

Day of draws

Sports Reporter

Agrani Bank escaped the ignominy of being accused of breach of contract when their friendly rivals Arambagh, at least for yesterday, almost gooped up the accord but found the elusive equaliser at long last to make sure all was well in the end and the two teams returned to their tents contented and richer for a point each.

In the first of the two matches played yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium, Agrani Bank shot into the lead in the second half when substitute Pony beat Arambagh custodian Bjoy in the 25th minute 1-0.

With neither team suffering from the relegation phobia the goal did not ring any alarm bell in the Arambagh camp.

Yet the Arambagh forwards found themselves entangled in the offside trap on two occasions when they tried to even the score but Shahi, another substitute, solved the problem by restoring parity few minutes later 1-1.

Agrani Bank now have 19 points from 18 encounters while Arambagh raised their collection to 21 from 18 matches.

Wari Club and Muktiyoddha shared points in a goalless encounter in a fairly contested second match of the league yesterday at the same venue.

Both teams played positive football but poor marksmanship ruled out the possibilities of any breakthrough. Wari wasted a fine scoring chance when Sukumar failed to control a fine cross from skipper Mahmudul Haq Liton.

Muktiyoddha, spearheaded by Rana and Hiru, launched several raids but Totam, the Wari goalkeeper brought off some fine saves to keep the scoreline blank.

However, Partha Pratim Kundu of Muktiyoddha spoiled a fine chance when he dodged past two Wari players but failed to beat a helpless Totam.

Totam's counterpart, Faruque also had a busy day cutting out many potentially dangerous forays by the Wari players.

Both Muktiyoddha and Wari have 18 points from as many matches.

MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD: Faruque, Zahid Shipar, Sohel, Pappu, Mizan, Zia Babu, Masud Rana, Shahjahan (Chapal), Biplab (Hiru) and Rizaz.

WARI CLUB: Totam, Kamal, Choton, Partha, Haran, Kanir, Manik, Bobby, Liton, Bajlu (Javed) and Sudhir.

Referee: Mozaffar Hossain.

TODAY'S MATCH Victoria SC vs Adamjee (5 pm, Dhaka Stadium).

Year's best by Baumann, Opara

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, June 2: Germany's Dieter Baumann and Nigerian Charity Opara set world best times for the year at an international athletics meeting on Monday, reports Reuter.

Baumann ran away with the men's 3,000 metres, finishing more than one second ahead of Russia's Andrei Tikhonov in seven minutes 43.19 seconds and delighting a crowd of 20,000.

Opara set both a world best time and an African record for the 400 metres when she became the first woman from the continent to break the 50-second barrier. She outran strong Russian opposition to clock 49.86.

Britain's Linford Christie, who like many other top athletes was beginning his build-up to next month's Barcelona Olympics, won the 100 metres in 10.17 second, a European best time for 1992.

Ukraine's Natalia Grigoryeva also set a European best time for the year in the women's 100 metres hurdles. She clocked 12.77 seconds—just two hundredths of a second off the world best this year—to beat Russian Yelizaveta Chernysova.

American world 200 metres champion Michael Johnson stepped up a distance to beat European champion Rober Black of Britain over 400 metres. Johnson clocked 44.36 to Black's 45.06.

Another Briton, Colin Jackson, also had to settle for second best. He was pipped by American Arthur Blake in the 110 metres hurdles. Blake clocked 13.39 to Jackson's 13.45.

Opara won the 400 metres in 49:86 seconds, followed by Russian athletes Olga Nazarova 50.38, and Elena Rutsina, 51.57.

Linetta Wilson of the United States took the women's 400-metre hurdles in 56.58 seconds, and Yekaterina Podkopaeva, Russia, won the women's 2,000-metre event in 5:40.96 minutes.

Gwen Torrance of the United States beat fellow-American Evelyn Ashford to win the women's 100 metres in 11.12.

BFF picks 20 for Bangkok

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday named a twenty-member squad for the Group Five matches of the tenth Asian Cup football championship to be held in Bangkok from June 19 to 23.

Bangladesh play south Korea in their first match on June 19 in the three-nation tournament comprising hosts Thailand, South Korea and Bangladesh. Philippines, who were earlier supposed to take part in the championship, withdrew later leaving the three teams to decide who goes to the next round, to be held in Hiroshima, Japan from October 28 to November 8. Bangladesh play their last match against Thailand on June 21.

Serajul Islam Bachchu, a former joint secretary of the BFF, will accompany the team as the manager while Katkobad and Pran Govinda Kundu will play the roles of coach and assistant coach respectively.

With the top three teams of local football -- Abahani Krira Chakra, Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union having a monopoly of the better players in an all too familiar a pattern of selection ten players have been picked from reigning league champions Abahani, seven from Mohammedans and three from Federation Cup champions Brothers.

The ten Abahani players are goalie Mohsin, Rehan, Munna, Masud Rana, Zakir, Rumi, Alamgir, Gaus, Mamun and Aslam. The seven Mohammedan players are goalie Kanan, Shamim, Jewel, Titu, Kaisar Hamid, Shabbir, Nakib while the trio

representing Brothers consists of Pijush, Ataur and Rupu. Following is the full squad which leaves Dhaka for Bangkok on June 16: Goalkeepers: Syed Hassan Kanan and Mohammad Mohsin. Defenders: Kaisar Hamid, Shamim Hossain, Jewel Rana, Monem Munna, Rehan and Masud Rana.

Midfielders: Rumman Bin-Wali Shabbir, Titu, Alamgir, Zakir and Satyajit Das Rupu.

Zafar Imam to attend AFC congress

Zafar Imam, a member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), leaves Dhaka for Hong Kong next Sunday, June 7 to participate in the congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), reports UNI.

The two-day long AFC congress will be held in Hong Kong on June 12-13.

Zafar Imam, who is also a member of the AFC competition committee, will attend the competition committee meeting to be held there on June 9.

The selection of Imam to represent BFF in the AFC meeting was made Monday in a BFF meeting presided by its President Siddiqur Rahman.

It is learnt that Imam was given the additional assignment to pursue the Asian countries there to participate in the President Gold Cup football tournament to be held in Dhaka during the latter part of this year.

Besides, BFF President M Siddiqur Rahman will represent Bangladesh in the next FIFA meeting to be held in Zurich, Switzerland.

Earth Summit promises better world, Pele tells children

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 2: Pele, the legendary 'king of soccer', on Monday told slum children that this week's Earth Summit will lead to a better world, reports Reuter.

Pele, whose football genius propelled him from poverty to riches, was speaking to players in a soccer tournament between teams made up of children from slums in Kenya and Brazil.

(The Earth Summit) marks the kickoff to a better world, a better life," Pele said at the tournament's opening ceremony.

Earth Summit organisers have appointed Pele a special ambassador to the meeting, which will bring together about 100 heads of state in Rio de Janeiro over the next two weeks to study ways of avoiding environmental disaster.

"Ten per cent of the (world's) population lives well, and 90 per cent live badly. We have to start thinking about people because without people, we cannot have ecology," he said.

In 1967 Pele, who inspired Brazil to a World Cup hat-trick and is considered by many commentators the greatest player ever, dedicated his thousandth goal to the world's children.

Pele, answering questions from children from Colombia and Australia who are attending a special children's parliament being held in parallel to the Earth Summit, assured them world leaders would improve the world.

"I am sure that...people are going to leave this meeting with great results for humanity," Pele said.

Helmer's lawyer Horst Kletke gave no further details, but Auxerre President Jean-Claude Hamel was quoted as saying the deal was worth between 10 and 15 million francs (1.9-2.8 million dollar).

Helmer, whose team finished second behind VfB Stuttgart in the Bundesliga this season, has played seven times for Germany. He is a member of their squad for the forthcoming European Championship finals.

"Helmer is the best libero in Europe who was currently on the market," said Auxerre coach Guy Roux.

According to French reports, Helmer's contract has a clause allowing him to be transferred to another European country after one year.

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Forward: Rumi, Gaus, Mamun, Sheikh Mohammed Aslam and Intiaz Ahmed Nakib. Ponir, the number one goalkeeper of Brothers, and promising striker of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Masudur Rahman Rana have been asked to stand by.

The players have been advised to report to Strajul Islam Bachchu at the BFF office at 8 am on June 8.

Soccer signing

FRANKFURT, June 2: Borussia Dortmund's German international defender Thomas Helmer has signed for French First Division club Auxerre, his lawyer said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The announcement came as a surprise since Helmer recently said on television he would be moving to Bayern Munich.

Helmer's lawyer Horst Kletke gave no further details, but Auxerre President Jean-Claude Hamel was quoted as saying the deal was worth between 10 and 15 million francs (1.9-2.8 million dollar).

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Waqar almost back to his best



LONDON, June 2: Rain-dented Waqar Younis the chance of any further match practice on Monday, but the Pakistan fast bowler, back after a lengthy injury, had already done enough to win glowing praise from England batsman Mark Ramprakash, reports Reuter.

Only 20 minutes' play was possible on the final day of Pakistan's three-day match against Middlesex which was abandoned as a draw.

But Ramprakash will join his England colleagues at Edgbaston ahead of Thursday's first Test with a first-hand report of Waqar's dramatic recovery from the stress-fractured spine that kept him out of the cricket for four months.

The 20-year-old's 11 overs on Sunday included two balls to Ramprakash, the second of which had him LBW. It now looks certain Waqar will be in the Pakistan side.

"As far as I could see, Waqar was back to the sort of pace he normally generates," Ramprakash said. "I know he hasn't played for a long time but he was accurate and looked strong. There was no real difference from the Waqar who played for Surrey last year."

Last season Waqar finished as county cricket's leading wicket-taker with 113 victims at an average of 14.65.

Pakistan manager Intikhab Alam said: "He has suffered no reaction, apart from a little soreness. We had planned for him to bowl another 10 overs or so today, but the weather

has made it very frustrating." Fellow paceman Wasim Akram, recovering fast from a stress fracture of the right shin, will have his first bowl in the nets on Wednesday but Intikhab said he had only an outside chance of making the first Test.

Another injury worry for the touring team is the back strain troubling opener Ramiz Raja who had an exploratory X-ray on Monday and is expected to have injections to enable him to play at Edgbaston.

Intikhab said: "We don't think it is anything very serious, probably a muscle strain. But for other opener, Aamir Sohail, is fully fit again and overall I am very pleased with how the first month of the tour has gone in preparation for the test series."

Lamb, Barnett beat the rain



LONDON, June 2: On a day when rain was the winner everywhere else, Allan Lamb and opposing Derbyshire captain Kim Barnett talked the umpires out of abandoning their match at Northampton on Monday — and set up a thrilling finish.

With only 11 overs bowled on the first two days and more delaying the start on Monday, the captains agreed to each forfeit an innings to make a game of it.

It resulted in Northants being set the somewhat generous target of 181 in two hours plus 20 overs and with Robert Bailey (72) and Nigel Felton (58 not out) combining in a second-wicket partnership of 137 the home side romped home by eight wickets.

Northants captain Lamb, who finished with an unbeaten 23 off 12 deliveries out of a total of 181 for two, gave Barnett much of the praise for providing the only definite result in this round of championship games.

The umpires were willing to call it off for the day, but Kim and I decided to have game. It was all down to us, said Lamb.

There was no such conjuring trick at the Oval where Surrey and Sussex settled for a tame stalemate. Surrey, 203 for four overnight in reply to a Sussex total of 300 for six, batted on to 396 for eight.

Graham Thorpe and Monte Lynch made half centuries. Thorpe hit five boundaries in a 102-ball 53 and Lynch's 71 contained 10 fours.

Nick Speak hit his second championship century of the season as Lancashire battled for a draw against Somerset at Old Trafford.

Lancashire were in danger of following on at 115 for five, but Speak hit 15 boundaries, including two sixes, in a 115-ball 102 to take his first-class run tally to 737.

He shared a 163-run sixth wicket partnership with Mike Watkinson (96) as Lancashire reached 313 for seven before the match was abandoned.

Maghbazar group champs



Maghbazar Kishalay Sangha have moved into the finals of the qualifying meet for the Second Division cricket league by emerging as the Group A champions.

They cantered past Malibagh Bright Star by six wickets in the group final held at the Narayanjan Osmani Stadium yesterday.

Making the first use of the pitch, Malibagh made 174 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted 35 overs with Shezan and Mithu getting 49 each and Sunny scoring 30.

Nafiz and Glani took two wickets apiece for Maghbazar. Maghbazar boys cruised past Malibagh's total making 178 with six wickets to spare in 29.3 overs.

Pintu topscored with 46 while Bulbul and Swapan made 40 and 28 respectively. Shabbir and Shaon evenly shared the four wickets to fall for 25 and 44 runs respectively.

Deputy Commissioner of Narayanjan Habibur Rahman gave away prizes among the winners as chief guest.

Earlier, Nayapattan Club finished as the Group B champions.

Evergreen and Lalkuthi Club made their respective group finals when they beat their opponents at two different city venues yesterday.

Evergreen registered a convincing 92-run victory over Jupiter Krira Chakra at the Mirpur Pallab ground while Lalkuthi beat Muradpur Club by a solitary wicket at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Batting first, Evergreen made a massive 223 for five wickets in 35 overs, thanks to Bappi and Intiaz who scored 75 and 61 respectively.

Tasnim took two wickets for 32. Jupiter, in their turn, were bundled out for a poor 131 in 30.4 overs with Kamruzzaman making 27 and Jeris 18 respectively.

Imrul and Intiaz took three wickets apiece for Evergreen. Evergreen will now play Mohakhali Cricket Club to decide the Group E championship tomorrow, Thursday.

At the Mohakhali T&T ground Muradpur, sent in to bat, were all out for a paltry 101 in 32.3 overs with Babu making 29 and Kamrul 19.

Khokon and Selim with three wickets apiece were the most successful of Lalkuthi bowlers.

However, Lalkuthi had to struggle before reaching the target of 105 with only one wicket to spare in 32.4 overs.

Mona and Panna scored 15 each for the winners. Lalkuthi will now play Dhanmondi Pragati Club in the Group H final tomorrow.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Gopibagh vs Kadamtala (Mirpur Pallab) Mohammadpur vs Rupali Club (T&T ground) Waqar-Azam CC vs Kalindi KC (Osmani Stadium)

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Women's handball gets underway

Sports Reporter

The Karnaphuli Insurance women's handball tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, began yesterday at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain inaugurated the four-day competition.

Nine teams, divided in two groups, are taking part in the meet which concludes June 5.

On the opening day, Rangamati beat Nature by 13 goals to five, Faridpur defeated Nilphamari 20-9, Jessore outplayed Bandarban 20-9 and Bangladesh Ansar trounced Rangamati by 31-4 goals.

Meyer's warm-up calendar

JOHANNESBURG, June 2: South Africa's best hope for a medal at the Barcelona Olympics, distance runner Elana Meyer, will run three races in Europe before the Games, her manager said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Bernard Rose said Meyer, who plans to enter the 10,000 metres in Barcelona, would run the 3,000 metres in the Dutch town of Hengelo on June 28, the 5,000 metres in Stockholm on July 2 and another race somewhere in Europe early in July.

She would also run the 1,500 metres at the African athletics championships in Mauritius on June 25, he said.

Rose said South Africans had unrealistically high hopes if they expected Meyer to win gold at the Olympics.

Chess committee likely today



A revamped committee for the Bangladesh Chess Federation is likely to be announced today.

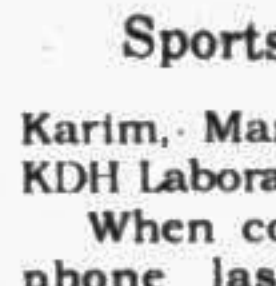
According to sources preferring anonymity, the incumbent president of the federation Nasimuddin Ahmed is likely to head a 22-member committee including four vice presidents and two joint secretaries.

Mujibur Rahman is to be the new general secretary, replacing the ageing K M Shakoar, who is to be one of the four vice presidents. The other three are Firoze Ahmed of Dhaka Club, Dr A R Khan of the Dhaka University and Capt (Retd) Syed Shujauddin Ahmed.

Abdullah Al-Mamun of BTMC and Matur Rahman are to be the two joint secretaries while Luthful Matin, a bureaucrat, is to be the treasurer.

Among the members are National Professor Abdur Razzaque, a keen chess buff, Prof S M Reza Hat, journalist Saleh Chowdhury of Dainik Bangla, Kamber Ali, a businessman, noted novelist Dr Humayun Ahmed, Mrs Farida Hasan, MP, Nur Mohammad Khan of Biman, Rasheda Waiz of Badrunessa College, Iqbal Imam, Asadul Haq Khasru and A

Chess committee likely today



Karim. Managing Director of KDH Laboratories. When contacted over telephone last night, Mujibur Rahman said that he had heard of his nomination as the new secretary but didn't know much about the names of all the other members of the proposed committee.

Meanwhile, K M Shakoar, the outgoing secretary of the federation, is to lead the 11-member Bangladesh teams to the World Chess Olympiad to be held in the Philippines capital Manila from the second week of this month.

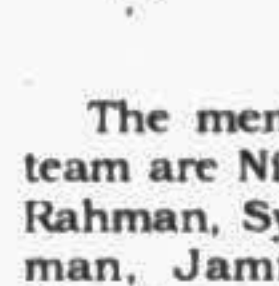
DSAs asked to elect new bodies within a month

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council (NSC), in a circular issued yesterday, has ordered fresh elections in all those district sports association committees which have outlived their tenure.

The circular, marked urgent, said elections of new bodies must be completed within the next thirty days otherwise the NSC will appoint committees of its own choice at the expiry of the deadline.

Kapil for soccer?



NEW DELHI, June 2: India's cricketing superstar Kapil Dev is switching to a new passion — soccer — in the twilight of his career as one of the game's great all-rounders, a newspaper reported, reports AFP.

Kapil, 33, will turn out for the premier Calcutta football club East Bengal, which is looking for sponsors to pay his fees, the Bombay newspaper The Independent on Saturday said in editions reaching here Monday.

Kapil, the second cricketer to take 400 Test wickets after New Zealander Richard Hadlee, held preliminary talks with club officials in Calcutta to work out the deal, the newspaper said in a front-page report.

Club officials were said to be excited at the prospect of the highly popular cricketer turning out for East Bengal in the Calcutta First Division league, certain he would pack in the crowds whatever his soccer skills.

Kapil has in the past spoken of his passion for soccer, and of how much he would like to play in the tough Calcutta league, but was not taken seriously in his bid to emulate his great cricket contemporary, Englishman Ian Botham.

But the independent said he was dead serious this time, and had West Bengal states sports minister Subhas Chakraborty acting as an intermediary on his side.

Whether at his age he would last the duration of a game which he has never played seriously did not seem to matter. That is not important, Chakraborty was quoted as saying.

"For all we care, he may, as per the wishes, of the coach, play just 10 minutes. That would be good enough."

A close associate of Kapil in New Delhi disclaimed knowledge of the cricketer's soccer inclinations or abilities or the reported deal with East Bengal. Kapil was away in Bombay and could not be reached for comment.

Pakistan's pretty plumage plucked?

By Chandrasekhar Das



Except for the West Indies, the two-time World Cup champions, the championship of limited-overs cricket has never augured well, at least in terms of results, for the champions. Pakistan, who were crowned the new supremos of one-day cricket at the MCG on March

England have already taken a reassuring 2-0 lead with victories at Lord's and the Oval by convincing margins. The England batting, bolstered by the return of Robin Smith—who reminds one more of a buccaner than the robin redbreast with his feline ferocity while cutting anything short out-side the off-stump—virtually feasted on the weakened Pak-

cause is only to be compared with that of the legendary Midas. As things turned out Pakistan are not in a position even to make do with the rest, with the matchless Wassem Akram, the kingpin of the Pakistan attack, as the jewel in the crown.

The man-of-the-match of the Melbourne final, Wassem Akram twisted his left ankle in

depend heavily upon a vastly improved Aaqib Javed and the exuberant leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed. Despite the best efforts of the two, Pakistan will be under tremendous pressure to cancel the impression of rabbits in the den of the lion in the first Test in Birmingham.

Although Naveed Anjum and Tanveer Mehd and Asif Mujtaba are there to assist Aaqib

almost every match that he has played so far. He got a bit of stick in the one-dayers but over-exposure of this fast making leggie might leave Pakistan without any shock weapon in the Tests where Mushtaq could prove the key to Pakistan's success.

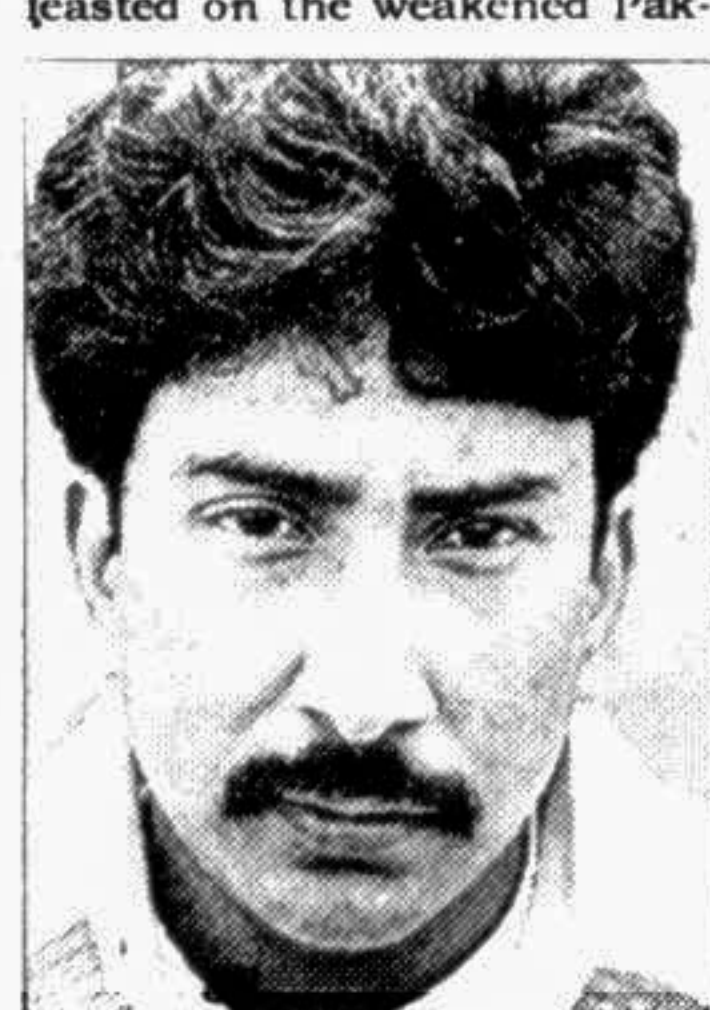
Sunil Gavaskar was accused of having played out the 'exotic element' of the bowling of

bowling. This inspite of his fine 10-wicket feat against the Amateurs at Luton.

Few would point an accusing finger at the Pakistan batting which has adapted itself pretty quickly in different conditions to offset the weakness in the bowling department. Although Aamir Sohail's impetuosity is causing premature termination of his tenure



JAVED MIANDAD



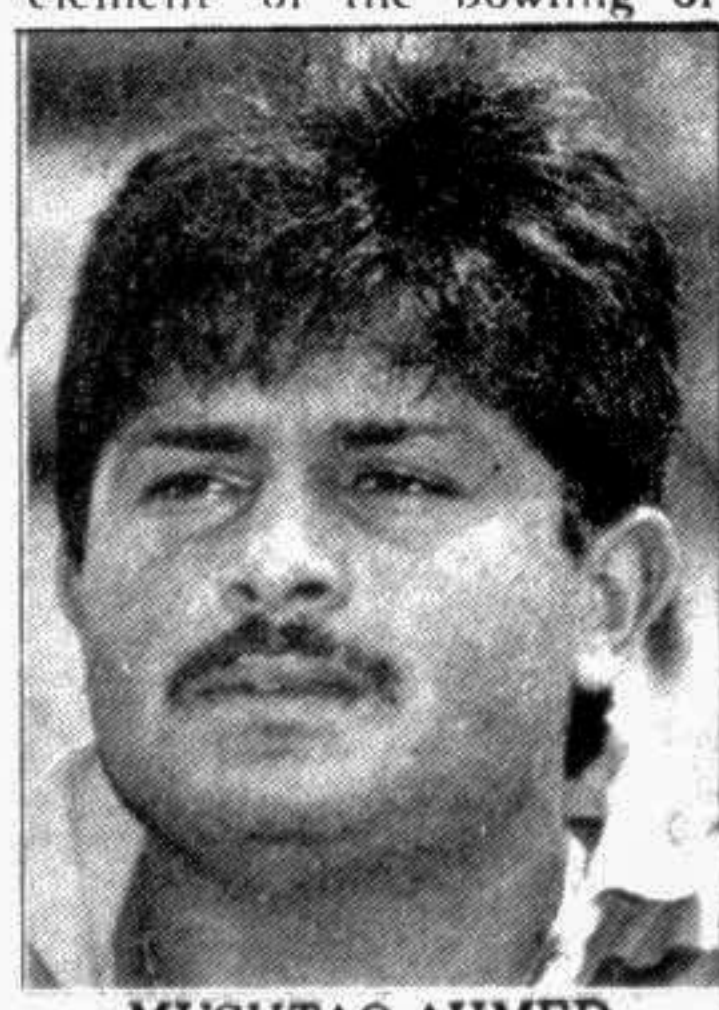
SALIM MALIK



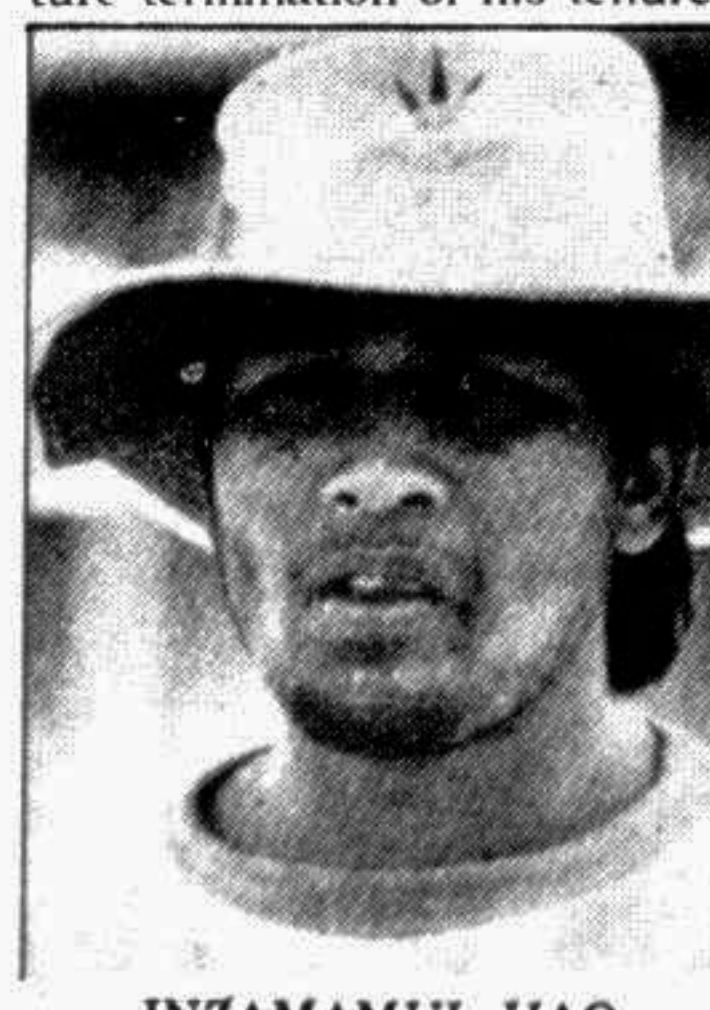
WASEEM AKRAM



WAQAR YOUNIS



MUSHTAQ AHMED



INZAMAMUL HAQ

25, are currently finding the task of retaining the opal plumes of reputation quite difficult.

Graham Gooch's England who failed to measure up to the raw, unbridled talent of Imran's cornered tigers' Down Under with their consistent professionalism, have already exacted a sweet revenge in the first two of the one-day international's of the five-match Texaco Trophy series, normally considered as a prelude to the more weighty Test series scheduled to start from June 4 at