Azimpur Boys Club, Rupali Krira Chakra and Kadamtali Sangsad moved into their respective group finals while Kalindi Krira Chakra qualified for the Group D semifinals of the qualifying meet for the two berths in next year's Second Division cricket league by winning their matches at four different venues yesterday.

It was indeed a great effort by the Rupali Krira Chakra bowlers when they booked their opponents Mohammad pur Krira Chakra for a paltry 36 to help engineer a convincing 103 run victory for their side in the Group D semifinal at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

Batting first, Rupali were all out for 139 in 30.4 overs with Bayezid topscoring with 46 while Faruk and Suman made 25 and 13 respectively.

Adel with five wickets for 17 was the most successful Mohammadpur bowler while Shantu took two for 28.

Mohammadpur, in reply, were shot out for only 36 in 11.1 overs Tutul and Mrinal, the two

five and four wickets for 17 and 18 runs respectively. Rupalt will now play Pallabi Cricket Club to decide the

Group D champtons tomorrow,

opening Rupali bowlers, took

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Azimpur Boys Club posted a comfortable six-

wicket victory over Zinzira Krira Chakra. Azimpur will now take on the winners of the other semifinal between Kagajitola and Kalindi Krira Chakra on June 7

to decide the Group G cham-Sent into bat, Zingira collected 177 for eight wickets in 34 overs with Hedayet making

44, Haftz 27 and Munna 19. Maudud of Azimpur claimed three wickets for 35 while Tanveer, Anis and Mukti took a

wicket apiece. Azimpur Boys cruised past Zinjira's total making 178 in 28 overs with six wickets to

Barkat topscored with 45 while Anis, Tanveer and Bashar

made 38, 31 and 20 respectively for the winners. Arif and Munna took a wicket each for Zinjira.

At the Mirpur Pallabi ground, Kadamtali Sangsad outplayed Gopibagh Krira Chakra by 67 runs to move into the Group C final.

Batting first, Kadamtali collected 208 for seven in 35 overs with Raju hitting 60, Dulal 30 and Sayem 28.

Akash and Saiful took two wickets each for Gopibagh. Gopibagh, in their turn,

were bundled out for 141 in 31.3 overs with Hanif getting 29. Riaz 19 and Nantu 16.

Jalal claimed four wickets for 18 while Babu and Rokon got two wickets apiece to tend nim able support.

Kadamtali will now play Mugda in the Group C final tomorrow

The Group G quarterfinal between Kalindi KC and Azam Wagar Cricket Clinic at the Narayangani Stadium was marked by some accurate bowling by the Kalindi bowlers who earned their team a convincing seven-wicket victory.

Electing to bat, Azam-Waqar CC were shot out for a paltry 68 in 25.3 overs with sundries topscoring with 24 while Ronny made 18.

Babu was the pick of the Kalindi bowlers with four wickets for 25 while Biplab took two for six.

Kalindi needed only 12 overs to make 70 with seven wickets to spare.

Shahid and Sentu scored 15 and 11 respectively for Kalindi. Faruk of Azam-Wagar took two wickets.

Kalindi will play Kagajitola in the Group G semifinal to-

TODAY'S MATCHES Mirpur Pallabi : Mohakhali

CC vs Evergreen T&T ground : Dhanmondi

Progati vs Lalkuthi

DCS (East) : DOHS (Jrs) vs Kalpataru.

ITTF to wait on sanctions

TOKYO, June 3: The Internation-al Table Tennis Federa tion (IT-TF), the sport's governing body, will delay their response to the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia, ITTF president Ichiro Ogimura said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"Yugoslavia has contributed to the growth of the sport by hosting several World Championships and producing many good players," Ogimura said.

"We would like to watch what develops there with generosity since we still have some time before our new scason starts in September."

The UN Security Council voted on Saturday, as part of wide-ranging sanctions, to forbid any country from allowing athletes or teams representing the rump state of Yugoslavia to play on it's territory

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will decide this month whether to expel Yugoslavia from the Barcelona Games after the UN ban on sporting links.

Victoria Adamjee first to breast the tape

Sports Reporter

under the hot sun. Victoria took the lead, or rather one concerning the should say, were given the league now accrlead, when Adamjee's defender ding around the Rakhal, in a bid to clear a freederby between kick by a Victoria player, put reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra the ball into his own net in the 28th minute of the match (1their areh-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club,

to be played on June 7.

Sunday, the end of the running

for other teams rarely incite

the interest of the sports-lover

yet inevitably an end is always

there to end everything that

dium, in the only match of the

First Division football league

that is fast eddying towards

nothingness, Victoria Sporting

Club and Adamjee Sports Club

quietly breasted the tape to

finish their league campaign

for this year's 20-team compe-

tition after having played 19

matches each. They drew, or

decided to draw, their last

match one-all with Victoria

managing 20 points from 19

matches, pushing them to the

fifth position, albeit temporar-

ily, while Adamjee finished

with five points less, also from

With both teams well out of

the relegation-throes there

was hardly any stake in the

match and quite predictably

the contest was mainly con-

fined to midfield with neither

side appearing too keen to

minutes in humid conditions

cecr Championships when

they were held to a 1-1 draw

by Northern Ireland in a

friendly on Tuesday, reports

who looked far from impres

sive in a 1-0 defeat of Turkey

on Saturday, were forced to

come back from behind after

Michael Hughes gave the Irish

a surprise early lead in the

Although Libero Manfred

Binz saved Germany's face with

time, they still looked a long

an equalizer just before half-

way from their best in their

last warm-up match before

heading to the finals in

Sweden, which start on June

the play but found it tough to

find a way through a packed,

still does not seem to have

found a perfect solution in

midfield to replace injured

World Cup captain Lothar

Matthaeus who will miss the

European Championships after

recently undergoing knee

new combination in midfield of

former East German Matthias

Sammer and 23-year-old Ste-

fan Effenberg.

The German coach played a

The five-match

Test series be-

tween Pakistan

and England be-

gins today. Thu

rsday at Edgbas-

ton, Birmingham. Cricket

lovers look forward to the

series with expectations for

keen competitive cricket.

Though the visiting Pakistan

team were given a revengeful

drubbing by England in the

first two of the five Texaco

Trophy one-dayers, it would

not be fair to write off the

World champions so soon.

They have a nagging habit of

making a comeback from al-

most impossible situations,

and that is why they are con-

This is going to be the fif-

teenth Test series between the

two countries. Of the earlier

fourteen, eight were played in

England and six in Pakistan.

Pakistan, after attaining Test

status, visited England first in

1954 under the leadership of

Abdul Hafiz Kardar and did

very well to draw the series 1-

1 with that momentous victory

at the Oval, two other Tests

being washed away by rain. But

since then, besides drawing

the 1974 three-Test match

series (none yielded a result),

they lost all the series in

England except the last one in

1987, when Imran Khan's

ever series victory in England

by winning one Test and

29 Tests in England, of which

England have won 12, Pakistan

three while 14 were drawn.

Records on home grounds are

slightly in Pakistan's favour: of

the six Test series England

So far Pakistan have played

drawing four.

team registered their first-

sidered such a fighting team.

German coach Berti Vogts

well-organised Irish defence.

The Germans had most of

The World Cup champions,

After a listless show of 27

BREMEN, June 3:

Germany fluffed

their lines in

their final dress

rehearsal before

the European so-

force a result.

Reuter.

22nd minute.

Yesterday at the Dhaka Sta-

Down by an accidental goal, Adamjee tried to pull their socks up but their intentions were not translated into reality in the rest of the first half as their forwards failed to break through the Victoria defence marshalled by a veteran Abu Yusuf, now taking care of the Victoria citadel after having served giants like Mohammedans and Abahani at his peak.

Better fortune awaited Adamjee in the post-lemon session and they drew level twelve minutes into the second half when midfielder Yusuf beat Aslam with a well-directed grounder following a combined move that had the Victoria desence razed beyond repair (1-1).

The goal triggered off a brief session of entertaining football as both teams -- one smarting under the set-back of wasting the lead and the other charged by the recent success -- tried to gct what could have been the decider. Victoria had the most positive chance when their striker Mamunul Karim nodded the ball towards the Adamjee goal but goalkeeper

Narayan parried it away for a

Germans far from their best

real dominating midfield play-

maker and striker Karlheinz

Riedle also failed to show his

usual sharpness in front of

Germans was the good form of

Effenberg who impressed with

first 20 minutes and the Irish

rarely got out of their own hall

were caught cold in the 22nd

minute when Hughes beat the

offside trap down the right,

neatly turned a defender and

finished off a superb individual

Koeman's dilemma

tch libero Ronald Koeman has

been banned by national coach

Rinus Michels from playing in

Barcelona's final Spanish

league match this weekend.

behind league leaders Real

Madrid and enjoy a superior

winning goal in the European

Cup final against Sampdoria, is

required for the European

champions' friendly against

Netherlands' last game before

the European Championship

starting in Sweden in a week's

Friday's match is the

Barcelona are just one point

Koeman, who scored the

reports Reuter.

goal difference.

France on Friday.

The goal seemed to crank

ROTTERDAM, June 3: Du-

effort with a left-foot shot.

Germany dominated the

But the world champions

several long-range efforts.

The only consolation for the

With the zest for a result passing away too quickly and the deadly combination of complacency and incapacity creeping in to fill the vacuum created by the departure of cagerness, the match could not head for any other result than an all-too-familiar draw. It was just another draw for the fol lowers of the game grown blase by the series of fixed matches and goal drought but the two teams who, unlike the Big Three enter the fray every year without the ambition of any distinction, achieved dubiously rare feat by breasting the terminal tape ahead of the more celebrated names like Mohammedan, Abahani, Brothers and many others.

Adamtee SCC 19 3 9 7 15 25 15

VICTORIA SC: Aslam, Mong Chila (Masud), Yousuf, Farhad Anwar, Towfique, Tarik, Ma munul, Zakir, Shankar (Zabbar) and Mamun Babu (Riaz).

ADAMJEE SCC: Narayan, Alamgir, Dilip, Hossain, Rakhal, Lipu (Akram), Maruf, Mcsbah, Yousuf, Badsha and Akhter (Babul). Referee -- Nastr Chowdhury

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rahmatgani vs Farashgani (5

Brothers Union vs Eskaton SS (7 pm)

up the Germans' game a notch

and Binz's shot from the edge

of the area in the 40th minute

deflected off defender Gerry

Taggart into the net to put the

chances in the second half,

Sammer hit the post with a

shot from just outside the area

and Riedle should have put the

issue beyond doubt when he

had a clear header at goal

thern Ireland because he felt

their style of play was similar

to that of Scotland who are in

the Germans' first- round

group along with holders the

Netherlands and the Common

wealth of Independent States.

Sweden should not read too

much into the result since the

Germans are renowned for be-

low-par performances in the

run-up to major champi-

out two lacklustre friendlies

against Denmark and Czechos-

lovakia in the final run-up to

the World Cup before produ-

cing some brilliant soccer in

score easily contrasted sharply

with the Dutch, their main ri-

vals in the group, who have hit

seven goals in their two warm-

up friendlics against Austria

pointed with the result but

Vogts said he was disap-

The Germans' inability to

Italy to take the title.

Two years ago they played

onships.

and Walcs.

But the rest of the teams in

Vogts chose to play Nor-

midway through the half.

The Germans created more

sides level at the interval

(Both matches at Dhaka Stadium)

US-German tie to mark World Cup draw

CHICAGO, June 3: The United States will play defending champion Germany in December 1993 as part of the festivities surrounding the 1994 World Cup draw, the US Soccer Federation has announced, reports AP.

The game will be played on ppines next week. either Dec 17, 18 or 19 at a West Coast city, US national team general manager Bill last night said Niaz had to Nuttall said Tuesday. The draw withdraw from the team due to will be in Las Vegas, but the physical indisposition. Niaz's game could be played either in place in the six-member male Los Angeles, San Francisco or team has been taken by Niamul Phoenix, Nuttall said. Haq Niru of Bangladesh Ansars.

"Germany wanted to play we wanted to play. We have an agreement to agree and we just have to do the details on how it works around the draw," Nuttall said. "We know it will be somewhere on the West Coast."

Germany and the United States, who have never played, receive automatic berths in the 24 nation, 52 game World Cup, which will be played from June 17-July 17, 1994.

Germany and England also may play along with the United States in US Cup '93, which will be played next June.

IOC to decide on Y'slavia June 15

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, June 3: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Tuesday they will decide by June 15 on whether what is left of Yugoslavia will be allowed to take part in the Summer Olympics, reports Reuter.

The UN Security Council on Saturday imposed sanctions. including sporting links, against Yugoslavia, now reduced to Serbia and Montenegro, because of its involvement in the fighting in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia Herzegovina.

Soccer's world governing body FIFA, acting on the Security Council ruling, on Sunday suspended Yugoslavia until fur ther notice from all international activities.

UEFA followed suit, banning Yugoslavia from the European Championship being staged in Sweden this month.

Meanwhile, another report from Stockholm said: The Yu goslav soccer team, expelled from the European Championship, left Sweden on Tuesday saying the tournament would suffer from their ab-

The Yugoslav players and of ficials left Stockholm by chartered aircraft following the United Nations' decision at the weekend to impose sanctions against Scrbia and Montene-

"Both Sweden and Europe will be the poorer without the Yugoslav team," Miljan Miljanic, director of the Yugoslav Football Federation, told news conference.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said on Sunday it would disqualify Yugoslavia form international competition after the United Nations Security Council voted to sever sporting and other links with Serbia and Montenegro. "Both I and my players feel

very said but we must accept what happened," Yugoslav team captain Dragan Stojkovic said. Denmark will take Yu-

Zcaland his total of 134 in 5

tion mark against his name. If

he makes the first eleven for

the first Test, it would be in-

teresting to see at whose cost,

and if it is at the cost of Mark

Ramprakash it would be most

unfortunate. Ramprakash, a

very correct player, did mod-

erately well in the five Tests

Test innings poses a big ques-

Niaz not going to Olympiad

Four of the stx members of

the male team -- which

strangely enough includes a

lady in the person of national

women's champion Rant

Hamid -- leave for Mantla to-

day, along with three members

of the four-strong women's

team. The remaining four

members of the 11-strong

contingent, headed by BCF

secretary K M Shakoor, will

FIDE Master Ziaur Rahman

runner up in last month's 18th

national championship, Inter

national Woman Master Rani

Hamid who finished third

FIDE Master and former

champions Jamilur Rahman

and Syed Tahmidur Rahman of

the male team and former na-

tional women's champion

Tanima Parveen, Syeda Sha-

bana Parveen Nipa and Afroza

Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Nia-

mul Haq Niru and Rukhshana

Gulshan Nikkon are due to

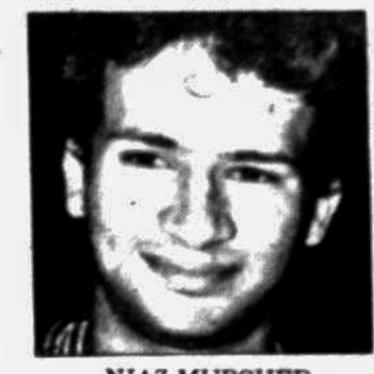
Team leader K M Shakoor,

Those leaving today are

leave Dhaka June 7.

Sports Reporter

Rani Hamid has been cho-Niaz Murshed, the country's only sen to represent Bangladesh in Grandmaster, has the men's competition on the basis of her performance in Bangladesh team the last nationals in which she to take part in was the only lady among 15 the 30th World Chess Olymmen. She and Ziaur Rahman piad beginning in the Philifinished equal on points but Rant had to settle for the third A press release of the spot following the tiebreak. Bangladesh Chess Federation Ziaur Rahman, considered the most attacking player in the



NIAZ MURSHED country, won the national title

in 1988

National champion Recfat bin-Sattar, winner in 1991 and 1992, isn't going on the trip because of his HSC examinations later this month.

The exclusion of Niaz has considerably weakened Bangla desh's prospects in the meet which runs in Manila from June 7 to 26.

The BCF press release also said that Singapore Airlines had provided concessional tickets for the team, a gesture that facilitated the cashstarved federation in sending the team.

Mcanwhile, the National Sports Council is still striving

to arrive at a consensus panel for the new chess federation committee. It is understood that efforts are continuing to reach a compromise between the two rival factions regarding the selection of new general secretary with one of the candidates for the post being coaxed to accept the less functional post of vice president, of which four are proposed in the new draft com mittee which is pending before the NSC Chairman and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka for approval.

Women's handball results

Five matches of the Karnaphuli insurance women's handball Championship were decided yesterday, the second day of the meet, at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Ansars trounced Faridpur 40-3, Rangamati outplayed Nilphamari 18-3, BJMC outclassed Jessore 27-10, Natore beat Faridpur 20-11 and Ansars playing their second match of the day, crushed Nilphamart by 46 goals to two.

competition will be held today at the same venue.

Soccer result

TOULON, France, June 3:

Some more matches of the

Portugal won the annual Toulon festival under- 21 football tournament when they beat Yugoslavia 2-1 in the final here on Tuesday evening, reports AFP.

India hope for Olympic semis



Khanam Bablee.

leave next Sunday.

DELHI. June 3: India are bound to qualify for the last four in men's field hockey in the Barcelona Olympics, chief coach Balkishen Singh said

here today, reports AFP. The ex-Olympian told an

airport news conference that he was sure of the team's potential after its display during India prepares

for Asiad

NEW DELIII. June 3: The Amateur Athletics Federation of India (AAFI), today announced the names of 69 (43 men and 26 women) athletes for a coaching camp in preparation for the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games, reports PTI.

Bhanot said here the camp, to be held at Bangalore from June eight to July 26, includes those who at present are attending the pre-Olympic camp at the same venue. He said the list excluded

The AAFI secretary Lalit

the Indian juniors preparing for the Asian junior track and field meet to be held here during November. "There are over 100 juniors

in the camp and promising athletes will attend Hiroshima Games camp after the Asian Meet," he said. The AAFI also announced

Vidya Sagar as the national coach and 12 others to assist him in different departments.

the pre-Olympic five-nation European tour beginning May 8 where in won 12 out of 15 matches. Two matches were drawn

and India suffered a split-goal defeat to Germany. The Indian wins included two against the 1988 Scoul Olympics champion Britain. "I expected a good show

form the boys. But they played much beyond my expectations," Balkishen Singh said, after the team's return early today

He added that India were sure to make the Barcelona hockey semt-finals. India's hockey fortunes have

been on the wane in recent years, and its last of eight Olympic gold medals was won in Moscow in 1980. It finished sixth in the 1988 Olympics and had to fight it out last year to qualify for Bercelona. Balkishen Singh said the

players were coordinating well and able to play equally well in different positions and the forward line was moving with speed and cohesion not seen

"Now I have 16 top players", said the beaming Sikh coach. who is widely credited with blending European tactics with traditional Asian hockey skills as part of his concept which he calls "total hockey."

Balkishen Singh reserved special praise for captain Pargat Singh, a 27-year -old veteran full back who spearheaded India's grand recovery

speedster from Pakistan. Aquib

Neuss on May 27.

The opinion among European coaches and players is that India will figure in the last four in Barcelona," Pargat Singh said, echoing his coach. Balkishen Singh, however,

said India needed to improve their penalty corner conversions and added there were other grey areas which needed rectification.

He also allayed apprehen sions that the team was peaking too early.

"Not at all," he said. "They will peak at the right time and right place." The European tour took the

Indians to Belgium Britain, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands.

NZ, Argentina draw series

AUCKLAND, June 3: The Argentinian men's hockey team squared the series when they beat New Zealand 1-0 in the fifth Test here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The teams posted two wins apiece after drawing the opening match last Wednesday

New Zealand were favoured on goal aggregate over the five matches 10-7.

Tuesday's match was a lacklustre affair with neither side creating any real scoring opportunities from the field.

New Zealand fatled to convert any of the six penalty corners they were awarded, while Argentina managed to score from their fourth and final penalty corner.

The goal which separated the teams came in the 29th minute of the second half when Martin Sordelli drove in after a layoff to the left.

Argentina dictated the pace of the game, slowing it down to allow their mid-field to take control. New Zealand coach Kevin Towns said that the New

Zcaland team "backed off" from their performance on Sunday night when the Kiwis won 5-1. Cram's priorities

LONDON, June 2: Briton Steve Cram, still unsure about

his Olympic prospects after the longest injury spell of his career, said on Monday he was to prepared to risk his fitness again just to pursue a gold medal at the Barcelona Games, reports Reuter. The 31-year-old world mile record holder, who has just re-

turned to competitive action, admitted he had no idea if he would be in good enough shape to qualify for next months' British trials for his final crack at the 1,500 metres gold medal. Cram has a lot of eatching

up to do after missing an entire winter's training with a groin problem but he said :"I will not risk everything to get through the trials. I'm not prepared to rush things and end up breaking down again and missing another whole "Next season, I'm looking

forward to moving up to 5,000 metres and I think it's critical I get a full injury-free season in this summer.

"I'd love to take the Olympics in and all I can do is hope that I get to the trials and do myself justice. But if I don't make it I'm not going to lose sleep over it."

happy with the performance of to defeat Germany 3-2 at goslavia's place in the finals. the team.

mainly relied on the experiwon one (1961-62) Pakistan enced hands, as is reflected in won two (1983-84 and 1987-

88) and the rest were drawn. During these six visits by England to Pakistan 18 Tests were played, of which England won 1, Pakistan 2 and 15 were drawn. To-date, these two countries have played 47 Tests of which England have won 13, Pakistan five and 29 were



JAVED MIANDAD

But in spite of England's over all superiority so far as the records go, Pakistan are in England defending their victorious position over England, which they gained in the 1987 series and retained it during the 1987-88 series in Pakistan. So, in the current summer, England will not only be going all out to avenge the World Cup final defeat but also to wrest back the honours which they lost on their home grounds and failed to regain on their return trip, which was marred by the Mike Gatting-

Shakoor Rana incident. The English selectors have the team for the first Test. lan Botham, who will be playing his 101st Test match, averages 33.93 with the bat (5192 runs with 14 centuries and 22 fifties) and with the ball he has taken 383 Test wickets at an average of 28.24 and at 36, as his recent form indicates, he is still as useful as ever. A vetcran of 94 'Tests Graham Gooch, the skipper, has 7189 runs to his credit, averaging 43.56. Allan Lamb (4602 in 77 Tests, av. 36.52), Robin Smith (2331 in 31 Tests, av. 51.80) and Alec Stewart (1096 in 17 Tests, av. 37.79), who successfully played as an opéner on the recent New Zealand tour, are going to provide solidity to the English batting line up, which will definitely be augmented by the inclusion of Mark Ramprakash, who is in excellent form at the moment. The English attack will be

manned by Philip DeFreitas (86 wkts at 33.00), Derck Pringle (65 wkts at 35.24), Chris Lewis (78 wkts at 32.53) and, of course, Ian Botham. The selectors have included a leg-spinner in Ian Salisbury and a new fast bowler in Tim Munton. It is likely that on the newly-laid turf at Edgbaston lan Salisbury will be making his Test debut. England will largely depend on their swing bowlers and if the conditions are favourable then DeFraitas, Pringle, Lewis and Botham possess the capability of running through any line up. Graeme Hick remains an

enigma of the Test Level; his

debut against the West Indics

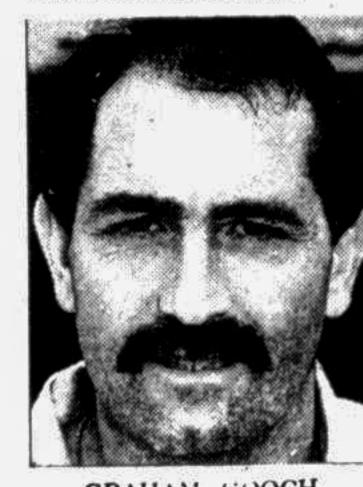
last summer had very little to

cheer him up and even in New

he played last summer against the West Indies and since then has performed consistently well with the England A team in the Caribbeans and his current form is simply superb. Pakistan, led by Javed Miandad, a veteran of 112 Tests (8101 runs, av.54.00 with 22 centuries and 39 fifties), have a fairly good betting line-up with the experienced Salim Malik (66 Tests. 3255 runs at 42.27) providing the main back-bone. Salim Malik found the English wickcts and conditions to his great liking last summer when he scored 28 short of 2000 runs in the country matches. So far on this tour he has been amongst the runs and has cast

aside any doubt about his form. Rameez Raja (39 Tests, 1835 runs, av.31.63) shall, in all probability, have Shoaib Mohammad (38 Tests, 2388 runs, av.46.82) as his opening partner, if, of course, Aamir Sohail does not recover from injury. If he does, Shoaib may come in at one down. Inzamamul Haq, the one-day sensation, and Asif Mujtaba, who has done very well so far on the tour, are going to form the strength of the middle order or late middle order. If Inzamam, with his straight bat, correct technique and a heart full of courage finds it easy go-

ing in the Test arena, he is most likely to be England's bane. But Pakistan's batting will largely depend on the steadying role of the experienced skipper and his deputy. If these two, and a not too inexperienced Rameez and Shoaib, can play up to their potentials there is no reason why Pakistan should find the English attack unplayable.



GRAHAM GOOCH

But the Pakistan bowling, at the moment, appears to be in all shades of doubt. The fitness of Waqar Younis will mean a lot for the tourists. The loss of Wasim Akram is going to be very vital and if Wagar, for whom the tourists have been waiting with all eagerness, is also forced to sit on the fence, the attack would lack penetration. Wagar Younis (71 wkts in 14 Tests at 19.02), Pakistan's most feared weapon, had a very successful season last summer when he captured 113 English county wickets and all English batsmen were literally in morbid fear of this

Javed (16 wkts in 8 Tests) may find it hard to shoulder the brunt in company with the inexperienced Naveed Anjum, Tanveer Mehdi on Ataur Rahman. The guiles of Mushtaque Ahmed, in the absence of an incisive pace attack, may go in vain. Asif Mujtaba and Mushtaque may have to toil very hard in the absence of a frontline pace attack. Yet Waqar's return may change the situation dramatically. If Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, in company with Aquib Javed, charge down in full vigour it won't be that easy going for the English batsmen and one hopes this trio can come together at some stage of the five match last, but not the least, a lot

would depend on Javed Miandad's leadership. It is obvious that the team spirit is not at its best and if it should further dissipate then individual performances would hardly suffice to salvage the situation. So the five Tests during the

next two and a half months should provide some enthralling moments of keen cricket in its classical mould. After the colorful extravaganza of the World Cup and instant cricket it would be nice to go back to the traditional contest with all its serene but exhilarating pleasure. The contestants in this summer's series are likely to provide it in more than adequate quantity. Let any untoward incident not mar the series the appointment of an ICC match referee may prove to have some beneficial effect in this aspect of the great game of glorious uncertainties.

But His side still lacked a Pakistan-England Test Series, Keen Competitive Cricket Ahead