

## Women's WC cricket Trans-Tasman confrontation

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand Dec 20: New Zealand defeated India by nine wickets Wednesday to advance to the final of the Women's Cricket World Cup, reports AFP.

After dismissing India for a modest 117, New Zealand needed just 26.5 overs to achieve victory and qualify for the final against reigning champions Australia on Saturday.

The Kiwis were guided home by captain Emily Drumm, who wasted little time in scoring 47 not out from just 43 balls, while opener Anna O'Leary was unbeaten on 50 from 90 deliveries.

Drumm was particularly severe on anything wayward, helping herself to eight fours after the dismissal of Rebecca Rolls, who struck a robust 28 off 28 balls, including three fours and one six.

Purnima Rau had earlier fought a lone hand for India, the opening batsman contributing a defiant, unbeaten 67 to her team's inadequate score.

Rau faced 133 deliveries but lacked support, with the only other player reaching double figures being captain Anju Jain, who scored 16 before being run out.

India's difficulties were illustrated by Deepa Kulkarni needing 30 deliveries just to get off the mark before she was run out for four.

All of the New Zealand bowlers stuck to a tight line, and the best figures were returned by Kathryn Ramei, two took two for 12 off five overs, and Clare Nicholson, who picked up two for 15 off 8.2. Rachel Pullar captured two for 20 off 10.

Australia beat South Africa by nine wickets in the other semifinal on Monday.

## Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 20: Amra Baish Friends Circle Cricket Club (Red) and Sardab Cricket Clinic won their respective matches of the sixth Bir Shreshtha Captain Shaheed Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament today at the AHM Gannuzaman Divisional Stadium.

In the first match, Amra Baish Friends defeated Jamalpur Cricket Club by 148 runs.

Winning the toss, Amra Baish collected 237 runs losing seven wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Jamalpur went all out making only 89 runs in 21.3 overs.

In the second match, Sardab Cricket Clinic beat Hizmi Club by 52 runs.

Sardab won the toss and decided to bat first. They made 12.2 runs for all in 24.1 overs.

In reply, Hizmi were shot out for 70 runs in 17.5 overs.

Meanwhile, Mohammadpur defeated Mukti Jiddha Babu Smriti Sangha by 79 runs.

Friends Ideal (A) beat Kishore Club by 18 runs in the second match.

**RU CRICKET**

Applied Physics & Electronics and Islamic History won their respective matches of the Rajshahi University inter-department cricket tournament yesterday at RU Stadium.

In the first match, Applied Physics & Electronics defeated Botany by three wickets.

Islamic History defeated Statistics by three wickets in the second match.

## 2004 Olympics

### Taekwondo to be included

SEOUL, Dec 20: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to confirm taekwondo, South Korea's native fighting sport, as an official Olympic event in 2004, sports officials said today, reports AFP.

The decision came in a letter from IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch to South Korea's IOC executive board member Kim Un-Yong, Kim's office said.

### No more fixing

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"I don't regard myself as a natural opener, although it has helped me to tighten my technique. I have tried to hide my time in the opening position. Until recently it has been the only spot available in the top six."

"Natural position or not, Gibbs looked extremely good on Saturday, belting a century in a Standard Bank League encounter with Gauteng. But he knows that to make amends for some poor form earlier in the season, he must press on."

"My immediate priority must be to try to score another century for Western Province this weekend (against Eastern Province in the Standard Bank Cup at Newlands on Friday). It was quite a relief to reach three figures at the Wanderers last Friday."

"I have consciously played within myself for WP in the four-day matches. Neil Johnson, HD Ackerman and I represent the batting experience in the side and I knew it was important to try to bat for long periods so that our younger batsmen could play around us."

"It was nice change to be able to play the way I wanted to play when I got my century at the Wanderers."

# Kanu blasts Gunners



LAGOS, Dec 20: Nigerian international striker NWankwo Kanu, dropped for a crucial qualifying match this month, has said his English club Arsenal forced him to miss the Olympics in September, reports AFP.

After dismissing India for a modest 117, New Zealand needed just 26.5 overs to achieve victory and qualify for the final against reigning champions Australia on Saturday.

The Kiwis were guided home by captain Emily Drumm, who wasted little time in scoring 47 not out from just 43 balls, while opener Anna O'Leary was unbeaten on 50 from 90 deliveries.

Drumm was particularly severe on anything wayward, helping herself to eight fours after the dismissal of Rebecca Rolls, who struck a robust 28 off 28 balls, including three fours and one six.

The matter was well and truly out of my hands. I had no powers to decide even though I practically moved between

heaven and earth to get my release," he claimed.

"If this had not happened, I would have been at Sydney, proud to represent my country as I always am. I assure you that I will always try my hardest in future to be present for such occasions for my country."

Kanu was dropped earlier this month from a squad list prepared by team coach Jo Bonfrere at the insistence of Sports Minister Damilshi Sango.

The minister was angered by his no-show at the games, where the 1996 gold medallists

were beaten on 50 from 90 deliveries.

In a letter to Sango, a copy of which was shown to AFP Wednesday, Kanu said it was the fault of the English pre-miership side that he had missed the Olympics.

"I negotiated the best I could with my club to attend the Sydney Olympics but they would not allow me to leave. I was forbidden to leave the country unless it was to play for my club," Kanu said.

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NWANKWO KANU

PARIS, Dec 20: Faltering French giants such as Paris Saint Germain and Marseille are looking to boost their squads with the opening of the winter transfer window, which opens Thursday evening, reports AFP.

There may well be substantial activity with PSG and Marseille struggling in the league.

But they and other clubs need reinforcements will have to be careful where they look amid the false passports affair sweeping the country with two Saint Etienne players already suspended and Second Division Nancy taking legal action against Strasbourg, who failed a player with a false Italian passport last season.

Nancy ended up relegated and want their top flight place back - at Strasbourg's expense.

Last summer the French league (LNF) said a club could basically buy and sell as many players as they like over the winter transfer window, which

lasts until January 31.

PSG effectively tried that policy in the summer as they shelled out 70 million dollars on new talent - but they are only in midtable after a bright start.

However, clubs are worried that the EU Commission may force the scrapping of the transfer system and are unwilling to jump either way until then.

"We don't know what to do as the current system could disappear within days," said Lille's sporting director Pierre Dreossi.

Lille are currently going for a Champions League slot despite their small squad - as are Sedan, who lead the table despite midtable.

And they intend to keep their cheque book in their pocket.

"The marketplace isn't for us," said their canny coach Alex Dupont.

Reigning champions Monaco may or may not buy some new talent - but more likely is a

change of coach with Claude Puel seen as having his head on the chopping block after the side slid into the bottom six with last weekend's home defeat by Rennes.

Former Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi is being touted as a potential successor.

Lyon, battling to reach the Champions League quarter-finals, may look to freshen their squad up with striker Tony Vairelles unsettled and Kaiserslautern's France international midfielder Youli Djorkaeff a reported target.

The Champions League requires us to be up to scratch. The transfer market has to help us in that respect," said Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas.

Marseille have yet to reveal their hand as new coach Javier Clemente sifts through his current options while PSG may offload midfielder Ali Bernabria and defender Jimmy Algerino. The Parisians hope to capture Brazilian star Ronaldinho Gaucho from Gremio.

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## French elite eager to shop



LONDON, Dec 20: Sidelined Premiership manager Bryan Robson has insisted he has no problem giving up coaching duties at Middlesbrough to make way for Terry Venables, reports AFP.

Robson no longer plays a part in coaching the English crisis club after Venables was brought in to half the slide at the Riverside.

But the former England and Manchester United captain said he was happy to step out of the limelight to make way for Venables.

"We don't worry about what comes under whose role, we just get things done," Robson said.

Terry's picking the team and taking the training, so I can be more relaxed and do other things. There are plenty of things to do around a football club.

I'm also watching him and trying to pick up things and

watch for things I maybe might have done better. I'm trying to learn all the time because in this game, you always can.

A lot of people are trying to pick at things and think Terry

isn't doing his job. I'm not doing his job, I'm not doing his job," Robson said.

It's broken so many barriers - our first home win of the season and our first clean sheet - so it gives everyone a bit of a lift.

"It was a good win against Chelsea and hopefully we can build on that and go forward."

SCORES IN BRIEF

Final scoreboard in the limited-overs tour match between KwaZulu-Natal and Sri Lanka at Chatsworth Oval, Durban, on Tuesday:

**SRI LANKA:** 266 for eight in 50 overs (M Jayawardene 86, C Vaas 52, K Sangakkara 28; G Gilder 4/43, K Bender 2/34)

**KWAZULU-NATAL:** 211 all out in 44.4 overs (G Bodhi 53, D Watson 42, G Gilder 28, J Kent; K Weeraratne 3/37, C Vaas 2/35, R Pushpakumara 2/38, D Fernando 2/39)

**Result:** Sri Lanka won by 55 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Mahela Jayawardene.

**Gamez defends his title Mar 11**

TOKYO, Dec 20: World Boxing Association (WBA) super-flyweight champion Leo Gamez of Venezuela will fight Japanese challenger Shoji "Celes" Kobayashi in Yokohama, Japan, on March 11, match organisers said Thursday, reports AFP.

The club has been in dire fiscal straits after recording losses totalling 21.9 million Swiss francs (12.8 million dollars) for the year 1999 to June 2000.

The rescue plan was approved at a meeting of shareholders here Tuesday.

The club's management have said the club's money woes are down to fewer people coming to watch matches, combined with spiralling prices paid for players.

Grasshopper are the most successful club in Switzerland collecting 18 Cup wins in the club from bankruptcy, officials said Tuesday.

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