday to play three exhibition matches against Sonali Atit Club in next few days.

The tourists will play their first match at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur at 4:30 pm.

The second match will be held at the Munshiganj Stadium on January 26 while the other match is scheduled to be held at the Gazipur Stadium on January 28.

The team will return home on January 30.

PCB's way of recovering fines

UNDATED, Jan 23 (Internet report): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has deducted fines from the salaries of six players as recommended by a judge in his investigations into match-fixing.

The fines had been recovered after the deadline for appeals against the punishment imposed by Justice Malik Mohammad Gaiyyum lapsed. PCB director Munawwar Rana told journalists on Monday.

"We deducted the fines on 16 January, a day after the deadline finished because by that time we had never received any appeals from the players," he said.

A total of 900,000 rupees (15,254 dollars) was doctored — 300,000 rupees each from Wasim Akram and Mushtaq Ahmad and 100,000 rupees each from Saeed Anwar, Waqar Younis and Izzatullah Haq.

The PCB said it would deduct one million rupees from the provident fund of former captain Salim Malik and 100,000 rupees from Ataur Rehman — both of whom were banned for life by the judge.

The sum of 100,000 rupees was also being deducted from former Test player Akram Raza.

The deductions have angered at least two former captains.

Akram said: "I can't understand why the fines have been deducted when my lawyers are preparing my case against the fines."

Anwar said: "I don't want to pay the fines because it would amount to admitting doing something which I haven't."



Adam Voges, CBCA's top scorer, sweeps during the day-night fixture against the BCB Eleven at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

CBCA batter BCB XI

Al-Amin

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven suffered a humiliating 154-run defeat against the visiting Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) in the first of three day-night limited overs matches at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The BCB select, led by former national captain Aminul Islam, turned out to be a total disappointment for the nearly five thousand partisan home crowd when they were bundled out for a meager 120 in reply to a commanding CBCA total of 274 for nine in 50 overs.

The defeat for the local team, that boasted one Test cap and four with one-day international experience, reflected the gulf of difference in standards between Bangladesh and Australia.

Although cricket buffs thronged the big bowl anticipating a contest, the home side caved in without putting up any fight. They were totally outclassed by the tourists in every department of the game.

It was a spectator's plight right from the start till the match ended an hour before schedule. Aminul surprised everyone by deciding to chase after winning the toss when many thought it would have been wiser to have the opposition bat under lights since they were not accustomed to it.

The CBCA batsmen made Aminul rue his decision. Fowled by a superb 76 from one down Adam Voges, they asserted their dominance, which they never let go of. Their run-feast was made even easier by sloppy fielding wayward bowling especially by leg-spinner Ashraf and off-spinner Sabbir Khan and a number of dropped catches.

Openers Luke Williams and Daniel Harris put on 69 before Harris (40) was out, caught at long-on off Aminul.

Williams, captain of the side, fell two short of a well-deserved 50 when he charged down the wicket against local bowler of the season Enamul Haque only to be stumped.

CBCA's prolific run-getter Shaun Marsh failed for a change when he was clean bowled by Aminul for two.

But Voges celebrated a promotion in batting order by smashing six boundaries and a massive pulled sixer over mid-wicket off Aminul, in his 69-ball hurricane.

Voges apart, tail-enders Welsford (31 off 20 deliveries) and MacDonald 22 ensured that the Adelaide based academy finished with an imposing total.

Slow left-armed Enamul was the saving grace for the BCB side with figures of four for 45 from ten overs.

Compared to the gallant showing of the future stars of Australian cricket, the home batsmen displayed a school-boyish technique in their quest for runs unnecessarily at deliveries and playing across the line. The top-order perished

Andre storms into semis

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Andre Agassi's drive to retain his Australian Open title moved into top gear with a straight sets demolition of fellow American Todd Martin that leaves him just two matches away from a seventh Grand Slam title, reports AFP.

Agassi, the 6th seed and strong favourite to win the tournament, won 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to his 20th Grand Slam semi-final, where he will face either Australian Pat Rafter or Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty.

Martin, a gentle giant who dumped Pete Sampras out of the tournament in the fourth round, fought every inch of the way, but admitted he was simply unable to cope with an Agassi close to his best.

"I was beaten today," Martin said. "I certainly didn't lose."

Both 30, the two Americans have now played each other 18 times on the circuit and Martin said he had rarely seen Agassi in such form.

"I think his level of play today was close to the highest it has been against me"

Agassi, who says he is in better physical condition as he nears 31 than he was at 21, was equally upbeat about his form. "It feels pretty good," he said. "I've gotten better as the tournament has gone on. I felt on top of it today, no question."

With Agassi returning superbly, Martin was constantly under pressure on his own serve and never looked like surviving for much longer than the one hour 58 minutes the match lasted.

In the seventh game of the second set, Martin got all of his first serves in but still found himself being broken to love.

Agassi finally brought proceedings to a halt with a beautifully placed lob. His straight sets victory means he has advanced to the last four for the loss of just one set, leaving him with a valuable stock of energy for the battles that lie ahead.

"You never quite know when you are going to need it and you hope you can raise your level when you really have to dig down," Agassi said.

"I hope I don't have any tough ones to be honest. I'm just trying to get through each one and count my blessings along the way."

Agassi was happy to have dominated Martin so comprehensively after the way he played against Sampras.

"Todd played a great game against Pete so I knew I had to be at my best," he said.

"It was important for me to dictate the point in the baseline rallies because Todd likes to play very deep."

Agassi said he would prefer to play Rafter, who has announced he is going to take a break from the game at the end of the year, in the semis.

"I would like to play Pat then hope he retires because that would make winning a lot easier."

Martin, who married Amy Barbatto at the end of last year and is already one of the oldest players on the circuit, said he had no plans to cut back on his playing schedule.

"I realise more and more, every week and every year that I really love this sport," he said. "Despite getting my clock cleaned once in a while it feels very good to be here."



Players and officials of the Rajshahi Tista cricket team that won the Milo Under-13 final at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday. —Star photo