

MSC too good for Gulshan

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club registered a facile seven-wicket victory over Gulshan Youth in yesterday's only Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Electing to bat first, Gulshan found the going extremely tough against the Mohammedan pace trio of Dulu, Gamage and Suru.

Arif and Ifekhar snatched their way to 32 before Golam Faruq Suru bowled the latter for eight, made from 47 balls and a 75-minute tenure.

Suru dismissed the other opener Arif, caught behind, after labouring for 91 minutes to make 21 off 60 balls, with two hits to the fence.

Ashique also fell to the Suru-Ratan combination and skipper Rupam was out for a blub.

Mohammedan skipper Wahcedul Ghami's leg-spin accounted for Sri Lankan Raj Kumara and only a rear-guard action from Bulbul, who made an unbeaten 30 with the help of two fours, helped Gulshan to limp towards the total of 117 for eight in 45 overs.

Suru bulldozed through the Gulshan batting with figures of four for 18.

Rafiq, Wahced and Bulbul picked up a wicket apiece for



SURU... four for 18

Mohammedans batsman and openers Jahangir Alam and Didar went merrily about their task.

Jahangir was first to go for 35 inclusive of four hits to the fence.

Didar, however, completed his first half-century in the big league playing 73 balls with five hits to the fence.

Although Ratan and Bulbul departed cheaply, Suru with an unbeaten 21 stroked his side to an effortless victory.

Babul was Gulshan's most successful bowler with figures of two for 25.

SCOREBOARD				
GULSHAN YOUTH:				
Ifekhar b Suru	8			
Arif c Ratan b Suru	21			
Ashique c Ratan b Suru	10			
Rupam c Wahced b Rafiq	0			
Rajkumara b Wahced	7			
Ishique c Gamage b Suru	9			
Babul not out	30			
Mamun run out	15			
Shamim lbw Bulbul	1			
Ali Haider not out	0			
Extras	16			
Total (for 45 wks in 45 overs)	117			
Mohammedan:				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Gamage	6	0	14	0
Dulu	7	2	11	0
Suru	9	1	18	4
Rafiq	9	2	21	1
Wahced	8	0	34	1
Bulbul	6	2	13	1

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wari vs Rupali Bank (Dhaka Stadium)

GMCC vs Surja Tarun Club (DCS)

Pabna in Suhrawardy Cup final

Sports Reporter

Hosts Naogson DSA lost to Pabna DSA by two goals to one in the second semifinal of the eighth national youth under-19 football championship for the Suhrawardy Cup yesterday at Naogson Stadium.

Sabu put Naogson in the lead in the seventh minute of the first-half.

But Maruf equalised for Pabna in the 30th minute of the first session.

To the dismay of the partisan crowd, Rashid scored the winner for Pabna just before the final whistle.

Maruf and Mister of Pabna received the yellow card from the referee for rough play.

Pabna will play Tangail in the final of the tournament on January 9, instead of January 6, which was the originally scheduled date.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman will witness the final as the chief guest and give away the trophies among the winners.

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will be present as a special guest.

TEAMS

Pabna DSA: Shantoo, Bhutto, Kamrul, Swapan, Mister (Panna), Mont, Maruf, Shamim (Bipul), Shakil, Bipul, Rashid.

Naogson DSA: Ali, Shibu, Nazrul, Bclal, Scrajul, Rana, Badal, Aminul (Collins), Tipu (Azin), Sattar, Sabu.

Lineker's son allowed home

LONDON, Jan 4: The baby son of England captain Gary Lineker has been allowed home for a week, after positive signs in his battle against leukaemia, reports AFP.

Lineker said on Friday, "It's an encouraging sign that they have let him come home to look at him lying in his cot at the moment, you wouldn't think he was ill. Until 10 days ago, he was critical."

Three-Month-Old George returned home on Wednesday and will continue with his chemotherapy treatment next week.

Lineker, the English league's top-scorer, has returned to match duty with Tottenham Hotspur after his son fell ill in late November.

Picnic bridge

M. Nazmul Huda and Shamsuzzaman Khan became first in the annual pair duplicate bridge championship of Picnic Bridge Club securing 56.73 per cent held in the Bangladesh Bank Club premises on January 2 and 3, reports BSS.

Mir Hashmat Ali and Das Deba Prasad got the second position with 56.41 per cent followed by Mohammad Israil and BA Khan with 54.17 per cent.

Meanwhile, The three day Picnic open annual teams' bridge championship 1991 will begin on January 9, at the same venue.

The entry fee will be Tk. 200/00 per team. The six round Swiss league championship will start on January 9 at 4 pm, entries of taka 200 per team will be received at the venue.

The regular weekly bridge contest of Dhaka Metropolis Bridge Association will be held on January 10 (Friday).

Ansar, VDP sports

Sports Reporter

The four-day long national sports and cultural competition of Ansars and Village Defence Party (VDP) began yesterday at the Bangladesh Ansar Academy, Shafipur.

Indians consolidate as rain interrupts Test

SYDNEY, Jan 4: Ravi Shastri's progress towards his 11th Test century was delayed, interrupted and finally halted by rain today. Australia's weather men predicted that the nation's bowlers had failed to do, reports Reuters.

Shastri, in four visits to the crease on the third day of the third Test, took his score to 95 not out as India reached 178 for two wickets at the close.

Dilip Vengsarkar was unbeaten on 43, India having added 75 runs without loss in the 134 minutes permissible on a frustrating day for spectators and players.

Australia's disappointment was exacerbated by the news that the stomach muscle injury to Bruce Reid, whose 12 wickets at Melbourne earned them a 2-0 series lead, was more serious than first feared.

The left-arm pacer will not play again in this Test or Australia's next World Series Cup matches and may miss the fourth Test in Adelaide starting on Jan 25.

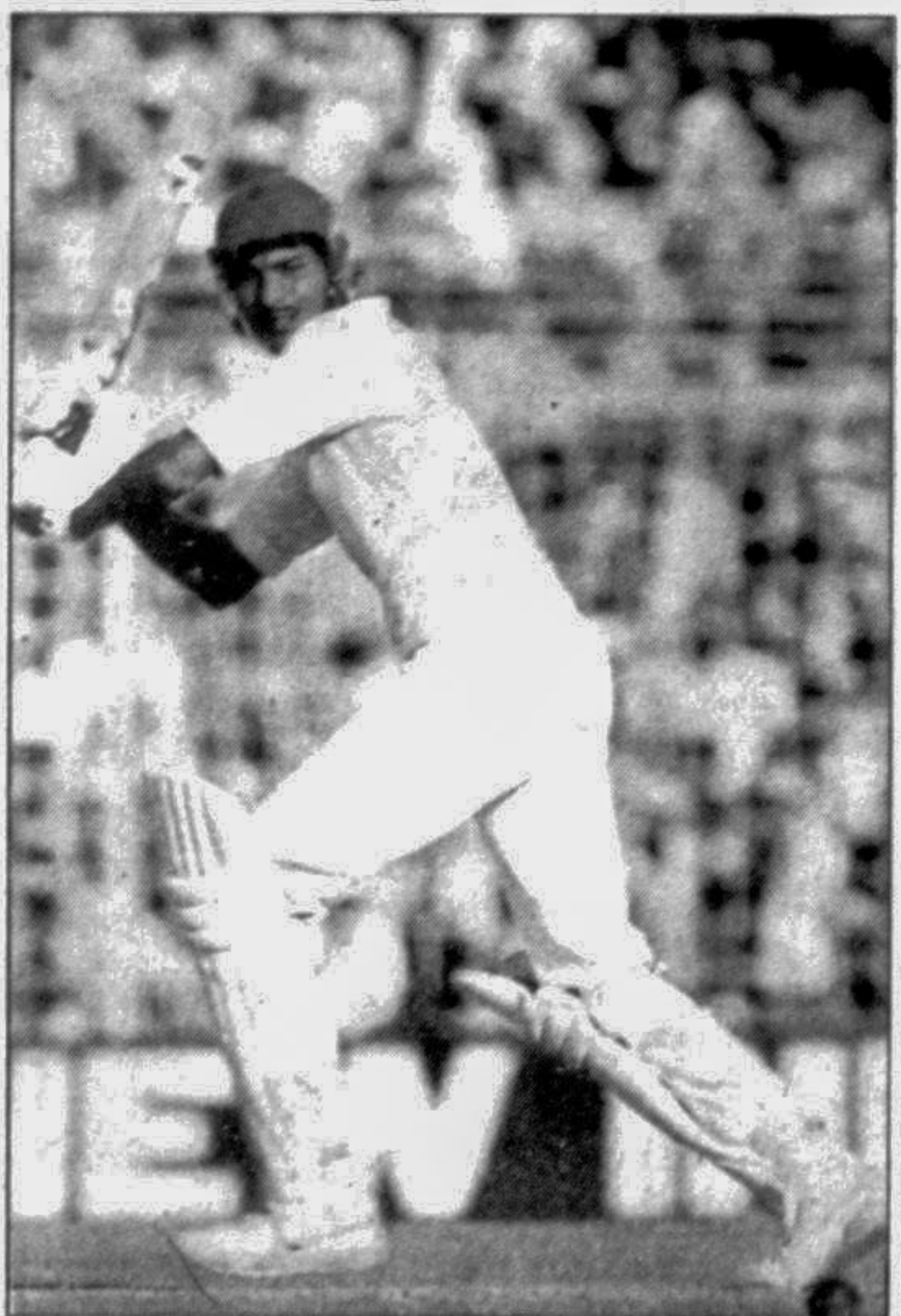
Heavy overnight rain, illuminated by lightning, had been followed by morning drizzle and there was never any chance of a punctual start.

Lunch came and went, followed by a couple of false starts during which four overs were bowled, six runs scored and two leg-before appeals uttered before the clouds finally rolled back in mid-afternoon with more than three hours lost.

Shastri reached tea untroubled with 66 to his name but, immediately after, offered Shane Warne the chance of his first Test wicket. The young leg-spinner was unable to hold the sharp return catch.

Shastri, taking 14 off one Warne over despite the slowness of the pitch, went on to pass Kiran More's second Test 67 to achieve the highest Test tour score by the Indians.

Someone in the much-vaunted Indian batting line-up was finally living up to the quality billing that had preceded the tourists, but once



RAVI SHASTRI... a long-overdue knock

again bad light followed by rain intervened with more than an hour remaining.

By the time the umpires bowed to the inevitable and abandoned play 35 minutes before the close the ground was as empty as the sky was grey. Typically the day's most prolonged sunny spell had come during tea.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third Test between Australia and India today:

AUSTRALIA: First innings: 313

INDIA: First innings: 95

Shastri not out

Sidhu c Waugh b McDermott 0

Manjrekar c Waugh b Hughes 34

Vengsarkar not out 43

Extras (b-1 lb-1 nb-4) 6

Total (for two wickets) 178

To bat - S. Tendulkar, M. Azharuddin, Kapil Dev, M. Prabhakar, C. Pandit, S. Banerjee, J. Srivasth

Fall of wickets - 1-7: 2:86

Bowling:

McDermott 27 10 45 1

Reid 4 0 10 0

Hughes 22 4 44 1

Waugh 8.3 4 7 0

Warne 29 7 70 0

Border 1 1 0 0

Good practice for English batsmen

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 4: England's batsmen displayed their talents and gained valuable practice here today, racking up 434 for four on the second-day of their match against New Zealand Emerging Players, reports AFP.

The match was designed to give England an opportunity to sharpen their game before taking on New Zealand in the tests and a one-day series later this month, and they took full advantage of it.

The close of play score gave them a lead of 258 over the young Kiwis, who had declared Friday at 176 for eight just before stumps.

England's only failure followed when match captain Alec Stewart was bowled for a duck, but today there were two centuries to make up for it.

Tour skipper Graham Gooch hammered 101 and Graeme Hick made 129 against a poor bowling attack. The wicket, slow and difficult yesterday, had improved considerably overnight and was a much easier batting strip.

Both century-makers retired hurt, Gooch claiming a strained arm and Hick a pulled hamstring, but local commentators noted they had reached their centuries without any sign of pain and considered their departures were contrived to allow others a chance to bat.

Allan Lamb also showed fine form with a fast 88 before he was caught behind.

Assuming a declaration overnight or early Sunday, the home side will be hard pressed to salvage a draw against England's bowlers who showed themselves full of fire and enthusiasm Friday.

SAARC airlines sports body meet

The Executive Committee of SAARC Airlines Sports Federations holds its meeting today at Biman Dhahan, reports UNB.

Representative from Air India, Air Lanka, Vayudoot, Druk Air, PIA, Biman, Royal Nepal Airlines and Air Maldives will attend the meeting, said a press release.

Handball final today

Sports-Reporter

The final of the Third Federation Cup handball competition will be held this afternoon at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Defending champions Bangladesh Rifles and Bangladesh Air Force will contest for this year's title.

Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Textile will witness the final as the chief guest and give away prizes among the winners.

Organised by the Bangladesh Handball Federation, six teams competed in the league matches.

Following is the points table of the 1991 Federation Cup tournament:

Team	M	W	D	L	Pts
BDR	5	5	-	-	15
Air Force	5	4	-	1	12
Ansars	5	3	-	2	9
Surjodoy	5	1	1	3	4
Brothers	5	1	-	4	3
Police	5	1	-	4	1

TODAY'S MATCH

BDR vs Air Force (3 pm)

Cash to play club tennis in Germany

HUMBURG, Germany, Jan 4: Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash plans to play several matches for German league tennis team club Der Alster Hamburg this season, the club said on Friday, reports Reuters.

The club has raised 50,000 marks (32,500 dollars) to sign the 26-year-old Australian through sponsorship and private contributions.

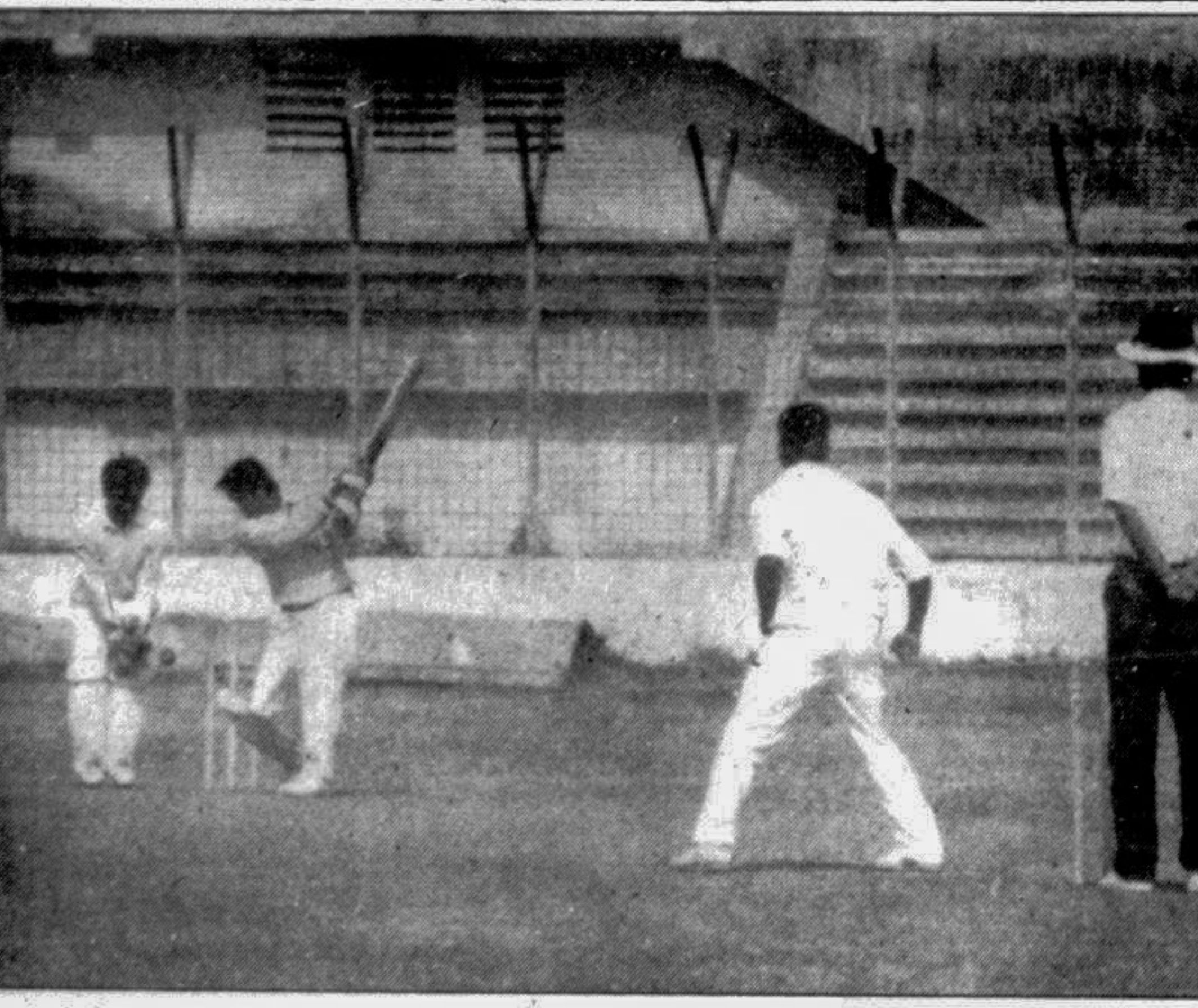
Cash won the Wimbledon title in 1987 but has since slipped to 145th in the world rankings after a series of injuries.

Sr Division league from Jan 10

The Senior Division Metropolis football league, organised by Dhaka Metropolis Football Association begins at the Mirpur National Stadium on January 10, reports BSS.

Twenty teams including last year's champions Easaton Sabuj Sangha and runners-up Club, Rahamatganj Muslim Friends Society, Victoria Sporting Club, BIKIC, Agrani Bank, Adamjee Sports and Cultural Club, BJMC and Dhaka Wanderers Club.

On the opening day, defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra will play against Bangladesh Police and Rahamatganj MFS will take on Sadharan Bima.



A Gulshan Youth batsman tries to cut Mohammedan spinner Aminul Islam Bulbul during yesterday's Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Entrepreneur may hold part of Soviet sports future

ALBANY, NY, Jan 4: Paul Traxel represents the future of hockey in the former Soviet Union, and he can barely stickhandle, reports AP.

"We want to build up a business relationship with a club and eventually promote them, make them an internationally successful team," he said. "We feel the best teams will get sponsors very soon."

At least one already has — the Soviet Selects.

The Traxel Group, of which Paul Traxel is president, is sponsoring the team's current tour of the United States, much of it against the US Olympic team.

Traxel Group, which is headquartered in Hanover, Germany, sells electronic equipment, consults on environmental problems and manufactures devices used to clean up the environment. It also manufactures clothing, which makes it a perfect match for hockey.

The Selects, comprised mainly of players from Moscow Spartak of the Soviet Elite League, are the first to promote the company's sports-wear. They won't be the last.

"We're looking for connections with Western companies, Gelant Tovbulatov, vice-president of the Spartak sports club, said through an interpreter. "There are a lack of plans now. What has been subsidized before by the government now is on its own. The teams and the clubs will have to be creative in coming up with funds to support their players. The relationship such as this will speed up the stabilizing and buildup of future teams."

"It will happen very soon," said Tovbulatov, who had to scramble for funds after Gossiper, the former Soviet sports office, was dissolved last month.

"We will be trying to do as much as possible, all the teams in different sports, on our own, to see the type of foundation we can give to the players. This is a chance to have that development speed up. We're seeing that much more will be done at this level in the future. A business relationship will develop."

"We are the pioneers in building this type of corporate sponsorship, where a corporation gets much more involved than just giving a certain sum of money and asks the team to wear its logo. Much will depend on how well our relationship works out in this process."

That relationship is special. Paul Traxel is more than just a

sponsor.

"We want to get much more involved personally in the lives of the players," said Traxel, who grew up in Latvia and has been working for the past four years to develop a strong position in the Soviet Union. "I want to be part of the team. That's why I stand next to them and try to understand them."

"They need much more than just trainers. They need somebody who is there thinking on their behalf how to make sure that when they play don't have to think about the financial side, they don't need to think about their families being taken care of. Their thinking has to be having now because the system that was there has been taken out from under the feet."

In return, the players wear Traxel's latest line of sportswear, Newtrax. Traxel Group is written on the right sleeves of their gray warm up suits, but it is the team logo, with its traditional hammer and sickle, that is eye-catching. It is there for a reason.

"We realize this will be an antique piece," Traxel said, smiling. "It's probably the last team playing internationally out of the Soviet Union under this emblem. It will become a collector's item. There is a limited edition. We have foreseen a lot of potential sales of these jackets at a high price."

Traxel arranged photographers and cameramen at each stop on the Selects' tour, which began at Albany. Their work will be combined to produce an advertising packaging Traxel plans to use eventually in the former Soviet states.

"We believe that the amount of business we will be doing in the next couple of years will be enormous," Traxel said. "We see an opportunity with hockey, but we don't expect to get rich on it."

If I was looking for a business deal, I would be looking somewhere else.

"But we feel that hockey, especially to the Soviets, is a prime sport, and by getting involved with the team like this will stabilize our reputation in the country."

And how long will it take for capitalistic change to sweep the sports establishment?

"It's difficult to say," Tovbulatov said. "But... I think in the next six months great changes and great progress will happen."

"There is no such thing as Cold War anymore. There are no enemies. We need to develop international relationships. I believe and hope that once we have begun this type of relationship, others will follow."

Bajitpur College sports

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 4: The annual sports meet of Bajitpur Degree College was held today, reports BSS.

Acting Principal of the college Fazle Elahi Golam Qader inaugurated the competition.

Azharul Islam Ghoni of the fourth year clinched the championship trophy finishing first in the 100 meter, 200 meter and 400 meter runs.

Pucksters remain good despite Soviet disintegration

ALBANY, N.Y., Jan 4: The Soviet Union may have disintegrated, but not its hockey team, reports AP.

If the opening performances by the Soviet Selects are any indication of the state of the former country's hockey, then the team it sends to the Winter Olympics in Albertville might again be as good as gold.

The Selects, composed mainly of players from Moscow Spartak of the Elite League, won the second annual USA Cup on Saturday night in a convincing way, beating the U.S. Olympic team 5-2. That victory came less than 24 hours after the Selects handed Canada its first loss in a month.

Revolution? What revolution?

Their hockey is almost impervious to what's going on in the country," Canada coach Dave King said. "They're not informed of what's going on in their own country, and I mean recent things. They're reading our papers. They had no idea their flag might change. They're so insulated from it. They just train, train, train."

On Saturday, 11 of the 12 remaining Soviet republics agreed to establish the Commonwealth of Independent States and declared the 74-year-old Communist structure dead.

Soviet sports and Olympic officials have said the country will compete as single team at the 1992 Winter and Summer Games, but under what name, flag and anthem was still under consideration. After that, many of the republics are expected to apply for membership on their own in the International Olympic Committee and with other sports organizations.

Five members of the Selects, who play the United States six more times after Christmas, are strong candidates for the national team: the line of right wing Nikolai Borochovsky, center Igor

King said.

"I watched them train the last couple of days, and I think they recognize as players that there's an opportunity now. If you can impress the North American NHL scouts, there may be a job here. Two or three years ago, that was unheard of. Now they're highly motivated. They've got something to play for. It is a viable