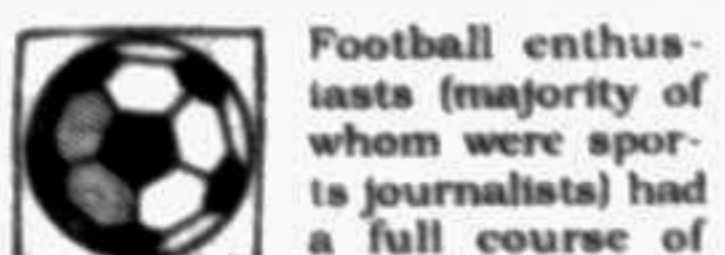


Stooping low, all for a point



Football enthusiasts (majority of whom were sports journalists) had a full course of plight caused by the sleight of six teams as all the three matches of the First Division football league yesterday ended in sterile goalless draws.

Adamjee Sports Club and Sadharan Bina Krira Sangstha shared points in the only match at the Mirpur Stadium. Wari Club and Agrami Bank enacted a repeat show in the first of the two matches at the Dhaka Stadium while Wanderers and BRTC rounded off the long day's farce in the last match at the same venue.

With the world of competitive football seemingly well lost, position in the points

Sports Reporter

table is something which mattered most in a farce that deserved to be named "All for Points."

Adamjee and Sadharan Bina considerably attenuated the threat of relegation with 14 and 13 points respectively after having played 17 matches each.

Agrami Bank and Wari Club raised their points tally to 18 from 17 matches. Already out of the danger zone of relegation, these two teams had more than one reason to play the match in the right spirit but did not prefer to do so in the end.

Dhaka Wanderers Club and BRTC, fighting hard to avoid the ignominy of joining BJMC in Division Two next season, went home richer for a point each. Wanderers now have 13

from 17 matches while BRTC garnered 12 from 17 encounters.

The spate of fixed matches drove another nail in the coffin of the newcomers. Police, who have so far collected just ten points from 16 matches, ahead of BJMC who have virtually gone down the stairs with just three points from 16 matches.

With only three matches to go, one of which is against giants Mohammedans Sporting Police, unless something drastic happens, are certain to face relegation.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Victoria SC vs Dhanmondi Club (5 pm Dhaka Stadium) Muktijoddha Sangsad vs BJMC SC (7 pm Dhaka Stadium)

Y'slav booters head for Sweden

MILAN, Italy, May 28: Despite threats of being disqualified, the Yugoslavian national soccer team left for Sweden and European Championship on Thursday, expressing trust in a democratic decision by UEFA, reports AP.

"We have the right to play the Championships in Sweden, as we qualified on the field," Milan Miljanic, technical director of the Yugoslav team was quoted as saying, "We trust in a democratic decision."

UEFA President Lennart Johansson has said he will recommend that Yugoslavia be replaced by Denmark, claiming civil war in Yugoslavia has decimated the national team and they cannot stage a serious campaign for the title. UEFA could decide as early as Friday at a meeting in Cardiff, Wales, whether to ban Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav team is mostly made of Serbian and Montenegrin players following the withdrawal of several Slovenian, Bosnian and Croatian members. Coach Ivan Osim resigned last week over the most recent fighting between Serbian-dominated federal army and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The squad still has midfielder Dejan Savicevic, a Montenegrin who signed a four-year contract with AC Milan this week, and Serbians Dragan Stojkovic and Siniša Mihajlovic.

"We did not get any signal of a possible exclusion," Miljanic said. "We will wear the traditional jerseys. The former Soviet Union, which has not yet a new name or an official symbol, has been allowed to play in Sweden."

Hard choice for Ronald Koeman

THE HAGUE, May 28: Ronald Koeman has been told by Dutch national football boss Rinus Michels to choose between his club and country, reports AFP.

Koeman, hero of Barcelona's European Cup triumph last week, has been told he may be left out of the European Championship squad if he plays for Barcelona in a crucial Spanish league match next weekend.

"They'd slaughter me in Catalonia if I walked out on the club now when we are so near the title," Koeman said.

Barcelona, a point behind Real Madrid in the championship, play Espanol this weekend and Athletic Bilbao in their last league match on June 7.

Michels wants to field his strongest side in a friendly against France at Lens on June 5. The Dutch party leaves for Sweden on June 8.

"If he can't play against France then he can say goodbye to the European Championship," Michels said.

However, Michels plans to play Koeman for only the first half of Wednesday's match against Austria.

Rifles Reds in Kabaddi final

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Rifles Reds emerged unbeaten group champions in the Metropolitan Premier kabaddi league out-playing Bangladesh Ansars 'A' by 13-4 points at the Outer Stadium kabaddi ground yesterday.

Rifles Reds became Group A champions securing full six points from three matches. They earned one lone yesterday and dominated the first half by 4-1 points. They will face the Group B champions for the title at 4.30 pm on Sunday, May 31.

Bangladesh Police 'A' finished Group A runners-up, beating Fire Service 'A' by 16-15 points in another keenly contested match on the day.

The winners trailed 2-5 at the breather. Bangladesh Rifles Greens will meet Bangladesh Ansars 'B' while Fire Service 'B' will face Bangladesh Police 'B' in the last Group B matches today.

Gullit leads Netherlands

SITTARD, Netherlands, May 28: Ruud Gullit led European champions the Netherlands to a 3-2 victory over Austria in a fast-paced friendly on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The AC Milan star was instrumental in both their first half goals and scored the third himself five minutes from time.

Gullit made the play from the right wing and the centre, creating space, and always looking unmarked.

On the opposite wing, Ajax Amsterdam's talented Brian Roy helped lift the tempo, and the pair supplied fine balls to the strikers from their respective home clubs Marco Van Basten and Dennis Bergkamp.

Gullit headed down a Van Basten cross for Frank Rijkaard, the third Milan player in the Dutch squad, to hammer home the first goal from 10 meters in the 22nd minute.

Another fine run by Gullit created space for Van Basten six minutes later and when Austrian keeper Michael Konecni blocked his shot it fell to Bergkamp who tapped the ball into an open goal.

The Austrians never really looked as though they could fend off the Dutch attack despite Anton Posters' 30th minute goal, headed in after a glaring defensive error by PSV Eindhoven fullback Berry Van Aarle.

Five Dutch substitutions at the start of the second half meant the home side lost some of their momentum and spend much of the period getting used to each other—the main purpose of the match.

In the 85th minute, Gullit scored from a swooping corner by Feyennord's Rob Witschge, a

Courier, Agassi march on

PARIS, May 28: Top-seeded Jim Courier overpowered a potentially tough opponent and Andre Agassi won the most lopsided match so far in the men's draw Thursday as both reached the third round of the French Open, reports AP.

Courier, the No. 1-ranked defending champion, was never in danger in his 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Austria's Thomas Muster, ranked No. 22 in the world.

The 11th-seeded Agassi, who lost in the finals here the past two years, needed only 84 minutes to crush Gianluca Pozzi, 6-0, 6-2, 6-1. Agassi won nearly twice as many points, 88-45, and had 22 break points to three for Pozzi.

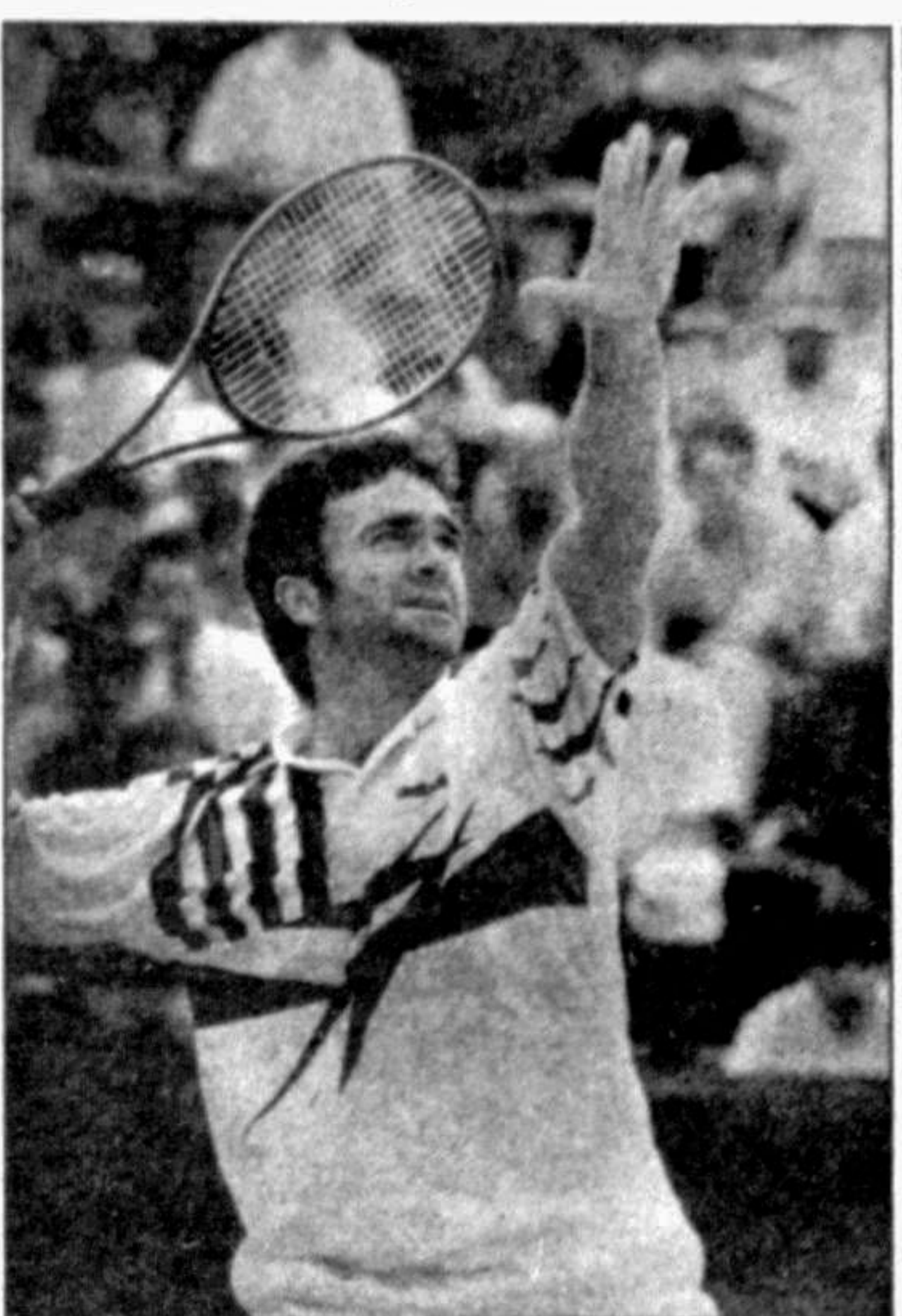
Another seeded American, Pete Sampras, had a much tougher time, winning 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), against an obscure Frenchman, Laurent Prades, ranked 204th in the world and playing in his first French Open.

Organizers started play 30 minutes early Thursday to accommodate a backlog of matches postponed by rain. On the schedule were 31 of the 32 men's second-round matches, and 21 of the women's second-round matches.

After three days with no major upsets among the women, three seeded players lost. Jo Durie of Britain beat No. 9 Anke Huber of Germany, 6-1, 7-5. Elena Brioukhovets of Russia won 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 over No. 11 Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria; and Natalia Zvereva of Russia beat No. 16 Sabina Appelmans of Belgium, 6-1, 7-6 (9-7).

Men's winners included No. 8 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 over Carl Lumberger of Austria, and No. 9 seed Carlos Costa of Spain, 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 6-2, over Austria's Gilbert Schaller. The youngest player in the men's field, 17-year-old Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, won 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 over the second oldest, South African-born American Kevin Curran, 34.

Women's winners included No. 5 seed Jennifer Capriati, 6-4, 6-4 over Sandrine Testud of France; No. 7 Conchita



Australian Wally Masur prepares to smash the ball back at Spanish opponent Emilio Sanchez during the second round match in the French Open at Roland Garros, Paris on May 27. Masur led by two sets when the match was interrupted due to rain. —AFP photo

Mujtaba spins Pak to win



LUTON, England, May 28: Pakistan spinner Asif Mujtaba claimed 10 wickets, and pace bowler Waqar Younis was successful in his return game, as Pakistan easily defeated an England Amateur XI Thursday by an innings and 16 runs, reports AP.

Waqar, returning to the national side after a three-month absence to recover from a stress fracture of the back, took one wicket from nine overs in the Amateur XI's first inning. He bowled three overs in the second inning.

The 20-year-old bowler, rated one of the world's best, suffered the injury during January's Sharjah tournament in the United Arab Emirates. He attempted an unsuccessful comeback during a World Cup warm-up game in Australia but played no part in Pakistan's successful Cup campaign.

Waqar wants to play in the first Test against England starting June 4 at Edgbaston, but team coach Intikhab Alam said Thursday: "We will have to wait and see how he is feeling in a day or two. Nothing is certain. He is very keen to play again but we will take it very carefully."

The bowler said he had experienced a little stiffness but otherwise felt fine.

He hopes to make his first-class comeback in the three-day match against English county Middlesex starting Saturday at the Lord's ground in London.

Pakistan captain Javed Miandad declared at 332 for four Wednesday, and at stumps the Amateur XI were five for 141. The amateur team was dismissed for 174, and batted on but only made 142 in the second inning.

Mujtaba took five for 22 in the first inning, and five for 25 in the second, including the wicket of Amateur XI captain Neil Folland from Devon. Folland hit nine fours and a six in his 76 before keeper Moin

Khan caught him off Mujtaba's bowling.

An earlier report said: Pakistan pacesman Waqar Younis gave the world champions a welcome boost before next week's first Test with England here on Wednesday when he returned to action against an England Amateur XI.

After three of his colleagues had hammered centuries to enable the tourists to declare at 332 for three, he bowled four overs without any problems from the stress fracture in his spine which has sidelined him all tour.

"I think I can make it for the first Test," Younis insisted

after his first competitive bowl in six months. "I bowled four overs today without any adverse reaction and I'm hoping to be there next week."

That was the aim of playing today, I will see the doctor again, have a bit of net practice and then hopefully I could be in against Middlesex at the weekend. And then I'm looking forward to the Test."

Asif Mujtaba missed the run feat after being run out off the third ball of the day by smart work from England skipper Nick Folland.

Skipper Javed Miandad raced to a century in 108 balls with 17 fours in the morning session before retiring to give others a chance.

Shoaib Mohammad and Inzamam-ul-Haq capitalised. Shoaib reaching three figures off 185 balls with nine fours and Inzamam sprinting to his ton in 92 deliveries, including 11 fours and four sixes.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on Friday's final day of the two-day cricket match between Pakistan and an England Amateur XI.

PAKISTAN: First innings

Asif Mujtaba run out 0 Javed Miandad retired 105 Shoaib Mohammad not out 107 Salmi Malik b Hussain 3 Inzamam ul Haq c Plummer b Roshier 102 Zahid Fazal not out 7 Extras: (b-1, lb-2, nb-5) 8 Total: (For three wickets, declared) 332

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-166; 3-324

(Did not bat: Naveed Anjum, Moin Khan, Waqar Younis, Ataur Rahman, Tanvir Mehd.

Bowling: O M R W Roshier 12 0 53 1 Hackett 14 3 40 0 French 12 1 48 0 Arnold 15 1 70 0 Evans 8 0 66 0 Hussain 9 0 52 1

ENGLAND AMATEUR XI:

Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes names like Roberts, Dean, Folland, Patel, Hussain, French, Roshier, Evans, Hackett, Plummer, Extras.

Total: 174 for 9 Fall: 1-118; 2-124; 3-127; 4-139; 5-139; 6-141; 7-158; 8-166; 9-174.

Bowling table for England Amateur XI with columns for bowler, overs, maidens, runs, wickets.

ENGLAND AMATEUR XI:

Table with columns for player names and scores. Includes names like Roberts, Dean, Patel, Hussain, French, Roshier, Evans, Hackett, Plummer, Extras.

Total: 142 for 9 Fall: 1-13; 2-17; 3-33; 4-69; 5-97; 6-107; 7-107; 8-116; 9-142.

Bowling table for England Amateur XI with columns for bowler, overs, maidens, runs, wickets.

Gooch under fire for slamming Gower

SOUTHAMPTON, May 28: England cricket captain Graham Gooch has come under fire from Hampshire officials for criticism of former Test teammate David Gower in his new book, reports AFP.

Hampshire, Gower's county, are demanding an explanation from the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) as to why they allowed Gooch to slam the former England skipper for his laid-back attitude to the game.

"We're very upset for David regarding Graham Gooch's astonishing character assassination of him," Hampshire chief executive Tony Baker told Wednesday's Daily Mirror newspaper.

"We will submit a number of vital points and some telling questions to the TCCB, particularly relating to strict rules about players bringing the game into disrepute."

"Some of our committee just cannot believe that the TCCB sanctioned comments about a former England captain and someone who is still very much a contender for the England side."

"We've found it even more strange that it should be the current England captain saying all those things about Gower."

England's 13 for 1st Test

LONDON, May 28: England cricket authorities named two uncapped players Thursday to a 13-man squad for the first Test against Pakistan, starting June 4 at Edgbaston, reports AP.

Chairman of selectors Ted Dexter said: "We have picked a squad of 13 to give ourselves every possible option, bearing in mind that the Test is being played on a brand new pitch."

Sussex leg-spinner Ian Salisbury and Warwickshire seambowler Tim Munton both toured with the England team before winning promotion to the Test squad.

The squad is: captain Graham Gooch (Essex), 38, 94 Tests; Alec Stewart (Surrey) 29, 17 Tests; Graeme Hick (Worcestershire) 26, 7 Tests; Allan Lamb (Northamptonshire) 37, 77 Tests; Robin Smith (Hampshire) 28, 31 Tests; Mark Ramprakash (Middlesex) 22, 6 Tests; Ian Botham (Durham) 36, 100 Tests; Chris Lewis (Nottinghamshire) 24, 9 Tests; Jack Russell (Gloucestershire), 28, 28 Tests; Derek Pringle (Essex) 33, 27 Tests; Philip DeFreitas (Lancashire) 26, 29 Tests; Tim Munton (Warwickshire) 26, 0 Tests; Ian Salisbury (Sussex) 22, 0 Tests.

Neil Fairbrother, Gladstone Small and Richard Illingworth were dropped from the 13-strong squad for the first two one-day matches played last week.

Karpov wins Madrid chess MADRID, May 28: Russian former world champion Anatoly Karpov easily won the Madrid International chess tournament with 7.5 points out of a possible nine, two points ahead of compatriot Vladimir Epshchine and 15-year-old Hungarian prodigy Judith Polgar.

Competing for the first time since being eliminated last month from the world Championship, Karpov dominated the Madrid tournament from the beginning, ultimately winning six games and drawing three.

Pakistanis off to Amsterdam

KARACHI, May 28: Pakistan's hockey team, including controversial selection Musaddaq Hussain, left here for Amsterdam on Wednesday to take part in the five-nation RMW Trophy which starts this weekend, reports AFP.

Hussain was reported to have returned a positive a dope test during the Champions Trophy tournament earlier this year at which Pakistan took the bronze.

The Pakistan side is led by forward Shahbaz Ahmed who has announced he will retire from international hockey after the Barcelona Olympics, while Farhat Khan has been recalled and juniors centre forward Asif Bajwa is the new recruit.

The other teams competing in the tournament, which begins June 3, are Germany, Netherlands, England and

Niaz second in Cebu chess

Grandmaster Niaz Murshed returned home yesterday after finishing a joint second in the international chess tournament held in Cebu, Philippines May 16-26.

Niaz shared the second spot with two others—Indian GM Dibyendu Barua and B. Barcenta of the Philippines—each scoring five and a half points, a point behind the winner Australian Ian Rogers.

Niaz lost his match to Rogers despite refusing two offers for a draw by the Australian Grandmaster. A serious blunder compromised Niaz's early winning position.

In his last match of the Category 10 competition, Niaz beat Dibyendu Barua.

Argentina beat NZ AUCKLAND, May 28: Argentina's men's hockey team defeated New Zealand here Thursday 2-1 to take a 1-0 nil lead in a pre-Olympic warm-up series here, reports AFP.

The first Test in the five match series was drawn 2-2

Argentina beat NZ

Spain, Islahuddin, manager of Pakistan's 16-man hockey team, said it will be a tough competition for Pakistan before the Olympics, but he added that it would be a good opportunity to improve the team's shortcomings before going to Barcelona.

Hussain has been selected on the basis of his performance in recent tournaments and trials, and we cannot take action against him unless the International Hockey Federation and Pakistan Hockey Federation exchange notes,"

Promising inside-right Rahim Khan, who has played for Pakistan juniors, has been alerted to replace Hussain if he is penalised, hockey sources here said.

SQUAD: Wasim Feroze (vice captain), Shahid Ali Khan, Mansoor Ahmed (goalkeepers), Rana Mujahid, Akhlaq Ahmed, Khalid Bashir (fullbacks); Anjum Saeed, Farhat Khan, Mohammad Khalid, Khawaja Junaid (halfbacks); Shahbaz Ahmed (captain), Qamer Ibrahim, Tahir Zaman, Musaddaq Hussain, Mohammad Shahbaz and Asif Bajwa (forwards).

AFC assignment for Harun

The outgoing General Secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation Harunur Rashid has been made an Asian Football Confederation (AFC) match commissioner for the fifth Asian youth under-16 football championship Group Four, according to an AFC message received by the BFF.

The Group Four competition will be held at the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur from July 25 to August 2.

Injury may disrupt Bubka's Olympic hope

MOSCOW, May 28: World champion Sergey Bubka's Olympic hope may be disrupted by an Achilles tendon strain in his right ankle, reports Xinhua.

"Last year it was my left leg and I needed pain-killing injections to be able to jump," the 28-year-old pole vaulter said in Donetsk, Ukraine yesterday.

He thought it might take a jump of six metres to win the Olympic gold medal and has changed to a bigger American-produced pole with that in mind.

"It's harder to use but it catapults you higher," said Bubka whose world record is 6.10m.

He moves to his Berlin flat on Sunday and hopes to compete in Paris on June 4 and in Rome on June 9. He was undecided about competing at Dijon in France on June 13.

ROK meet China in final

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28: South Korea set the stage to meet China in the finals of the Asian junior women's hockey championships when they crushed Japan 5-0 in the semi-finals here Thursday, reports AFP.

China, in the other semi-final tie Thursday, scrapped past India for a 2-1 win in a hard-fought battle.

Hockey league on in Mymensingh

Sports Reporter

The 1992 hockey league in Mymensingh got underway at the local stadium yesterday.

Six teams—Prabhati Sena, Baikali Krira Chakra, Seraj Boys Club, Rupantar Krira Chakra, Seraj Memorial and Mukti Niketan are taking part in the championship.

On the opening day, Seraj Memorial outplayed Mukti Niketan 4-0. Jewel scored twice while Raki and Rupak scored one each for the winners.

The competition was inaugurated by District Police Super AT Ahmedul Huq Chowdhury. Mymensingh District Sports Association Secretary Professor Tofazzal Huq Chowdhury was present as a special guest.

Day of fallen stars

Sports Reporter

Kagazitola SC, Maghbazar Kishalay, Gopibagh KC, Crescent Association, Muradnagar Ekota Sangha

won their respective matches in the Second Division Cricket league qualifying competition matches yesterday.

At the DCS East, Kagazitola Social Club put the tin hat on the ambitions of Seven Star Sporting Club by two wickets.

Batting first, Seven Star were all out for 113 in 30.4 overs with stumper opener Partha topscoring with 23. Skipper Azim made 22, Sunny 13 and Apu 11.

Menez, who later played a vital role in his team's victory with the bat, captured three wickets for 15 runs. Akram took two for 20 and Kagazitola captain Sabur claimed two for 27.

A resolute 36 by Menez and 32 from Ashraf saw Kagazitola home in 32 overs.

Seven or young, it was not the day for any team that had the word 'star' with their name, a fact borne out by the result of the match played on the western portion of the DCS, where Young Star compared with their homologue, Seven Stars, surrendered rather lamely to Crescent Association.

Fine bowling performance by Faruq who took five for 18 failed to stop Crescent from collecting 173 in 33 overs after having been put in by the Young Star captain.

Sohel scored a polished 62 and Shmilul contributed with 26 in a not-so-imposing total. Shantu was the other notable scorer with 16. Extras contributed 40.

Mushtaq's 50 and skipper Appi's 26 failed to measure up to Faruq's good work with the

leather as Young Star were bowled out for 141 in 31.2 overs, thus leaving Crescent winners by 25 runs.

Shantu with three for 14, Sabuj with three for 19 and Milton with two for 39 were instrumental for the fall of the Young Stars.

Muradnagar recorded an eleven-run win against Rangdhanu Sporting Club at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

Sent in to bat first Muradnagar could muster 110 in 34.3 overs with Al Amin making 20, Ratul 15, Rashed 14 and Mahmud Babu 13.

Rangdhanu proved that they had miles to go to be deemed fit to play in Second Division when they were all out for 99.

Maghbazar Kishalay carved out a three-wicket victory against the Greater Sylhet Jalalabad Club at the Osman Stadium in Narayanganj.

Jalalabad were asked to bat first after their skipper lost the toss and totalled 175 for nine from their quota of 35 overs.

Maghbazar made the match exciting by taking 34.4 overs to overtake the opposition score, posting 179 for seven with Nafis, Tamal and Lekhon doing most of the scoring with 44.41 and 28 runs respectively.

At the Mirpur Pallabi ground Gopibagh won their match against Dakhin Matsuhindi Krira Chakra by 18 runs. Put in to bat by the Maishundi skipper Gopibagh Krira Chakra aided by Hanif's 39 and small but vital contributions from Saifur, 19, Yusuf, 14 and wicketkeeper Saiful, 13 collected 133 in 32.1 overs.

Kajal's 42 went in vain as Maishundi undershot their neighbours' total by 18 runs, being all-out for 115 in 32.5 overs.