

Long day's journey into night Sport Border will play today

Indiscipline, lack of temperament benighted the day of Bangladesh cricket that dawned on last Thursday as the hosts gift-wrapped a five-wicket victory to the desperate Pakistanis in a match marked by familiar frailty, an unfortunate accident on the third day of the first-ever SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

For the local boys it was a golden opportunity to silence the cynics who were loathe to give them due credit for their heart-warming performance in the opener of the four-nation championship on December 3.



As ill luck would have it, the cynics had the last laugh when Bangladesh, who started the tournament on the right foot on Thursday with a seven-wicket victory against Sri Lanka, came a cropper in the second match mainly because of their own faults.

True Pakistan, even without all but two of Imran Khan's 'Cornered Tigers' were anyway favourites against Bangladesh; yet the manner in which the local cricketers threw away the match for no justifiable reason cast further doubts on their ability to ever win themselves before overpowering the opponents on the field.

Bangladesh skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu can blame his lady luck for not winning the toss but to put the saddle on the right horse he too committed some costly blunders.

It was clear from the moment Bangladesh were asked to bat that a victory would need extra caution and discipline in batting, because the prospect of their opponents staying in contention depended on the fate of this match and with two good medium-pacers like Tanvir Mehdhi and Kabir Khan in their ranks Pakistan were always likely to gum up the works of the Bangladeshi batting.

Opener Zahid Razaque Masum kept fear at bay with some aggressive batting, as epitomised by a four off left-arm paceman Kabir Khan to open his account. The tall opener appeared to have some time and space against the Pakistani pace pair and was bent on hitting his way out against hot, unfamiliar pace.

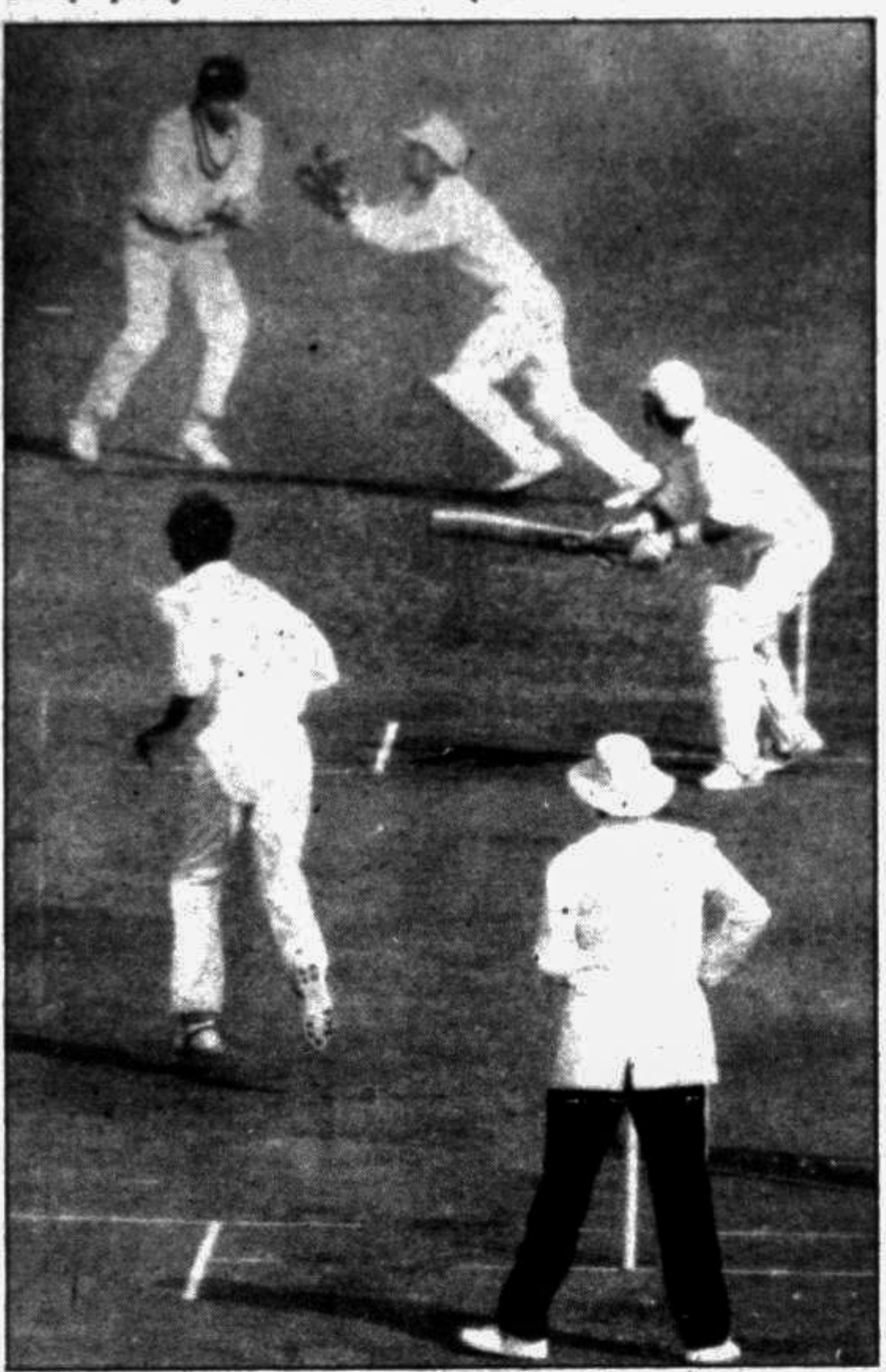
His partner Nurul Abedin Nobel was always groping against the pacy Mehdhi and accurate Kabir. He was all at sea, needing 21 balls to open his account. However, he soon relieved himself of the agony when a short rising delivery from Mehdhi touched his hanging bat outside the off stump on its way to Moin Khan's gloves behind the stumps.

Athar Ali, perhaps haunted by the memories of his failure against Sri Lanka, considered his pads safer than his faithless bat to be leg before, offering no stroke to a Kabir Khan inswinger, for one.

Masum, another failure like Athar in the first match, was oblivious of the fact that spin had replaced spin and swung wildly at the first ball from left-arm spinner Mohammad Zahid to be palpably leg before for 23, including four hits to fence, all against the pacemen.

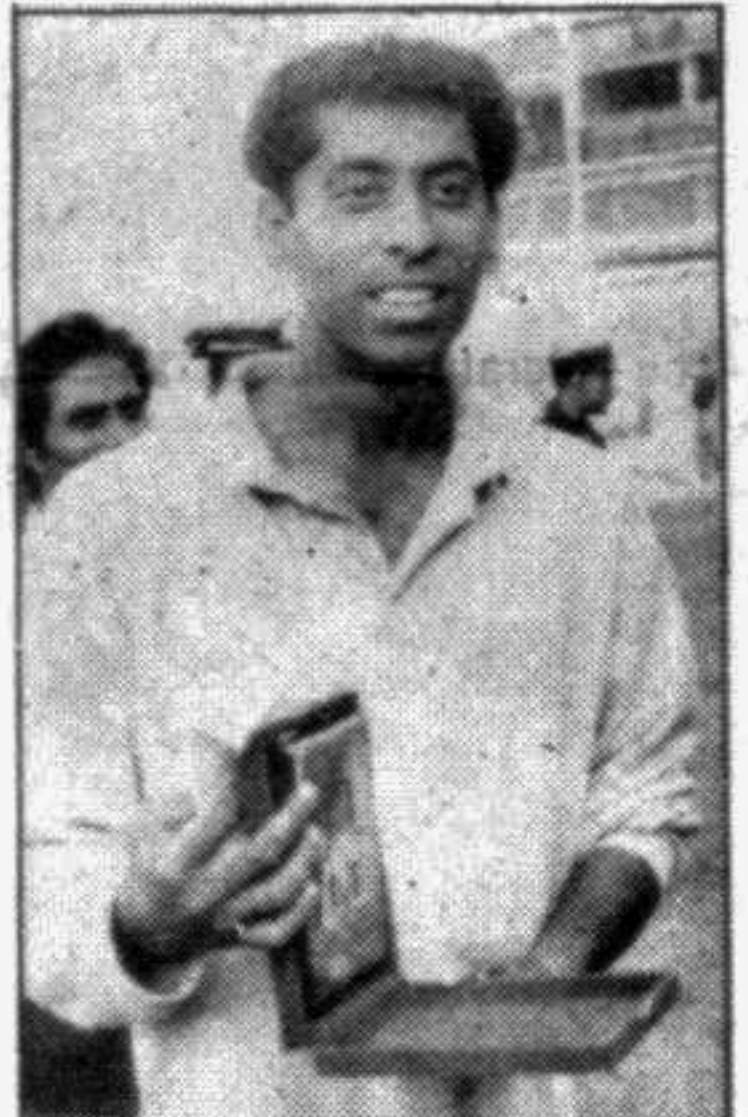
Skipper Nannu went on his knees to assay a pull against the spin off Nadeem Khan, the second slow left-arm in the Pak team, and Saeed Javed at midwicket did not have to move from his position to set the Bangladeshi skipper on a tudge to the pavilion for a 54-delivery 26, inclusive of

two fours. Meanwhile, Aminul Islam Bulbul who timed his paddle sweeps pretty well for 21 runs



Bangladesh opener Nurul Abedin Nobel edges a Tanvir Mehdhi delivery to the Pakistani XI keeper Moin Khan during yesterday's SAARC cricket tie at the Dhaka Stadium. Pakistan registered their first win in the tourney by outplaying Bangladesh by five wickets. — Star photo

off 44 deliveries, had gone. The dark, dapper batsman was found wanting in mental agility when caught in two runs, whether to pull or go for an overhead drive he



T MEHDI... man-of-the-match spooned a simple catch to Amir Bashir at mid-on off the other Aamir, right-arm slow medium Hanif operating from the Paltan end.

After Bulbul and Nannu's departure in quick succession, the pacy Akram Khan paired with southpaw Enamul Huq-Moni to take the score to 140 from 94. Moni was the first unnecessary sacrifice for acceleration, lofting Nadeem Khan to Kabir at long on for 14.

If any Bangladeshi batsman showed any sense of purpose it was Akram Khan. He took eleven runs of Hanif's last over, first clipping him beautifully to the midwicket fence then smashing a huge off side drive for four and rounding off the blitzkrieg with another heave on the onside, which was cut-short just inside the boundary, allowing the batsmen score three more runs. Sadly enough, it was too high a voltage and the fuse went off in the next over from Tanveer Mehdhi, brought back for a second go from the pavilion end.

A short-pitched delivery from this po-faced paceman had arrived a shade too late for Akram's comfort in attempting a pull and the resulted mistimed catch fell on the waiting hands of Shahid Anwar at square leg. Akram hit a timely 38 off 35 balls with three hits



Competitors and officials of the Sri Lankan squad participating in the week-long Wheelchair Games which began at the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed at Chapin, Saver yesterday. — Star photo

The rap should be taken by wicketkeeper Devashish Barooah also whose sloppy wicket-keeping at one stage contributed to a lot of extra runs.

Nannu gave up after two overs which cost him and Bangladesh 17 runs and Pakistan got right back into the game. With both Prince and Saiful off the firing line, the Javed Anwar pair took their time to strike roots. The former, who played his first match yesterday, was more aggressive putting away the ball whenever an opportunity came along, while Anwar concentrated on steadying the rocking Pakistani boat with some no-nonsense batting.

Shahid Anwar, the taller of the two, broke into a flurry of strokes before miscuing a sweep against off-spinner Bulbul and Devashish who had a miserable day behind the stumps gratefully accepted the catch to send the disconsolate batsman on the long walk.

Anwar played 97 balls for his innings of 65 studded with seven fours. He and Javed compiled a match-winning fourth-wicket stand of 116 off 180 balls.

Javed, who slowed down after having overtaken his senior partner, was bowled by Masum for 55 at a stage when it was almost all over. He scored his runs off 89 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Moin and Amir Bashir saw Pakistan through to a five-wicket victory by remaining unbeaten on five and ten respectively.

Saiful was again Bangladesh's best bowler with figures of one for 24 from six overs. A thorn in the flesh of the batsman with his fast, skidding deliveries, he could have finished with much better figures but for those wild wiles.

Prince bowled well although signs were clear that he was over the hill. He gave away 22 runs for his one wicket and had the Pakistani batsmen in a tangle with the deliveries that angle away from right handers.

Masum and Bulbul got one wicket apiece giving away 21 and 24 runs.

Tanvir Mehdhi was named the man-of-the-match for his haul of five wickets by adjudicator Mainul Haq, a former Bangladeshi player.

With this win Pakistan claw their way back into contention while Bangladesh, with just one match on their hands, stand just a theoretical chance provided they upset the formidable Indians in their last match.

India today play Sri Lanka, who are yet to earn their first points. So far Bangladesh and Pakistan have earned two points playing two matches each, India two from one and Sri Lanka, none from their only outing.

MISHAP

An unfortunate accident resulted in three waiters of Hotel Purbani, who were in charge of catering in the field, suffering severe burns.

The accident took place when one of the waiters got synged in an explosion of the gas stove as he was trying to heat the milk for Shyam Kumar Bansal, the Indian umpire officiating yesterday's match in the makeshift catering room between the two players' dressing rooms. The victims were immediately rushed to the hospital. Among them the conditions of Mir Ruhul Hasan and Shahadat Khan were stated to be critical.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH: Masum 1bw M Zahed 23, Nobel c Moin Khan b T Mehdhi 2, Athar Ali 1bw K Khan 26, Nannu c S Javed b N Khan 21, Bulbul c A Bashir b A Hanif 21, Akram Khan c S Anwar b T Mehdhi 38, Moin c K Khan b N Khan 14, Saiful 1bw T Mehdhi 2, Dulu not out 6, Prince b T Mehdhi 0, Barooah 1bw T Mehdhi 0. Extras: (b-0, lb-6, wb-18, nb-2) 26. Total: (all out in 41.5 overs) 159. Fall of wickets: 1/25; 2/34; 3/41; 4/91; 5/94; 6/140; 7/151; 8/153; 9/159; 10/159.

Bowling: O M R W Kabir Khan 7 0 26 1, Tanveer Mehdhi 7.5 23 5, M Zahed 9 0 18 1, Nadeem Khan 9 1 41 2, Aamer Hanif 9 0 45 1.

PAKISTAN: Shahid Anwar c Barooah b Bulbul 65, Basil Ali c Moin b GM 0, N Prince 0, Zahid Fazal 1bw Saiful Islam 0, Aamer Hanif run out 6, Shahid Javed b Masum 55, Amir Bashir not out 10, Moin Khan not out 5. Extras: (b-4, lb-1, wb-14) 19. Total: (for five in 38.3 overs) 160. Fall of wickets: 1/7; 2/14; 3/23; 4/139; 5/147.

Bowling: O M R W Prince 6 0 22 1, Saiful 6 2 24 1, M A Nannu 2 0 17 0, Moin 8 0 32 0, Dulu 6 1 15 0, Bulbul 6 0 24 1, Masum 4.3 0 21 1.

England's £ 5m bid for World Cup '95

LONDON, Dec 5: England have submitted a five million-pound bid to stage cricket's next World Cup, reports AFP.

The Test and County Cricket Board's 20-page submission, with a foreword from Britain's cricket-mad Prime Minister John Major, proposes a tournament in England during June 1995.

"The emphasis of our submission has been placed very much on the competition itself and the participants," said TCCB working party chairman Doug Insole.

The nine full-member countries—Australia, England, South Africa, West Indies, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe—who are automatically invited to take part would receive 300,000 pounds each. The three 'non-seeds' who fight their way through pre-qualifying stand to pick up 1,500,000 pounds each.

The other 16 associate member countries, who comprise the International Cricket Council, would be given 65,000 apiece.

The prize fund will total 2,500,000 pounds— including 50,000 pounds to the eventual winners, which is roughly twice what Pakistan received earlier this year after defeating England in the Melbourne final.

But the bid faces competition from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. While the sub-continent's package is thought to be worth a little less in total, the distribution of the money is understood to be different.

International cricket's voting procedures could result in deadlock at the council's special meeting in London on February 2, with a final casting of votes when the council gathers for its annual debate four months later.

The TCCB document lists what it sees as UK advantages: The experience of having run the first three World Cups, long hours of daylight, ease of transport and short travelling distances, excellent practice facilities and ample provision for warm-up matches.

Jesse Owens award for Kevin Young

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, Dec 5: Olympic gold medalist Kevin Young completed a sweep of post-season honours on Friday when he was named the winner of the Jesse Owens award as the top US athletics star of the year, reports Reuters.

Young, 26, broke the 47-second barrier when he won the 400 metres hurdles at the Barcelona Olympics in a time of 46.78 seconds to break the nine-year-old record of 47.02 held by Edwin Moses and was undefeated in 1992.

In voting by officials, athletes and press, Young received 1,751 points to outdistance Olympic 400 metre champion Quincy Watts (1,523) and Carl Lewis (1,138), who won his third Olympic long jump gold and anchored the US 4x100 metre relay team to a world record. Lewis won the award in 1982 and 1991.

Last month Young was named male athlete-of-the-year by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and earlier this week he was honoured as male athlete-of-the-year by both Track and Field News and the Track and Field Writers of America.

Jansher's title

KARACHI, Dec 5: World champion Jansher Khan clinched the Pakistan Open squash trophy and 16,200 dollars prize money by defeating compatriot and defending champion Jahangir Khan in straight games here Saturday, reports AFP.

This was Jansher's tenth victory in eleven tournaments this season and his third Pakistan Open title.

Jansher—who appeared the fitter of the two—was ahead from the start, engaging Jahangir in rallies and forcing him to make mistakes.

The victor said later he felt Jahangir was not at his best, while he had been on top form and never let up pressure on his opponent after winning the first vital game.

N'ganj Club tennis

Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 5: Twenty-six matches including men's doubles and singles pre-quarterfinals, the first round matches of the women's singles and three pre-quarter-final encounters of the boys' under-14 were held today at the Narayanganj Club courts.

The meet, being staged simultaneously at the Narayanganj Club and Ramna Tennis Complex courts, has been arranged in celebration of the centenary of Narayanganj Club. One hundred and forty players representing 10 teams are participating in the ten-day long tournament.

Border will play today



ALLAN BORDER

PERTH, Dec 5: Australian captain Allan Border on Saturday pronounced himself fit for his side's opening game, against the West Indies, in the World Series triangular competition, reports AFP.

Under a cloud for the past week with a hamstring injury received in the drawn first Test in Brisbane, the 37-year-old veteran completed several laps of the WACA ground and declared: "I am definitely playing."

That is the first real stretch I have had since the Test—and I came out okay."

Border said he was quickly confident about Australia's chances in the second match of the tournament—World Cup champions Pakistan beat the West Indies by five wickets in the first on Friday.

"But it is always important to start well. That's what we are looking to do. We know the West Indies will be smarting a bit after losing."

"We now have a good chance to put them (the West Indies) behind the eight-ball by sending them away from Perth with two losses. That would put a lot of pressure on them for the rest of the competition."

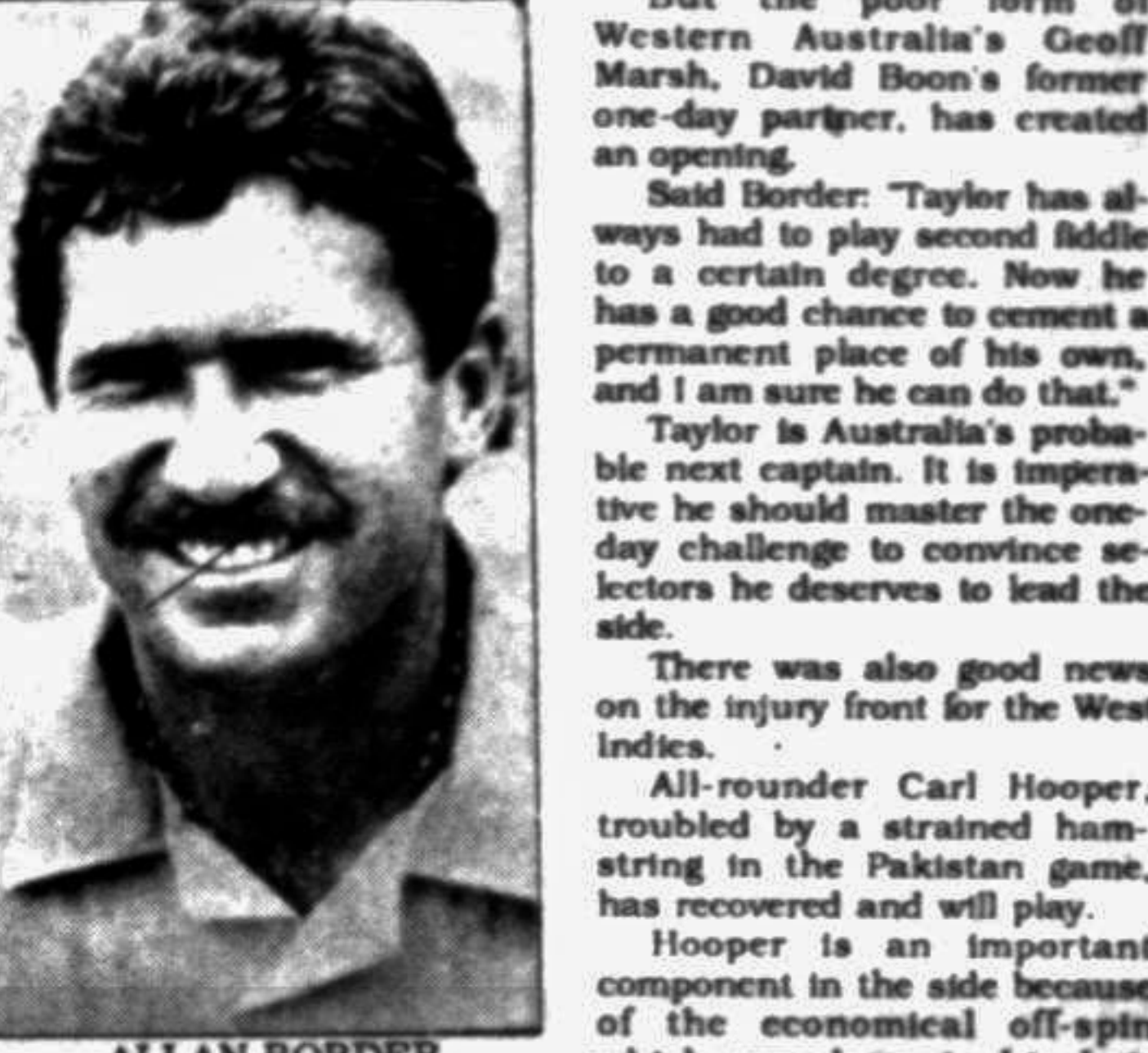
The game is one of enormous importance for many Australian players, but none more than batsmen Dean Jones and Mark Taylor.

Jones has been stunned by his relegation to 12th man duties in the opening Test and has vowed to score heavily to force his way back into the side for the second Test, starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day.

Jones is retained in the

one-day team because of his marvellous record in the limited-overs arena.

He has smacked 5,154 runs, including seven centuries, in 135 games at a magnificent average of 47.72.



ALLAN BORDER

Among Australians, only Border (5,963 at 39.90), with three centuries, has a higher aggregate.

However, Jones has struggled against the West Indies and in 35 encounters has a modest average of 26, with a top score of 93 not out.

Border said: "Jones is very keen after the Brisbane experience. He just wants to use the one-day games to get himself into good form and get some good scores on the board."

Another batsman with much to gain from strong early form in the contest is vice-captain Mark Taylor.

The left-handed opener, a permanent fixture in the Test formation, has not previously had the chance to press claims for a regular game in limited-overs company.

But the poor form of Western Australia's Geoff Marsh, David Boon's former one-day partner, has created an opening.

Said Border: "Taylor has always had to play second fiddle to a certain degree. Now he has a good chance to cement a permanent place of his own, and I am sure he can do that."

Taylor is Australia's probable next captain. It is imperative he should master the one-day challenge to convince selectors he deserves to lead the side.

There was also good news on the injury front for the West Indies.

All-rounder Carl Hooper, troubled by a strained hamstring in the Pakistan game, has recovered and will play.

Hooper is an important component in the side because of the economical off-spin which complements his batting talents.

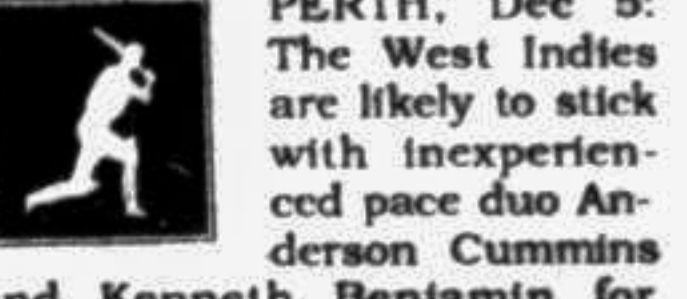
West Indies captain Richie Richardson said on Saturday night he was disappointed with the result of the Pakistan match.

"We certainly did not bat well enough—we just did not get enough runs," he said.

"It is still very early in the competition and we had just come from the Test. It will take a bit of adjustment. I am pretty sure we will come into our own soon."

Neither side have named a team, but off-spinner Tim May, recalled to the Australian squad after a three-year absence, is strongly tipped as the home country's 12th man.

Windies to rely on rookie quickies



KENNETH BENJAMIN

PERTH, Dec 5: The West Indies are likely to stick with inexperienced pace duo Anderson Cummins and Kenneth Benjamin for Sunday's World Series cricket match against Australia at the WACA Ground, captain Richie Richardson said Saturday, reports AP.

The West Indies lost their opening match of the triangular series to Pakistan on Friday night when Cummins and Benjamin replaced Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson.

"There is certainly no strain on our team with Patrick and Courtney out of action," Richardson said.

"Both Kenneth and Andy are capable of doing a very good job for us."

"Whatever bowling combination we pick is still a very formidable one."

Cummins, playing his 20th international, and debutant Benjamin found it difficult to stem the flow of Pakistan runs in the series opener, which the World Cup-holders won by

five wickets.

"I think our problem against a Test to one-day cricket—but that should not be a difficulty for us now," Richardson said.

Walsh was not considered for Friday's contest because of a hamstring strain, while Patterson has not hit top form on tour.

Richardson said Walsh would be rested for Sunday's game.

"He is available but it is unlikely we will use him," he said.

"We don't want to risk him at this stage of the tour when we have so many more matches to play."

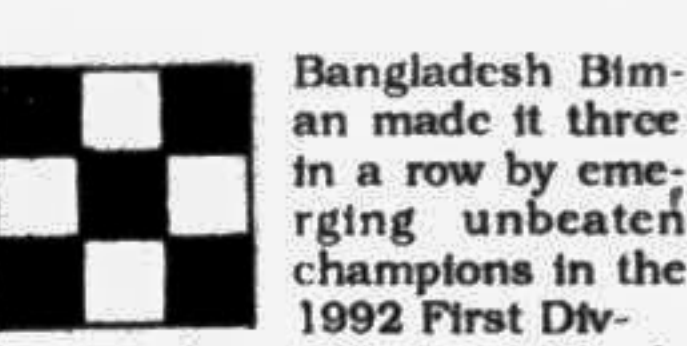
"When the tests come around again we want everyone ready and firing."

Allrounder Carl Hooper injured a hamstring muscle while batting in Friday's match, but is expected to be fit.

"Carl says it only hurts when he has to sprint and, anyway, cricketers have to learn to play with injuries nowadays," Richardson said.

While Australia face the West Indies, Pakistan will play a Northern Territory Invitation XI in Darwin.

Biman's hat-trick of titles



BANGLADESH Biman made it three in a row by emerging unbeaten champions in the 1992 First Division chess league which concluded at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Biman thus emulated Brothers Union who had achieved a hat-trick of triumphs by finishing champions in the league from 1987 to 1989.

Biman, who gained the upper hand in this year's title race by beating fancied Brothers Union by three points to one last week, defeated last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars 3-1 in their crucial league encounter yesterday to raise their collection to 45, just half a point more than close challengers Brothers Union, who finished as runners-up with 44.5 points.

Biman's heroes in their successful league campaign this year were the International Master (IM) of the country and former national champion Zillur Rahman Champak, would-be IM and a former national champion Ziaur Rahman, national champion for the last two years, Rezaul Karim, FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman—yet another ex-national champion—and former national women's champion Tanima Parveen.

However, Tanima did not play yesterday while the others rose to the occasion to ensure Biman retained their glory for the third successive year.

Ansars slid to the third position with 39.5 points while Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Dhaka University and Pony Electronics, who earned 34.5 points each, were placed from fourth to sixth after the tie-break.

Konica Cultural Sangha with 27.5, Mahakkhal Pradip Sangha

Sports Reporter

with 25.5, Parijat Chess Club with 24.5 and Chalanitika Krira Chakra with 22 points finished as seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth respectively in the 15-team, 14-round league.

Tilak Chess Club, who mustered a meagre 14.5 points, will find themselves demoted to the Second Division league next year.

Tilak Club, along with Free Birds Club, who did not turn up for any of their matches despite registering for the league, will be the two demotees next year.

Yesterday, Biman's Champak and Rezaul beat Khandaker Kayes Hasan and Almas Hossain of Ansars respectively while Zia and Tahmid drew with former national champion Jamilur Rahman and Kalimullah Kalam respectively.

Runners-up Brothers Union who needed all the points they could gather from their final encounter registered a cake-walk victory over lowly Protibha Chess Organisation when they beat the latter by four points to nil.

The determined Brothers squad comprising the Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi, Ziaul Kader Tuhi, Amir Hossain and Sheikh Anwar had little difficulty in beating Protibha's Shawkat, Munir, Mujib and Kasem respectively.

BTMC beat Dhaka University by 2.5 points to 1.5 and Konica Sangha defeated Farashganj Sporting Club, also by a similar margin.

Parijat Chess Club registered yet another 2.5-1.5 victory against Noor-e-Alam Khan Chess Sangad while Pony Electronics and Chalanitika Krira Chakra drew with Mahakkhal Pradip Sangha and Genus Chess Club in the other matches of the final day.

The league, organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation, had begun on November 20.

Following is the list of players of the champion and runners-up teams:

BIMAN: Ziaur Rahman, Zillur Rahman Champak, Rezaul bin-Sattar, Syed Tahmidur Rahman and Tanima Parveen.

BROTHERS: Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi (Pak; IM), Hamed Mansoor Qadhi (Yemen; IM), Ziaul Kader Tuhi, Amir Hossain, Sheikh Anwar Hossain and Md Selim.

FINAL STANDING

Following is the final points table of the 1992 First Division chess league:

Team	M	W	D	L	Pts
Biman	14	13	1	0	45
Brothers	14	12	1	1	44.5
Ansars	14	10	1	3	39.5
BTMC	14	9	2	3	34.5
D University	14	9	1	4	34
Pony Electronics	14	7	4	3	34.5
Konica Sangha	14	4	5	5	27.5
Mahakkhal Pradip	14	5	4	5	24.5
Parijat Club	14	0	0	14	0
Chalanitika KC	14	2	5	7	22
Noor-e-Alam Bangladesh	14	2	3	9	21
Genus Chess	14	3	3	8	21
Farashganj SC	14	3	3	8	16.5
Protibha Chess	14	1	3	10	15
Tilak Club	14	2	1	11	14.5

ROLL OF HONOUR

Following is a list of champions of the First Division chess league since 1980:

1980 — B Biman
1981 — Mohammedan SC
1982 — Brothers Union
1983 — B Biman
1984 — B Ansars
1985 — Bengal Group
1986 — B Biman
1987 — Brothers Union
1988 — Brothers Union
1989 — Brothers Union
1990 — B Biman
1991 — B Biman
1992 — B Biman

Soccer result

Seven goals by Tulu powered Tejkunipara Youth Welfare Organisation to a facile 11-1 victory against Nakhalpara Boys' Club in the semifinal of the Kheleghar Silver Cup football tournament in the city yesterday, says a press release.