

# Pakistan may make it a hat-trick of triumphs

**SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 16:** Imran Khan's Pakistan, winners of the last two cricket tournaments here, have a well-stocked armoury to complete a hat-trick of triumphs when the Sharjah Cup starts on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Imran has a formidable pace attack and accomplished batsmen to confront West Indies and India in the nine-day limited overs competition with a 30,000 dollars winning prize.

Pakistan have enjoyed considerable success at this desert venue, culminating in their winning the Sharjah Cup in October 1989 and the Australasia Cup in April 1990. There was no tournament in the 1990-91 season because of the Gulf crisis.

Past performance and current resources make Pakistan favourites against West Indies, under new captain Richie Richardson, and an Indian squad whose attack may be exposed on the easy-paced pitches.

Imran has Waqar Younis, the leading wicket-taker in English first-class cricket this year, to spearhead his pace attack which is completed by Wasim Akram, Aaqib Javed and the captain himself.

However, the fitness of key players may influence Pakistan's prospects. Javed Miandad, their most experienced batsman, is recovering from a back injury while Waqar and Akram seek to shake off injuries sustained in the English county season.

Miandad, given full fitness and form, Salim Malik, Rameez Raja and Ijaz Ahmed should ensure the specialist batting provides enough runs.

West Indies will also have a formidable pace attack despite the absence of Malcolm Marshall through unavailability.

Fit-again Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Patrick Patterson, Courtney Walsh and Winston Benjamin, recalled after missing the recent tour of England, are the main weapons with new comer Anderson, com-

ing in support. But Richardson, who has succeeded Viv Richards as captain, is without some of West Indies stalwart batsmen. Richards was not selected, Desmond Haynes was unavailable while Gordon Greenidge was also overlooked, although he is one of the five beneficiaries chosen by organisers to receive 35,000 dollars each.

The other four are Mahmood Hussain and Wasim Raja from Pakistan and Indians Cottari Subbanna, C S Nayudu and Erapalli Prasanna.

India have fine, forcing batsmen — captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar and Kapil Dev — but all-rounder Kapil and Manoj Prabhakar are their experienced pace bowlers.

## 31 seek transfers

Sports Reporter

Thirty-one players sought transfers on the second day of the inter-club cricket player transfers for the 1991-92 season yesterday at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) office.

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Biman, who lost three of their topmost players — opener Jahangir Alam, Aminul Islam Bulbul and Jahangir Alam Dulu — on Tuesday to title-aspirants Dhaka Mohammedans, had a really busy day yesterday trying to repair the damage. They signed six players — Selim Shahed from Mohammedans, Zakaria Imitiaz from Surjo

Tarun. Saiful Islam from Gulshan Youth — yesterday, while Enamul Haque Moni, Mohammed Rafiq, Shahnewaz Shanu and Abu Hamid Piyal who had taken their tokens, have decided to stay on with Biman for another season.

Sri Lankan all-rounder T L Fernando has also decided to render his services to the reigning champions Brothers Union for another season.

Kazi Habibul Bashar Suman of Biman yesterday sought transfer in favour of Brothers Union.

Masroor Ahmed from Railway and Mohammed Iqbal Mamun of Agrani Bank changed their colours in favour of Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting.



Sri Lankan all-rounder T. L. Fernando yesterday decided to remain with Navana league champions Brothers Union for the coming cricket season. —Star photo

### VIPs' charity cricket tomorrow

**HARARE, Oct 16:** Can prime ministers John Major of Britain and Bob Hawke of Australia play cricket? The answer could be known Friday during a charity match in Harare between politicians and players during the British Commonwealth conference, reports AP.

Invited to be on the politicians' team were Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Pakistan's leader Nawaz Sharif, Major and Hawke, who has been trying out Harare's golf courses. It's not known if all four will play.

The players are former West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd, Zimbabwe's England batsman Graeme Hitch and Zimbabwe skipper David Houghton.

The match was arranged by the British High Commission in Harare. Local school cricketers will do the fielding and money raised will be split between children's charities and the Zimbabwe Cricket Development Fund.

## Sobers' plea to allow S Africa in W Cup

**DUBAI, Oct 16:** West Indies cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers called on Tuesday for South Africa to be allowed to compete in next year's cricket World Cup, reports Reuter.

"South African cricketers have been isolated from the world for no fault of theirs," he told a news conference in

Dubai ahead of the Sharjah Cup which starts on Thursday.

"In my personal opinion, South Africa should immediately be rehabilitated at the international level... (and) allowed to contest next year's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand."

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is to hold a special meeting in Sharjah on October 23 to decide whether

South Africa can play in the limited overs World Cup in February and March.

The venue for the meeting was chosen because representatives of West Indies, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka will be in the United Arab Emirates for the Sharjah Cup.

South Africa were readmitted to the ICC in July following the removal of the Republic's apartheid laws.

The West Indies abstained in the vote and it was feared that Caribbean resistance would stymie South African hopes of ending decades of anti-apartheid isolation at the World Cup.

Sobers, one of the greatest all-rounders, said he had met South African golfer Gary Player at the Dunhill Cup tournament in Scotland last week and Player had told him he was relieved to be able to play in international team events again.

### INVITATION WITHDRAWN

Another report from Toronto says: A charity group has withdrawn invitations to two of South Africa's top cricketers for a world team match against the West Indies in Canadian city Toronto.

The United Way, which is holding the November 2 event at Toronto's Skydome Stadium to raise money for charity, said it feared a South African presence at the match could weaken financial contributions.

"United Way didn't want to take the chance of alienating the people who we look to for support," Ron Alderige, a United Way spokesman, said on Tuesday.

The United Way withdrew invitations to Jimmy Cook and Allen Donald, who play in England but are considered two of South Africa's most competitive cricketers.

Cook, a top-scorer for Somerset, is seen as a likely candidate to captain South Africa's side at the 1992 World Cup. Donald, of Yorkshire, has been called the "fastest white bowler in the world", Alderige said.

South Africa, long excluded from international sport, was readmitted to the International Cricket Council (ICC) in July following the removal of South Africa's apartheid laws.

"Despite the fact that sanction have been lifted... the message hasn't got down to the grass-roots population, the people who are supportive of United Way," Alderige said.

The ICC will hold a special meeting in Sharjah on October 23 to decide whether South Africa can play in the limited overs World Cup in February and March.

### US Open squash:

## No play on opening day

**NEW YORK, Oct 16:** Technical problems with the court and lighting system prevented any play in the US Open squash championship on Tuesday, the scheduled second day, reports Reuter.

After Monday's first round, the venue changed from midtown Manhattan in New York city to Casino Heights, a club in Brooklyn, where the all-Canada, the court arrived in such poor condition that it

assembly took four hours longer than normal to complete. By then the advertised starting time was long past.

When the walls were in place, the flooring was found to be damaged. Richard Ingle, an expert from England who travels the world putting up such courts, said: "I'm not surprised. This court has not been used for 13 months."

The problems did not end there. The lighting system malfunctioned and required considerable adjustment.

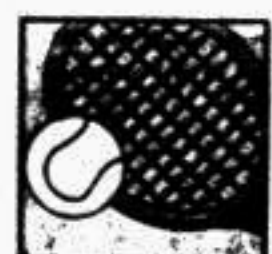
After consultations with the players, organisers postponed all further rounds by a day.

### Czechs blank Albanians 3-0

**OPAVA, Czechoslovakia, Oct 16:** Czechoslovakia defeated Albania 3-0 (Halftime 1-0) in a European Under-21 Soccer Championship Group One qualifier on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Jiri Novotny (11th minute), Karol Prazenica (63rd) Stefan Rusnak (87th)

## Wheaton, Chang post contrasting wins



**SEOUL, Oct 16:** David Wheaton of the United States defeated his compatriot Richey Reneberg 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 in the first round of the 640,000 US dollar Marlboro championships here Tuesday, reports AFP.

In the other first round match in Seoul, Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka defeated India's Leader Paes 7-5, 6-2.

The championships, which started in Beijing will move on to Hong Kong on Thursday.

### CHANG MOVES UP

Meanwhile an AP report from Beijing said: Michael Chang, playing for the first time ever in his ancestral homeland, defeated Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-1 Tuesday in the first round of the tournament in Beijing.

Chang, 19, got off to a shaky start when Haarhuis broke his serve in the first game, but he broke right back and went on to win the first set. He breezed to victory in the second set.

Chang, a Chinese-American, played a solid game from the baseline, while Haarhuis hurt himself with several unforced errors.

In the second match, Luis Herrera of Mexico defeated American David Witt, 6-2, 6-3. The remaining matches in the tournament will be played in

Hong Kong.

Many in the near-capacity crowd of about 4,000 seemed confused by the game, cheering at odd times and being asked several times by the announcer to be quiet so they wouldn't disrupt play.

But there was no doubt who was the most popular player. The Chinese spectators warmly applauded Chang's

winning shots and sometimes even his miscues.

"Since we're the same nationality I feel real proud," said Fu Wai, a 24-year-old college student.

Li Di, the fourth-ranked player on China's national tennis team, seemed surprised when asked who he had wanted to win.

"Of course, I supported

Michael Chang," the 23-year-old said. "Aren't we all Chinese?"

The match also drew some of China's most high-profile tennis buffs, including Communist Party Politburo member Li Ruihan and Wan Li, chairman of China's legislature.

But Chang, the only player of Chinese descent to ever hold a top 10 world ranking, said later that the Chinese leaders didn't ask for any tennis tips when they greeted the players before the match.

"I think they were shy," he said jokingly.

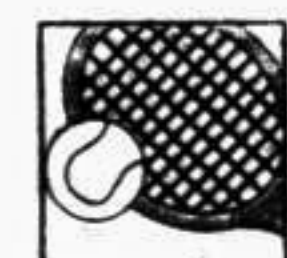
Chang, now ranked 20th in the world, played to the crowd at times, once giving a show-boat hop and stutter step before hitting a drop shot just over the net which Haarhuis scrambled for futilely.

"I wanted to be able to come out here and play some of my best tennis to show to the Chinese people," Chang said in a post-match news conference.

China would have been a special experience. Chang was born in the United States, but has a 91-year-old great-grandmother he has never met who lives in the southern Chinese city of Canton.

"The important thing for me was that I was able to make it here to Beijing. To me that is special. It's one part of my career that I will cherish," Chang said.

## Noah hopeful



**LYON, France, Oct 16:** French Davis Cup captain Yannick Noah said he is still considering naming himself as a player for the finals against the United States, reports AP.

Noah lost in the first round of the Lyon Grand Prix tennis tournament against another Frenchman, Thierry Champion, 6-4, 6-4, Tuesday night.

However, Noah remained a candidate to play against the defending champion Americans Nov 29-Dec 1 in Lyon.

"I have made some progress since my last match against Thierry," Noah said. "I'm faster, better on defence and on the low balls."

Noah, who has played infrequently in the last year, lost to Champion in the Toulouse Grand Prix tournament last month.

Noah won the French Open in 1983 and was a member of the French team that lost to the United States in 1982, the last time France reached the Davis Cup finals.

Noah has a number of French players vying for a spot alongside Guy Forget, currently ranked No 6 on the ATP Tour.

They include Champion, Fabrice Santoro, the teenager who clinched the quarterfinal victory over Australia, Arnaud Boetsch, Cedric Pioline and Henri Leconte.

"Two or three will be disappointed but the challenge is good," Noah said. "The players are motivated and they want to win."

Noah said he will participate in the doubles at the Paris Open tournament Oct 28-Nov 3 with Forget and will announce the team at the end of the Paris competition.

### Phillips — sponsors of world's premier soccer championships

Phillips — the multi-national manufacturers of consumer items — will be the major sponsors of two of the world's premier soccer championships — the fifteenth World Cup, which will be held in the USA during June and July, 1994 and the European Championship in Sweden in June next year, says a press release.

Besides the World Cup and European Championship, the programme of the Netherlands-based company includes the World Youth Championships in 1991 and 1993; the first women's world championship, which will be held in the People's Republic of China in November; the world five-a-side championship which is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong next year and the finals of the European Cup and European Cup-winners' Cup including the 1994 finals.

## Australia may host Davis Cup



**MELBOURNE, Oct 16:** Civil war in Yugoslavia means that a Davis Cup tennis tie is likely to be played for the first time in a provincial Australian city next year, officials said today, reports AFP.

The president of Tennis Australia Geoff Pollard, said the International Tennis Federation was "investigating various options for staging the Davis Cup first round tie between Australia and Yugoslavia from January 31 to February 2, 1992."

Although the tie is scheduled to be played in Yugoslavia there is a strong possibility that the tie will be played in a neutral country or in Australia. Pollard said in a statement.

The venue will be announced by the International Tennis Federation in Paris on October 30.

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The contest is scheduled to be played in Yugoslavia next Jan 31-Feb 2, but is unlikely to go ahead as scheduled because of the political turmoil in the Balkan nation.

Daws said Australia was willing to play host to the match at the Mildura Lawn Tennis Club if Yugoslavia was unable to produce a satisfactory venue.

Mildura, 200 miles (310 kilometers) north of Melbourne, would be the first provincial city in Australia to stage a Davis Cup match.

Australian Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser visited the city earlier this year and commented favourably on the club's grass courts.

Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said he would attend the Oct 30 meeting of the ITF Davis Cup Committee, of which he is a member.

Wherever the match is held, Yugoslavia will be without its No 1 singles player, Goran Ivanisevic. He has said he no longer will represent Yugoslavia and considers himself to be a Croatian.

The executive board of Tennis Australia has decided that if this country is chosen, the venue will be Mildura, 810 kilometers (500 miles) west of here, Pollard said.

Mildura had been chosen in line with the policy of encouraging the development of tennis throughout Australia.

Pollard said.

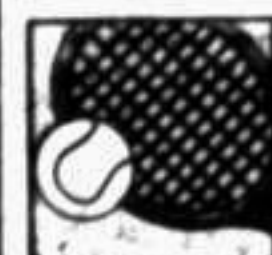
Australia's Davis Cup team captain Neale Fraser visited Mildura earlier this year and commented favourably on its facilities especially its excellent grass courts, he said.

An earlier AP report said: The International Tennis Federation will meet in Paris on October 30 to decide the site for the first round Davis Cup contest between Yugoslavia and Australia.

Mike Daws, operations manager for Tennis Australia, said Tuesday that the match was likely to be played at a neutral site, or switched to Australia.

The contest is scheduled to

## Chang hopes Chinese will pick up the game



**BELJING, Oct 16:** Chinese American tennis idol Michael Chang said here Monday he was excited by his first trip to mainland China and hoped to encourage young people here to pick up the game, reports AFP.

"I've been waiting for this trip for quite some time I'm very excited to be here, he told a news conference."

Part of why I'm out here is to be able to encourage Chinese youth... to pick up tennis no necessarily to make it a career but to make it an enjoyment and part of their life, he said.

Chang was scheduled to come to China in October 1989 to play in the Marlboro championships, but the tournament was cancelled following the bloody June 4 crackdown on pro-democracy protests.

Asked if he had reservations about visiting a communist country which critics have accused of repressing religious freedom Chang a self-confessed born-again Christian said.

"Absolutely not I'm very much pleased to be here in Beijing."

"I am a Christian and I've

come here to play some good tennis," he said. Hopefully people will get a taste of not only what kind of tennis I can play but what kind of person I am as well."

Gordon Martin, one of the tournament's promoters, said the organizers had been trying for years to get Chang to play in Beijing. "I know we've had much pressure, if you will, from our Chinese friends do to make sure he came", Martin

said.

Chang said he believed China could produce better tennis players if more young people here would try the game.

"To me it doesn't make sense that the Chinese can be so good at table tennis and not be as successful in tennis," he said.

The former French Open champion urged Chinese to compete with players from other countries and said that

speed and agility could compensate for short stature.

Chang is 173 centimeters (five feet eight inches) tall and prefers baseline play to the serve-and-volley power game of taller players.

When asked if he could speak Chinese, the native of Hoboken, New Jersey, answered in Mandarin "I can speak a little, but I don't speak well."

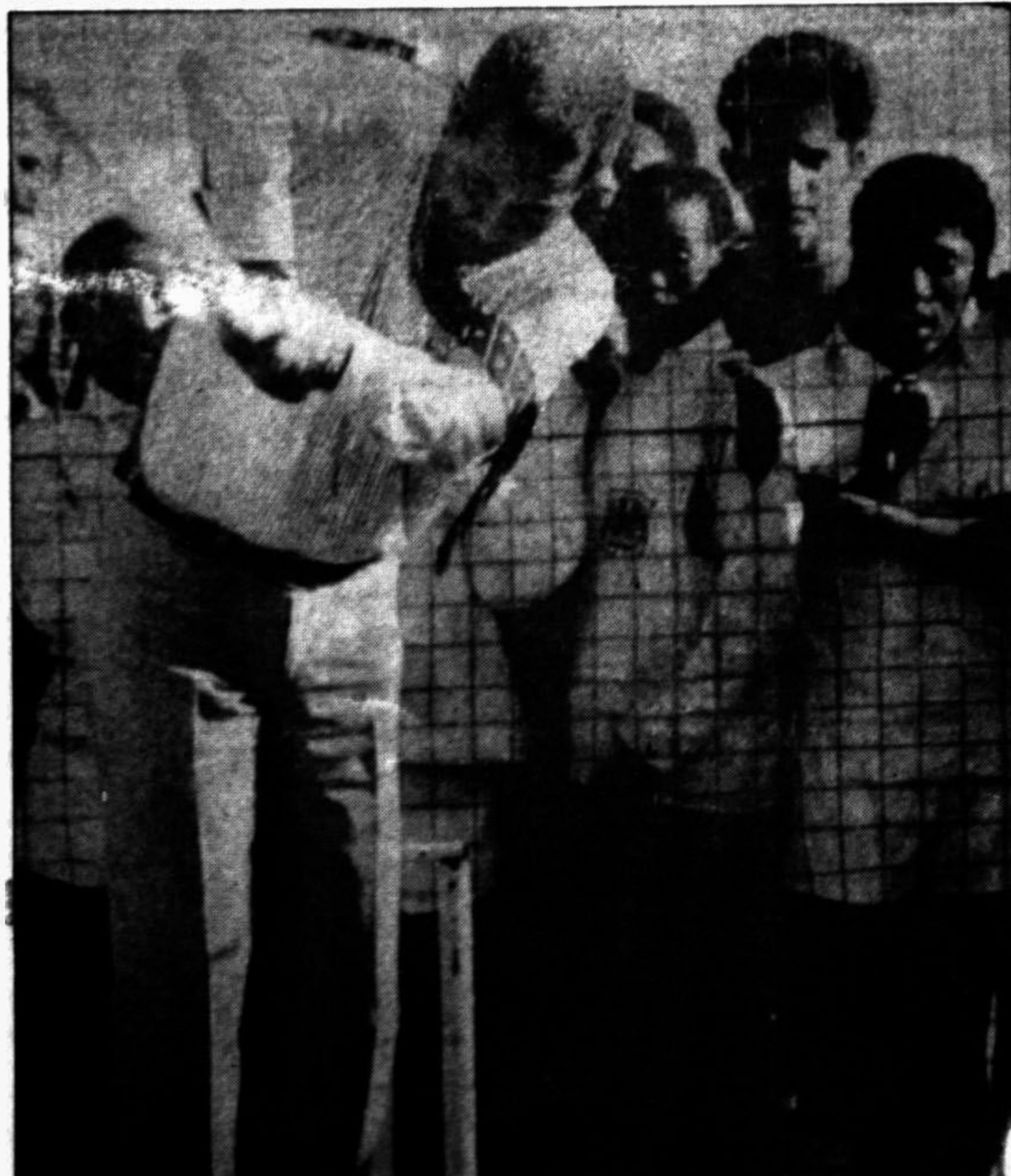
Later he listened to a question from a reporter from the official Xinhua news agency about his hobby of rearing tropical fish and replied enthusiastically without hearing the interpreter translate the question into English.

Chang said his only close relative in mainland China, was a great grandmother who he may not be able to visit because of his tight schedule.

"I hope to definitely come back in the near future," he said.

Chang's parents Joe and Bettyr immigrated to the United States from Taiwan in the 1960s. The family now lives in Placentia, California.

Tennis courts are uncommon in China and the sport is still considered esoteric. Before and during the cultural revolution (1966, 1976), it was regarded as a bourgeois pastime.



Sir Garfield Sobers attracts a rapt audience during a multi-racial practice session on June 28 in the black township of Soweto near Johannesburg to mark the unification of the hitherto rival South African cricketing bodies last July.

Goalkeeper and skipper Sayeed Hassan Kanan is hoisted by jubilant Mohammedan fans after yesterday's thrilling semifinal win over arch-rivals Abahani KC at the Mirpur Stadium. —Star photo