

## Rajshahi sports

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 27: Naohata Sporting Club and Tiger Sporting Club won their respective matches of the sixth Bi-Sreshtha Captain Shaheed Moloudin Jahangir Suriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at the Western Railway playground today.

In the first match, Naohata defeated Baneswar Surjoddy Cricket Club by 16 runs.

Winning the toss, Naohata batted first and went all out collecting 130 runs in 24.3 overs.

In reply, Baneswar made 114 losing all the wickets in 24.2 overs.

In the other match, Tiger Sporting Club got walkover in absence of the opponents Upashahar Cricket Coaching Centre.

## HANDBALL

Friends Sporting Club and Modern Boxing Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division Handball League at the AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.

In the first match, Friends Sporting defeated Morning Star 11-7. Modern Boxing Club beat Green Star Club 15-7 in the other match of the day.

## KABADI

Dagraha Saigha emerged champions beating Raj Sporting Club 21-6 in the Rajshahi First Division Kabadi League at the local gymnasium today.

## SOCCER

Rajshahi blanked Lalmoni DSA 10-0 in the Rajshahi Divisional interdistrict football tournament at the AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.

## Parore puts NZ on top

EAST LONDON, South Africa, Nov 27: New Zealand wicketkeeper Adam Parore hit an unbeaten century as his team took command on the second day of their three-day match against the Border provincial team at Buffalo Park on Sunday, reports AFP.

Replacement pace bowler Andrew Penn took five for 38 as Border were bundled out for 73, then Parore made an unbeaten 101 before New Zealand set the home side an impossible victory target of 424.

When bad light stopped play Border were 36 for two in their second innings.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the second day of a three-day match between Border and the touring New Zealand team at Buffalo Park on Sunday, reports AFP.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 311-4 dec (C. McMillan 76 not out, N. Astle 69 not out, C. Spearman 56, M. Richardson 45)

## BORDER: First innings

Sugden c Sinclair b Penn	1			
Mitchell c Parore b Tolley	2			
Lowe c Sinclair b Penn	3			
Pope c Spearman b Walker	4			
Wiblin c Spearman b Penn	5			
Strydom lbw b Walker	18			
Gamiet c Astle b Penn	6			
Makalama b Penn	7			
Graham b Walmsley	8			
Matomela lbw b Walker	9			
Zondek not out	0			
Extras: (nb-2)	0			
Total: (All out in 27.1 overs)	73			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-3, 3-24, 4-37, 5-61, 6-65, 7-67, 8-68, 9-73				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>R</b> <b>W</b>			
Tolley	9	1	22	1
Penn	12	3	38	5
Walker	5	1	13	
Walmsley	11	1	0	1

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Parore not out 104

Spearman retired hurt 57

Sinclair not out 25

Extras: (nb-1, nb-1) 2

Total: (For the wk dect in 47 overs) 185

**Bowler** **O** **M** **R** **W** |

Zondek 10 1 46 0

Graham 12 4 21 0

Matomela 6 0 33 0

Lowe 12 0 60 0

Strydom 7 1 24 0

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Perth passes

## Test test

PERTH, Nov 27: The controversial wicket area at the WACA Ground in Perth has been given a clean bill of health for Australia's attempt at cricketing history this weekend, reports AFP.

WACA curator Richard Winter said he was confident of producing a "genuine cricket wicket" for Friday's second Test between Australia and the West Indies despite problems earlier this month.

The WACA Ground created history earlier this season when a one-day match between Western Australia and Queensland was abandoned after just five overs because of the unpredictable state of the wicket.

But Winter described this as a "one-off" because of unfavourable weather conditions, saying Australian skipper Steve Waugh could rely on a good deck for his team's shot at a world record 12th consecutive win.

"It's all looking pretty good at the moment and it should be a genuine cricket wicket from the WACA with some pace and bounce during the first couple of days," Winter said Monday.

"It will be nice and flat with an even grass cover and it will test out the techniques of the top order batsmen."

## Grant leads the fightback



NAGPUR, India, Nov 27: Grant Flower hit an unbeaten 91 as Zimbabwe made a determined bid to stave off defeat in the second cricket Test against India here on Monday, reports AFP.

The tourists, facing India's mammoth first innings score of 609-6, recovered from a top order slump to post 359-6 by close of the third day's play.

Zimbabwe resume on Tues-

day needing only 51 runs with four wickets in hand to avoid a follow-on and save themselves from possible defeat in back-to-back Tests.

Flower came to the crease after rookie off-spinner Sharandeep Singh had created a stir in Zimbabwe's ranks with two quick wickets after lunch to make it 165-4.

Flower, sporting a bald pate, retrieved the situation by adding 96 for the fifth wicket with elder brother Andy, and 62 for the sixth with Dirk Viljoen.

Having bagged a pair in the first Test in New Delhi, the right-hander returned unbeaten with 12 boundaries and three sixes.

With him at the crease was captain Heath Streak on 16, having put on a valuable 35 runs for the seventh wicket with Flower.

Zimbabwe scored 300 runs in a day after half-centuries from Guy Whittall, Stuart Carlisle and the Flower brothers on the easy-paced pitch that has been a bowlers' nightmare so far.

Whittall and Carlisle put on 101 for the second wicket to lift Zimbabwe from their overnight score of 59-1 to 153-2 at lunch.

Whittall, promoted to open the innings after batting at number six in the first Test, made 84 with the help of 12 boundaries.

Carlisle, who made 51, was dismissed 20 minutes before lunch when Ajit Agarkar held a return catch which ballooned from the bat off the batsman's boots.

It was a lucky break for the Indians who, like the tourists, struggled to keep runs in check on the firm wicket at the Vidarbha Cricket Association ground.

Zimbabwe took advantage of the easy batting conditions to hammer 94 runs from 28 overs in the two-hour morning session.

Sharandeep, the 21-year-old debutant, slowed Zimbabwe's progress by removing Alister Campbell and Whittall in successive overs soon after resumption.

Grant Flower of Zimbabwe sweeps on the third day of the second Test against India yesterday. - AFP photo



## Kramnik-Kasparov rematch unlikely

MOSCOW, Nov 27: The world chess champion Vladimir Kramnik said Sunday that he does not plan for a rematch between him and his predecessor Garry Kasparov, reports AFP.

"Rumours of a re-match between me and Kasparov are groundless," Kramnik said in an interview aired on the Ekho Moskvy radio.

The 25-year-old champion said he has "obligations" toward the Brain Games and would defend his crown against any winner of the qualifying rounds scheduled for next year.

The re-match could be possibly staged only if the Brain Games fails to organise the tournament, now planned for 2002, Kramnik added.

Kramnik put an end to Kasparov's 15-year domination of the game early this month, but Kasparov, one of the most admired chessmasters in history, said he would attempt to win the title back.

Kramnik also said he would like to help in setting up a "comprehensive system of the World Championship games," to ease the Brain Games and the international chess federation FIDE "find common ground."

Besides Kasparov, Kramnik said he would be interested in playing against India's Viswanathan Anand, who has "good chances" in a FIDE championship, he added.

Kramnik, Kasparov's former pupil and protege served as his second when Kasparov took on Anand five years ago.

## Germans adore MJ

MUNICH, Nov 27: Double Olympic 400 metres champion Michael Johnson has been voted sportsman of the year in a poll organised by German television, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old American, who holds the world records for 200 and 400 metres, confirmed to the ARD television station who organised the competition that he would not be taking part in next year's World Championships in Edmonton, Canada.

He said he wanted to give serious thought to how he would spend the last few months of his career.

Viewers of the television station voted veteran kayak Olympian gold medalist Birgit Fischer, Germany's woman athlete of the year.

The surprise winner of the Olympic 800 metres, Nils Schumann, won the men's national honour, while the team award went to the Olympic cycling team pursuit gold medalists Robert Barker, Daniel Becke, Guido Fuchs and Jens Lehmann, who set a world record in winning the Olympic title.

Franz Beckenbauer, the current president of football giants Bayern Munich and World Cup-winning captain as a player in 1974 and as coach in 1990, was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Global communication giant Cable and Wireless has sponsored the team at home for almost 20 years, but is in the midst of a world-wide shake-up.

The Windies have no worldwide sponsors and could struggle with local free-to-air television refusing to show the first sessions of the Australia Tests live because of lack of commercial interest.

It's been strange that even with our losses we have continued to ride the wave of the legacy of West Indies cricket and the fact that we have Brian Lara and Courtney Walsh, without sponsors asking questions.

"We haven't had any approaches, but the reality is this team has to do better than it's doing," Skerritt said.

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"We don't see it as having any negative impact and there have been no discussions to have a long term commitment," he said Monday.

Fast food outlet KFC - owned by multi-national company Collins Foods Interna-

tional — has sponsored the Windies on their last two tours of Australia.

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Record signing Tore Andre Flo, who arrived from English Premiership club Chelsea in a 12 million pound (17 million dollar) deal earlier this week, restored Rangers' lead four minutes later.

Captain Barry Ferguson gave Rangers a half-time lead with a cool finish but Swindish international Henrik Larsson levelled the scores with a close-range header 11 minutes after the interval.

Rangers move up to third on 32 points from 16 games, five behind second-placed Hibernian, who like Celtic have

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