

SPORTS TALK



Brian Lara
(West Indies star batsman)
"I'd like to be a Tendulkar or someone like that, someone who can go out to the middle and keep scoring. If he doesn't get a hundred he gets 30, 40. But I'm also happy to be the player that I am."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 143
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 2, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Which is FIFA's top ranked country?
Brazil Italy Holland
- How many Test hundreds has Steve Waugh scored?
24 25 26
- Who is the result of the South Africa-Sri Lanka ODI series?
5-1 6-0 4-2
- Who is the lone double centurion in the National Cricket League?
Farhat Javed Omar Aminul
- By which margin did Bangladesh go down to Bosnia in the Sahara Millennium Cup?
2-0 3-0 4-0

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

Nat'l youth cricket Comilla post victory

Comilla registered a 20-run victory over Pirojpur in the final round of the 20th National Youth Cricket Championship at Thakurgaon yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat first, Comilla made 210 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs. Number five Bulbul scored highest 56 off 45 balls in featured 11 fours.

Jewel picked up four wickets for 48 while Panna claimed three for 14.

In reply, Pirojpur made 190 all out in 49.5 overs. Opener Sohag scored 42 and Rafique added 35.

Bikas and Moni captured two wickets each.

Kanchan rescues nat'l booters

Bangladesh national football team, now preparing for the qualifying round matches of the World Cup football, drew one-all with Bangladesh Army in a warm-up match at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prothshan (BKSP) ground yesterday, reports UNB.

After trailing 0-1, upcoming national striker Rokunuzzaman Kanchan grabbed an equalising goal in the 85th minute.

The national team is expected to play another warm-up match against BKSP team before leaving for Saudi Arabia on February 5 to participate in the World Cup qualifiers from February 8-19.

Bangladesh have been placed in Asian Group-10 with hosts Saudi Arabia, Mongolia and Vietnam in the two-leg basis matches.

Green Delta jr hockey

Barnak Samaj outplayed Tejgaon Agragami Club 8-1 in the Green Delta Junior Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Striker Mamun helped the winners to earn the massive victory scoring hat-trick with four goals. Barnak dominated the first half 6-0.

In the day's another match, Uddi Club trounced East End Club 5-0 after leading the first half 4-0.

Mohammad Razi and Zakir Hossain scored two goals each for the winners.

Metro maintain an edge

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Cty v Dhaka Metro

Dhaka Metropolis thrived on a century partnership between Neeamur Rashid and Mofizul Islam to post a massive total on the second day of their four-day Green Delta National League match against holders Chittagong at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The left-right combination of Mofizul and Neeamur produced 142 runs for the eighth wicket as hosts Dhaka Metropolis, resuming on 340 for four, amassed 503 for nine before their captain Khaled Mahmud declared the innings shortly before tea.

Chittagong were 122 for two in 40 overs at stumps. The port city however needed a more attacking play to enforce a result so that they can stay at par with co-leaders Bangladesh Biman, who are on road to take an edge over Khulna at Jessore yesterday.

Chittagong, who were tormented by Ashraf and Al-Shahriar on the opening day, heaved a momentary sigh of relief early in the morning.

claiming three wickets at the expense of 32 runs. But little they did know what was in store for them when Neeamur joined left-handed Mofizul in the middle.

Together they took their side to a position where Dhaka Metropolis had never reached before in the League.

Neeamur, the more aggressive of the two, hammered 69 off 132 balls that included eleven disallowed hits across the rope. He was eventually out in 149th over, top-edging an attempted sweep off occasional off-spinner Rezaul.

Mofizul scored 58 off 153 balls with the help of six fours. The southpaw was brilliantly caught by makeshift wicket-keeper Ehsanul, who took the ball low diving full to his left.

Dhaka Metropolis however suffered an early jolt when Al-Shahriar, resuming on 90, could add only five runs before being adjudged leg before off the bowling of right-arm seamer Safiuddin Ahmed.

The most successful Chittagong bowler with four for 95 runs, Safiuddin had also dismissed a marauding Ashraf, who struck a superlative 157 on Saturday.

Chittagong were also given a

flying start by Nafis Iqbal and Azam Iqbal, who put on 84 runs for the first wicket. But Nafis, the talented young right-hander, lost his concentration just after completing his 50 off 91 balls. He was caught by Mahmud off leg-spinner Ashraf.

Azam followed Nafis two runs later, driving Mahmud straight to Al-Shahriar.

Ehsanul in company with Rezaul took the Chittagong score past the 100-mark without further damage.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match between Dhaka Metropolis and Chittagong at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

DHAKA METROPOLIS: First innings (overnight 340 for 4 in 95 overs)
Ashraf b Safiuddin 157
Mehrab c Anis b Enamul 53
Al-Shahriar lbw b Safiuddin 95
Sajjad run out 3
Naimur c Murtaza b Anis 17
Hallam c Minhazul b Anis 7
K Mahmud b Safiuddin 58
Mofizul c Ehsanul b Safiuddin 58
Neeamur c Ehsanul b Rezaul 69
Anwar not out 8

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Nafis Iqbal of Chittagong misses an attempted cut on the second day of the four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match against Dhaka Metropolis at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. - Star photo

Bashar pilots Biman

Sports Reporter

GREEN DELTA NAT'L CRICKET LEAGUE

Biman v Khulna

Habibul Bashar kept Bangladesh Biman on course to take a first innings lead against hosts Khulna on the second day of their four-day Green Delta National Cricket League match at the Jessore Stadium yesterday.

The national number three batsman was unbeaten on 70 as Biman, in reply to Khulna's first innings of 289, were comfortably placed on 215 for four at the close of Sunday's play.

The right-hander, since making an impressive 70 against India in the Inaugural Test last November, has been rather inconsistent in the season thus far.

However, Bashar put the lean patch behind him after the national flag-carrier lost two wickets for 83.

Skipper Faruque Ahmed was the first wicket to fall when he

offered a return catch to left-arm spinner Rana on 47. Javed Omar (23) followed after being trapped leg before by medium-pacer Monir.

Together with Aminul Islam, Bashar put together a 59-run partnership for the third wicket. The stand was broken on 142 when Aminul was out for 31.

Biman lost Sanwar when he made seven leaving his side on 168 for four.

But Bashar and Hasanuzzaman (28 n.o.) denied Khulna any further gains by combining in an unbeaten fifth wicket stand of 47 runs.

Bashar faced 143 deliveries and smote eight fours in his 218-minute vigil.

Earlier, in the morning, Khulna, who resumed the day on 262 for eight, added 27 runs before they were all out for 289 in 107 overs.

Lower-order Jamaluddin was unbeaten on 46 while number ten Al-Amin added 16.

Biman's Pakistan left-arm spinner Aamir Wasim took three for 63 while medium-pacer Sharif, Monir and off-spinner Ziaur Rashid captured two wickets each.

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Asia Cup U-17 Tournament

BCB names primary squad

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday announced a primary squad of 45 players for the forthcoming Second Under-17 Asia Cup to be held in Bangladesh from February 15-25.

The hosts have been placed in Group A along with mighty Pakistan, Nepal, Kuwait and Singapore for the first round. The other group comprises Sri Lanka, India, Oman, UAE and Malaysia.

The selection was done following a two-month talent-hunting programme that ended with the GrameenPhone Under-17 Tournament last week.

A few star performers in the ongoing National League like Chittagong opener Nafies Iqbal and Dhaka's opening batsman Mohammad Ashraf, medium-pacer Alok Kapali of Sylhet, left-arm spinner and useful lower-order batsman Manzarul Islam Rana of Khulna and Dhaka

Metropolis wicketkeeper Mohammad Shahin have been drafted as well.

Only medium pacer Talha Zubayer, who appeared in the inaugural edition in Pakistan last year, has retained his place.

Those taking part in the primary camp from January 31-February 3, will eventually be reduced to twenty.

Malcolm Perera, one of the four Sri Lankan coaches appointed by BCB to look after their different age-group development programmes, has been appointed coach of the Bangladesh under-17 team.

Following are the primary squad of players:

Khulna Division: Murad Khan, Manzarul Islam Rana, Al-Amin, Saiful Alam, SK Russell, Murtaza Kowif, Mahmuduzzaman and Farhad Hassan.

Dhaka Division: M Riyad, Ilyas Sunny, Sajjad Kadir, Anwar Hussain, Mohammad

Ashraf, KA Rahman John, Osman Gani, Sabuj Islam, Nazmul Rahman, Fawhidur Rahman, Nazmul Sadat, Tahbir Rahman, Mohammad Shahin, Talha Zubayer and Mohammad Sharif.

Chittagong Division: Mohammad Nizamuddin, Aftab Ahmed, Nafies Iqbal, Aslam Ali and Saleuddin.

Sylhet Division: Gulam Mahboob, Enamul Haque, Intiaz Hussain, Abdullah Al-Maz, Abdul M Masood and Alok Kapali.

Barisal Division: Arif Hossain and Prosenjit Joy.

Rajshahi Division: Zunayed S Imroz, Susan Shahriar and Rakibul Nirala.

BKSP: Kazi Hasibul Huq, Salahuddin Sadat, Shakil Hossain, Hasibul Haque, Shafak Al-Jabir and Mohammad Nazmul.

The selected cricketers have been asked to report to Board office at 9 am on Wednesday.

Grameen Phone set to sponsor U-17 Asia Cup

Sports Reporter

Grameen Phone is set to become the title sponsors of the forthcoming second Under-17 Asia Cup to be held in Bangladesh next month, Bangladesh Cricket Board joint-secretary and the event manager of the tournament Mahmud Ul Haq revealed this yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahmud, however, said that a deal with the cellular phone company was yet to be finalised. It may be mentioned that Grameen Phone are already sponsoring BCB's under-17 development programme.

The tournament, involving ten Asian nations including giants India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be held at different venues across the country from February 15-25.

Bangladesh have been drafted in Group A along with Pakistan, Nepal, Kuwait and Singapore. The other group features India, Sri Lanka, Oman, UAE and Malaysia.

The venues and fixtures are yet to be finalised, but Mahmud confirmed that the semifinals will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prothshan (BKSP) in Savar while the final will take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Ekushey Television (ETV) is expected to telecast the semifinals and final live provided they can bring in an Outside Broadcasting van from abroad before the start of the tournament.

Naimur to attend Test skippers' meeting

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh cricket captain Naimur Rahman will attend a meeting of Test captains in Melbourne on February 12.

This is the second such meeting after the first one at Lord's in 1997.

BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq said yesterday that the meeting has been arranged to make the captains aware of the recent changes and developments in the rules of the game.

Naimur is scheduled to fly to Australia on February 9.

Schools' Cricket

Sports Reporter

Razabagh Police Lines High, Rabeya Pre-Cadet, National Bangla High and New Model High won their respective first round matches of the Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank 19th National Schools' Cricket Championship at different city venues yesterday.

Razabagh Police Lines High outplayed Sunnydale by 137 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium. Rabeya Pre-Cadet beat Jannat Academy by 15 runs at the City Club ground, National Bangla handed Sunbeams a nine-wicket defeat at the Dhammondi Club ground while New Model High whitewashed Udayan by 180 runs at the Kalabangon Krira Chakra ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF
Razabagh Police Lines High School v Sunnydale
RAZABAGH PLHS: 268 for 6 in 35 overs (Sadi 75, Nazrul 65, Tapan 41 n.o.)

SUNNYDALE: 131 all out in 29.4 overs (Extras 32, Sohag 3/35, Mintu 2/7, Tutul 2/26, Mukul 2/23)

Result: Razabagh PLHS won by 137 runs.
Rabeya Pre-Cadet v Jannat Academy

RABEYA PRE-CADET: 216 for 5 in 35 overs (Swapan 101, Uday 22, Zahid 20)

JANNAT ACADEMY: 201 all out in 33.2 overs (Jewel 61, Kalam 25, Bachchu 24, Sujon 3/39)

Result: Rabeya Pre-Cadet won by 15 runs.
National Bangla High School v Sunbeams School

SUNBEAMS: 99 all out in 28.4 overs (Extras 38, Raju 4/31, Johnny 3/3)

NATIONAL BANGLA HIGH: 100 for one in 12.3 overs (Tanu 39 n.o., Rubel 34)

Result: National Bangla High School won by nine wickets.
New Model High School v Udayan School

NEW MODEL HIGH: 259 all out in 34.3 overs (Extras 51, Tushfiqul 45, Sohel 39, Zahidul 32, Rubel 4/43)

UADAYAN: 79 all out in 20.5 overs (Rubel 24, Raihan 4/19, Arman 2/0, Sakib 2/16)

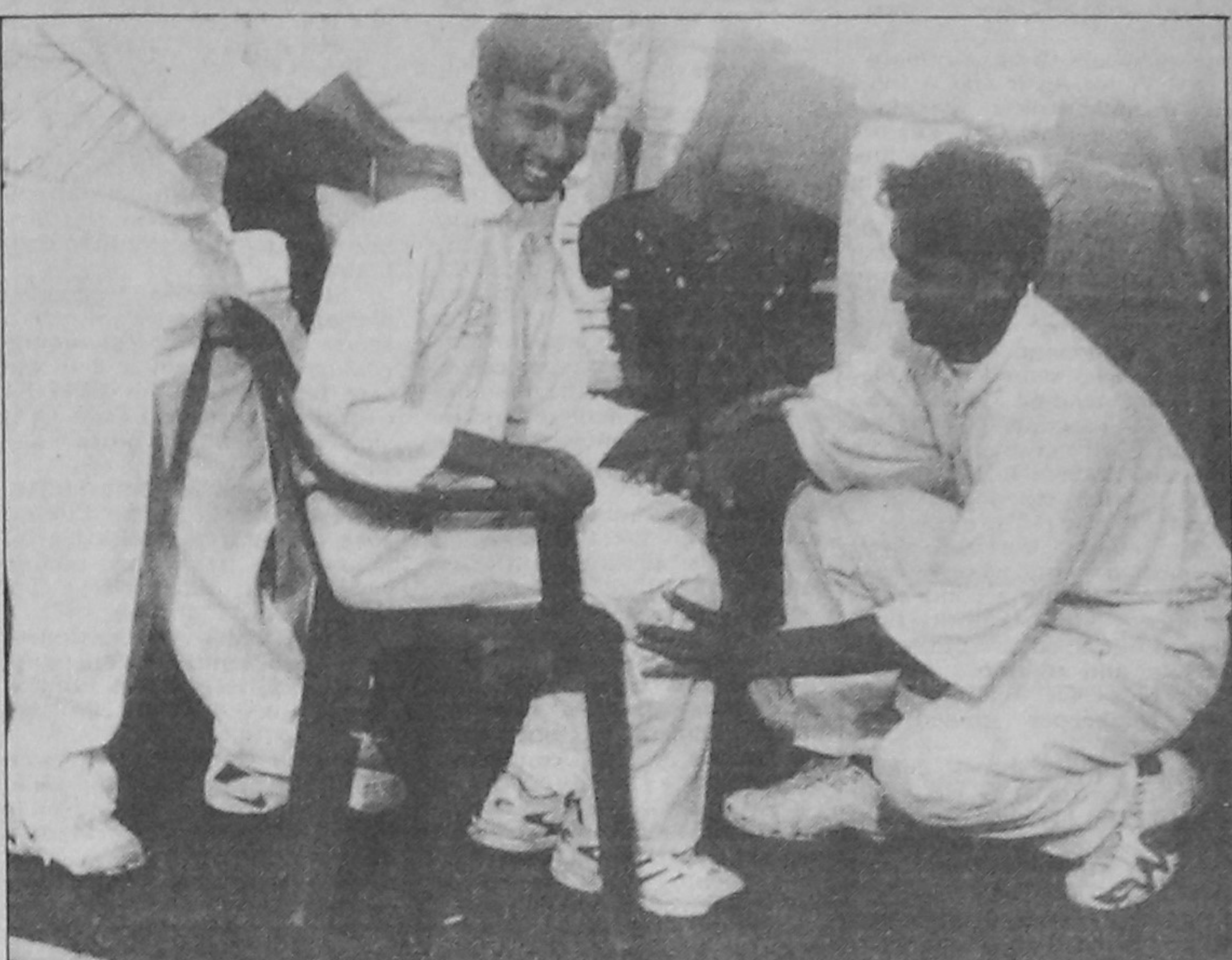
Result: New Model High School won by 180 runs.

Rajshahi cricket
From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 28: Tanore Traders Association and Tanore College won their respective matches of the Bangabandhu Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at the Gollapara Market playground today.

In the first match, Tanore Traders defeated Channak Cricket Club by 63 runs.

Tanore College beat Muddamala Seven Stars Club by seven wickets.



BROTHER, DON'T RUIN OUR CAREERS! National opener Mehrab Hossain (R), and national skipper Naimur Rahman (L), pampering Dhaka Metropolis team-mate and season's young sensation Mohammad Ashraf during a break in their four-day Green Delta National Cricket League fixture against Chittagong yesterday. Ashraf has hogged the spotlight with his brilliant batting and bowling this year outshining his more illustrious senior colleagues. -Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Aussie coach for Test babes?

Sports Reporter

An Australian coach is likely to take over Bangladesh cricket team before the Test babes tour Zimbabwe to play their maiden series in April.

Although BCB president (Bangladesh Cricket Board) Sabir Hossain Chowdhury did not disclose the name of the would-be coach in Saturday's Board meeting that lasted nearly five hours, but he said that negotiation process was at the final stage.

The Board had earlier nominated its general secretary Ashraful Huq to find a new coach after the departure of its South African Director of Development Eddie Barlow, Barlow, who could not recover well from a stroke he suffered last year, bade a tearful farewell in December.

Saber and Ashraful will go down under in the first week of February to attend the ICC meeting in Melbourne. And it is rumoured that an agreement would be reached with the new coach during that time.

When approached, Ashraful refused to talk about the imminent appointment of an Australian coach. But a reliable source confirmed that Rodney Marsh, the head coach of the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy, on his recent visit here had assured the Board of helping it to find a suitable candidate for the post.

Bangladesh cricketers will leave Dhaka on April 1 to play two Tests and three one-day matches during their month long visit in Africa.

Meanwhile, the Board has picked six local coaches to assist the Sri Lankan quartet, who are in charge of different age-group selections.

They are Osman Khan, Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Sarwar Imran, Mosiuddin Ahmed Montu, Wahidul Ghani and Dipu Rai Chowdhury.

Among the six, Osman Khan, Jalal Ahmed, Wahidul Ghani and Montu will work with different age groups. While Sarwar Imran and Dipu Rai will look after the national team and the second-string side for an interim period.

The Board has also formed an ad-hoc committee in Chittagong to set its plan in motion for the formation of regional cricket associations in six divisional headquarters phase by phase. The committee, on a trial basis, will be headed by the Chittagong Divisional commissioner. The other member are - Salman Isphani, Firoz Ahmed and Selim Abedin. Subroto Chatterjee, the development officer of Chittagong, will work under the committee.

Awesome Aussies march on

SYDNEY, Jan 28: Steve Waugh's all-conquering Australians scored a sixth successive limited-overs victory when they whipped a plucky, but outclassed, Zimbabwe by 86 runs in a tri-nations series one-day clash at the Sydney Cricket Ground Sunday, reports AFP.

Australia galloped to 291 for six in their 50 overs before dismissing the visitors for 205 in 47.5 overs.

While Australia have now won six matches by huge margins, Zimbabwe have just one victory -- over the West Indies -- from five games. This leaves them needing a big win over the Windies in Perth Friday, when they clash for the last time in the series in a qualifying match, to have any chance of taking on Australia in the finals of the 210,000 dollar (120,000 US) contest next month.

Zimbabwe gave themselves a slight chance of victory Sunday when they reached 119 for four in the 26th over, but they lacked the batting depth to maintain momentum.

Their prospects were at their brightest when number three Stuart Carlisle (44) and number

four Andy Flower (39) added 92 runs in composed fashion off 115 balls.

But the pair went within a few balls of each other, Flower slashing at a wide ball from spinner Michael Bevan to be caught low down at backward point by Andrew Symonds.

Carlisle was unlucky to be given out lbw to champion leg-spinner Shane Warne by umpire Peter Parker. Replays showed the ball hit him outside off-stump and was turning even further away.

Symonds then struck crucial blows with his off-spinners, claiming Gavin Rennie (11) and Grant Flower (30) -- both stumped by quicksilver glove-man Adam Gilchrist.

Captain Steve Waugh drew heavily on his four spin bowlers, with Symonds (2-35 off eight), Warne (2-52 off 10), Bevan (1-25 off seven) and Ricky Ponting (1-12 off five) all taking scalps.

Australia's fielding was again exceptional, exemplified by the final act of the game when fast bowler Damien Fleming threw from the boundary to run out a bemused Bryan Strang.

Towards the end of their innings when victory was no longer a realistic goal, Zim-

babwe played instead for their net run-rate, which could prove decisive in the battle to reach the finals if they can beat the West Indies in Perth and draw level with them on the points table. In the Australian innings, the left-handed Bevan showed the way with 71 not out from 70 balls -- an effort which gave him the man-of-the-match award.

His innings featured only four fours and one six, but breathtaking running between wickets.

After a steady start from the top order, Bevan cut loose in the latter stages of the innings. He was energetically supported in the final overs by the in-form Darren Lehmann, who made 36 off 21 balls before he was bowled by the last ball of the innings.

Bevan and Lehmann added exactly 50 from 30 balls in a vicious assault on the bowling that had the crowd standing.

The foundation for the home team's winning total were the 98 runs in 22 overs by Gilchrist (63 from 76 balls) and Mark Waugh (36 from 63).

Symonds also contributed to the rapid-fire scoring in the

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Andre sweeps Arnaud aside

MELBOURNE, Jan 28: Defending champion Andre Agassi scored a crushing 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 win over Frenchman Arnaud Clement to claim his third Australian Open crown in the men's final here Sunday, reports AFP.

Propelled by a high first serve percentage and with Clement committing a flurry of unforced errors, Agassi was always in control of the one-sided final which he won in one hour 46 minutes.

It was the 30-year-old's seventh Grand Slam title and his third win in five matches against Clement.

The sixth seed blew a kiss to girlfriend Steffi Graf and waved to long-time coach Brad Gilbert after ridding a backhand winner down the line on match point.

"You never know when the last time you're going to be here is and it never ceases to be overwhelming. All the training

is difficult and hard but it's worth it," said Agassi on the victory days.

"I promise you I look forward to many years coming back. This was truly a thrill."

Clement, reading in broken English from a prepared speech

he theatrically pulled from his pocket, said: "To compete in the Grand Slam final is something unreal for me."

The Las Vegas, who beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov in last year's final after winning here for the first time in 1995, broke the 15th seed in the Frenchman's second service game of the first set after Clement had double-faulted on advantage point.

Clement then put a backhand into the net and Agassi got the break and a 2-1 lead when the Frenchman couldn't get back a powerful forehand.

The Frenchman was again under pressure in his next service game, forfeiting another advantage point to drop service when an Agassi forehand found the line for a 4-1 lead after 18 minutes.

But Clement hit back immediately when Agassi made three errors to go down three break points.

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Agassi with winner's trophy