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- Who lifted FIDE World Chess Championship crown?
Kramnik Anand Kasparov
- Which country clinched the women's cricket World Cup?
Australia New Zealand England
- Who is European footballer-of-the-year?
Figo Zidane Shevchenko
- Who became Prime Bank Rating chess champion?
Rahul Reetab Pallab
- Who became Americas player-of-the-year?
Romario Ronaldo Bastuta

Name:
Class: Roll No.:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)



The Bangladesh National football squad assemble for an official group photo at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday prior to their departure for India to take part in the Millennium/Sahara Cup football tournament. — Star photo

Nat'l booters off to India

Tournament already in turmoil

Sports Reporter

The event will also provide a rare opportunity for our players to rub their shoulders against their superior European counterparts.

The tournament will be an ideal test for the national coach of the national team George Cotlan, who took over only a month ago from Englishman Mark Harrison.

AFP adds from New Delhi: The FIFA-sanctioned Millennium Cup, which gets underway on Wednesday, has been re-christened the Sahara Cup after the sponsors insisted the 16-nation event be named after them.

The Sahara group of companies are better known in the sporting world as the sponsors of the annual five-match cricket series between India and Pakistan in Toronto, Canada.

Iraq, who were scheduled to meet Yugoslavia in Wednesday's opening match, pulled out on Monday citing the non-availability of key players, officials said.

Organisers were making frantic efforts to find a replacement, failing which only 15 nations will take part and the preliminary group one reduced to three teams.

"We are trying to get Estonia to replace Iraq," All India Football Federation (AIFF) secretary Alberto Colaco said.

"There is no time left to get a new team in place. If we can't get anyone, group one will have only three teams instead of four," Colaco said, adding a

change in the schedule was also on the cards.

Uzbekistan was the only foreign team to arrive by Monday morning but organisers insisted all teams will reach India by Wednesday.

Iraq's withdrawal has added to the woes of the AIFF, which is struggling to enthuse fans in the absence of top stars.

Hosts India will be without star striker Baichung Bhutia, who has not been released by his English Second Division club, Bury FC.

Chilean World Cup stars Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas, who were touted as the major attractions by the (AIFF), were missing from their country's line-up.

The tournament, which promises 150,000 dollars to the winners, has been dogged by uncertainty from the start.

WI want to start anew

ADLAIDE, Jan 8: The West Indies cricketers are hoping to make a fresh start in Tuesday's one-day game against Australia A after a dismal Test series.

The day-night fixture at Adelaide Oval is an important match for the West Indies ahead of Thursday's one-day triangular series opener against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

West Indies skipper Jimmy Adams, who will be rested from the Australia A match, said having the full support of his players had helped him handle the pressure of his team's 5-0 Test series loss to Australia.

"What has helped tremendously is the fact that the team is still behind me," Adams said.

"I've never wanted for support from the lads and I think that has made it a lot easier than probably it has appeared."

"It's not an ideal situation to be in but when you know that you have the team behind you, then it's alright."

And the one-day series marked a new beginning for the West Indies. "It's the start of a brand new series and we have a lot of lads looking forward to the different format of the game, a faster version of the game," Adams said.

"This is a new challenge for us and we're looking up to it... it's not going to be easy but I think the fellows are up to it."

The West Indies have brought four players into their squad for the one-dayers.

Big-hitting Ricardo Powell, all-rounder Laurie Williams, batsman Sylvester Joseph, and Cameron Cunly, who replaces injured paceman Mervyn Dillon, come into the side.

Meanwhile Rameshwar Sarwan, Courtney Browne, Kerry Jereny and Courtney Walsh have been omitted and are returning home.

Adams said the new faces in his squad had been a boost to the entire team.

"It helps, they've come here fresh physically and mentally and in the two days that they've been here it has been a lift for us having them around and

we're hoping that that trend will continue," he said.

Not only will the West Indies be hoping to overcome their Test losses and take some revenge on Australia, they will also be looking to improve their one-day international record after losing seven of their past 10 matches.

Indian ministry to hear version of tainted trio

NEW DELHI, Jan 8: India will decide whether to strip three banned Test cricketers of their sports awards over match-fixing allegations after taking their version of events into account, a sports ministry official said on Monday, reports Reuters.

Last month, Indian Sports Minister Uma Bharati said former skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, Manoj Prabhakar and Ajay Jadeja would be stripped of their Arjuna awards, one of the country's most prestigious sports awards.

The three players were banned by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after being named in a federal match-fixing report last year.

NN Khanna, the most senior bureaucrat in the sports ministry, said the players have been asked to give their version of events either to a sports ministry official or in a written response that has to be submitted by Monday.

Prabhakar has sent a response, while Jadeja was scheduled to meet the official on Tuesday and Azharuddin on Wednesday.

The government has set no timeframe in which to announce the withdrawal of the awards.

Azharuddin was banned from cricket for life by the BCCI, while Prabhakar and Jadeja received five-year suspensions.

SPORTS TALK



Nasser Hussain
(England cricket captain)

"What we have tried to do is develop a team spirit that makes the squad a strong unit and I think we have now done that."

After his side won the Test series against Pakistan recently.

Nat'l Bridge on Jan 12

Sports Reporter

The 20th national team and pairs' duplicate bridge tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Bridge Federation, will start at the hall room of Hotel Sheraton from January 12.

Players willing to take part in the tournament have been asked to send their entries to Naimul Hassan (Tel: 8319557) or Moinul Islam (Tel: 7100501).

Aravinda going to SA today

COLOMBO, Jan 8: Middle-order batsman Aravinda de Silva, facing match-fixing allegations, will be going to South Africa on Tuesday to reinforce Sri Lanka's batting which is reeling under the pace of the Proteas, reports AFP.

Sri Lankan cricket selection committee chairman TB Keelgama told the press that de Silva will be accompanied by injured all-rounder Upul Chandana.

The Sri Lankans led by Sanath Jayasuriya, currently touring South Africa, were struggling to cope up with the pace and bounce of the South African pitches.

They were trailing 2-0 in the six-match one-day series. They lost one Test and drawn another in the three-Test series.

Keelgama said de Silva was initially reluctant to go, claiming lack of practice, but later agreed to the request.

De Silva, along with former captain Arjuna Ranatunga, has figured in the list of players being investigated by India's Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with match-fixing allegations.

Both cricketers have denied the allegations.

De Silva has scored more than 13,000 runs in Tests and one-day internationals. He was however sidelined after the selectors opted to send a young side to tour South Africa.

His recall became a certainty after the team crashed to an innings defeat in the second Test at Newlands.

Doctor Jawad passes away

Sports Reporter

Doctor Jawad Ahmed Khan, a popular figure in the sports arena, died at the Gastro-liver Clinic in Gulshan at 4:30 pm yesterday. He was only 44.

His body has been kept at the BIRDEM mortuary until his brother Fiaz comes over from London. The qulshwani of Jawad will be held at his residence (House-28, Road-7, Dhanmondi) after Magrib prayers on January 11.

Jawad was admitted to hospital following continuous vomiting since early morning.

A pall of gloom fell upon the Bangabandhu National Stadium arena as soon as the news of the untimely demise of the sports-loving doctor spread.

A jovial man and an adored name to all players, Jawad was the physio of the national cricket team that won the ICC Trophy in Malaysia in 1997.

Born in a family of diverse talents in 1956, Jawad obtained his MBBS degree in Sri Lanka. His late father Gias Ahmed Khan was a retired army officer. His mother Tahmina Khan Dolly was the first lady ambassador of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka. Jawad on the other hand was totally devoted to sports despite the fact that he had never been as good a player as was his only brother Fiaz.

Though he was associated mainly with the Abahani, the down-to-earth man was known to be helpful to everybody. The energetic doctor was always seen busy volunteering services to whoever got injured on the field from whatever team. He had always been the first choice for players to seek help and advice.

He was survived by wife and three sons.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP in a message of condolence expressed his deep shock at the sudden death of Jawad. Saber also conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.



STANDING TALL: BCB U-21 batsman Tushar Imran plays one towards mid-wicket during his impressive knock of 48 against the visiting Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy team at the BKSP yesterday. — Star photo

MacDonald-fest in Savar

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh under-21 cricketers showed their lack of depth in dealing with the pace and bounce of the touring Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy (CBCA) even on a relatively doric wicket at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday.

The home side on the second day of the three-day match, never came to grips with a fiery spell by Andrew MacDonald, and eventually collapsed to 195 in 68.4 overs. The young right-arm medium fast bowler ended up with a fantastic six-wicket haul for 28 runs.

But in their second innings, the Academy lost two wickets with 96 runs on the board. That gave them a lead of 174 runs at stumps. On Sunday, the renowned Adelaide-based institute declared their first innings on 273-4.

Resuming the second day on 23 without loss, the home side slipped to 63 for four.

Opener Sajjadul Hossain, 16 overnight, added just one more run before he was caught by wicketkeeper Chris Hartley while trying to fend off a rising delivery from the tall Victorian.

MacDonald then removed one-down Rajin Saad and middle-order Mohammad Selim in almost similar fashion.

Rajin was caught behind on 10 trying to cut a wide delivery while Selim top edged an attempted hook to square leg.

MacDonald's new ball partner Tim Welsford found the edge of opener Ashraf's bat when he scored 19.

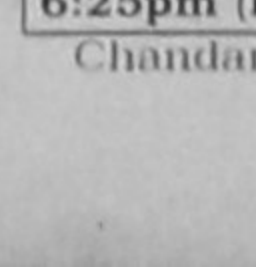
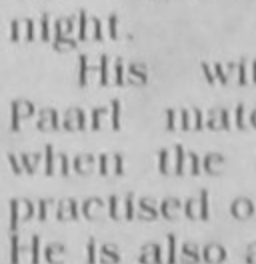
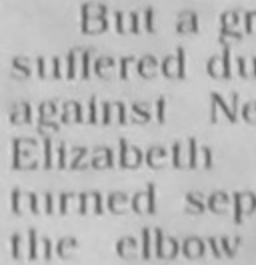
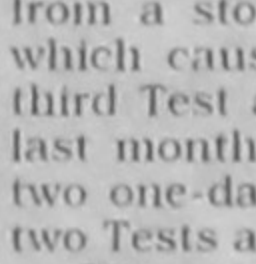
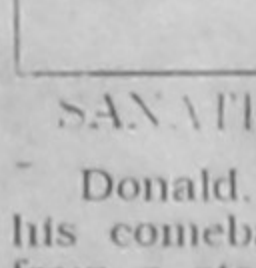
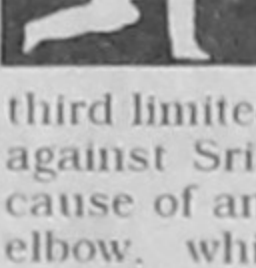
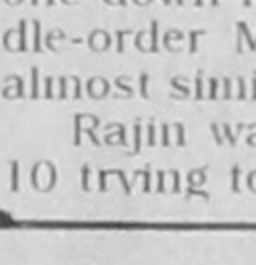
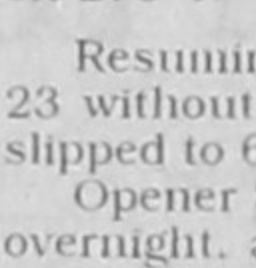
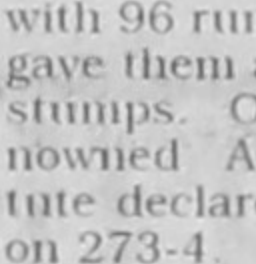
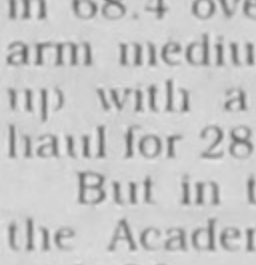
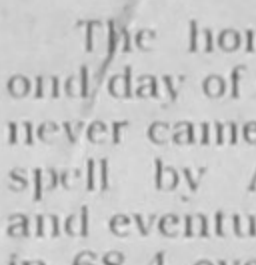
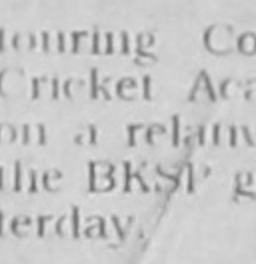
Middle-order Tushar Imran and Mazharul Haque began rebuilding the innings with a 75-run fifth wicket partnership. The Bangladesh youth team went to lunch on 116 for four.

However, as soon as the pair were dismissed by left-arm leg-spinner Adam Voges, the side capitulated before tea.

Tushar, the right-handed Khulna batsman, top-scored with 48 off 87 balls. It included ten boundaries. On the other hand the portly-built middle-order Mazharul clipped in with 33 off 117 balls.

In the final session the visitors lost two both openers in racing to 96 runs in 26 overs.

Daniel Harris made only four before he was caught behind off left-arm seamer Bikash Ranjan Das. Luke Williams (33) was bowled by left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam.



BCB U-21: First innings (Overnight 23 for no loss in 4 overs)

Sajjadul c Hartley b MacDonald	17			
Ashraf c Hartley b Welsford	19			
Rajin c Hartley b MacDonald	10			
Selin c Stanton b MacDonald	13			
Mazharul c & b Voges	33			
Tushar st Hartley b Voges	48			
Manzarul not out	13			
Sabbir lbw b Voges	0			
Sharif b MacDonald	31			
Taposh c Stanton b MacDonald	2			
Bikash b MacDonald	0			
Extras (b-1, lb-5, nb-2)	9			
Total (all out in 68.4 overs)	195			
Fall of wickets: 1/33, 2/39, 3/58, 4/63, 5/138, 6/157, 7/157, 8/193, 9/195				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Welsford	19	2	55	1
MacDonald	13	4	28	6
Hauritz	8	3	24	0
Marsh	3	0	13	0
O'Brien	11	4	19	0
Voges	14	2	49	3

BCBA: Second innings

Williams b Manzarul	33			
Harris c Selim b Bikash	43			
O'Brien not out	4			
Voges not out	16			
Extras	0			
Total (all out in 26 overs)	96			
Fall of wickets: 1/23, 2/78				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bikash	8	1	30	1
Sharif	5	0	22	0
Taposh	3	0	19	0
Sabbir	6	0	13	0
Manzarul	3	0	12	1
Ashraf	1	1	0	0

Rivalry resumes today

CAPE TOWN, Jan 8: South African fast bowler Allan Donald on Sunday withdrew from Tuesday's third limited-overs international against Sri Lanka in Paarl because of an abrasion on his right elbow, while Sri Lankan all-rounder Upul Chandana will go home because of a broken finger, reports AFP.

Donald, 34, was set to make his comeback after recovering from a stomach muscle injury which caused him to miss the third Test against New Zealand last month as well as the first two one-day internationals and two Tests against Sri Lanka.

But a grazed elbow which he suffered during the second Test against New Zealand in Port Elizabeth in early December turned septic and Donald had the elbow drained on Friday night.

His withdrawal from the Paarl match was announced when the South African team practised on Sunday afternoon. He is also a doubtful starter for the fourth international at Newlands, in Cape Town, on Thursday.

Star Sports coverage of the match will start at 6:25pm (BST).

Chandana suffered the finger injury during a net practice last week.

A replacement will join the team but no announcement is expected before Monday. Veteran batsman Aravinda de Silva is believed to be a candidate to boost Sri Lanka's fragile batting.

Sri Lanka's out-of-form batsmen will continue to play positive, attacking cricket when they resume the six-match one-day international series which was interrupted by the first two Tests.

"Mentally we are a bit down because the batsmen are not scoring runs," admitted captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

"But we will carry on playing positively because that is where we have had success," he added.

Jayasuriya said a key factor was that both he and the usually reliable Marvan Atapattu, the two most experienced batsmen in the side, had not been performing.

Jayasuriya has been in particularly poor form, scoring 10 runs in the first two limited overs games and only 34 in four innings in the Tests.

Atapattu has scored only four runs more than his captain in the Tests and made 2 and 36 in the first two one-day games.

Sri Lanka need a major turnaround if they are not to suffer a rout on their tour.

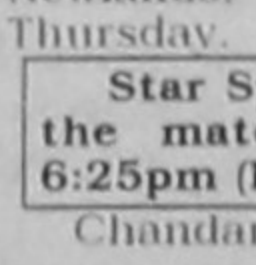
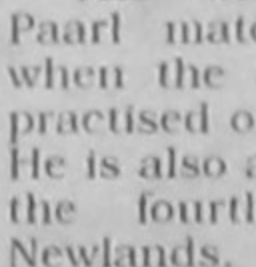
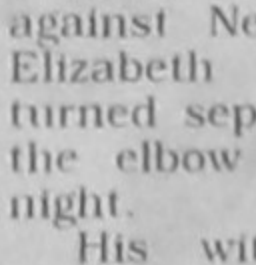
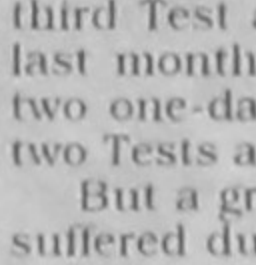
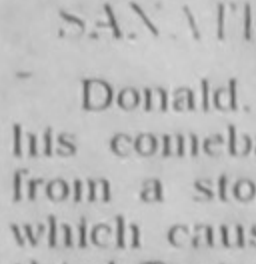
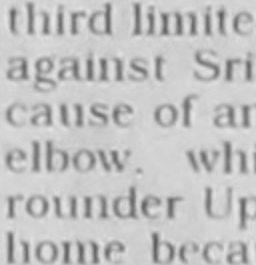
They were beaten convincingly in the first two limited overs internationals last month and although they earned a draw in a rain-hit first Test, the islanders were trounced by an innings and 229 runs in the second Test at Newland last month.

The Boland Park ground at Paarl, about 60 kilometres (40 miles) from Cape Town, offers them some hope.

It has one of the slowest pitches in South Africa and it is a ground on which the South Africans have yet to play as a team.

South Africa will go into the match full of confidence, however, after dominating their matches against the islanders so far.

The South African squad includes one newcomer, all-rounder Justin Kemp but selection convenor Rusdi Magiet said Kemp would probably only play when South Africa have made sure of winning the series.



SQUADS SOUTH AFRICA (from):

Shaun Pollock (captain), Nicky Boppe, Mark Boucher, Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Justin Kemp, Gary Kirsten, Lance Klusener, Neil McKenzie, Makhaya Ntini, Jonty Rhodes, Roger Telemachus.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu (vice-captain), Russel Arnold, Mahela Jayawardene, Avishka Gunawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Tilakaratne Dilshan, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Muttiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Dilhara Fernando, Kaushalya Weeraratne, Muthumudalige Pashupakumara.

Umpires: Dave Orchard and Will Driedicks (both South Africans).