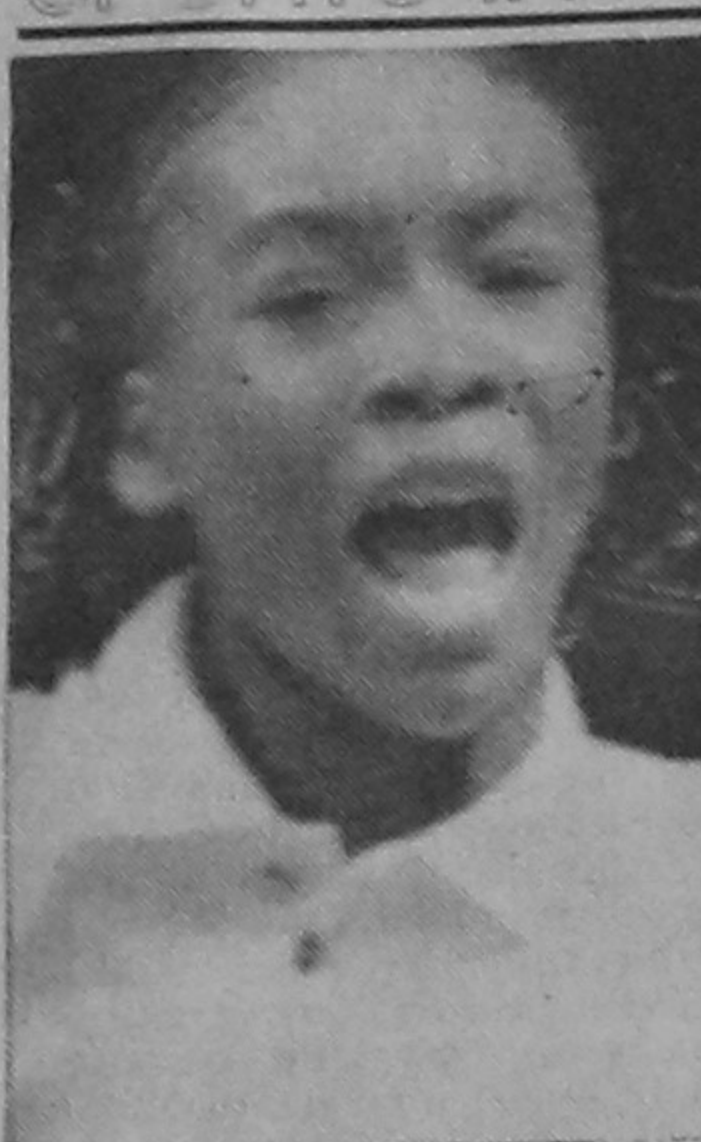


SPORTS TALK



Venus Williams
(American tennis star)
"I like tennis. That's my top priority. As long as I'm happy and healthy on the court, I'll be in the tennis world."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 141
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
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Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Dec 29, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who was named world footballer-of-the-year?
Rivaldo, Ronaldo, Zidane
- Who won the Davis Cup?
Spain, Australia, USA
- Which club clinched J-League title?
Kashima Yokohama, S-Pulse
- Who became First Division Chess League champion?
Titus Club, Biman, Teanline
- Who was man-of-the-match in the Karachi Test?
Amir, Youhana, Sajjan

Name:

Class: Roll No:

School Address:

Phone: (If any)

Nat'l youth cricket

RAJBARI, Dec 23: Hosts Rajbari emerged zonal champions beating Madaripur by five wickets in the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship at local stadium today, reports UNB.

Sent into bat first, Madaripur were all out for 187 in 49.3 overs. Shipon and Roman took two wickets each for Rajbari.

In reply, Rajbari reached the target making 191 for five in 41.3 overs with Porag making 86 runs.

Date for Hansie hearing unfixed
CAPE TOWN, Dec 23: Disgraced South African captain Hansie Cronje managed to postpone the resumption of the King Commission of inquiry into match-fixing and corruption thanks to a court ruling on Friday, reports Reuters.

In the Cape High Court, presiding judge Themba Jali ruled that the Commission had breached its undertaking to consult with Cronje's legal team before deciding on a date for the second session of hearings. The first session ended in June.

Cronje's lawyers argued his legal team would not be available on January 25, the date announced for the resumption by judge Edwin King.

They also argued the commission had failed in its undertaking to consult them on the date for the resumption and on which witnesses would be called and in which order.

The lawyers said the Commission had been withholding vital information regarding the first witnesses to be called and accused Commission officials of preventing them from cross-questioning the witnesses effectively.

Ctg Rajshahi-struck

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Rajshahi v Chittagong

Defending champions Chittagong ended the first phase of the Green Delta National Cricket League on a sour note when they conceded a shocking six-wicket defeat at the hands of no-hoppers Rajshahi in their one-day match at the Noakhali Stadium yesterday.

Having already confirmed their berth in the last four along with Bangladesh Biman from Group A, Chittagong bit the dust on their home ground when, batting first after winning the toss, collapsed to 132 in 36.3 overs.

Rajshahi, who confirmed their exit even before their last game against the port city outfit, raced to 134 for four in 36 overs. The victory gave some sort of solace for the boys of the northern headquarters of the country.

Although Rajshahi were never in the reckoning for the title, they however found a match-winner in young Anisur Rahman, who scored an unbeaten 55 after his side was reeling at 47 for three.

Anisur, who played for Aba-

han in the Premier League last year, hammered a couple of fours in his undefeated 80-ball knock. At the other end, Nadim with an unbeaten 24 played the perfect foil when victory was achieved with 14 overs to spare.

Earlier, discarded national right-arm seamer Aminul Jutor played the pivotal role in destroying Chittagong's batting order. Aminul mopped up the Chittagong lower half to finish with four for 30.

Former national captain Akram Khan played with some purpose after Chittagong top-order including skipper Minhazul Abedin perished quickly. Akram scored a gutsy 48 off 74 balls amidst wickets falling at the other end.

With this defeat Chittagong ended their first phase campaign with 30 points, two points behind Bangladesh Biman. Rajshahi on the other hand bowed out of the meet with 18 points.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day match of the Green Delta National Cricket League between Rajshahi and Chittagong at the Noakhali Stadium yesterday

CHITTAGONG:

Nafis c Rizwan b Alamgir	11
Azam c Nadim b Nayan	24
Ehsanul b Alamgir	3

RAJSHAHI:

Tariq b Ripon	10
Farid b Enamul	27
Kalim c Jahangir b Ripon	0
Anisur not out	55
Nayan c & b Shahid	23
Nadim not out	28
Extras (lb-4, nb-2, w-20)	28
Total (For 4 wickets in 36 overs)	134

Fall of wickets: 1/17, 2/25, 3/85, 4/92

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Anis	7	2	12	0
Ripon	9	2	31	2
Zakir	7	0	39	0
Shahid	7	2	16	1
Enamul	6	0	30	1

Result: Rajshahi won by 6 wickets.

Kapali stars in Sylhet win

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Barisal v Sylhet

Opener Parvez Ahmed scored an unbeaten half-century as hosts Sylhet recorded a resounding seven-wicket win against Barisal in their one-day match of the Green Delta National Cricket League at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Parvez made 85 off 145 balls as the hosts, chasing Barisal's 175 for eight in the stipulated 50 overs, reached 177 at the loss of three wickets and with five overs in hand.

The right-hander clubbed five fours in his watchful knock. He put on 84 runs for the third wicket with Alok Kapali, the most promising all-rounder emerging in this year's league. The young leg-spinner is a sensational find in an otherwise dismal campaign of the last year's runners-up.

Alok, who captured four wickets to dismiss Barisal cheaply, also clipped in with a vital 35.

The result however did little to boost the two no-hoppers of the meet as both Sylhet and Barisal have already gone out of contention. The inconsequential win raised Sylhet's tally to 15 points, two adrift of Barisal, at the end of their six first round matches.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day match of the Green Delta National Cricket League between Sylhet and Barisal at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday

BARISAL:

Siddik c Obaid b Nayeem	28
Ranin run out	55
Imran b Alok	19
Monju c Hassan b Alok	0
Nadim b Nayeem	2
Moin b Alok	17
Hassan c Iqbal b Taposh	9
Shahinewaz not out	6
Asiflaq b Alok	0
Al-Amin not out	0
Extras (lb-2, lb-3, nb-8, w-26)	39

Sylhet:

Parvez not out	85
Obaid c & b Al-Amin	1
Tushar b Sajjad b Asiflaq	3
Alok lbw b Asiflaq	16
Nadim not out	16
Extras (lb-3, lb-5, nb-8, w-17)	33
Total (For 3 wickets in 45 overs)	177

Fall of wickets: 1/15, 2/37, 3/124

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Al-Amin	10	2	24	1
Shahinewaz	8	1	25	0
Asiflaq	10	1	47	2
Hassan	4	0	21	0
Nadim	4	1	16	0
Moin	8	0	32	0
Imran	1	0	4	0

Result: Sylhet won by 7 wickets.

Metro win in a canter

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Dhaka Metro v Khulna

Dhaka Metro walked away with full six points from their three-day engagement of the Green Delta National Cricket League against Khulna at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

Khulna, needing an improbable task of scoring 137 runs with three wickets in hand to save the match, lasted only 8.3 overs on the final day. They lost their last three wickets with the addition of only 29 runs to their overnight score of 119.

The hosts made only 103 in their first innings against a mammoth Dhaka total of 359. They faced following on and

could only manage 148 before being bundled out in the first hour of the last day.

The defeat by an innings and 108 runs however did not prevent them from earning a place in the four-team final round.

Three-day

Scoreboard on the final day of the three-day Green Delta National Cricket League match at the Shamsul Huda Stadium in Jessore yesterday

DHAKA METROPOLIS: First innings 359 all out in 98.3 overs (Zahoor 83, Sajjad 79, Mehraz 74; Jamaluddin 4/90, Sohail 4/38)

KHULNA: First innings 103 all out in 51.4 overs (Raju 37, Asadullah 25; Saikat 5/22)

KHULNA: Second innings (overnight 119 for 7)

Scru b K Mahmud	8
Iqbal b K Mahmud	1
Selim c Mehraz b Saikat	24
Tushar c Mehraz b Nayeem	1
Asadullah lbw b Nayeem	0
Jamaluddin not out	49
Niz c Halim b Saikat	13
M Rana c Mehraz b Ashraf	21
Sohail b Nayeem	14
A Kamal red. hurt	0
Monirul c Biplob b K Mahmud	1
Extras (lb-9, lb-1, nb-1, w-2)	13
Total (All out in 43.4 overs)	148

See page 15

PCB to adopt ACB style



LAHORE, Pak-istan Dec 23: Pakistan will follow the Australian model in re-organizing its cricket.

Let set up following the recent defeat at the hands of England, the country's cricket chief has said, reports AFP.

"After losing to England, a second-rate team, Pakistan have become a third-rate team and we now have to do a lot of spadework to bring the team back on track," Lieutenant General Tanvir Zia said on Friday.

Pakistan have lost four home series in two years. Their recent 1-0 loss against England sparked strong criticism of the board, captain Moin Khan and the whole team.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is ideally organized and that's why their team has been having an imperious run with 13 straight wins in Tests," Zia told reporters here.

Zia, a former club cricketer, was appointed head of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in December last year after the military coup that ousted former prime minister Nawaz

Shahid.

"The pressure of home series losses has restricted the progress of our cricket which boasts enormous talent," he said.

"I have asked captain Moin Khan to analyse his captainship and England's Nasser Hussain's captainship and he is a lighter and can learn from mistakes."

Hussain capped a fine year for England cricket by leading the first English side to beat Pakistan in their own country.

"Pakistan's first national academy will be set up in Lahore by August next year and from there we will have a good outlet of players," Zia said.

He said his board's major achievement was to cleanse the game of match-fixing. "We have eradicated this malpractice by publishing Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum's report and penalising the players," he said.

The PCB implemented the recommendations of Qayyum's report, banning former captain Salim Malik and pace bowler Ataur Rahman for life and fining six others including Wasim Akram and Imzamanul Haq

V-Day cricket

Sports Reporter

Ankur, Kalabagan Cricket Academy and Pallina Sangsad won their respective Inter Sports-WECCA Victory Day under-13 cricket tournament matches at different venues in the capital yesterday.

Ankur defeated CCM Club by 24 runs at the Dhammond Club ground.

Chasing a fighting Ankur total of 117 for eight in 20 overs, CCM collected only 93 runs losing all wickets in 19 overs.

At Kalabagan Krira Chakra ground, Kalabagan Cricket Academy outplayed CCS by ten wickets.

CCS made 40 runs for all in 10 overs. In reply, Kalabagan recorded 45 in 3 overs without loss.

In other match at the same venue, Pallina Sangsad beat ACC by four wickets.

Batting first ACC managed 70 runs losing all wickets in 20. In reply, Pallina scored 72 for six.

Lara suffers injury scare
MELBOURNE, Dec 23 (Internet report): Brian Lara was taken to hospital after being hit in the eye by a delivery while batting in the nets ahead of the fourth Test against Australia.

But West Indies team manager Ricky Skerritt said Lara was not in doubt for the Test which starts at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Boxing Day.

"Brian is fine," said Skerritt. "It was more precautionary than anything else."

"He was playing forward and trying to turn a spinner to the leg-side. The ball came off the top of his head and bruised his eyebrow."

There's a slight bruising of the corner which the doctor says will be fine within 48 hours. It hasn't affected his vision."

West Indies trail 3-0 in the five-match Test series. Lara remains the tourists' best chance of salvaging something from what has been a terrible tour.

He made a dramatic, if belated, return to form in the third Test in Adelaide, scoring 182 in the first innings. But it was still not enough to prevent a third straight defeat.

Gavaskar quits India NCA

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (PTI): Former India cricket captain and batting legend Sunil Gavaskar today resigned as a member and adviser of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) after a tiff with its chairman Raj Singh Dungarpur in Mumbai yesterday.

The differences cropped up between the two over Gavaskar's column in a tabloid recently where the former skipper had said that the NCA team should not have got a three-day game against the visiting Zimbabweans at Indore in their tour opener, according to an NCA member today.

Reacting to Gavaskar's statement, Dungarpur said in an interview to the same tabloid, published yesterday, that "one gentleman being a member of NCA said the Academy boys should not have been given a game against Zimbabwe. Such people should either resign from the committee, or take it on, or fall in line. You can't run with the hares and hunt with the hounds at the same time," he had said.

"After reading this interview, Gavaskar came over to the Cricket Club of India (CCI) where the NCA committee was meeting and handed over his resignation," the NCA member added.

When contacted over phone, Gavaskar told PTI today that he had indeed resigned from the NCA and said he had not criticised the board as Dungarpur had felt he had but was just making an observation that there are other players who deserve to play a touring side more than the NCA boys.

Bad news for Andy

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Dec 23: Zimbabwe batsman Grant Flower has dropped out of the one-off Test and one-day series against New Zealand after fracturing a finger in the tour match against Canterbury on Friday, reports Reuters.

Flower injured his right index finger while fielding on the second day. The Test starts on December 26 in Wellington.

"His finger is in a splint and we imagine he will be out for two to three weeks - which is about the duration of our time in New Zealand," manager Babu Menan said.

Menan said he was unsure if Flower would return home. Zimbabwe are due in Australia for a one-day series starting on January 8.

The Zimbabwe camp has also been hit by influenza. Alastair Campbell, captain Heath Streak and Stuart Carlisle are all sidelined from the match against Canterbury.

Dhaka shown the door

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Dhaka v Biman

Bangladesh Biman finished at the top of Group A on completion of the first phase of the Green Delta National Cricket League when the national airliners recorded a 30-run victory over Dhaka division at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday.

Biman, defending a modest 209, shot Dhaka out for 179, raising their collection to high-est 32 points.

Imran Farhat, their highly useful Pakistani recruit, scored an aggressive 49 off 51 balls. The left-hander put on 60 runs for the second wicket with Sharif after makeshift opener Ziaur Rahman departed for a 26-ball 24.

Sharif, one of the few young cricketers who made their grade in the National League this year, scored a rapid 23 inclusive of three fours.

Sharif's ability to use the long-handle is a bonus to his promising display of seam bowling. The right-arm seamer, particularly hostile with the old ball, has already won a few important matches for Biman.

There was no exception yesterday when nimble attacker, who is deceptive off the pitch, took three wickets to dash Dhaka's hopes of a turnaround. He took the prized scalp of Mazharul, who scored a breezy 38.

Although Biman with a changed batting order got off to a rollicking start, plundering 107 runs in only 17 overs, they lost their way after Farhat departed one run short of what could have been a well-deserved half-century.

Skinner Aminul scored a struggling 22. But runs dried up once Dhaka leg-spinner Mosaddek Hossain stepped in to take control of the match with the help of Sohail Hossain.

Mosaddek, a member of the Bangladesh team in the Youth World Cup in Sri Lanka early this year, bowled a tight line and length to finish with four for 39 runs in his 8 overs.

But apart from a few flashes of brilliance, it was an altogether very disappointing performance from Dhaka. Tipped as one of the title-contenders, Dhaka fared pathetically without the services of national captain Naimur Rahman and eventually ensured an ignominious exit. They have earned six points from as many games to finish at the bottom of the table.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day match of the Green Delta National Cricket League between Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka at the Faridpur Stadium yesterday

BIMAN:

Ziaur c Harun b Saiful	24
Farhat c Saiful b Sohail	49
Sharif c Harun b Rashedul	23
Bashar c Labib b Rashedul	4

DHAKA:

Rashedul run out	21
Sadek c Jahangir b Ziaur	20
Sohail c Ziaur b Farhat	18
Harun c Aminul b Ziaur	6
Mahmud c Saifullah b Ziaur	0
Mazharul b Sharif	38
Jewel c Ziaur b Farhat	25
Zakir b Sharif	10
Mosaddek run out	11
Saiful c Ataur b Sharif	8
Labib not out	10
Extras (lb-1, nb-8, w-3)	12
Total (All out in 48.2 overs)	179

Fall of wickets: 1/35, 2/64, 3/71, 4/72, 5/73, 6/131, 7/146, 8/150, 9/161

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Jahangir	6.3	1	26	0
Monir	10	1	41	0
Ziaur	10	2	30	3
Sharif	9.2	2	35	3
Farhat	7.3	1	26	2
Saifullah	5	0	20	0

Result: Bangladesh Biman won by 30 runs.



World Cup winning New Zealand women's cricket team members pose with the trophy after defeating Australia in the final yesterday. —AFP photo

Kiwi eves on top of world

CHRISTCHURCH, Dec 23 (AFP/Reuters): New Zealand won their first women's cricket World Cup in dramatic fashion with a thrilling four-run victory against defending champions Australia at Lincoln Oval, near Christchurch, today.

Australia needed five runs to win from the last over with their final pair at the crease, but New Zealand spin bowler Clare Nicholson had Charmaine Mason caught behind from the first ball to give New Zealand victory.

Hundreds of people mobbed the New Zealand players in mid-pitch amid scenes of jubilation at the history-making triumph. The team had been beaten finalists in the past two World Cups.

New Zealand captain Emily Drummond said the closing stages were heart-wrenching.

"But it's a brilliant way to win the title playing at home. We've put a lot of time and ef-

fort into this. Our bowling and fielding was just superb," she said.

Drummond said she thought that when New Zealand had been restricted to 184 in the 49th over the total would not be enough to win, with most pundits predicting a score in excess of 200 needed to test the unbeaten Australians.

But in a game full of twists and turns, the White Ferns took two early Australian wickets, leading scorers Lisa Keightley and Karen Rolton.

Captain Belinda Clark then led a resurgence, dominating one end with complete mastery, but wickets fell regularly at the other end.

Clark's key wicket was eventually captured by Nicholson, with the Australian skipper bowled around her legs for a classy 91 from 102 balls, including eight fours.

That left Australian at 150 for seven in the 42nd over of the 50-over game.

The tension-filled final eight overs had the Australian lower order, who had batted little during the tournament, squeezing out runs against an accurate White Ferns attack.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the women's World Cup final between New Zealand and Australia played in Lincoln, near Christchurch on Saturday.

NEW ZEALAND

O'Leary b McGregor	1
Rolls c McGregor b Mason	34
Drummond c Price b McGregor	21
Hockey lbw b Fahey	24
Tiffin c Bamubury b Goss	14
Ramel c Clark b Fitzpatrick	41
Watson b Fitzpatrick	11
Nicholson b Mason	11
Pullar not out	9
Keenan b Fitzpatrick	0
Campbell run out (Rolton)	0
Extras (lb-9, w-8, nb-1)	18
Total (All out in 48.4 overs)	184

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-60, 3-60, 4-92, 5-121, 6-136, 7-17, 8-178, 9-184

Bowler

	O	M	R	W
Fitzpatrick	9.1	2	32	3
McGregor	10	5	26	2

AUSTRALIA

Keightley c Rolts b Keenan	0
Clark b Nicholson	91
Rolton run out (Watson)	1
Bamubury c Hokeley b Pullar	1