

# Selim, Akram revive Abahani

Sports Reporter

Mahabubur Rahman Selim scored a superb, chanceless century to put Abahani Kiran Chakra in the driver's seat against Bangladesh Biman on the first day of the 75-overs-a-side semifinal of the Victory Day cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In reply, Biman were ten without loss when the stumps were drawn.

Abahani skipper Farouque Ahmed won the toss and decided to bat on a wicket that looked full of runs. The presence of former Indian Test batsman Raman Lamba need not say, also motivated the young skipper to choose to bat first.

Zaheed Raszaq Masum, lanky, the hard-hitting batsman opened the Abahani innings with Lamba.

But the pair, known as the nucleus of the Abahani batting, could not live up to the great expectations of their numerous fans as well as the skipper.

Masum was bowled by Biman paceman Ali Ahsan Babu for 6, with the total on 25.

If Masum's departure was a shock then Lamba's departure at 46 was a disaster.

The Indian Test discard scored a fluent 25 with the help of three fours before becoming the victim of former national off-spinner Anwarul Amin Azhar.

Farouque, despite his best intentions, could not overcome his run of poor form.

He snickered one from young Pial, Biman's opening bowler, behind the stumps for 11. That was at 50.

The Biman players were cock-a-hoop at their success in removing the cream of the Abahani batting at such a low cost.

But they were in for a big shock from burly Chittagonian Akram Khan and Mahabubur Rahman Selim, the young all rounder from Mymensingh, who refused to be cowed down by the early setbacks.

While Selim concentrated on picking holes in the Biman fielding, which turned somewhat lackadaisical in the latter part of the day, Akram mixed

workman-like vigils with restful cock-a-hoop at their success in removing the cream of the Abahani batting at such a low cost.

He reached a well-deserved hundred off 163 balls.

A tired Selim was finally run out for 114, made from 163 balls with five positive boundaries.

Sri Lankan Test discard Ashoka De Silva chipped in with a useful 25 and the tail wagged well enough to give the Abahani score a respectable and formidable look of eight for 282.

Bachchu toiled without any running between the wickets punctuated by occasional hits to the fence.

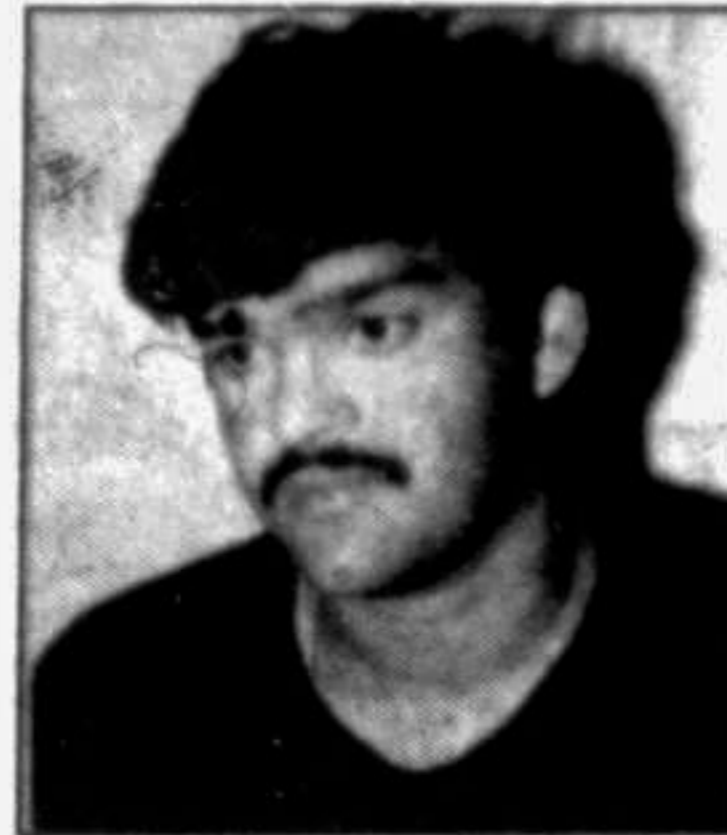
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M.R. SELIM... timely century



AKRAM KHAN... fighting 66

brawn with brain to steady the rocking Abahani boat.

The two added 145 runs for the fourth wicket in 42.1 overs.

Akram's splendid 66 off 130 balls included four hits to the fence with one rather fortunate stur over long-off.

Akram's lofted drive slipped out of Selim Shahed's hands who was patrolling the long-off fence to fetch the batsman six fortuitous runs.

Selim, meanwhile, kept his

Enamul Haq Moni, the left-handed national all-rounder, was once again Biman's principal wicket-taker with three for 56 from his quota of 15 overs.

Anwarul Amin Azhar celebrated his return to the fold with the prize scalp of Raman Lamba for 41 from his 15 overs.

Biman's pace duo of Babu and Pial gave very little away in the early half of the day.

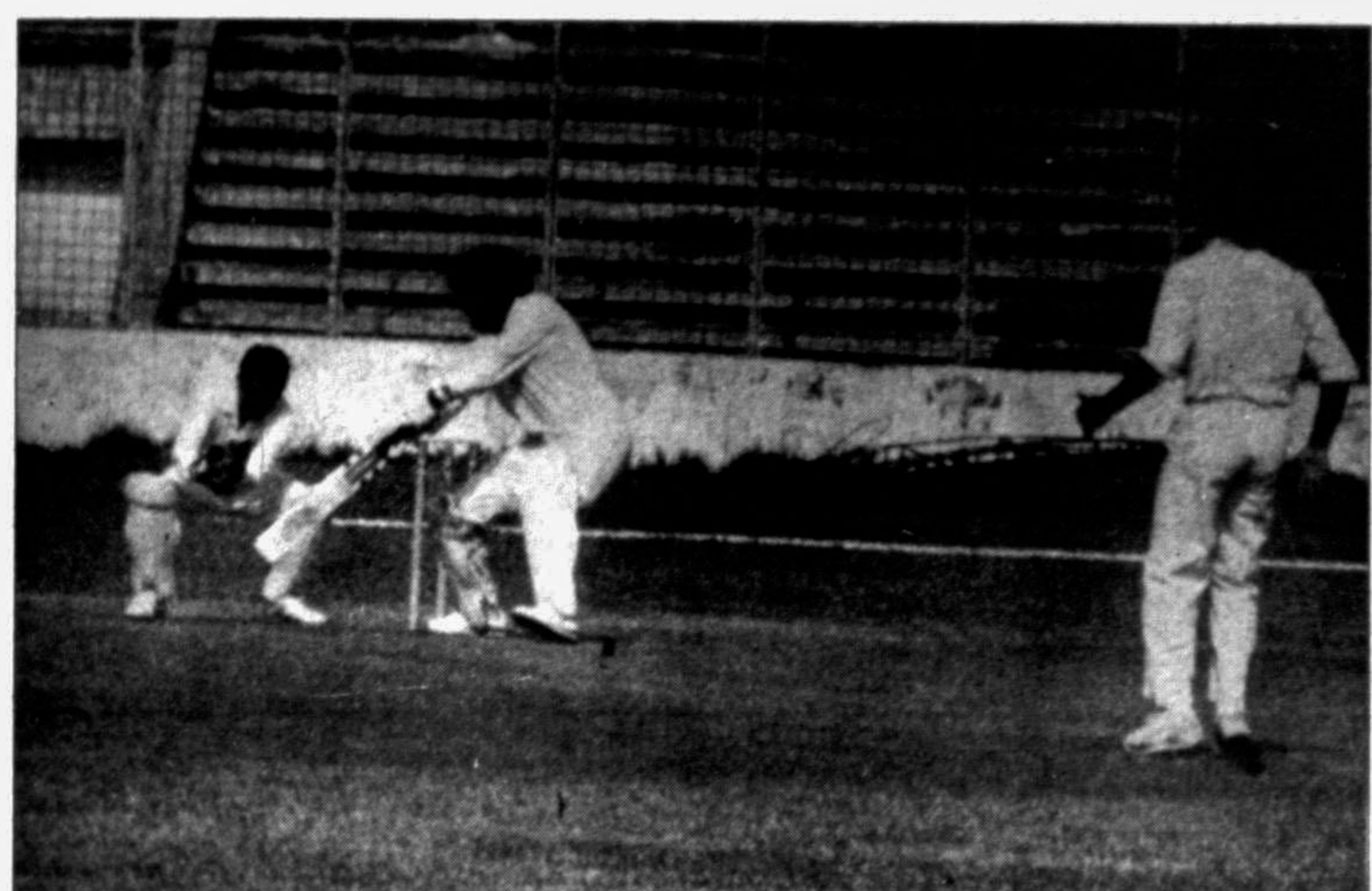
Veteran Ahmed Iqbal

With the tight Abahani spin attack likely to be brought into operation tomorrow early, one feels the Biman openers have thrown away the early advantage by their over-cautious approach.

The match resumes at 9:15 this morning.

### SCOREBOARD

|   |    |   |    |   |     |
|---|----|---|----|---|-----|
| Abahani KC  |    |   |    |   |     |
| Masum b Ali Ahsan   |    |   |    |   | 6   |
| Raman Lamba c Shanu   |    |   |    |   | 46  |
| b Ashar   |    |   |    |   | 25  |
| Farouque c Dalim b Pial   |    |   |    |   | 11  |
| Akram s Dalim b Moni  |    |   |    |   | 66  |
| Selim run out   |    |   |    |   | 114 |
| Sujan run out   |    |   |    |   | 3   |
| Ashoka lbw Moni   |    |   |    |   | 25  |
| Prince b Moni   |    |   |    |   | 16  |
| Pappu not out   |    |   |    |   | 8   |
| Morshed did not bat   |    |   |    |   |     |
| Eftee did not bat   |    |   |    |   |     |
| Extras  |    |   |    |   | 8   |
| Total (for 8 wickets)   |    |   |    |   | 282 |
| Fall of wickets: 1/25, 2/46, 3/50, 4/195, 5/201, 6/256, 7/258, 8/282. |    |   |    |   |     |
| Bowling   | O  | M | R  | W |     |
| Pial  | 8  | 1 | 24 | 1 |     |
| AA Babu   | 10 | 1 | 28 | 1 |     |
| Azhar   | 15 | 5 | 41 | 1 |     |
| Shanu   | 4  | 0 | 15 | 0 |     |
| Moni  | 15 | 2 | 56 | 3 |     |
| Bachchu   | 15 | 0 | 64 | 0 |     |
| Shabbir   | 8  | 0 | 50 | 0 |     |



Abahani batsman Akram Khan steers this one from Biman's left-arm spinner Enamul Haq Moni on the first day of their two-day Victory Day cricket tournament semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## Pioneer league from Dec 15

Sports Reporter

The inaugural ceremony of the Metropolitan Pioneer football league, organised by Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) will be held on December 15 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally declare the league open in a colourful ceremony.

Players and officials of participating clubs are expected to attend the function.

The club officials, coaches, and team captains will hold a joint meeting next Friday at 4 pm at the National Sports Council.

## Nissan Motor in semifinal

TOKYO, Dec 11: Nissan Motor of Japan blanked East Bengal of India with four unanswered goals today at Hiratsuka in the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup Winners Cup soccer tournament, reports Xinhua.

The Japanese had downed the Indians 3-1 in their first leg match on December 5.

Japan play the semifinals with the winner of another quarter-final tie between Indonesia and the Philippines.

## 'Squash S Africa' to clear hurdle for World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 11: South African squash on Tuesday unfurled under a single, non-racial ruling body called Squash South Africa, clearing the final hurdle for the republic to host next year's World Cup competition, reports Reuters.

The International Squash Players' Association (ISPA) said in August it would accept a South African tender for next year's men's event to be held in Johannesburg as long as apartheid was abolished from the sport.

"One of the conditions we made when we accepted the World Cup was the unity of South African Squash... We have done that, the rest is just a formality," senior official Rob Wise said.

The Johannesburg tournament is planned to have prize money of 1,600,000 dollars.

The last ISPA-sanctioned event to be held in South Africa was the world individual and team championships held in 1973.

Veteran anti-apartheid sports official Sam Ramsamy, president of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCASA), welcomed the formation of Squash South Africa.

"Everytime unity is achieved in a sport, it is another nail in the coffin of apartheid," Ramsamy said.

## IOC team to visit SA

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 11: An International Olympic Committee delegation will travel to South Africa next month to help the country resolve the problems hampering its preparations for the 1992 Summer Games, reports AP.

# Victoria off to fine start

Sports Reporter

The Milnars First Division cricket league 1991-92 got underway at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium with Victoria Sporting Club convincingly beating Bangladesh Railway by eight wickets.

Ten teams, including newly-promoted Ajax Sports Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, are taking part in this year's Milnars league.

The championship will be played on single league basis. The top five will then play a super league while the bottom five will feature in a relegation league. The top two teams, i.e. the champions and the runners-up, will earn the right to play in next year's Navana Premier Division while the last three teams of the bottom rung will be demoted to the Second Division league.

The league will continue until the 19th of this month without any interruption.

Victoria and former national skipper Roquibul Hassan invited his Railway counterpart to bat first after winning the toss.

The decision proved to be a correct one as three of the Railway batsmen were back in the pavilion with the score on 21.

The rot continued till Sajjad came to the wicket. He rose to the occasion with a fighting 65

that included two fours.

But the Railway collection of 151 for nine wickets at the end of the stipulated 45 overs did not look very promising and none knew it better than the Victoria batsmen.

Arif was the most successful Victoria bowler with two for 23 from six overs. Mukul followed him with two for 28.

However, Talha was the most economical among them all with one for 15 from his quota of nine overs.

The Victorians also got off to a jerky start.

Both the openers Rony and Didar were back with the score reading 29.

But after that there was no looking back for Victoria.

Mukul and Jewel fully wrested control to set their team on the course of a rather facile victory.

Mukul remained unbeaten with a patient 55 with the help of one boundary.

Jewel, who also remained not out, was the more aggressive of the two, hitting one six and three fours in his attractive 50.

Ripon was the only successful Railway bowler bagging two for 34.

### SCOREBOARD

|                      |  |  |  |  |    |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|----|
| BANGLADESH RAILWAY   |  |  |  |  |    |
| Alam c Happy b Talha |  |  |  |  | 6  |
| Babu run out         |  |  |  |  | 10 |
| Azam c Talha b Arif  |  |  |  |  | 13 |
| Abid c Basua b Arif  |  |  |  |  | 0  |

Pallab run out 7

Sajjad b Mukul 65

Tito run out 16

Sumon b Iqbal 2

Ripon c Didar Mukul 1

Selim not out 2

Suman did not bat

Extras: (lb 9, wb 18, nb 1) 29

Total (For 9 wickets) 151

Fall of wickets: 1/17; 2/20; 3/21; 4/44; 5/58; 6/105; 7/133; 8/136.

Bowling O M R W

Talha 9 4 15 1

Iqbal 9 1 26 1

Arif 6 0 23 2

Wahid 6 0 15 0

Jewel 7 0 34 0

Mukul 8 0 28 2

VICTORIA SC

Rony lbw Ripon 9

Didar b Ripon 10

Mukul not out 55

Jewel not out 50

Extras: (b 3, lb 5, wb 15, nb 5) 28

Total (For 2 wickets in 40.2 overs) 152

Did not bat: Roquibul, Barua, Wahid, Arif Happy, Iqbal, Talha.

Fall of wickets: 1/22; 2/39

Bowling O M R W

Sumon 2 0 6 0

Selim 3 0 18 0

Ripon 7.2 0 34 2

Azam 9 0 30 0

Tito 9 0 25 0

Sajjad 9 0 24 0

Pallab 1 0 7 0

TODAY'S MATCH

Udity Club vs City Club (DCS)

## Marsh to lead young Aussies against S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 11: Former Australian Test wicket keeper Rondey Marsh will bring the cream of Australia's young cricketers on the first officials tour to South Africa by any overseas side since 1970, reports AFP.

United Cricket Board of South Africa managing director Ali Bacher said here today that Marsh would bring 19-21-year-old players from the cricket academy at the Adelaide-based Institute of Sport for three-day games against under-23 sides from South Africa's provinces in April.

The South African teams will feature several black, Indian and coloured players who have come up through the seven-year-old cricket development coaching scheme in the township, Bacher said.

India will become the first national team to tour late next year.

## History in JU cricket semis

Sports Reporter

History Department moved into the semifinals of the inter-department cricket competition of the Jahangirnagar University beating Physics Department by a massive 116 runs in the quarter-final played at the Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall playground yesterday.

Winning the toss History elected to bat and thanks to some good knocks from Sanwar who top scored with 60, Kamrul who made 42, and Shaheen's 21 runs, posted 194 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 30 overs.

Siyan with three for 19 and Rubel with three wickets for 49 runs were the successful bowlers for Physics.

In reply, Physics Department were bundled out for a paltry 78. Only Ashraf reached double figures for Physics with 13.

Kamrul and Sanwar completed a fine all-round day's work in the field by claiming four wickets each giving away only 15 and 19 runs respectively.

# Pak-Lanka 1st Test from today

SIALKOT, Pakistan, Dec 11: Sri Lanka's batsmen face the prospect of a searching examination on a pitch expected to aid Pakistan's strike bowlers in the first Test of a three-match series starting on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Imran remains a threat, but the Pakistan captain also has the firepower of Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed still seeking their first Test victory abroad. Their 34 matches as a Test-playing country have produced two home wins.

Sri Lanka will bank mainly on captain Aravinda De Silva and Arjuna Ranatunga, their leading run scorer in Test, offering a riposte to Pakistan's pacemen.

Ranatunga returns after being omitted on disciplinary grounds from the team which toured England this year.

Pakistan have recalled opened Shoaib Mohammad, who did not play in the recent Sharjah limited-overs tournament nor the three one-day matches at home to West Indies.

The Pakistanis lost 2-0 with a match tied against the West Indies in a series that gave them batting problems with Salim Malik falling after a successful season in country cricket and back trouble keeping Javed Miandad out of two games.

Imran has said he intends to iron out any team flaws



IMRAN KHAN

It was on a seaming pitch at Sialkot's Jinnah Stadium six years ago that Sri Lanka lost by eight wickets within four days, Imran Khan proving to be their main tormentor with a nine-

wicket match haul.

## Batting worries Azhar

ADELAIDE, Dec 11: The Indian cricket team needs to improve its batting if it is to stay in contention in the triangular World Series Cup tournament, Captain Mohammad Azharuddin said Wednesday, reports AP.

India currently leads the competition with three points from three games but suffered an eight-wicket loss to Australia in Hobart on Tuesday.

Australia has two points from two games and the West Indies one point from one game. Australia and the West Indies play Thursday at Adelaide Oval on Saturday and Australia on Sunday.

India has one of the best batting line-ups in the world, but players like Azharuddin, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sachin Tendulkar and Kris Srikkanth have not played consistently well in Australia.

"The batting is the prob-

## Bugner plans comeback

LONDON, Dec 11: Australian-based former European and British heavyweight champion Joe Bugner is planning a comeback at the age of 42, reports AFP.

The one time world title challenger, who was not fought for four years, has put his 500,000 pound vineyard near Sydney up for sale because he is bored and intends to move to Brisbane.

In a British newspaper interview on Tuesday, Bugner said, "I guess I'm just not cut out for this kind of life. I tend the Vineswa and do a bit of wedding, but it's not an easy job. It's bloody hard work."

"Sydney has burned itself out and people like me are a dime a dozen. I'd like to try my hand at acting again as well as getting back to boxing. I'm still young enough to teach the younger fighters a thing or two."

"I'd comeback to England to fight again if the right opportunity came along."

during the Sri Lanka series - Pakistan's first Test matches in 12 months following the cancellation of their tour to India early this year due to political tension.

### TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Imran Khan (Capt), Shoaib Mohammad, Rameez Raja, Zahid Fazal.



ARAVINDA DE SILVA

Salim Malik, Javed Miandad, Ijaz Ahmed, Moïn Khan, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed, Akram Raza, Ata-ur Rehman, Inzamam-ul-Haq.

SRI LANKA: to be named.

## The tragic loneliness of a long-distance runner

MELBOURNE, Dec 11: Gordon Pirie, one of Britain's greatest long-distance runners, died alone and virtually unrecognised for his achievements, New Zealand athletics star John Walker said here, reports AFP.

"At the height of his fame the gangly Englishman owned a house and two Mercedes," Walker said. "He had to sell them and ended up living in a car."

"It was tragic. He never got the recognition he deserved," Walker said. "The world has lost a very strong character."

Pirie died at the age of 60 near Lymington in southern England after a long battle with the cancer.

"I probably knew him as well as anyone in athletics in recent years," said Walker, 39, who was run the four-minute mile 129 times.

"We clashed. I can not say we were friends. But I respected him for what he had achieved."

Silver medalist over 10,000 metres at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, Pirie held world records at 3000 metres, 5000 metres and six miles during the 1950s.

His duel with Soviet runner Vladimir Kuts in the 10,000 metres final was one of the most memorable events of the Melbourne Olympics.

Pirie emigrated to New Zealand in 1957. Returned to England to win a place in the British team for the 1960 Olympics, but failed to qualify for the 5000 metres final in Rome.

He retired from the track in 1961 and returned to New Zealand before again returning to Britain four years ago.

"He came to New Zealand as a professionally paid coach, a radical move in those days for a man who clashed with officialdom invitational mile event.

Pirie coached the Othuhu Athletic Club in the North Island and was responsible for turning out a string of very good runners, Walker said.

Pirie and Walker also clashed and New Zealander said although he had deep respect for Pirie and his achievements, the partner never agreed on methods and training.

"Just after I won the Olympic gold medal in the 1500 metres in the 1976 Olympics, I went for a training run with Pirie, who told me 'You've got no style. If you trained with me I'd make you a better athlete.'"

# GS Cup loses the crowd-pullers

MUNICH, Dec 11: The six million-dollar Grand Slam Tennis Cup lost its three top crowd-pullers on the opening day on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Boris Becker failed to recover from a mystery virus, while Americans Jimmy Connors and Jim Courier went under in first round action.

After top seed Becker announced his withdrawal because of fever symptoms, Connors was beaten 6-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Jakob Holasek.