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# Star Sport

DHAKA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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## Round Four from today

Sports Reporter

### GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

The fourth round of the Green Delta Second National Cricket League phase one commences at different venues across the country from today.

Holders Chittagong attempt to restore some of their lost pride when they take on Group A leaders Bangladesh Biman in a home match at the Comilla Stadium. The Chittagongians failed to secure any of the eight points on offer in their first round away fixture at the BKSP last month.

Biman, making their debut in the National League along with Dhaka Metropolis, collected four points from the three-dayer and also gained two

more after winning the limited-over game against the port city team.

The national airline with 18 points head the table and have almost confirmed their berth in the second phase Chittagong trail them by four points while Rajshahi and Dhaka, the other teams in the group, who meet at the Faridpur Stadium, have six points apiece.

Dhaka Metropolis head Group B and they meet last year's runners-up Sylhet in an away match at the Sylhet Stadium.

Hasibul Hossain's Sylhet occupying bottom place with only seven points, are already doubtful about their qualification to the next round. On the other hand, Dhaka Metropolis have gathered 14 points to give

them a two-point lead over second-placed Khulna, who will visit Barisal's Abdur Rab Serniabat Stadium.

Barisal are third in the Group B table with nine points.

**POINTS TABLE**

Group	Team	3-dayer	50-over	Total
Group A	Biman	11	2	18
	Chittagong	12	2	14
	Rajshahi	6	0	6
	Dhaka	0	6	6
Group B	Dhaka Metro	8	6	14
	Khulna	10	0	10
	Barisal	7	2	9
	Sylhet	3	4	7

**FIXTURE**  
Chittagong v Biman (Comilla)  
Dhaka v Rajshahi (Faridpur)  
Sylhet v Dhaka Metro (Sylhet)  
Barisal v Khulna (Barisal)

## ACC Under-17 tourney in Feb

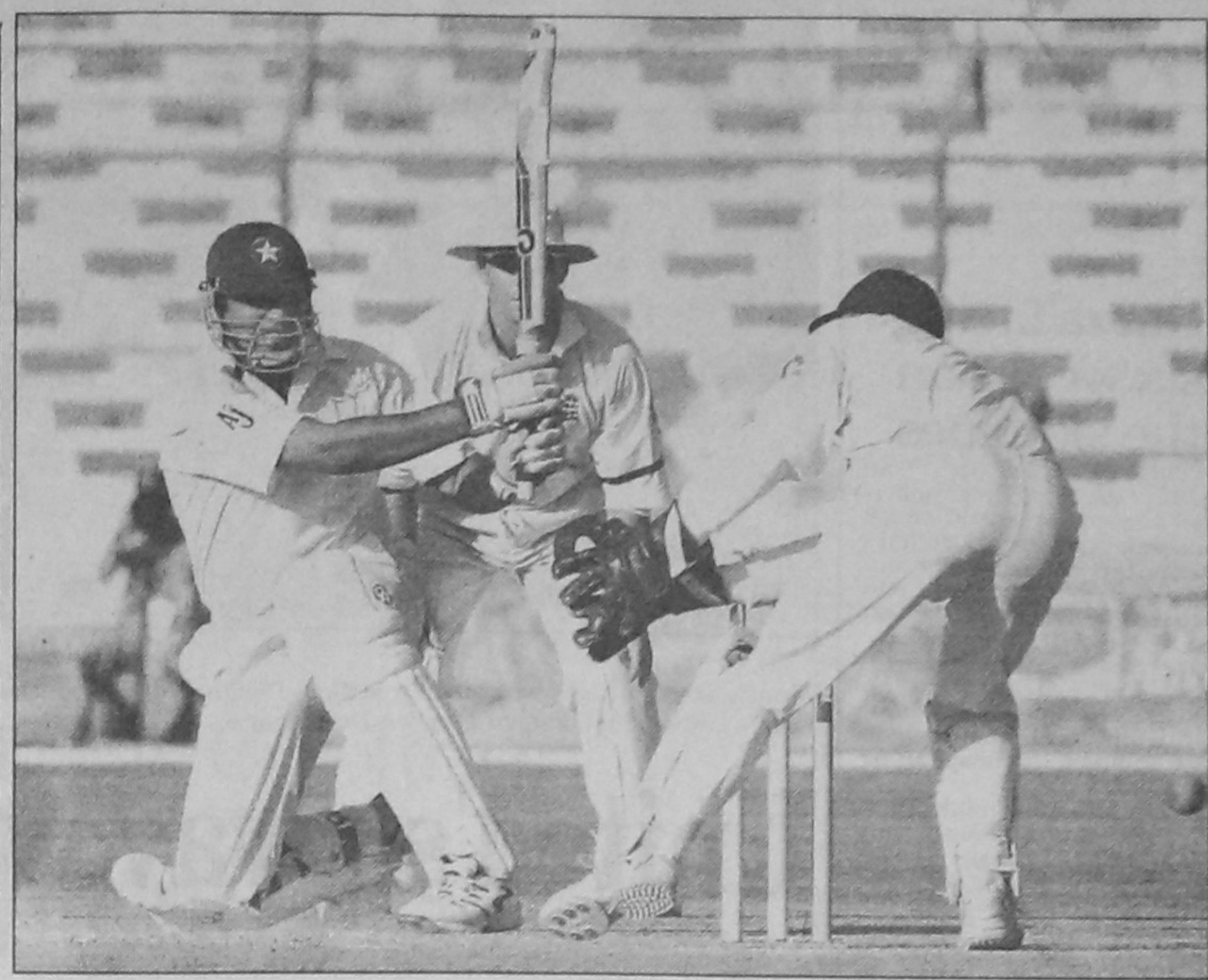
Sports Reporter

The Second Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Under-17 Championship is likely to be held in Bangladesh next February.

The joint-secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Mahmud Ul Haq revealed this while talking to Daily Star Sport yesterday.

Mahmud said that twelve countries including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka are scheduled to take part in the tournament. He, however, added that the matter was yet to be approved by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Besides Dhaka, other potential venues such as BKSP, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur respectively will host matches.



Pakistan centurion Inzamam-ul-Haq sweeps fine on the opening day of the third and final Test against England yesterday. —AFP photo



**Ajay Jadeja**  
(Former Indian cricket star)  
I am affected the most by the ban. I have given my youth to the board, but now they don't want to play me. I don't want to play for them either.  
After he was banned for five years for his role in cricket match-fixing.

## Sports WHIZZ KID

**Competition 140**  
Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to Star Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Dec 15, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who is IAAF's female athlete-of-the-year?  
Marion Jones / Marlene Chey / Mary-Jose Pierce
- Who lifted Intercontinental Cup soccer title?  
Boca Juniors / Real Madrid / Antlers
- Which country lifted the Fed Cup women's tennis title?  
America / Russia / Spain
- Who clinched ACC Trophy?  
UAE / HK / Malaysia
- Who became Premier Div football champions?  
Mohammedan / Abahani / Muktiuddha

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

## Imran rallies behind Akram

KARACHI, Dec 7 (Reuters) — Imran Khan has blasted the Pakistan Cricket Board today for preparing dead pitches for the current Test series against England.

In a further broadside, Pakistan's former captain criticised the PCB for the way they have judged Wasim Akram's performance, given the nature of the pitches.

The surfaces are dead. They have no bounce. Pakistan has blunted its pace attack by making one (Wasim Akram) sit out and shattering the confidence of the other (Wasim Akram), Imran said.

In the drawn first Test at Lahore, 958 runs were scored for the loss of 24 wickets and in the second Test at Faisalabad, which was also drawn, 1,025 runs were scored for the loss of 28 wickets.

"It is highly unjust for the cricket managers to scrutinise Wasim Akram's performance on these tracks," Imran said in defence of the all-rounder, who managed just two wickets at almost 65 runs each in the first two Tests.

Akram pulled out of the current third Test here before the match started, citing back spasm.

Imran, who led Pakistan to their 1992 World Cup triumph, said the cricket administration had a narrow vision and their present policies would dent the future of the team.

"Pakistan will tour England next year in May when the conditions would be cold and moist. At that stage, Wasim Akram and the rest of the pacers would be the match-winners and not Saqlain Mushtaq because he will get nothing out of the wickets," Imran said.

## Prize-giving ceremony

Sports Reporter  
The prize-giving ceremony of Close-up Olympic Quiz 2000, organised by Pakhik Khelar Asar, was held at the National Sports Council auditorium yesterday.

Khandakar Faruque Ahmed walked away with a multimedia PC as first prize. Jimat Ara won a music system and Enamul Hasan clinched a portable CD player.  
Chaired by former national cricket captain and editor of Khelar Asar Mintozaul Abedin, president of Bangladesh Badminton Federation Kutubuddin Ahmed attended the programme as the chief guest. Former national shooter Abdus Sattar Nini was the special guest.

## Ngam fills in for Donald

NZ set for batting change



JOHANNESBURG, Dec 7 (Internet report) — Mfonoko Ngam, a fast bowler from South Africa's black township, will replace an injured Allan Donald and make his debut in the final cricket Test against New Zealand in Johannesburg starting on Friday.

Donald strained a stomach muscle during the second Test in Port Elizabeth at the weekend, but is expected to join the squad early next week ahead of the Sri Lanka leg of the home summer.

New Zealand, facing yet another bowling injury, also look set to make a batting change. During the final practice at the Wanderers on Thursday morning, Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming and coach David Trist took turns talking to an unhappy-looking Craig Spearman, the number two bat.

But Fleming was mum on the possible move, saying only that third seamer Kerry Wainwright was struggling with an abdominal strain and his condition would be assessed before Friday morning.

The tourists have lost their first-choice bowlers and then some replacements since their African safari began in Zimbabwe in September.

Key all-rounder Craig McMillan, who missed practice because of flu, would be in the team. "He may not be 100 per cent, but he'll play," Fleming said.

When asked if there could be a change to the top order, the captain just smiled and jokingly pretended not to hear the question.

Spearman - in spite of hitting two centuries in both innings against North West last month to become only the third touring New Zealander to ever achieve the feat - scored 23 and 45 in the Bloemfontein Test and 16 and 0 in Port Elizabeth.

Down 2-0 in the series and with only pride to play for, New Zealand are perhaps feeling somewhat adventurous and Spearman's omission would be a gamble which, if successful, would strengthen their brittle batting order.

Wicketkeeper Adam Parore could move to the top of the order with uncapped Hamish Marshall - who has played only one tour game, and that was in Paarl nearly a month ago - slotting to seven.

Leg-spinner Brooke Walker, who has proved himself as a defensive batsman, would drop to eighth with the three chief bowlers in Shayne O'Connor, Chris Martin and either Wainwright or Daryl Tuffey taking the

final three spots.

Fleming did hint at bleeding an uncapped player. "We want to make sure we make the most of our opportunities. We want to win this Test, but on the way we've gained experience with younger players and this may be another opportunity to do

that."

The captain did not expect Trist's announcement that he would step down as coach when his contract expired in September next year - instead of taking the team through to the 2003 World Cup - to affect the team negatively.

"We knew of his decision for a while, he's only made it offi-

cial now. We're disappointed obviously ... but we've got a home season with him so it's not farewell yet."

**TEAMS**  
South Africa: Gary Kirsten, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Neil McKenzie, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher (wkt), Nicky Boje, Shaun Pollock (capt), Makhaya Ntini, Mfeneko Ngam.

New Zealand (from): Mark Richardson, Adam Parore (wkt), Mathew Sinclair, Stephen Fleming (capt), Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan, Hamish Marshall, Brooke Walker, Shayne O'Connor, Chris Martin, Kerry Wainwright or Daryl Tuffey.

Umpires: Dave Orchard and George Sharp (England).  
TV umpire: Rudi Koertzen.  
Match referee: Naushad Ali (Pakistan).

The Star Sport will provide live coverage of the match from 2.20pm BST.

## Abahani earn full points

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 7 — Abahani earned full points after a 1-0 win over Friends Club in their Premier Division match of the Senior Division Football League at the M A Aziz Stadium today.

Farhad grabbed the all-important goal in the 78th minute. But it prompted the Friends players to protest. They thought that the Abahani player was offside. In their frustration a linesman was misjudged.

As a result, Friends' skipper Robbie and Propid Barua received their marching orders.

## 19 cricket coaches pass exam

Sports Reporter  
Nineteen coaches passed the level-one certificate exam after completing a five-day refresher course organised by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) last month.

A total of 29 coaches from six divisions took part in the course which was held at the National Sports Council from November 25 to 29.

Sri Lankan coach Malcolm Perera conducted the programme. He was assisted by five local coaches -- Altaf Hossain, Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Osman Khan, Mashiuddin Ahmed and Sarwar Imran respectively.

Following are the names of 19 successful coaches: Walidul Gani, Indadul Haque, Mahibub Ali, Golam Faruque, Sved Ladin Mahmud, Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, M. Mahiuddin, Jamilur Rahman, Nuruzzaman, Mehdi Hasan, K. Ashrafuddin, Moklesur Rahman, Mahbob Alam, Kazi Monwar Hossain, Zaful Ehsan, Morshed Chowdhury, Jahangir Ahmed, Smit Siam and Shahriar Rahman.

## Open chess for eves

Sports Reporter  
An open chess tournament for eves, organised by Bangladesh Women's Sports Association (BWSA), will start at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex from Sunday.

Interested players have been asked to submit their names at the BWSA office at the Sultana Kamal Sports Complex in Dhanmondi or the Bangladesh Chess Federation office in Purana Paltan by tomorrow.

The tournament will be played on Swiss League basis and promises cash awards.

## READERS' ZONE

### We need fast wicket

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. You may be the next contributor of our READERS' ZONE.

Debut Test creates an opportunity for players to enter the record books, and perhaps every single thing that happens out there the first one obviously becomes a part of the history. The first toss, first ball, first batsman to be bowled, first catch - and what not?

Bangladesh as Test babes got that chance but failed to make the most because of their inconsistency. Dashing batsman Habibul Bashir blasted a magnificent 71 off 112 balls and 30 off 63 (one-day innings?) and Khaled Masood Pilot managed to be consistent enough to give the Bangladesh some sort of respectability. But, the others changed the definition of a batsman in the second innings -- a cricketer who throws his wicket himself rather than a cricketer who wields the bat.

In the first three days there was a warm round of applause all over the country for a cautious and patient innings by former national skipper Aminul Islam in which he showed his class. Bashir also showed his tenacity flaying the genuine Indian pacers (Indian pacers are genuine claimed by Ravi Shastri). Then what about the Pakistanis who are known as the best pacers of the world cricket? In fact, Zaheer and co were harshly treated by our

defiant ball-bashers. But in the second innings we failed and the Indian pacers detected our weakness against short-pitch deliveries (Naimur Bashir and Rafiq proved that). Ganguly 'thankfully' ridiculed us saying, "Given the quality of their bowling, we never thought of a target that could challenge us" or "The result was never in any doubt." But everybody saw their discomfit against Bangladesh bowlers, especially against the spinners.

But Ganguly and his coach were quite right saying that a bouncy and hard wicket is a crying need for us so that we can cope with the speed, swing and bouncer of a fast bowler.

A cricket pitch needs a long-term care and polish to make it harder. So, Bangabandhu National Stadium should be used only for cricket. Tearing up wickets time and again won't do any good to our cricket. I think, Bangladesh Cricket Board and Bangladesh Football Federation should end the tug of war over the BNS for the sake of country's greater interest.

Give our cricketers lively wickets so that they can learn to score 400 also on a bowler-friendly pitch. Let's not let our cricket suffer after making a dream debut in Test world!

—Yaseen Ekram Turen, Kamtapur, Dhaka

## Nat'l schools cricket

BAGERHAT, Dec 7: National schools cricket tournament will begin at local stadium on Saturday, reports UNB.

A total of 14 secondary schools are taking part in the knockout basis tournament organised by Bangladesh Cricket Board.

On the opening day, Bagerhat High will take on Bagerhat Government High.

## DC Gold Cup football

From Our Correspondent, SIRAJGANJ, Dec 7: The Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament final will be held at the Shaheed Shamsuddin Stadium tomorrow at 2 pm.

Quamr Jute Mills Ekadash will take on Sirajganj Khelkar Kalyan Samity in the title-deciding match.

Home and Telecommunications Minister will attend as chief guest.



Pakistan's Yousuf Youhana, who finished the first day on 104, sweeps one on way to his fifth Test hundred at Karachi yesterday. —AFP photo

## Twin tons propel Pakistan

KARACHI, Dec 7: Middle-order batsmen Inzamam-ul-Haq and Youhana hit sparkling tons as Pakistan closed the first day at 292-3, having recovered from a precarious 64-3 before lunch.

Never keen to run, Inzamam carried 18 boundaries while Youhana sliced 13 to the fence and a six off spinner Ashley Giles as the pair added 228 runs in their unbroken stand for the fourth wicket.

Inzamam could count himself lucky after a confident shout for leg before off a Marcus Trescothick delivery caught him napping with his score at four, but Pakistani umpire Mohammad Nazir thought he may have got some bat on it.

With one life under his belt, Inzamam treated every English bowler with contempt, driving forcefully and cutting with typical force.

When he reached 79 he became the first batsman in the world to complete 1000 calendar runs in 2000.

The 30-year-old from the central Punjab city of Multan reached his 12th Test century and fourth this year off a rasping cover drive off Ian Salisbury.

"I faced a few torrid moments in the beginning but then I told myself that Youhana and myself will have to bat to help my team reach safety and I am happy we both did that," Inzamam said.

Youhana, who hit a career-best 124 in the first Test and

77 in the second, also played strokes to all parts of the park, including a number of exquisite drives.

He glided a boundary off Andrew Caddick to reach his fifth career century. His second in the series and fourth this year.

"I have a century on my home ground and I had wished to get a century in Karachi. I've also helped my team score some runs," Youhana said.

England, nearing the end of their first tour here in 13 years and desperate to clinch the series with a win, didn't help their chances with at least two dropped catches and generally sloppy fielding.

The tourists took the second new ball after 82.2 overs but Youhana greeted it with a front foot drive for four off Darren Gough.

Earlier in the first session England seamer Gough, Caddick and part-timer Trescothick exploited the early morning moisture and took a wicket each to leave Pakistan struggling at 64-3.

Gough sent left-hander Saeed Anwar packing when he trapped him leg before for eight, while Nazir, who was dropped twice, slashed at a wide delivery from medium pacer Trescothick and was caught in the covers by Giles for 20.

Salim Elahi shaped up well for his 28, hitting four boundaries, but was bowled from an inside edge by Caddick.

But by tea, Pakistan had reached 160-3 with Inzamam and Youhana in full flow.

Pakistan suffered a set-back before the toss when frontline bowler Wasim Akram was ruled out of the match due to back spasms.

He had been struggling for form with only two wickets in first two drawn Tests and was

in a danger of being left out.

Pakistan replaced Akram with his long-time partner Waqar Younis, left out off-spinner Arshad Khan and included opener Imran Nazir on a brownish track that is tipped to take spin with time. Younis had not played in the first two Tests.

The English team played in black arm bands to mourn the death of former captain Colin Cowdrey, who passed away in England on Tuesday.

England made no change, from the second Test, thus using the same eleven in all three Tests for the first time since the 1984-85 series against India.

### SCORECARD

Scorecard at stumps on the first day of the third and final cricket Test between Pakistan and England at the National Stadium in Karachi on Thursday.

**PAKISTAN: First innings**  
Anwar lbw b Gough 8  
Nazir c Giles b Trescothick 20  
Elahi b Caddick 28  
Inzamam not out 123  
Youhana not out 104  
Extras: (lb-2, nb-7) 9  
Total: (For 3 wts in 90 overs) 292  
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-44, 3-64

To bat: Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan, Abdur Razzak, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis and Danish Kaneria.

**Bowler** O M R W  
Gough 17 2 68 1  
Caddick 18 1 54 1  
Trescothick 14 1 34 1  
White 14 2 43 0  
Salisbury 12 1 39 0  
Giles 15 1 52 0

**ENGLAND:** Nasser Hussain (captain), Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton, Marcus Trescothick, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Craig White, Ian Salisbury, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick and Darren Gough.

## Akram far from finished

KARACHI, Dec 7: Pakistan's ace pace bowler Wasim Akram said Thursday his career was not over and dismissed calls for him to be dropped due to poor form, reports AFP.

"My career is not over, I accept cricketing criticism but the calls to oust me from the team are unwarranted and make me disappointed," Akram told this news agency.

Akram was ruled out of the third and final Test against England which got underway in Karachi Thursday after he suffered a back spasm.

"It's tragic that I fell unfit otherwise I was determined to prove my ability on the field and silence my critics," Akram, 34, said.

"Let me assure everyone that I still have the oomph and the will to serve my country. Once I feel I am not up to the mark I will quit but not now when I feel I have enough cricket left in me."

Akram boasts 400 wickets in Tests and one-day internationals, but fared poorly in the first two Tests against England, taking only two wickets.

The teams played two draws on flat, dead tracks, with England's pacemen struggling as well.

"I know two wickets are less than what is expected of me but the wickets in the series were made for the spinners and not for fast bowlers."

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zaidi had warned Akram ahead of the final Test to either

shape up or slip out.

"Do they think I am not concerned that I'm not helping my team win on home grounds? But it's not in my hands. Whenever I go in the field I give 100 percent -- success and failure are in the Almighty's hands," Akram said.

"Some former players said two years back that I was finished but I performed in the West Indies and Sri Lanka very recently."

"I have come out of every difficult situation and I am a fighter. Come what may I will play and keep performing," he said.

"There is a lot of time left before Pakistan's next series and if I keep my fitness and get selected I will play in New Zealand and England."

Pakistan play New Zealand in a three-match series from February before going to England for a two-test mini-series beginning in May.

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan lashed out Akram's detractors.

"The campaign for Akram's ouster is ridiculous and frustrating for a player who has enough cricket left in him and who has been a match winner for Pakistan very recently," said Khan, Akram's early mentor.

"How can you assess a bowler's form on dead pitches like we had in the series against England? They have blunted Akram with flat tracks."

"Former Australian great fast bowler Dennis Lillee got only three wickets in Pakistan in the 80s -- did Australia throw him out? Never."



WASIM AKRAM