

Sport

Ploesti to play Polonia in final

Sports Reporter

FC Ploesti of Romania will play Polonia Warszawa of Poland in the final of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament on Saturday...

Having marched into the semis in a majestic fashion as the Group B champions, Ploesti resembled the Brazilians, the more illustrious users of this particular colour in their approach with short passes and sudden acceleration...

The Romanians won the energy-sapping, gruelling tie of 120 minutes as the better outfit although Krylia Sovetov exerted pressure on their opponents at the fag end of the match.

Sovetov, who entered the semis as Group A runners up, could have been one up as early as the fourth minute had the Ploesti defence been a little callous and flat-footed.

Big win for Bimá Sports Reporter

The newly-introduced position-deciding league comprising the four bottom finishers in the first leg of the Milnars First Division cricket began yesterday with Sadharan Bimá registering an emphatic six-wicket victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Put in to bat Eskaton made 204 runs losing five wickets in 44 overs, one short of the stipulated quota of 45.

Masud and Pappu scored 46 runs each while Biplab made 36 and Sohel 35 not out.

Litu and Halim Babu bagged two wickets each while Dear took one wicket.

Sadharan Bimá cruised past Eskaton's total making 210 in the 35th over.

Sanchay top-scored with 61, an innings inclusive of as many as eight hits to the fence. Towab made 52 including seven hits across the fence and one over it while Litu got 39.

Shahil, Mona (Jr) and Biplab took one wicket each for Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

There are no matches of the Milnars First Division super league or position-deciding league today.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Young Pegasus A and Shantinagar Club B won their respective matches of the Second Division cricket league at two city venues yesterday.

Young Pegasus B registered an exciting three-run victory over Cantonian Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Batting first Young Pegasus B made 199 for the loss of 35 overs with Shahid topscoring with 55 while Shipon and Delta scored 26 runs each.

Ripon and Monwar claimed three wickets each for Cantonians.

In reply, Cantonians, were all out for 196 in the final delivery of the match with Bulbul topscoring with 52 while Ripon, Dipu and Kamal scored 31, 28 and 22 respectively.

Suman claimed three wickets conceding 34 runs while Morshed and Shahnoor took two wickets apiece for Young Pegasus B.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Shantinagar Club B beat Lalbagh USC by 25 runs.

Batting first Shantinagar, made a massive 223 for the loss of four wickets with wicketkeeper Atif remaining unbeaten on 51 while Nehal, Raja, Sujon and Tuhin (Sr) scored 43, 38, 34 and 33 runs respectively.

Moti, the Lalbagh skipper, bagged two wickets for 51.

In reply, Lalbagh could manage just 158 runs for their quota of 35 overs with four wickets to spare.

Azad top-scored with 63 while Kabir made 46 runs for Lalbagh.

Milon took two wickets while Tuhin and Tuhin shared two wickets between them.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Azad SC vs Western Club (DCS)

Kakrail Boys Club vs United Heroes (DCO)

Short wins Game 3

EL ESCORIAL, Spain, Jan 14: English Grandmaster Nigel Short defeated Dutchman Jan Timman in the third game of their chess championship candidates final match Wednesday, equalising at 1.5-1.5 in the 14 game series, reports AFP.

Timman, playing white, resigned after 44 moves.

The winner of the series will take on champion Gary Kasparov for the world title.

The fourth game will start on Friday.

Marian Grama raced down the right flank to unleash a powerful shot but Gaus collected the shot in his second attempt.

After the stipulated 90 minutes the extended session of 30 minutes began with Krylia Sovetov of Russia pressing hard for a breakthrough. In the second half of extra time Vladimir Filipov, the rangy striker of Sovetov, nodded a lovely cross by Dimitri Ivanov from the right towards the Ploesti goal but Iulian Cadar, the Ploesti custodian leaped up to tip the ball over for a corner as the ball goal bound header dipped perilously.

The match-winner came three minutes before the final whistle when Stefan Matei, the hardworking Ploesti mid-

deciding match between losing semifinalists Krylia Sovetov of Russia and Housing Bank of South Korea, scheduled for today, will now be played at 1:00 pm on Saturday, before the final scheduled to start at 4, according to a UNB report.

Yellow cards: Nicolas Rusa, Valeriu Rachita and Stefan Matei (FC Ploesti), and Sergel Maroushko (Krylia Sovetov).

Tickets worth Tk 43,360 were sold in the second semifinal yesterday, raising the tournament's total sale to Tk 12,83,640.

FC PLOESTI (Romania): Cadar Iulian, Popa Daniel, Pitulice Sandu, Ruse Nicolae, Mocuana Rujorel (Negoti Valentin), Rachita Valeriu, Grigore Octavian, Matei Stefan, Simion Florin, Gama Marian and Pura Ciprian (Catinca Marcel).

KRYLIA SOVETOV (Russia): Victor Gaus, Alexandr Tyganikov, Serguei Makeev (Vasilii Jupikov), Serguei Grivov, Vieri Youmakine, Serguei Mroushko, Vladimir Filipov, Diner Sharipov, Dimitri Ivanov, Vyatcheslav Fomine and Evgeni Haralachev (Roustyam Farouidov). Referee: Choi Chang Seon (South Korea).

Maradona gets call for nat'l duty

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 14: Diego Maradona has been recalled by Argentina for a friendly against arch-rivals Brazil next month, reports Reuter.

Former captain Maradona, now 32, last played for his country, in the 1990 World Cup final.

During the time in between he served a 15 month ban for doping, making his comeback at Sevilla last September following a transfer from Napoli.

National coach Alfio Basile named eight other foreign based players for the match in Buenos Aires on February 18.

Basile, whose side are undefeated in 23 matches since the last World Cup, said the nine exiles would arrive three days before the game.

It would be disrespectful to bring out those nine players to practise here while their teams are in full activity, is rather have them playing in their own clubs, since that's the best training they can get, he said.

Maradona has won more than 50 caps in an international career spanning three World Cups, leading Argentina to their second triumph in Mexico in 1986.

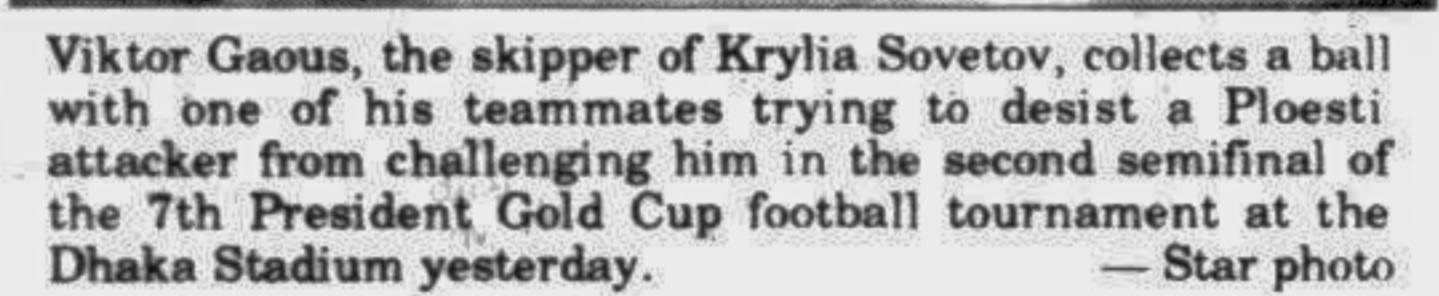
The European exile include strikers Claudio Caniggia of Roman and Gabriel Batistuta of Fiorentina, midfielders Fernando Redondo of Tenerife, Diego Simeone of Sevilla, Dario Franco of Zaragoza and Leonardo Rodriguez of Atalanta.

Defender Oscar Ruggeri, captain since the 1990 World Cup and now with Mexican club America, and goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea of Paraguay's Olympia were also picked.

Basile said he did not know whether Spain-based players Maradona, Simeone, Redondo and Franco would also be available to play against Denmark in Buenos Aires six days later in an official clash between the South American and European champions.

TIE RESCHEDULED

Meanwhile, the third place



Viktor Gaus, the skipper of Krylia Sovetov, collects a ball with one of his teammates trying to desist a Ploesti attacker from challenging him in the second semifinal of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo.

2-5-3 system — two attackers, five medias and three defenders. A libero, so typical of the modern 'total football' concept, was employed by the European semifinalists yesterday and Valeriu Rachita who played this role very well for the Romanians set Marian Grama with a lovely long ball midway through the first half but the latter blasted the ball over.

In a rather scrappy second half filled with the grunts and groans of the two teams rather than the claps and gasps of the very sparse crowd, the Romanians created a fine opening early in the second half. Simion Florin, so far the top scorer of this meet with three goals to his credit, latched on to a midfield through but Viktor Gaus came out in time to avert the danger.

fielder who engineered a majority of the moves with his delectable distribution, chipped the ball from a freekick from the right and substitute Valentin Negoti, besieged by the Russian defenders, rose in time to back head the ball into the net much to the consternation of Viktor Gaus who later, in a desperate bid to hasten his side's equalising attempts, virtually stationed himself in the midfield (1-0).

With only three minutes left the Russians moved all their men up in a valiant but fruitless last ditch attempt to restore parity but Dimitri Ivanov boasted a square from Sergel Maroushko to signal the end of their quest.

Meanwhile, the third place

Volleyball leagues from today

Sports Reporter

The 1992-93 Dhaka Metropolitan NBL First Division and Second Division volleyball leagues simultaneously begins this afternoon at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

Two matches of the First Division league are scheduled for the inaugural day. Titus Club take on Madartek Club while Bangladesh Rifles clash with East End Boys at 3.30 pm.

One match of the Second Division league between Jiban Bima Krira Sangatha and Srjoni Sangsad will be held at 4.30 pm.

Seven teams in two groups are playing in the First Division league with the top two teams from each group moving into the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the qualifying round of the 1993 Rahima Food national youth volleyball championship will be held from February 7 to 12 at different venues across the country.

Interested district sports associations and education boards have been asked to send their entries to the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation by January 31.

BSJA-DUTA cricket today

A friendly cricket match between the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA) and the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held at the Jagannath Hall ground today, reports BSS.

Cricketers of both the teams have been requested to be present at the ground at 9.30 am.

The players of the BSJA are: Masud Ahmed Rumi, Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Rouful Hasan, Manzurul Hoque, Ajay Barua, Shaful Karim, Kashinath Basak, Partha Tanvir Nayud, Kamalur Rahman, S M Mamun, Mostafizur Rahman Mamun, Dilu Khondakar, Mujtaba Danish, Mahfuzur Rahman, Malik Al-imran, Anisul Haq Moni, Motahar Hossain Masum, Humayun Kabir, D P Nayan, Luthfur Rahman Badal and Nasumul Kabir.

Chess results

Sports Reporter

Afroza Khanam Babli, Zakia Sultana and Syeda Afsana Parveen Nira with full three points led the table of the qualifying meet for the forthcoming 14th national women's chess championship at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Masuda Begum, Selina Banu Tuhin and Jebunessa Rina have earned two points each.

Meanwhile, defending champion Shawkat Hossain Pallab and Javed Hossain with full three points jointly shared the lead in the 13th national sub-junior chess championship.

Those who have collected two and a half points each are Hossain Arif, Nazrul Islam, Tipu Sultan, Abu Sufian, Abdullah Al Rakib and Saiful Kabir.

Jabbar tennis

Sports Reporter

The eight-day 1993 M A Jabbar memorial tennis championships will be held from February 12 to 19 at the Dhaka Engineers' Club tennis courts under the auspices of the Engineers' Club, says a press release.

Eight events will be staged during the meet. Interested players have been asked to contact the club by February 9.

Basten, Stoichkov in running for world's best booter

LISBON, Jan 14: Dutchman Marco van Basten, already European player-of-1992, Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria and Germany's Thomas Haessler are the three candidates for the World Footballer-of-the-year award, reports Reuter.

The three gained most votes in a poll of 70 national team coaches, FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said on Wednesday.

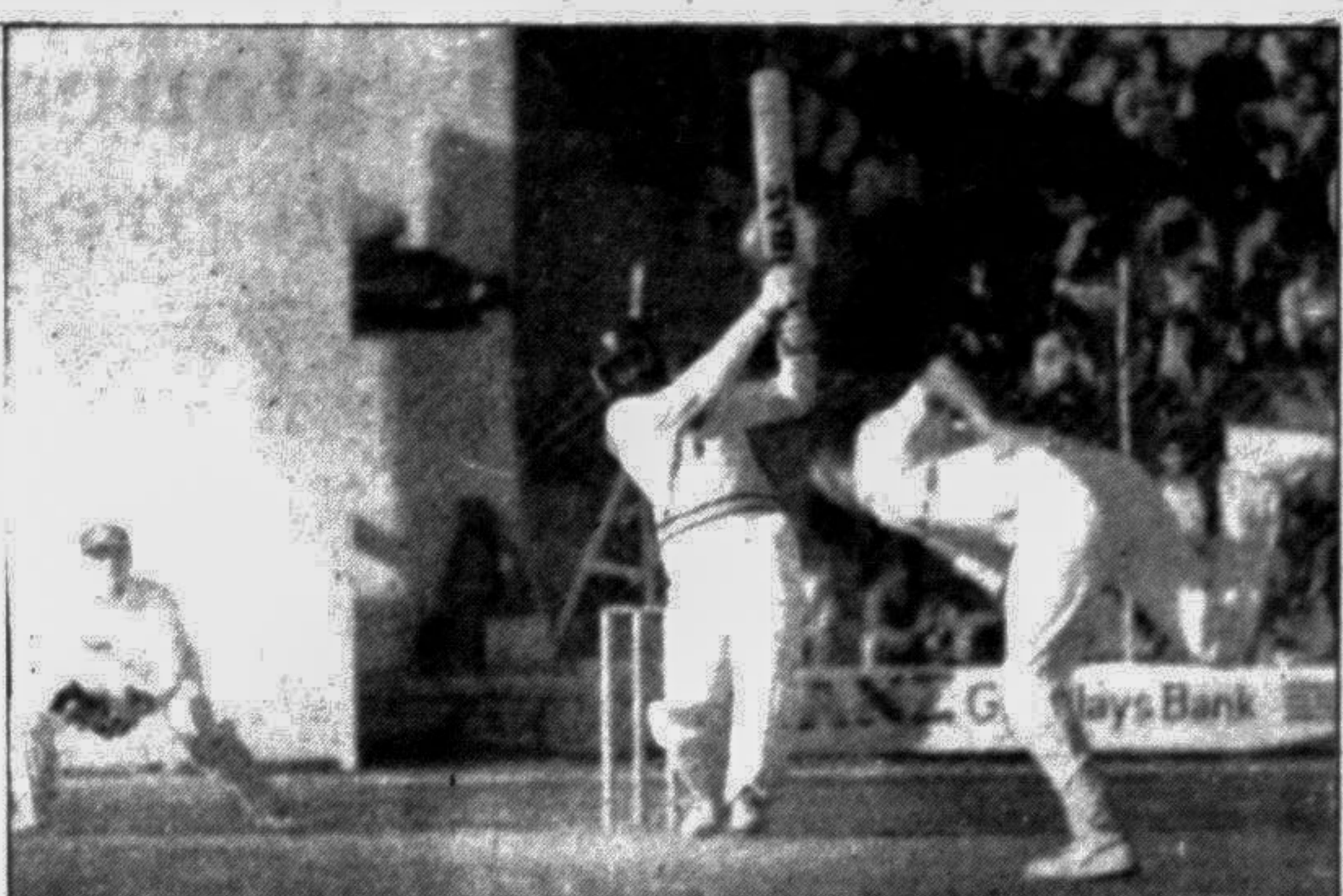
The victor will be named at a ceremony in Estoril outside Lisbon on February 1.

Lothar Mathaeus won in 1990 after leading Germany to victory in the World Cup. There was no award in 1991.

Yeltsin accepts IOC honour

MOSCOW, Jan 14: President Boris Yeltsin accepted an honorary gold medal from the head of the Olympic movement on Wednesday and pledged that Russia would fight to keep its place in the top ranks of world sport, reports Reuter.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, presented Yeltsin with the Gold Olympic Order at a ceremony in the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.



Indian Board President's XI opener Navjot Singh Sidhu during his match-winning innings of 130 not out against England in New Delhi on Jan 13. The home team won by nine wickets. — AFP photo

Aussies complete Pak rout

SYDNEY, Jan 14: Australia completed an ideal warm-up for the World Series Cup one-day cricket finals with another comfortable victory against Pakistan here Thursday, reports AFP.

Australia cruised to a 23-run win to inflict the sixth successive one-day loss on Pakistan and end a miserable series for the world champions.

The match had no bearing on the best-of-three match finals beginning here Saturday, as Australia and the West Indies had already qualified.

Pakistan faced a stiff target after the home side batted first and thrashed 260 for eight off its 50 overs before a crowd of over 35,000.

The tourists' run-chase began poorly after all-rounder Tony Dodemaide started Amir Sohail for seven and Salim Malik for six, leaving Pakistan at 46 for two after 14 overs.

A promising 84-partnership for the third wicket between captain Javed Miandad (41) and opener Rameez Raja (67) gave Pakistan an outside chance of victory.

But after the loss of Raja, Miandad fell soon after to a brilliant catch by Mark Waugh at cover off the slow left arm bowling of Australian captain Allan Border.

A middle-order surge from Inzamam-ul-Haq and Asif Mujtaba kept Pakistan's faint victory hopes alive before Inzamam was bowled by paceman Craig McDermott for an aggressive 40, including one huge six, leaving the victors at 205 for six.

Asif Mujtaba remained unbeaten on 47 and paceman Waqar Younis on 11.

Off-spinner Greg Matthews and medium-pace Dodemaide finished with two wickets each.

Earlier, Steve Waugh top-scored for Australia with 64 from 65 balls while Mark Taylor made 58 and fellow opener David Boon an even half century.

It was the best opening partnership of the 12 preliminary games and signalled a return to form for the Australian vice-captain Taylor, who notched up his 1,000th run in

limited overs international when he reached 47.

Neither batsman was troubled as Wasim Akram bowled at well below full pace off a short run and Waqar Younis struggled for line and length.

Mark Waugh joined brother Steve and moved to 11 before he ran himself out yet again, this time backing up too far in the hope of a second run to Saeed.

Did not bat: C McDermott

Bowling: O M R W Wasim Akram 10 0 39 0 Aaqib Javed 9 0 52 0 Waqar Younis 9 1 55 3 Mushtaq Ahmed 10 0 39 1 Asif Mujtaba 9 0 47 2 Amir Sohail 3 0 17 0

PAKISTAN: Amir Sohail b Dodemaide 7 Salim Malik c Healy b Dodemaide 6 Rameez Raja c Border b Matthews 67 Javed Miandad c M Waugh b Border 41 Inzamamul Haq b McDermott 40 Wasim Akram b Matthews 0 Asif Mujtaba not out 47 Waqar Younis not out 18 Extras: (b-1; lb-6; w-4) 11 Total: (six wickets, 50 overs) 237

Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-46; 3-130; 4-132; 5-133; 6-204

Did not bat: Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aaqib Javed

Bowling: O M R W McDermott 9 3 27 1 Dodemaide 8 2 30 2 Raficif 10 0 53 0 S Waugh 5 0 26 0 Matthews 10 0 54 2 Border 8 0 40 1

Results: Australia won by 23 runs

STANDINGS Standings in the World Series Cup limited-overs cricket competition after Thursday's final preliminary match (tabulate under matches played, won, lost, tied or no result, points):

Australia 8 5 2 1 11 West Indies 8 5 3 0 10 Pakistan 8 1 6 1 3

(Qualify for finals series) Best-of-three final series: Saturday, Jan. 16 Australia vs West Indies at Sydney, day-night

Monday, Jan. 18 Australia vs West Indies at Melbourne, day-night

Wednesday, Jan. 20 (if necessary) Australia vs West Indies at Melbourne, day-night

A busy year for Shri Lankans

COLOMBO, Jan 14: International cricket, swelling as rapidly as a river in a monsoon, has a fresh dimension to its expanding schedule in 1993, reports Reuter.

Ambitious Shri Lanka are hosting a record 10 Tests — their busiest year at home since they were granted Test status in 1981.

After a five-year spell without a visit from a Test-playing team, and buoyed by their recent international success, the Shri Lankans are aiming to make a significant impact at the highest level.

"If we had not reached our fullest potential in the last five years it was due to the inability to stage Test matches at home," said Somasunderam Skandakumar, former secretary of the Shri Lanka Cricket Board.

There is an obvious advantage playing at home and this was clearly demonstrated in last year's series against Australia and New Zealand.

England, currently touring India, arrive in the first week of March for a single Test and two one-day internationals.

They will be followed by India in June, South Africa in August and West Indies in November, each for a series of three Tests and three one-day internationals.

The months between June and August have traditionally been the period for international cricket only in England.

But Shri Lanka is seeking to make up for lost time. During a five-year stretch to August last year there were no Tests on

the island because of minority Tamil unrest. Test sides were reluctant to come, even though Colombo was keen to host them.

It was a Tamil rebel blast in April 1987, killing more than 100 civilians at the city's main bus station, that forced a visiting New Zealand side to cut short their tour.

However, the arrival of New Zealand Cricket chairman Peter McDermott saved the tour from being cancelled.

It went ahead with a revised itinerary but a depleted New Zealand team — some key players went home and their replacements were largely inexperienced — were no match for a full-strength Shri Lanka.

Led by Arjuna Ranatunga, Shri Lanka won the two-Test series 1-0 and took the one-day series 2-0.

Former administrator and cricket captain Michael Tissera said Shri Lanka's real test would come when they played away.

"Against Australia and New Zealand, Shri Lanka showed they were no longer afraid of the big names in cricket and that they have the ability to win Test matches by starting to believe in themselves," said Tissera, who captained Shri Lanka in the mid-1960s and was later vice-president of the national cricket board and chairman of its selection committee.

"We have suffered marginal losses due to poor attendance. But we are not unduly worried because all the matches are covered by sponsors who demand live coverage of matches to push their products," Board treasurer Lal Wickrematunga said.

Three months later Martin Crowe's New Zealanders almost returned home soon after arriving when a bomb blast involving Tamil Tiger guerrillas in front of their hotel left five dead, including the island's naval chief.



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

During the next five years Shri Lanka had to depend on Test tours abroad.

The isolation ended last August with the arrival of Allan Border's Australians. Shri Lanka nearly celebrated it on a winning note, losing the first Test by 18 runs after dominating the match for 4-1/2 days.

The other two Tests ended in draws while Shri Lanka took the one-day series 2-1.

Three months later Martin Crowe's New Zealanders almost returned home soon after arriving when a bomb blast involving Tamil Tiger guerrillas in front of their hotel left five dead, including the island's naval chief.