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Star Sport

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Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 143

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
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 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).....



Dhaka Metropolis star Ashrafal, who made a brilliant 157 against Chittagong on the opening day of their Green Delta National Cricket League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, here attempts to sweep. —Star photo

Absorbing Ashrafal act

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Ctg v Dhaka Metro

Mohammad Ashrafal continued to captivate country's cricket connoisseurs when the sensational young opener smashed another dazzling hundred for Dhaka Metropolis on the opening day of a four-day Green Delta National League match against Chittagong at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The 18-year-old, who scored a superlative 110 not out against Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy on this very ground Thursday, reconfirmed his rare class with a majestic 157 as the hosts amassed 340 for four at stumps.

The swashbuckling knock of Ashrafal was also the highest individual score by a local batsman in this year's League surpassing Aminul Islam's 153. Khulna wicketkeeper batsman Salim (150) was the other player to reach the landmark so far.

Undoubtedly the most exciting prospect of Bangladesh cricket, Ashrafal featured in two century partnerships, hitting 21 sweetly-timed fours off 216 balls.

The gangling cricketer from Brahmanbaria showed no signs of fatigue despite being played nearly three months of non-stop cricket. Tirelessly he put on 131 runs for the first wicket with national opener Mehrib Hossain, who made 53 off 119 balls. He then found a most sensible senior partner in Al-Shahriar to take the score to 258 before he was bowled by a Yorker from right-arm seamer Safiuddin Babu. But that hardly overshadowed his immaculate defence and array of shots. He was so dominant during his nearly five-hour vigil at the crease that Chittagong captain Minhazul Abedin had to resort to negative bowling to slow down the run-rate.

Ashrafal's free flowing strokeplay even upstaged yet another terrific showing by Al-Shahriar. The tall national middle-order bat was unbeaten on 90. It was completely a different knock from an otherwise itchy-foot Al-Shahriar, who refreshingly appeared to be determined not to throw away his wicket.

Perhaps the unfortunate incident in Comilla, where Al-Shahriar got a one-match suspension for his mid-pitch confrontation with Chittagong players and hostile home supporters, motivated him to exact a revenge by letting his bat do the talking.

Al-Shahriar hammered only five fours in his watchful 165-ball knock.

Hosts Dhaka however lost two quick wickets after the departure of Ashrafal.

In-form Sajjad Ahmed was

run out for three in a most painful fashion when bowler Safiuddin Babu deflected a powerful drive from Al-Shahriar on to his stumps.

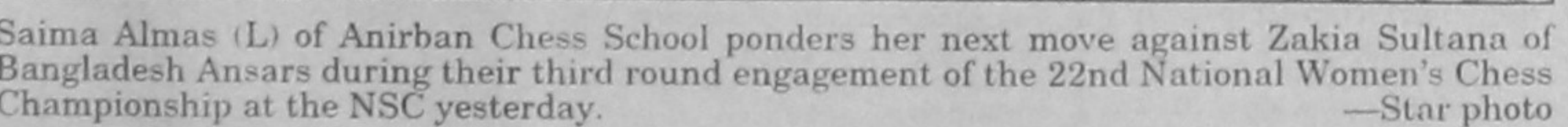
National captain Naimur only managed to edge an angular delivery from left-arm seamer Anis to wicketkeeper Murtaza. As if to prove how funny the game could be, Murtaza, who had a nightmarish performance against the Australian academy, took a stunning catch diving to his right.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match between Dhaka Metropolis and Chittagong at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

DHAKA		METROPOLIS:		
First innings				
Ashrafal b Safiuddin	157			
Mehrab c Anis b Enamul	53			
Al-Shahriar not out	90			
Sajjad run out	3			
Naimur c Murtaza b Anis	17			
Halim not out	6			
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-3, w-3)	14			
Total: (For 4 wickets in 95 overs)	340			
Fall of wickets: 1/131, 2/258, 3/288, 4/320				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anis	16	2	44	1
Safiuddin	25	4	55	1
Enamul	30	4	111	1
Minhazul	6	0	20	0
S Mehmed	11	0	75	0
Azam	6	0	17	0
Ehsanul	3	0	10	0

Saima Almas (L) of Anirban Chess School ponders her next move against Zakia Sultana of Bangladesh Ansars during their third round engagement of the 22nd National Women's Chess Championship at the NSC yesterday. —Star photo



India alter schedule

NEW DELHI, Jan 27 (AFP/Internet): India's cricket chiefs on Saturday revised the itinerary of next month's Australian tour, swapping the venues for the second and third Test matches.

The second Test will be played at Calcutta, instead of Madras, which will now host the third and final Test. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jaywant Lele said.

"We have made the change because of logistic problems," Lele told AFP without elaborating much.

The dates for the matches remain unchanged, he added. Australia arrive in India on February 14.

"We felt it would be better if the teams travelled from Bombay to Calcutta and then moved towards the south of the country to Madras and then to Bangalore for the first one-dayer," Lele said.

BCCI sources, however, told the changes were made under pressure from former world cricket boss Jagmohan Dal-

miya, who wanted the second Test to be played in his home city of Calcutta.

The BCCI, which kept the schedule under wraps till last week, has made further changes barely three weeks before the tourists arrive for the seven-week tour.

Steve Waugh's all-conquering team is scheduled to play three Tests, five one-day internationals and three warm-up games during the tour starting on February 17.

The Australian tour starts with a three-day game against India A at Baroda from February 17, followed by another warm-up match against Sachin

REVISED ITINERARY

- Feb 17-19: Three-day match v India A at Baroda
- Feb 22-24: Three-day match v Ranji Trophy champions Bombay at CCI, Bombay
- Feb 27-Mar 3: First Test at Wankhede Stadium, Bombay
- Mar 6-8: Three-day match v Board President's team at Delhi
- Mar 11-15: Second Test at Calcutta
- Mar 18-22: Third Test at Madras
- Mar 25: First one-day international at Bangalore
- Mar 28: Second one-day international at Pune
- Mar 31: Third one-day international at Indore
- Apr 3: Fourth one-day international at Visakhapatnam
- Apr 6: Fifth one-day international at Goa

Nat'l women's chess meet

Sports Reporter

Rani Hamid of Binan and Zakia Sultana of Ansars were jointly leading the table of the 22nd National Women's Chess Championship at the end of the third round yesterday.

Both Rani and Zakia recorded their third successive wins at the NSC Chess Room.

International Women's Master Rani, playing with white, earned resignation from Afroza Khanam of Bangladesh Ansars after 25 moves while Zakia won against Saima Almas of Anirban Chess School.

Nazrana Khan Eva and Tanima Parveen are closely following them with 2.5 points each. Eva defeated Sharmin Sultana Shirin and Tanima beat Farzana Khan Ava in this round.

Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira won against Masuda Begum of Barisal in the other board.

Standings after 3rd round: 3 points- Rani Hamid, Zakia Sultana; 2.5 points- Nazrana Khan Eva, Tanima Parveen; 1 point- Afroza Khanam Babul, Farzana Khan Ava, Afsana Parveen Nira and Saima Almas.

Schools Cricket

Sports Reporter

HS Model, Progati and St. Judes International won their respective matches of the ANZ Grindlays 19th National Schools' Cricket Championship at different venues in the city yesterday.

At the Mirpur City Club ground, HS Model School recorded a massive 156-run victory over Shahidbagh High School.

Bating first, Model school posted a massive 271 runs for three wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Tony hammering a breezy 72 not out. In reply, Shahidbagh cave in for 115 in 25 overs.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Progati High School handed down an eight-wicket defeat on Natun Jurain Moinuddin High School.

Chasing a fighting Natun Jurain total of 185, the Progati boys rattled up 187 for the loss of two wickets and with more than five overs to spare. Imran scored a swashbuckling 79 not out.

St. Judes also posted an eight-wicket victory over BADC High School at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

In the low-scoring affair, the English medium boys, needing 124 to win, reached the target in only 19.1 overs with opener Sohel making an unbeaten 75.

BRIEF SCORES
 HS Model School vs Shahidbagh School
HS Model: 271 for 3 wickets in 35 overs (Tony 72 not out, Al-Amin 53 not out, Tipu 56)
Shahidbagh: 115 all out in 25 overs (Ripon 30; Tony 3/19, Javed 3/26)
Result: HS Model School won by 156 runs.

Progati School vs NJ Moinuddin School
NJ Moinuddin: 185 for 8 in 35 overs (Shahidul 42 not out; Tamim 3/25)
Progati: 187 for 2 in 29.4 overs (Imran not out 79, Ashraf 36 not out)
Result: Progati School won by 8 wickets.

St. Judes International vs BADC School
BADC: 123 all out in 22.1 overs (Saidul 41; Tanzim 4/22, Masud 2/22, Hamid 2/29)
St. Judes International: 126 for 2 in 19.1 overs (Sohel sc 75 not out, Iqbal 27 not out)
Result: St. Judes International won by 8 wickets.

Ward on song

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan 27: England "A" left-hander Ian Ward notched his third century of the season while three other batsmen narrowly missed three figures during the fourth round of Busta cup cricket series on Friday, reports AP.

Ward hit an unbeaten 133, the highest of his three hundreds, as England's "A" team dominated Day One against Barbados to reach 266 for one.

The 28-year-old Ward added 224 with Michael Powell for the first wicket after England "A" captain Mark Alleyne won the toss. It was the pair's second-straight century opening partnership following a stand of 134 against Guyana in round three.

Powell, who made 75 against Guyana, fell four short of his century Friday, falling before to off-spinner Ryan Austin. The 25-year-old Warwickshire captain, a replacement for the injured David Sales early in the tour, faced 212 balls and hit seven fours and a six in his five-hour innings.

Surrey's Ward stretched his season-leading tally of runs to 577 in four matches, bringing up his century with his eighth four, a sweep off Austin. Ward spent six hours at the crease and faced 306 deliveries.

Rana leads Khulna recovery

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Biman v Khulna

Sports Reporter

Manzarul Islam Rana scored a timely half-century as hosts Khulna recovered from a shaky start to post a fighting 262 for eight against Bangladesh Biman on the first of the four-day Green Delta National League match at Shauns-Ul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday.

The national flag-carrier grabbed the early initiative in title-deciding match when they snared four wickets giving away 81 runs. But once more Khulna's resourceful lower-order staged a gallant rearguard action with Rana hammering 76 off 122 balls.

Better known as a left-arm spinner, Rana led the salvage operation with the help of Asadullah Khan. The pair put on 112 runs for the fifth wicket. Rana hammered a dozen fours in his 123-minute stay at the wicket while his partner contributed 39 off 82 balls including three fours.

Jamaluddin Babu, who has developed a reputation as crisis man, was unbeaten on 42 when stumps were drawn after 97 overs.

In his obdurate 135-ball knock, Jamaluddin clubbed a

quartet of fours. Biman, who are desperately in search of establishing their supremacy over current holders Chittagong, found the going difficult after enjoying early success.

Young right-arm seamer Monir started the slide dismissing left-handed opener Nalidul for five. His illustrious partner Sharif, who has turned out to the revelation of this year's League with a haul 40

odd wickets, removed number four Salahuddin after Pakistani Aamir Wasim had Raju Parvez for 14.

Selin, who watched as his partners returned to the dressing room at regular intervals, scored 34 off 69 balls with the help of five fours.

But Khulna fought back with the arrival of Rana.

SCOREBOARD
 Scoreboard on the first day of the four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match between Khulna and Bangladesh Biman at the Jessore Stadium yesterday:

KHULNA: First innings

Nalidul lbw b Monir	5
Salim b Ziaur	34
Raju c Sharif b A Wasim	14
Salahuddin c Ziaur b Sharif	4
Rana b Ziaur	76
Asadullah c Bashar b Aminul	39
Tushar b Sharif	3
Jamaluddin not out	42
Sohail c Mukter b A Wasim	6
Al-Amin not out	29
Extras: (b-7, lb-15, nb-4)	9
Total: (For 8 wickets in 97 overs)	262
Fall of wickets: 1/12, 2/43, 3/54, 4/81, 5/193, 6/193, 7/217, 8/235	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sharif	26	3	76	2
Monir	16	5	36	1
A Wasim	22	6	36	2
Ziaur	24	10	38	2
Aminul	9	1	19	1

MANZARUL ISLAM ... 76

Steve salutes spectators

SYDNEY, Jan 27: Australian fans are enjoying their team's over-whelming dominance of the Carlton triangular one-day cricket series against the West Indies and Zimbabwe, captain Steve Waugh said Saturday, reports AFP.

Given the lop-sided nature of matches involving Australia this summer, it's surprising so many one-dayers have been so well attended.

It was a full house at Adelaide Oval for just a total of 58 overs in Friday's 10-wicket rout by Australia over the West Indies.

And on Sunday, the Sydney Cricket Ground will be all but packed out as the world champions look for a sixth straight one-day win at the expense of the battling Zimbabweans.

Waugh believes the fans are there not just to see his side win but to see quality cricket.

"I think it's pretty simple — it's the way you play your cricket," Waugh said Saturday.

"We're playing entertaining, aggressive cricket — it's a style of cricket that people want to watch."

While Friday's game was over before the lights were needed, Waugh said nobody would be demanding their money back for getting only half a show.

"I don't think anyone was disappointed yesterday," he said.

"They saw (hometown hero) Darren Lehmann make 50 not out, they saw Brett Lee bowl spectacularly and the fielding was good."

"I think people would rather pay their money to watch quality rather than a long game which is of poor quality."

Waugh acknowledged he would rather have some tougher games with the Indian tour only three weeks away but said that by juggling the batting order he hoped to give as many batsmen as much time in the middle as possible.

Lehmann has been given his chance in the past two matches and has responded with two big scores, while Damien Martyn's elevation earned him 69 not out on Friday.

Australia hold a 12-1 win-loss record over Zimbabwe, with the only loss coming at the 1983 World Cup.

Zimbabwe's captain Heath Streak said to beat Australia in this series would be an achievement beyond his wildest hopes.

More realistically, he said he was aiming for a place in the finals, which should be decided in Perth on February 2 when Zimbabwe and West Indies clash.

The West Indies are one win ahead of Zimbabwe but their net run-rate is far worse, meaning a win to the Africans would go close to putting them in the final.

In the meantime, they will play Australia twice with the main goal being to minimise the run-rate damage.

Jennifer comes of age

MELBOURNE, Jan 27: A dream came true for Jennifer Capriati Saturday as she stunned Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-3 in just over an hour to win the Australian Open title, reports AFP.

It was her first Grand Slam win and pushed her ranking up to seven from 14 — her first foray into the top 10 since 1994 when she became one of sport's most high-profile victims of premature burn-out.

The 24-year-old burst into

tears and ran to hug father and coach Stefano after firing a backhand winner to break the Hingis serve and take the championship.

It was Stefano who has groomed Capriati for tennis stardom since she was a toddler. The pair became estranged in the mid-1990s after Capriati got mixed up in drugs and shuffling scandals, but they are now reconciled.

"Who would have thought I'd be here after so much has happened. Dreams do come true and if you believe in yourself

you can make it happen," a beaming Capriati said.

"There were some people who kept believing in me, my family."

Few gave her a chance against the clinical Hingis but a new training regime and peace off the court after years of turmoil have given her renewed confidence that she can beat the best in the world.

Her movement is better, her stamina improved and her serve game has moved up a notch.

Cheered on by Stefano her comeback from the dark days appears to be complete.

It was a bitterly disappointing day for Hingis who must have thought she had done all the hard work by beating both Venus and Serena Williams on her way to the final.

The Swiss 20-year-old has now lost the last four Grand Slam finals she's played in and has failed to take a top prize since her Australian Open triumph in 1999.

Capriati dominated the match from start to finish, out-serving the top seed and dictating the rallies from the baseline.

Seeded 12, Capriati eased through the first set in 31 minutes.

Hingis opened the serving and a double fault took the score to 30-30. A long Hingis forehand gave Capriati a break point and she had an opening to convert it but fired a backhand into the net.

A more precise backhand down the line gave the 24-year-old American her second break point and a long Hingis forehand handed her the start she was looking for.

Capriati was getting plenty of depth on her forehand and a long forehand return by a tense Hingis made it 2-0.

Despite being in her first Grand Slam final the American was showing no signs of nerves on a perfect summer day.

World number one Martina Hingis leaves the court after losing to American Jennifer Capriati in the Australian Open women's final yesterday.

— AFP photo

— AFP photo

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