

Lalmatia win

Sports Reporter

Lalmatia Club were detained to the last ball of the match for a comfortable six-wicket victory against City Club in the Minars First Division cricket league that resumed after a couple of days' break at the Dhanmondi Cricket ground yesterday.

Accurate bowling by Babu (jr) who took three for 31 off nine bowlers restricted City to 149 for eight of the 43 overs possible. Zakir and Ujjal jointly top-scored with 33 while Nahid remained unbeaten on 19. Gautham and Bappi with 17 each were the other notable scorers.

Babu (jr) took three for 31 while Aminul with two for 22 was the other main wicket-taker for Lalmatia.

Rome scored a sedate 40 to cap a start given by the Lalmatia openers. While Rome remained at the kill, Arif with 32 and Babu with 25 paved the path for a Lalmatia victory. The winners posted 150 for four wickets off 42.5 overs.

Nahid, Imtiaz and Suján took one wicket apiece.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Three Star beat Spread Eagles by five wickets in the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Batting first Spread Eagles scored 181 for nine from their quota of 35 overs with Moni top-scoring with 35.

Nasir of Three Star was the outstanding bowling success claiming four wickets for only eleven runs.

An unbeaten 33 by Johnny and 22 by Jewel helped Three Star wrap up the match in 30 overs, rattling 182 for five wickets.

Handball results

Three matches of the Sunball Metropolis Second division handball league were held yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball ground.

Dipali Jubo Sangha trounced Bhratri Sangha 16-4. West Jatrabari Kishore Sangha defeated Mansoor Sporting Club 22-16 and Christian Youth Club beat Bangladesh Boys by 23-18.

MSC badminton

Sports Reporter

Noori and Asheda of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisahan lifted the girls' doubles crown of the Mohammedan Peoples Insurance schools badminton championships at the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The pair beat Momo and Cynthia Islam of the Ananda Vidyalaya 15-3, 15-7.

Juvenile soccer

Sports Reporter

Diamond Sporting Club and Dumbar Sporting Club recorded victories in the Jadukar Samad memorial football tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Diamond blanked Tejkunipara Natyamela 3-0 while Dumbar edged past Chandpur Bhai Bhai Sporting Club 1-0.

555 golf today

The 555 golf classic will be held at the Kurmitola Golf Club course at Banani today, reports BSS.

More than 150 golfers including a good number of ladies from Dhaka, Chittagong and Jessore will take part in the tournament.

B Bank sports

The annual sports meet of the Bangladesh Bank Club, Dhaka will be held today at the Notre Dame College playground, reports UNB.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank Khorshed Alam will be the chief guest at the concluding function and distribute prizes among the winners.

Krajicek left in the cold

ADELAIDE, Jan 7: Unheralded Alex O'Brien of the United States beat top-seeded Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4 Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the South Australian Open tennis tournament, reports AP.

The big-serving Dutchman raced to a 3-0 lead in the first set, but then his precision serve-and-volley game vanished and O'Brien, saying he was playing under no pressure, came back for the win.

Richard Fromberg of Australia posted a 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (10-8) win over American doubles specialist David Pate to move through to the quarterfinals.

O'Brien flew into Adelaide on Friday not knowing whether he had been accepted into the tournament. But when Australian Simon Youl pulled out, O'Brien became the last player into the main draw.

The American beat Krajicek in straight sets last August, but said Thursday it was no real surprise he had won again.

"My game matches up pretty well against his," O'Brien said.

Russians beat Malaysians

Sports Reporter

The Malaysian Olympic squad went down fighting to Krylia Sovetov of Russia by the odd goal in three in the second match of the 7th President Gold Cup football at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Russian outfit rigged in indigo led the first half 1-0 against their younger and spirited counterparts in yellow and black.

Both sides took unusually long to settle down with the Malaysians, perhaps little awed by the height and build of their opponents, jammed their citadel with reinforcements from upfront.

Krylia Sovetov had two of the tallest players on the field in their attack. Yet Vladimir Philippov and Dimitri Ivanov could not really epitomise the expected aerial supremacy of the fairly ordinary team from Yeltsin's country.

Just when a scoring opportunity was looking very bleak, Evgeni Harlatchev, advancing with a ball from the midfield, suddenly let fly a 30-yard drive that zoomed into the net past and over a leaping Bin Idris 1-0.

Malaysia started their second half campaign with renewed vigour. A sense of urgency and purpose was noticed in their short and quick trading of passes. Immediately after the breather a powerful shot by right-back Assroff Hanafiah was dangerously parried away by Sovietov custodian Viktor Gadus and Malaysian attacker Paul Ray failed to cash in on the loose ball with the Russian defence in complete disarray.

With the bite in the Malaysian attack increasing with the chilling northerly breeze the Russian defence started showing signs of wilting. Paul Ray scooped up a lovely held-back ball from the

gradually assumed control and the Malaysians survived two close calls within five minutes. A wily glanced header by tall stopper Sergei Makeyev whistled past the goal with Bin Idris beaten all ends up. Then a pile drive by left full-back Sergei Gribov screamed over the crossbar with the Malaysian custodian struggling to get back to his position.

A fine move involving three men saw Sovietov getting the lead 31 minutes into the second half to seal the fate of the match. Right-back Alexander Tsygankov won a ball to give his fellow back on the left side and Gribov floated in a neat cross which caught Bin Idris napping and Philippov did the needful with a gentle nod 2-1.

TEAMS:

KRYLIA SOVETOV (Russia): Viktor Gadus, Alexander Tsygankov, Sergei Makeyev, Valerje Toumakine, Sergei Gribov, Sergei Maroushko.



Action in front of the Malaysian goal. The Malaysian Olympic team went down fighting 1-2 against Krylia Sovetov of Russia in the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

—Star photo

Khairuddin Bin Idris, the Malaysian custodian, was almost chilled halfway through the first half when Dimitri Ivanov tried a clever swerving flick off a corner but the Malaysian custodian was restored to life as the ball missed the mark much too narrowly. On another occasion Idris was caught off his guard by a cross from the right.

Neither side concentrated on wing play, thus narrowing the width and the skill-starved spectators were cheated off by the proceedings on the field.

midfield which drew the goalkeeper out of his position and Sanbagarnan nodded the ball sensibly over a tall Gadus to restore parity (1-1).

The goal blissfully turned the match into a ding-dong affair with both sides showing a heartwarming flair for aggression. In this session the Malaysians had the better of exchanges but all their activities were cut short by their relative want in inches.

Krylia Sovetov, who were at the receiving end for the earlier part of the second half,

Diner Sharipov, Ravil Valiev, Evgeni Harlatchev, Vladimir Philippov and Dimitri Ivanov.

MALAYSIAN OLYMPIC TEAM: Khairuddin Bin Idris, Assroff Bin Md Hanafiah, V Thina-garan, Ghazali B Ismail, Wong Kok Sun, Yap Wai Loon, Azaruddin B Aziz, Paul Ray, Farizuan B Che Hamid and Sanbagarnan.

Referee R Alam

TODAY'S MATCHES

Romania vs South Korea (4:00 pm)

Bangladesh Green vs Czechoslovakia (6:00 pm)

Germans to meet Spaniards in Hopman Cup final

PERTH, Jan 7: Michael Stich unleashed a barrage of aces Thursday night, defeating Guy Forget in a three-set thriller and leading top-seeded Germany to victory over France in the semifinals of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

Stich hammered down 31 aces to one in beating Forget 6-2, 6-7 (1-7), 7-6 (7-2) to give Germany an unbeatable 2-0 lead and a place in Friday's final against Spain.

Steffi Graf earlier downed Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-4 in the opening women's singles.

Stich, fresh from his win in the Grand Slam Cup, served a remarkable seven straight aces

and a service winner in his final two service games of the first set.

He also served four straight aces when he was 15-40 down in the fifth game of his final set.

"It's tough to serve better than I did today," Stich said. "I was very pleased."

The Frenchman actually broke Stich's serve for the first time in the 11th game of the third set, but his nerve failed him when he served for the match. Forget missed two crucial volleys and Stich broke back to force the decisive tiebreaker.

"I was in deep trouble," Stich admitted.

Forget went into the match with a 3-0 record over Stich on the ATP Tour but could not find a way halt his opponent's

relentless assault.

Graf played well against Tauziat, a player who never has beaten her.

The win took Graf just 60 minutes and the German served particularly well, winning 89 percent of points in which her first serve was successful.

Graf also hit 14 forehand winners, but made an uncharacteristic 26 unforced errors.

She ended the match with an exquisite topspin backhand cross court — a shot on which she has been working in recent weeks in preparation for the Australian Open.

"I served pretty good, but I didn't concentrate as well on her service games," Graf said.

The Germans will be aiming to win the Hopman Cup for the first time, while the brother-sister Spanish team of Emilio Sanchez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will attempt to repeat their victory over three years ago.

Sanchez Vicario won both her matches Wednesday night to lift Spain to a 2-1 victory over the Czech Republic in the other semifinal.

She beat Jana Novotna 6-3, 6-3 in the opening women's singles and then teamed with her brother to beat Petr Korda and Jana Novotna 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the decisive mixed doubles.

Korda had lifted the second-seeded Czech team back into contention with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Sanchez in the men's singles.

The third-seeded Spanish pair is aiming to become the first team to repeat as champion in the tournament.

The Pepsi-sponsored tournament is one of a number of lead-up events before the Australian Open and offers a first prize of US \$105,000.

It is played on the same synthetic Rebound Ace courts used for the Australian Open.



Germany's Steffi Graf in action in the women's singles semifinal match of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. Graf beat Nathalie Tauziat of France in straight sets.

Graf injured

PERTH, Jan 7: Steffi Graf twisted her right ankle during a meaningless mixed doubles match Thursday night at the Hopman Cup and faced an anxious 24 hours before the final of the annual team event, reported AP late Thursday night.

Miandad confident despite odds

BRISBANE, Jan 7: Pakistan cricket captain Javed Miandad is confident his side can win three games in a week to make the finals of the World Series Cup one-day series, similar to last year's World Cup, reports AP.

Fresh from their 33-run Test victory over New Zealand on Tuesday, Miandad's world champions must win all three remaining games, or at least win two and rely on other results to reach the finals.

Miandad was quick to remind his rivals of Pakistan's recovery to win the World Cup under now-retired captain Imran Khan.

"The situation is not dissimilar to when we were here last year," said Miandad. "If we want to go to the final we have to win all three games to secure a place."

The three Pakistan matches start against the West Indies at the Gabba on Saturday, with two matches against Australia in Melbourne on Tuesday and Sydney on Thursday.

Pakistan, which relies heavily on the pace of athletic front-line seamers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, openly admit their batting has been the disappointment of the tour, particularly in the middle order.

Younis and Akram destroyed New Zealand to win the one-off Test in Hamilton. The pair took five wickets each in dismissing New Zealand for 93.

Miandad said that while the win was heartening, his side cannot win on their efforts alone.

"Winning a Test match the way we did, fighting, will always make a difference," he said. "But our batsmen haven't been performing and we may have to consider some new players."

Pakistan may wait until Saturday to name their team for the match against the West Indies, team officials said.

Wessels rejected media criticism that South Africa won against a weak side and would find it hard against tougher opponents like Pakistan and Australia.

"We have beaten everyone, except England, since our return to international cricket," he said. "I think we are ready for Test matches and will take on anyone with confidence."

The 29-year-old Azharuddin said he was not concerned whether he lost the captaincy for the home series or not.

"I did not make myself the captain, the selectors did. If they choose to sack me, it's their prerogative. I would love playing as a batsman for my country."

Azharuddin blamed "bad batting" for the team's loss, but congratulated the South Africans for a superb all-round display.

"One must give credit to the South African bowlers, especially Allan Donald, who did a fine job through the tour."

"And their fielding was great. They saved at least 30 runs everytime they took the field."

Dalglish dream on verge of coming true

LONDON, Jan 7: Kenny Dalglish closed on Wembley again as Blackburn beat brave Cambridge 3-2 in the English League Cup on Wednesday to reach their first semifinal for more than 30 years, reports Reuter.

But it was marred by more worry over England Striker Alan Shearer, who limped off after just half an hour with a recurrence of a knee injury.

Dalglish played in four successive winning League Cup finals for Liverpool but it remains the only domestic trophy he has yet to win as a manager.

He must have thought his chance had gone once more when his team fell behind to a 49th minute Gary Clayton strike but goals from Mike Newell (60th and 88th) and Roy Wegerle (77th) transformed the tie.

Mick Heathcote headed a last minute consolation for the First Division visitors.

Crystal Palace shook off the disappointment of an F.A Cup defeat by Second Division Hartlepool to beat London neighbours Chelsea 3-1.

It is the first time Palace have reached a League Cup semifinal and they can thank rookies George Ndash and Grant Watts.

Handoko takes lead

BAGUIO, Philippines, Jan 7: Indonesian International Master Edhi Handoko beat Filipino national master Barlo Nadera on Wednesday to regain the lead after four rounds of the Asian Grandmaster chess tournament in this northern resort city, reports AFP.

Handoko was queenless since the middle game, but had the advantage of two rooks, a bishop, a knight and five pawns, and forced Nadera to resign in 44 moves of a French game.

Nadera had only three pawns, a queen and a knight when he gave up.

The defeat of Nadera came just after Grandmaster candidate Rogelio Antonio of the Philippines surrendered to top seeded International Master Lin Weiguo of China in 35 moves of an English game.

In another game International Master Liang Jirong of China avenged the humiliating defeat of countryman Grandmaster Ye Rouguang by beating the maverick Salor Sitangang of Indonesia in 26 moves of a Sicilian game.

It was Sitangang who beat Ye in their extended game late Tuesday.

With the victory Liang vaulted into the three way tie for the second position with Antonio and Filipino Grandmaster Eugene Torre at 2.5 points.

Torre drew his fourth round game with compatriot International Master Rogelio Barcelona with 34 move of a Sicilian game.

The English game between China's Grandmaster Ye and Indonesian Grandmaster Utup Adiandio ended in a draw after 32 moves.

Wessels' warning for England

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 7: South African victorious cricket captain Kepler Wessels predicted on Wednesday a tough time for England on their current tour of India, reports AFP.

"England will not find it easy," Wessels said after leading his team to a 1-0 win in the Test series against Mohammad Azharuddin's men.

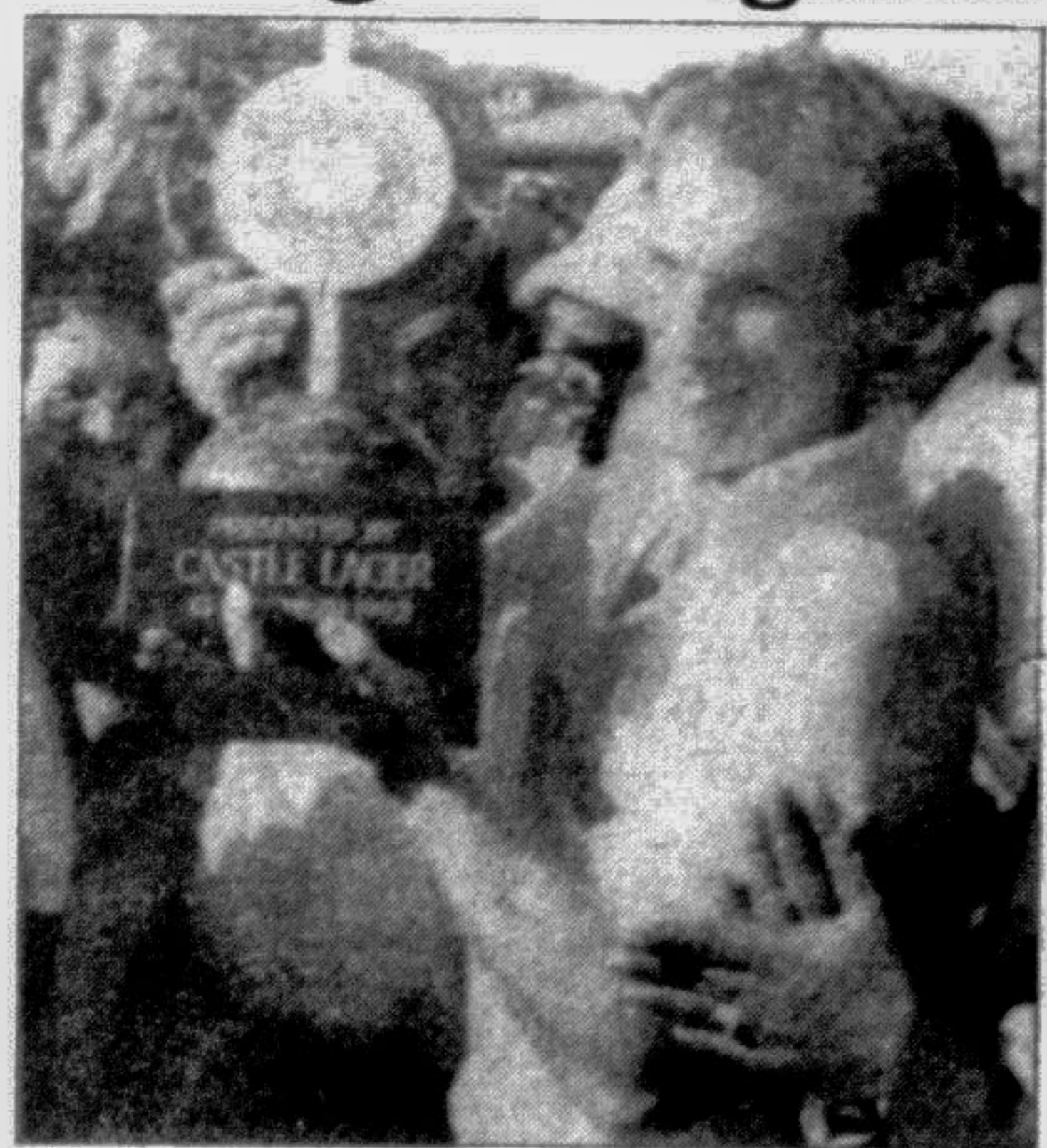
"Don't underestimate the Indians. They are a good side especially their bowling with the likes of Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar and Javagal Srinath.

"Their batting may not have come good here in South Africa, but on the slower wickets back home they will be a hard side to beat."

"I have read reports that it will be a walk-over for England in India. I don't think the Englishmen will find it all that easy," Wessels said.

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, under pressure to retain the job after the team's poor performance in South Africa, agreed with Wessels that England could struggle.

"It all depends on how you play on the field, not on what people say off it," Azharuddin said. "I predict a tough home series."



South African cricket captain Kepler Wessels holds the Friendship Trophy aloft after beating India 1-0 in the four-Test series which ended in Cape Town on Jan 6.

used to five-day cricket." "There is room for improvement in batting, but then most of them have only played five matches."

CRICKET CLIPPINGS

Third umpire fails test

CAPE TOWN, Jan 7: South African cricket chief Ali Bacher called on Wednesday to consider ways of developing the game and harmonising its regulations, reports Reuter.

Bacher, chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, made the suggestion after his team had completed a 1-0 series win over India by drawing the fourth Test.

"I think there is a requirement to have an international playing affairs committee, a sub-committee of the ICC (International Cricket Council), to meet two or three times a year," he said.

"The way cricket is going it should be considered — to have the cream of world cricket brains. They could tackle the problems and come up with recommendations for the ICC to consider."

He added that their brief would be "not to look at the laws, but to standardize things like bumpers per over and look at issues such as neutral umpires and the no ball law."

Bacher also said the experiment with television replays for close decisions had been a success and would stay.

But rotating the umpires, whereby three umpires shared the duties, had failed and would be scrapped.

"That concept does not have much support from the captains, the players or the umpires," said Bacher. "In this country we are going back to the previous procedure with two umpires on the pitch. Another will monitor the television all day."

Bacher's support for Gooch

CAPE TOWN, Jan 7: Leading cricket official Ali Bacher came out in favour of Graham Gooch on Wednesday in the dispute over the England captain's centuries, reports Reuter.

One of the 99 hundreds credited to Gooch may not count because it was scored during the 1982 rebel English tour of South Africa — a tour not recognised by the International Cricket Council.

But on Wednesday Bacher, chief executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said: "My understanding is that it is an ICC desire. Should that be pursued we will pursue it because it is illogical 10,11 years later to now say 'Right, it shouldn't be part of the record books.'"

Discounting Gooch's century may affect similar rebel tours involving Australian, West Indian and Sri Lankan players and lead to a re-writing of the record books, especially in South Africa.

Srikanth sounds hopeful

CALCUTTA, Jan 7: Former Indian skipper Krishnamachari Srikkanth is hoping to be recalled for his country's upcoming series against England, reports AFP.

"I have scored two centuries this season and have been in generally good nick," the opener said here Wednesday.

Asked about the poor performance of India during their South African tour, Srikkanth said, "It is not advisable for me to answer such questions as I reckon myself as one of the contenders for a slot."

South Africa won the four match Test series 1-0, and the one day series 5-2.

National selector Russi Jeejeebhoy said he expected a better performance by India during the England series beginning in this eastern city January 29.

"It's true that the boys have not played to expectations (in South Africa)," he said. "But the conditions at home may help them to come back to form."

Bruce Reid ruled out

SYDNEY, Jan 7: Australian fast bowler Bruce Reid said Thursday he will miss the rest of this cricket season's Test matches against the West Indies as well as a tour of New Zealand, reports AP.

Reid took seven wickets in the opening Test against the West Indies in Brisbane last month, but then suffered a shoulder injury. It eventually required surgery for a damaged tendon and Reid said he is making slow progress.

"It will be three weeks before I start bowling again," Reid said. That would place him out of the final two Tests against the West Indies in Adelaide beginning Jan 23 and in Perth, capital of his home state of Western Australia, on Jan 30.

Meanwhile Australian captain Allan Border said Thursday he hopes a one-day World Series Cup match against the West Indies in Brisbane on Sunday will freshen his team for the fourth Test in Adelaide.

Australia holds a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series, along with two draws.

"Going from one form of cricket straight into another is tough but later in the season not as difficult," said Border.

"I've played so many now the adjustment isn't quite so critical for me. I'm looking forward to recharging the batteries with this style of cricket."

The West Indians face a tougher conversion back to the one day scene by taking on Pakistan, also at the Gabba, on Saturday and then playing Australia on Sunday.

It serves 'em right

GENEVA, Jan 7: The North Korean women's gymnastics team have been banned from the 1993 World Championships because their association repeatedly falsified the age of a champion gymnast, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

FIG general secretary Norbert Bueche confirmed the ban from the 113 member world body's Swiss base in Moutier.



Bruce Reid