

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Ajak Sports Club registered an easy 78-run victory over Kakrail Boys Club in the only match of the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Batting first Ajax made 205 runs for the loss of four wickets in the allotted 35 overs.

Montu topscored with 37 and skipper Alamgir and Babu remained unbeaten on 35 and 23 respectively.

Mehdi took two wickets for 23 while Shafiq and Nobel got one wicket each.

Kakrail Boys Club were skittled out for 127 in 31.3 overs with Sachchu, Shafiq, Pappu and skipper Franko scoring 23, 22, 17 and 16 respectively.

Rojel and Shokh bagged two wickets each while Liton, Babu, Tarik and Rafiq got one apiece.

Price's luck

GOLD COAST, Australia, Jan 22: US PGA champion Nick Price of Zimbabwe will replace Welshman Ian Woosnam in a golf Skins match at Sanctuary Cove Feb 13-14, officials said Friday, reports AP.

The three other golfers in the event are Australians Greg Norman, Ian Baker-Finch and Craig Parry. Woosnam pulled out of the Skins match due to a schedule conflict, his management group said Thursday.



Graeme Hick, so far the most consistent English batsmen on their tour of India, plays forward to a ball in the second one-day international in Chandigarh on Thursday. Hick topscored with 57 but India beat England soundly to even the score at 1-1. — Star TV photo

Korea Open results

SEOUL, Jan 22: Denmark's Thomas Lauridsen, Barcelona Olympic bronze medalist, beat Alan Budi Kusuma of Indonesia, who won the gold, in a men's singles semifinal at the 110,000 dollar Korea Open badminton championships here today, reports AFP.

The set scores were 15-10, 15-13.

Lauridsen, seeded 9th, faces the second-seeded Joko Suprianto of Indonesia in the final Saturday.

Swedish colour at Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Jan 22: They descend on Melbourne every January, Garish figures with painted faces shouting incomprehensible slogans, reports AP.

The Swedish fans, hundreds of them, are one of the trademarks of the Australian Open tennis championships.

It's freezing at home and the soccer season is in recess, so the young Swedes opt to mix a holiday in the Down Under summer sun with the chance to cheer on their compatriots.

With faces painted in their blue-and-yellow national colours, the Swedish hordes carouse and sing loud songs in their native language.

Many wear Viking horn hats. Others go around without shirts and swirl cheap wine from plastic bladders.

ITTF boss wants it faster, popular

TOKYO, Jan 22: The president of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) today called on players and officials world-wide to make the game faster and more popular, reports Reuter.

Ichiro Ogimura said he and two other top executives of the sport's governing body would present a resolution at its general meeting in Sweden in May, asking the 160 member associations to do a two-year study of how to make rallies longer.

"We would like to make matches faster and the sport more popular. One study shows that the sport will develop further and get more television coverage if rallies last longer," he said.

He said he wanted to see rallies in each point go to six or seven shots from the current average of four by revising rules and the match format.

This could be encouraged by switching serve at each point rather than every five points, ruling that all serves must be made in front of the body and by changing the raw materials from which bats are made to make serves slower.

One option is to cut the number of points needed to win a game to 11 from the current 21.

This has been tried out in several countries, including Japan and Yugoslavia, in domestic competitions.

"We should do experiments first. If there is mutual consent, it will be okay to change rules and format," Ogimura said.

"The time has come for Japan to take the leadership in revising rules."

He said the current 21-point format would remain for the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden from May 11 to 23.

Y'slavia fail to convince IAAF

JAKARTA, Jan 22: The world governing body of track and field Friday, rejected a Yugoslavian request that a ban be lifted on its athletes participation in international competitions, reports AP.

Istvan Gyulai, general secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, said the suspension would continue until UN sanctions against Yugoslavia are lifted.

"The IAAF decision was to follow the United Nations resolution, so as soon as the United Nations lifts its measures taken against Yugoslavia, the IAAF will follow," he said.

The sanctions were imposed in response to fighting that broke out in March after Muslims and Croats declared independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. About 18,000 people have been killed, and probably many more, since Serbs took up arms to crush the separatists.

The federation began a three-day council meeting here earlier Friday.

In response to a Russian request for clarification of the citizenships of former Soviet athletes, Gyulai said the council had decided that the passports of the athletes would decide their nationalities.

Gyulai said, however, that the federation will accept athletes preferences if they hold two passports.

The Russian request resulted from disputes over which countries former Soviet athletes should represent, he said.

Stoltenberg gives Stich a scare



MELBOURNE, Jan 22: Michael Stich squirmed his way through another five-setter as he dived with a lowly-ranked Australian wild card before reaching the round of 16 at the Australian Tennis Open here Friday, report agencies.

Just two days after enduring a five-set second round match with Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, 14th seeded Stich coked out a 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-0), 4-6, 6-1 victory over 161-ranked Jason Stoltenberg.

While Stoltenberg, granted direct entry into the draw at the discretion of the organizers, failed in his bid, two qualifiers pushed on into the seeded round.

Americans Chris Garner and Kelly Jones upset fancied compatriots while American Zina Garrison-Jackson was Friday's only seeded casualty falling in straight sets to France's Julie Halard.

"I played pretty bad today," conceded Stich. "But I'm still in, I am in the round of 16, but if I keep going like that, I will be focussed on the match and a couple of other things."

"I should have won in three sets. I was up in the first set 5-4 and then I choked a bit and lost. I was just terrible."

Defending champions Jim Courier and Monica Seles turned up the heat Friday, continuing their dream runs with straight-sets third-round victories.

American Courier was too strong for bespectacled Frenchman Guillaume Raoux, winning 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the round of 16 as the on-court temperature climbed to 42° C (108° F).

"I'm hoping it gets hot," said Courier. "I'm from Florida. I'm used to the heat. It suits me."

Seles, who is looking for her third straight women's singles title, was even more dominant in trouncing veteran American baseliner Patty Fendick 6-1, 6-0 in just 47 minutes. The match had only 74 points, of which Seles won 52.

"I tried not to let her get too much into the match," Seles said with masterful understatement.

The Yugoslav player has made it at least to the final in the last seven Grand Slam tournaments she has contested, winning six.

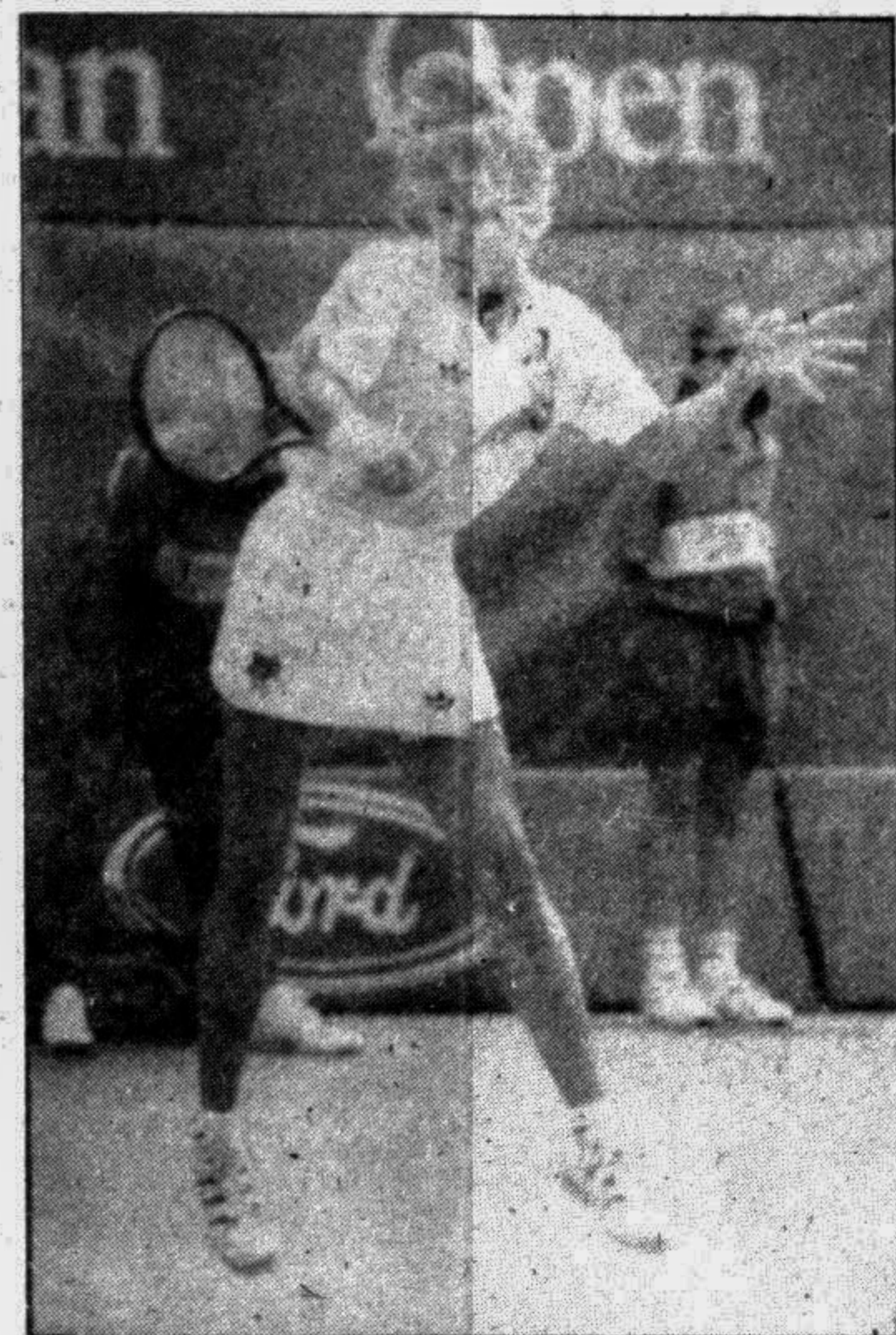
On the outside courts, Garner, a 220-ranked New Yorker, reached his first career Grand Slam round of 16 by putting out Todd Witsken, the conqueror of last year's semifinalist Richard Krajicek.

Garner edged out Witsken 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4 to set up a fourth round encounter with 7th seed Petr Korda, of the Czech republic.

Petr Korda, Guy Forget and Sergi Bruguera, three of the other leading European contenders, also won third-round men's singles matches.

Korda, the seventh-seeded left-hander from the Czech Republic, won a hard-fought struggle with Ukraine teenager Andrei Medvedev 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5). Korda kept his nerve best in a match that was error-filled but lasted two hours and 43 minutes.

He won when his final forehand crosscourt hit the net tape and dropped right on the



World number two Steffi Graf of Germany is airborne while returning a shot to Jennifer Santrock of the United States to round up the second-round match 6-1, 6-1 at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Jan 21. — AFP photo

sideline, giving Medvedev no chance to recover.



MICHAEL STICH

"Maybe that was the present for my birthday," said Korda, who turns 25 on Saturday.

"I played a bad match," said Medvedev. "I think I deserved to lose this match on a net cord. It was the right end. It was like a (Mike) Tyson punch. The end."

Korda is aiming to build on his performance of last year, when he reached the final of the French Open, losing to Courier. He served and volleyed with ferocity against the skilful Medvedev, but also hit 12 double faults.

Bruguera, the 15th seed from Spain, struggled past left-handed Dutchman Jan Siemerink 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 9-7.

Clay court specialist Bruguera has taken 14 sets to win his three matches.

"When you are playing tough

Slow serve suits Courier fine



MELBOURNE, Jan 22: Jim Courier doesn't care how hard his serve is. The world's top-ranked tennis player will settle for accuracy every time, reports AP.

Courier was only clocking in at around 170 kilometres per hour (106 miles per hour) as he swept to a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win Friday over Frenchman Guillaume Raoux in the third round of the Australian Open.

German Michael Stich, the hardest server in the tournament so far, has been timed at a fearsome 203 kilometres per hour (126 miles per hour).

"I think I can serve harder, but I was effective today, which is what I set out to do," Courier said after clinching a round-

16 meeting with Spanish baseliner Sergi Bruguera.

"I'm sitting here after three straight sets. Whether I hit at 200 or 160, so long as my placement is good it is not really a concern of mine what the radar gun says.

"So long as my serve is effective, I couldn't care less how fast it is going."

"I think it's stupid. I think it creates a thing where you say, 'Gee, I hit that one at 200, let's see if I can hit this one at 202. What's the point?'"

Service speeds are flashed to spectators on the two show courts at the Australian Open — much to Courier's annoyance.

"I don't pay attention to it," he said. "Occasionally I will see it because they put it right in your face so you can't miss it."

matches like that you lose energy, but the wins also give you more confidence," he said.

Siemerink staved off three match points before Bruguera clinched the win and a meeting with Courier.

In contrast to the struggles of Korda and Bruguera, Frenchman Forget, the 11th seed, cruised by Australian Jamie Morgan 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in just one hour 29 minutes. Forget advanced to the final 16 of the Open for only the third time in nine attempts.

The smooth-swinging left-hander jumped to a 3-0 lead and was always in command against Morgan, a promising player who had lost in the first round in all four of his previous Australian Open appearances.

Forget mixed power with touch, clinching his first service break in the second set with a delicate lob.

Forget, who has not yet dropped a set in the tournament, plays American Kelly Jones, a qualifier who surprisingly eliminated countryman David Wheaton 0-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

French players Mary Pierce, Nathalie Tauziat and Julie Halard all progressed to the final 16 of the women's draw.

Pierce, seeded 10th, dismissed American high school student Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-0, while Tauziat, the No. 13 seed, advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Nanne Dahlman of Finland.

Halard surprised No. 16 seed Zina Garrison-Jackson of the United States 6-4, 7-5.

Tauziat, who next plays Seles, lodged a complaint about the world No. 1's grunting during last year's Wimbledon tournament.

"If it disturbs me again I will complain. If it doesn't, I won't," Tauziat said.

Another French player, Isabelle Demongeot, was beaten 6-1, 6-2 by Australian Nicole Pietrangeli, a former French Open semifinalist.

No. 6 seed Conchita Martinez struggled by Miriam Oremans of The Netherlands 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, while Puerto Rican-born Gigi Fernandez won after a tough struggle against fellow unseeded American Robin White.

Fernandez advanced 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 7-5, to equal her previous best run in the tournament.

The tournament offers prizemoney of US \$4.82 million and continues through Jan 31.

Azhar heaves a sigh of relief



CIANDIGARH, India, Jan 22: Relieved Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin hopes his critics will shut up after Thursday's five-wicket win over England, which dispelled the gloom cast by a disastrous South African tour, reports AP.

"It is a good feeling to be back on the winning," Azharuddin said after contributing a stylish 36 with the bat to take India past the 199-run target in the second one-day international.

"Our performance has proved many people wrong. It was a team effort and this win has boosted the morale of the side immensely."

His captaincy has been on the line after a 2-5 defeat in the one-day internationals and a 1-0 loss in the Tests inflicted by South Africa where his own batting form fell apart.

England won the first one-day match Monday by four wickets in Jaipur, and Azharuddin did not help his cause as a batsman or as a captain by struggling to score just six.



M AZHARUDDIN

tion by restricting the tourists to a modest total. Batting with new-found confidence, the Indians cruised past the target.

Fairbrother — a fair weatherman?



CHANDIGARH, India, Jan 22: "Very good at the down market stuff but not capable of producing a classic."

That's the refrain from cricket purists on Neil Fairbrother, England's premier limited-overs batsman, reports Reuter.

When it comes to the ultimate challenge of Test cricket, he is seen as an also-ran and the 29-year-old's plight has become evident once more on England's tour of India.

On Monday, against the odds, Fairbrother helped win the first one-day international at Jaipur with a swift and sparkling 46 not out.

But on Thursday, when England's early failures meant he had to build an innings rather than go for runs immediately, he made just seven.

When the crowd had drifted away and the television crews packed up to head for the first Test in Calcutta on January 29 Fairbrother knew it was time to step back from the spotlight and into the shadows.

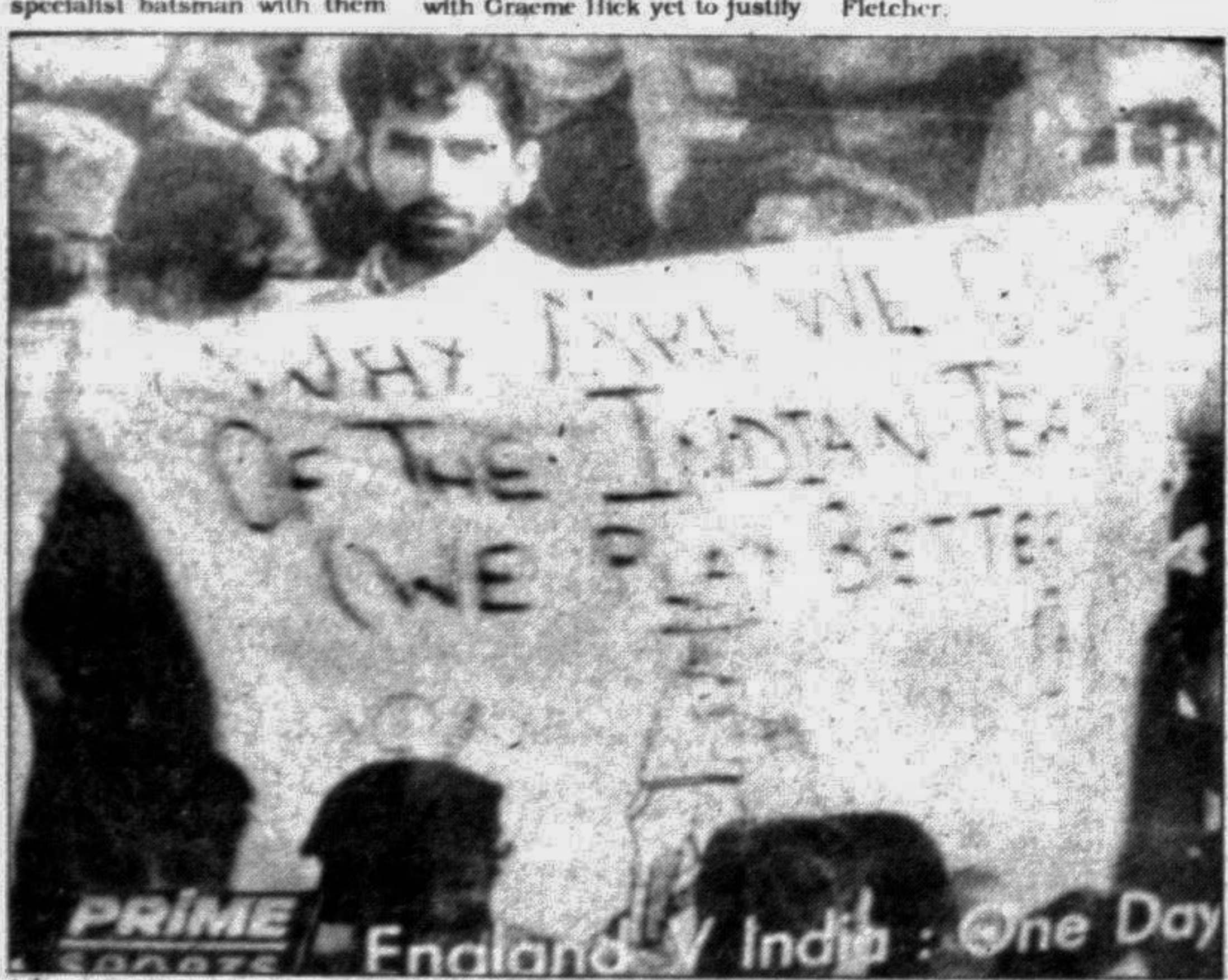
For England have seven specialist batsmen with them



NEIL FAIRBROTHER

ity. In 30 internationals he has scored close to 1,000 runs at an average of more than 40 — phenomenal for a player who usually bats five.

In seven Tests he has scored 64 runs at an average of eight. This tour represented a chance of a recall especially with Graeme Hick yet to justify



A spectator with a lot of resemblance to excluded Indian cricketer Chetan Sharma poses with a written jibe at the Indian cricket team during the second one-day international between India and England in Chandigarh on Thursday. — Star TV photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Seat of emotions 6 Rum cocktail 12 Gomer Pyle, e.g. 13 Start a paragraph 14 Takes to the soapbox 15 Down Under creatures 16 Between jobs 17 Exceeded 55 19 Starlet's problem? 20 Mast 22 What to do at Joe's 24 Earn an Oscar, maybe 27 Khan et al. 29 Turned green? 32 Legendary child star 35 Pocket bread 36 Will be (Sp.) 37 Polar employee 38 Wobblers' org. University 18 Orisons 3 Locations 4 "My — and Only" 5 "While you were out" slips 6 Piece of sound equipment 7 Battery terminal 8 Mrs. Eddie Cantor 9 News-room machine 10 Bit of wordplay (abbr.) 11 "Wishing makes —" 12 Parisian pronoun

Solution time: 24 mins. JAM CLEW BLAH OBT HOYA ROME TAKEOVER ONYX STEPPER ROW OPS ARNESS JUICY ONE MOT ETCR RUT TIDY TAE GAT RELAX SHROUD JIM USA OPPOSE GIFT MAKEOVER AVER EDEN AMS SYNE SASS LIT

CROSSWORD grid with numbers 1-31 and some letters filled in.

CRYPTOQUIP KVQW UVQ BWAQHZI CN- IVQFUNB THBJQG B KNCWA WCUQ, UVQ ANCMIVJ ICW- GMIUCN FUBNUQG VBNTZWA. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LUCKILY, I FOUND A CURE FOR BALDNESS, BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT. Today's Cryptoquip clue: I equals C The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.