

Kalabagan caught on a sticky wicket

Sports Reporter

Reigning Navana Premier Division cricket league champions Abahani Krita Chakra were well on the road to registering their fourth consecutive victory after the first day of their two-day match against Kalabagan at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In reply to Kalabagan's paltry 88 all out in 43.2 of the stipulated 75 overs, Abahani had made 44 for the loss of one wicket after 14 overs. The match resumes today with the champions needing another 45 runs with lots of wickets and overs to spare.

Abahani, who seem to be riding their luck despite some costly descensions this season, were favoured once again yesterday when Kalabagan skipper Omar Khaled Rumi won the toss and elected to bat on a sticky pitch, rich in moisture following rain and heavy fog the days before.

Rumi, who had single-handedly won his side's match against Rupali Bank last week, scoring a century and taking four Rupali wickets, yesterday was left to rue his decision. His

own performance also suffered, managing to score only one run before Babu had him snapped up by Pappu off the very third ball he faced.

The start of the match was delayed by three hours and 20 minutes to allow the heavy moisture in the wicket and the outfield to dry. Kalabagan started fairly well, Babu and Alam putting on 24 runs for the first wicket. Ishtiaque, who was run out, helped Babu take the score along to 44 by scoring 16 of their 20-run second wicket stand. But following his dismissal, the remaining Kalabagan batsmen managed only to double the score, to be all out for 88. Babu played a sheet-anchor role, taking 77 balls for his 13 runs before being the seventh man out. Munir, using the long handle at number eight, was the only other Kalabagan batsman to reach double figures with 18.

Efice was the pick of the Abahani bowlers, taking three for 12 off his nine overs of off-spin while leg-spinner Nadir Shah got two for 11 and Babu two for 24.

Abahani lost opener Sohail for nought, the batsman running himself out with only one run on the board. But the other opener Tipu, not out 20, and Nadir Shah, not out 16, batted cautiously to avoid further damage.

Tarun smell success

In the day's other match, at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium, Surjo Tarun, still looking for their first win of the league in four outings, were comfortable poised on 69 for the loss of two wickets in 22 overs, needing another 63 runs to overhaul Rupali Bank's 131 all out in 60.2 overs.

Aruna De Silva was batting on 32 and Hadi on 23. Prince had taken both the Tarun wickets to fall.

In the Rupali innings, Nadim top scored with 46, Prince made 25, Babu 18, while Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad returned the fine bowling figures of five wickets for 30 runs off 10.2 overs. Suppl got two for 20, while Dipu Chowdhury, Rupam and Shaikat claimed one each.

Thrilling win for Shantinagar

Sports Reporter

Shantinagar 'A' registered a thrilling one-wicket win off the last ball of the same over Millbarracks C.C. in the only match of the Rank Xerox Second Division cricket league yesterday at the Dhanmandi Cricket Stadium.

Millbarracks C.C., electing to bat, were bowled out for a poor 145 runs in 29.1 overs.

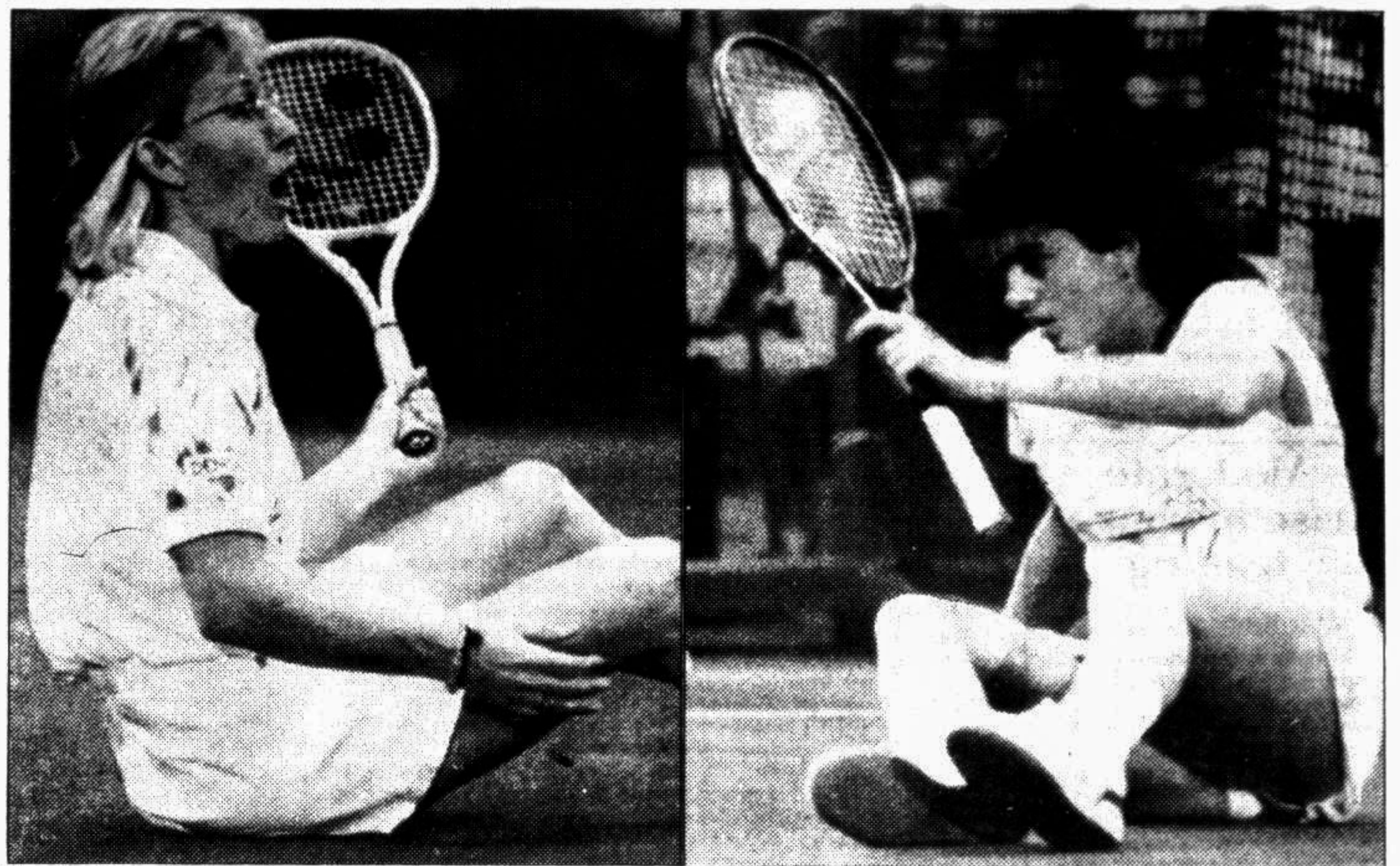
Rubel topscored with a breezy 40 runs for Millbarracks. Mushfiqul, 35, and Daniel with 28 runs were the other two Millbarracks batsmen to reach double figures.

Munna with three wickets for 19 runs and Shilpi with two for 20 were the leading bowlers for Shantinagar 'A' club.

In reply, Shantinagar 'A' scored 149 for the loss of nine wickets in 35 overs.

Shantinagar, at one stage, were cruising with 142 runs on the board and four wickets in hand. But some good fielding by the Millbarracks fielders and also some reckless running between the wickets by the Shantinagar batsmen saw them lose three batsmen with the board showing 143, all of them being run out. The last Shantinagar pair of Shilpi and Jamil kept cool and saw the team to victory. Pop with 30, Liton and Munna each with 21, Russel, 16, and Khokon with 14 were the notable Shantinagar batsmen.

Mushfiqul was the most successful Millbarracks bowler claiming two wickets. Rubel, Alamgir, Daniel and Bachehu took one wicket each.



Martina Navratilova, left, and Gabriela Sabatini both took spills in the Pan Pacific Open tournament in Tokyo last Sunday

Aussies complete formality

PERTH, Feb 5: Geoff Marsh and David Boon took Australia to victory in a dashy style on the fourth morning of the final cricket Test today, reports Reuter.

Resuming at 39 for one, chasing 120 to wrap up the five-match series 3-0, Australia had been expected to secure the win.

Marsh (63 not out) and Boon (30 not out) had other ideas, taking only 87 minutes to score the remaining runs.

The Western Australia captain reached his 50 in just 89 balls, including eight fours, as he and Boon punished Graham Gooch's men, who were desperate for an early breakthrough to give them any hope of a miracle win.

Marsh drove powerfully on either side of the wicket as the tourists rotated their attack in search of wickets. Boon, though happy to play second fiddle, played some classic square cuts.

England did have chances to remove both batsmen. Boon, cutting at Malcolm, was missed by Newport at third man, and Marsh, on 49, was given a life by Atherton in the gully off Newport.

Man-of-the-match was Craig McDermott, after returning figures of 11 for 160, the first time in Tests he has taken 10 or more wickets.

"This match was our best of the summer," Australian skipper Allan Border said. "We kept the pressure on, but we still need to work on our batting."

While he had praise for his side following their emphatic win, he had sympathy for his opposing captain, and former Essex colleague Graham Gooch.

"I know what Graham Gooch is feeling. I've been there in '84, '85 and '86," Border said.

"It's not pleasant, but you've got to look at personnel in the team, and you've got to make tough decisions back in England.

"You've got to play hard

cricket day in, day out, and some (players) need to take stock to get back to their desired level of play.

"Players were expected to do so much, but they did little when the weight was on," Border said.

Commenting on the pitch which saw 31 wickets fall in three days, Border said: "It wasn't a bad wicket to bowl on."

Border knows that contributions from his top order players must be greater if Australia are to have a chance of succeeding in the forthcoming Test series in the West Indies, given the home side's power in fast bowling.

Vital though the efforts of the lower order have been in the Ashes series, he knows his side shouldn't expect them to come up with the goods for ever more.

"We got out of jail on many occasions thanks to Greg Matthews, and other members of the tail," he said.

"I'm happy with our preparations for the Windies," he said.

SCORE BOARD

Score board on the fourth and final day of the fifth cricket Test between Australia and England today.

England: First innings 244 (A. Lamb 91, R. Smith 58, C. McDermott 8-97).

Australia: First innings 307 (D. Boon 64, G. Matthews 60 not out).

England: Second innings 182 (M. Hughes 4-37).

Australia: Second innings (overnight 39-1)

M. Taylor c Stewart b Defrettas	19
G. Marsh not out	63
D. Boon not out	30
Extras (lb-5 w-2 nb-1)	8
Total (for one wicket, 31.2 overs)	120

Fall of wicket: 1-39.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	9	0	40	0
Small	10	5	24	0
Defrettas	6.2	0	29	1
Newport	6	0	22	0
Umpires:	C. Timmins and S. Randell			

Al-Beruni Hall sports

SAVAR, Feb 5: The annual sports competition of the Al-Beruni Hall of Jahangirnagar University was held at the hall ground today, reports BSS.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed inaugurated the meet in the morning.

Luthful Kabir of Bengali Department became the individual champion bagging 20 points while Moinul Islam Chowdhury Montu of the Statistics Department was runner-up with 16 points.

Earlier, the annual sports competition of the Kamaluddin Hall of the university was held at the hall ground yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman of Bengali department became the individual champion getting 20 points

Boys' finals today

Sports Reporter

National number one and top seed Shovon Jamaly will meet national junior champion Shubulal in today's men's singles semifinal of the fourth Nissin Cup tennis championships at the Gulshan Club court.

In the day's other semifinal, Maroof Rahman will meet Hiralal. Both matches are scheduled to start at 2:30 pm.

In yesterday's quarterfinals, Shovon had a straight-sets win over Byzid Rashid 7-5, 6-3, Shubulal beat Sami Razzak 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, Maroof outplayed Sandru Salam 6-1, 1-0 with the national coach conceding the tie, while Czechoslovak coach Karen Malcy conceded his match in the third set after

having drawn level with Hiralal by taking the second set 6-3. Hiralal had won the first set by a similar scoreline.

The boys' under-12 and under-16 finals are also scheduled for today. In the under-12 final, starting at 3:30 pm, Abhi will take on Johnny while Faisal faces Ronny for the under-16 title, the match starting at 4:30 pm at the National Tennis Complex.

In the men's doubles quarterfinals yesterday, Azmat and Wahid got the better of Yad Ali and Amin 6-1, 6-1 to make the semifinals.

The men's singles and doubles finals are scheduled for tomorrow, Feb 8 at the Gulshan Club.

Gulf war keeps McEnroe closer to home

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 5: John McEnroe will play his tennis close to home in the coming weeks rather than travel to Europe to compete because of the Gulf war, tournament organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

McEnroe, who earlier pulled out of this week's Milan indoor event in favour of playing in San Francisco, has taken a wild card spot in next week's US Pro Indoor tournament in Philadelphia rather than play in Brussels.

"He asked (ATP) tour officials if he did not have to go to

Europe and they rearranged things so that he still honoured his commitment to play tennis in the scheduled week's said US Pro Indoor spokeswoman Sue Ellen Foley.

The ATP will try to add another star player to the Brussels field to replace McEnroe next week, according to tour official Weller Evans.

"We will continue to try to bolster the field in Brussels," Evans said from tour headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Boris (Becker) has had a passing interest in Brussels and we certainly hope he would play, which would certainly soften the blow of a loss

of a player like McEnroe".

Other players have decided to change their travel plans because of the war.

Eric Jelen of Germany and Frenchman Yannick Noah chose to stay in Europe instead of coming to the United States.

Most players, however, are competing as scheduled.

Andre Agassi and Michael Chang are keeping their European commitments, Evans said. Agassi is set to play Brussels, while Chang is already in Milan and will also play in Brussels.

Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, who resides in Connecticut, is playing in Milan this week and in Philadelphia the week after.

Gregs edge out Josephites

Sports Reporter

Gregs and Dhumketu Club recorded victories in their respective matches in the Partex First Division basketball league yesterday at the wooden floor basketball gymnasium.

Gregs after trailing 30-34 at half time, came on to beat their arch rivals Josephites 65-64 in a nail biting finish.

Josephites should have won the match, as they fielded two American players in their side.

But the Gregs backed up by their vociferous supporters who kept bursting crackers every now and then, clearly succeeded in unsettling their rivals.

In the dying seconds of the game Josephite players were seen unnecessarily holding the ball instead of taking shots, thus facilitating their opponents' one point victory.

Asif and Khaled with 21 points each were the top scorers for Gregs while Eddie with 16 and Bob with 12 were the leading Josephite scorers.

In another match, Dhumketu Club beat Panthers Club by 62-35 points.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Angels vs Hornets (3:00 pm)
Winners vs Backstrokes (4:30 pm)

Econo TT results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars, Habiganj DSA, Narail DSA and Azampur Young Star moved into the final of boys' team event as the first Econo Balpen Open table tennis tournament organised by the Bangladesh Table Tennis Players' Association which began yesterday at the National Coaching Centre.

The meet offers Tk. 8,000 in prize money.

One hundred and sixty one players including 14 girls from 18 teams are taking part in the five-day meet.

Chairman of the National Sports Council Major General Mahbubur Rahman inaugurated the competition.

Baggio sidelined

ROME, Feb 5: Roberto Baggio, the world's most expensive footballer, will be out of action for at least two weeks and will miss Italy's friendly international against Belgium in Terni on February 13, reports AFP.

Baggio, who cost Juventus a reported 14 million dollars when they signed him from Fiorentina last summer, strained a thigh muscle in Sunday's goalless draw away to Atalanta in Bergamo.

Richards ready for real test

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Feb 5: Viv Richards, who missed West Indies' tour of Pakistan last November, says he is fighting fit for the forthcoming Test series against Australia's touring cricketers, reports Reuter.

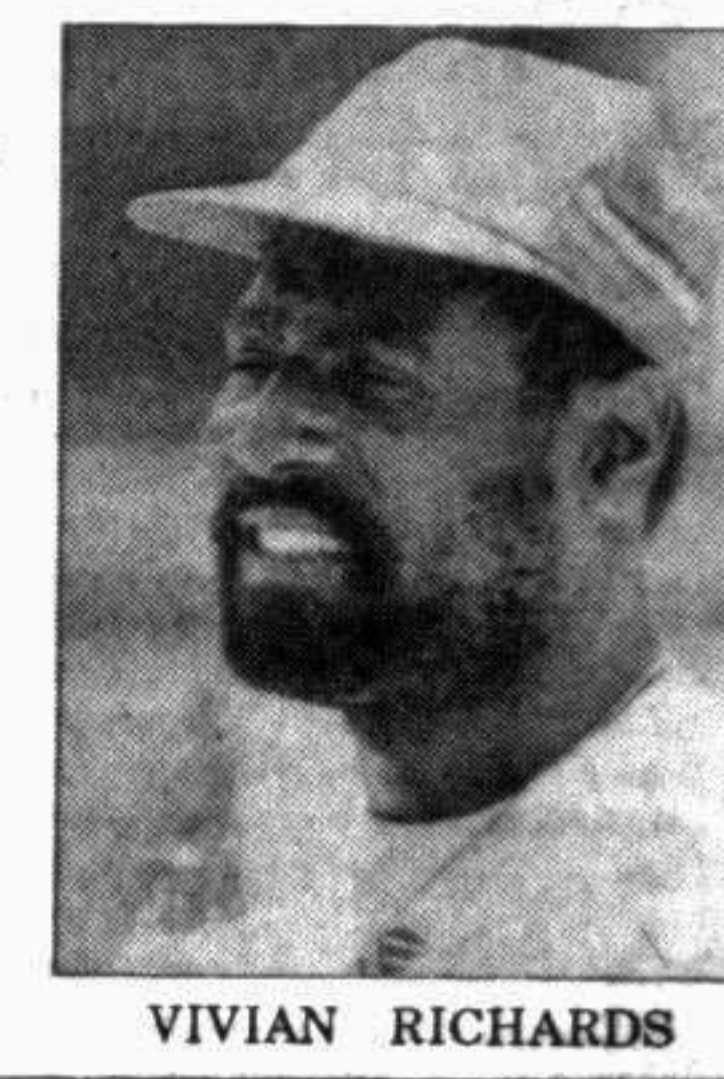
Alan Border's team arrive in St. Kitts later this month to open their Caribbean itinerary which includes five Tests and five one-day internationals.

Richards, who could not tour Pakistan because he underwent an operation for haemorrhoids, said he was fully recovered, and under-

lined the point with a superb century here at the weekend to help the Leeward Islands beat Jamaica in the Red Stripe Cup regional competition.

West Indies cricket officials have yet to name their captain for the series against Australia—Desmond Haynes led the team in Pakistan—but Richards said: "Although I can't say much as yet until maybe I've been given the job to captain again. I think it will be one of the best series ever played between the two cricketing rivals."

Richards said his century here came at a time when he was badly in need of a big score to boost his confidence.



VIVIAN RICHARDS

"I'm happy that I was able to do it here and maybe some people can see that I'm still peaking."

Speaking of his future plans, Richards said he intended to keep on going because "...There are still a few things one would like to fulfill."

"I'm not going to let anyone make up my mind for me. I didn't announce my coming, so why should I announce my going, at this particular moment."

"No one is going to hurry me along that path. I'm wise enough to know when I'm not wanted and when I can do enough and when I cannot," he said.

African Lions at the home of soccer

LONDON, Feb 5: Cameroon, the exciting, vibrant Africans who set alight last year's World Cup, are in danger of turning into embarrasing second-rate opposition against England on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The first African nation to be invited to play at Wembley arrived in England in a poor frame of mind, complaining of the freezing cold weather, angry at an unflattering newspaper story and with a new coach many have never trained under.

The president of the Cameroon Soccer Federation, Simon Njikam, said on Monday he was upset and insulted by inaccurate reports of internal bickering over the World Cup earnings, and had told players not to speak to the press.

The team who won the hearts of millions of television fans with their entertaining play on the way to becoming the first African side to reach the World Cup quarter-finals, are also unsettled and have not played together since Italy.

New French coach Philippe Redon only worked with the whole squad for the first time on Monday when the European-based professional joined the Cameroon amateurs in London.

"It is difficult because the professional players only arrived on Sunday," said Redon, who moved into the job two weeks ago as successor to Soviet coach Valeri Nepomniachi whose contract ended last October.

The biggest problem is go-



ROGER MILLA

ing to be the cold weather, coming from 40 degrees to zero is not much fun for my players.

"It is difficult for me that my first game in charge is against England, and in February when the weather is

Stars for a good cause

NEW YORK, Feb 5: Although Jackie Joyner-Kersey grew up in one of the poorest sections of the United States—East St. Louis, Illinois—she received the guidance and direction necessary to become an Olympic champion, reports AP.

That's why she's always looking to offer those same opportunities to the youth of America.

She took another step in that direction Monday, accepting an offer to participate in the Team Xero Olympics Programme.

Joyner-Kersey, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist in the heptathlon and long jump, will be joined by 11 other Olympic medalists in the programme, designed to provide role models for the nation's youth, provide income and experience for past and present Olympians under the Olympic Job Opportunity Programme, and assist the US Olympic Committee in fund raising.

Other team members are sprinter Evelyn Ashford, speedskater Bonnie Blair, gymnasts Kathy Johnson and Peter Vidmar, synchronized swimmer Traete Ruiz-Conforto, diver Wendy Lian Williams, kayaker Greg Barton, long jumper Bob Beamon, wrestler Jeff Blatnick, hockey player Mike Eruzione and decathlete Bill Toomey.

The team is an extension of the work Joyner-Kersey already has been doing on her own with youngsters. She has devoted much of her time to children through speaking appearances and clinics, and has

been keynote speaker for functions across the country.

"I enjoy speaking to kids, the ones about 9 or 10," Joyner-Kersey, 28, said. "If you can tap into their minds early, they can focus on what they want to do, even though it's about 10 years down the road. You can give them something to shoot for."

"I've come across people, older people, who have no goals. They're just living from day to day."

Joyner-Kersey began running at age 9 for the East St. Louis Railers, a club team coached by George Ward. When Ward decided to concentrate on the boys, Nino Fennoy took the girls' job.

Fennoy worked with Joyner-Kersey through elementary school and junior high on the club level, then followed her to Lincoln High as coach, maintaining the continuity and helping with her development.

Joyner-Kersey recalls dreaming of the Olympics after watching Ashford in the 100-meter dash in the 1976 Games.

"I watched the games at my aunt's house, and afterward, I told Mr. Fennoy that I think one day I can go to the Olympics," Joyner-Kersey said. "He told me that if I continued to work hard, we could get to the Olympic Trials in 1980."

In 1980, Joyner-Kersey was invited to the trials as a long jumper, but also would have liked to have been invited as a pentathlete, the forerunner to today's heptathlon.

It was a disappointing experience for the 18-year-old high school senior. After finishing



JOYNER-KERSEE

fourth in the trials, she had three fouls in the final and failed to make the team.

"I went home crying," she said.

Despite the setback, she got

encouragement from the likes of Brooks Johnson, a long-time women's coach now at Stanford, Ralph Boston, one of the best long jumpers ever, and Tennessee State coach Ed Temple, developer of Olympic sprint stars Wilma Rudolph and Wyomia Tyus.

"I have had a lot of good people say good things about me, and I have followed the path," Joyner-Kersey said. "That's what I will say to the kids."

"Some of them have no direction, no groups to go into. They don't know where they're going."

SAI ventures into cricket

CALCUTTA, Feb 5: In a major deviation from their earlier stand, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) is venturing into cricket and had already chalked out a plan to set up at least two training centres for grooming pace bowlers in the country, reports PTI.

Disclosing this, the Director General of the SAI A K Pandya, said here yesterday that they have plans of setting up two centres at any of the three places — Delhi, Chandigarh or Gwalior — with Kapil Dev as its coordinator.

He said that these centres would be set up in collaboration with the Board of Control

By move 40 Short had a queen and six pawns to Speelman's two rooks and one pawn.

For Cricket in India (BCCI) and the centre in all probability will start functioning from the middle of this year.