

Getting delays Indian celebrations

Afzal H Khan

From Eden Gardens, Calcutta



CALCUTTA, Feb 1: A classy 81 from Mike Gatting and a stubborn rearguard action by ninth-wicket pair Ian Salisbury and Paul Taylor postponed India's inevitable victory in the first cricket Test against England at the Eden Gardens here.

Defeat with a day to spare which had looked to be England's fate at the start of the fourth day has now been delayed until the fifth and final day with India, set a modest target of 79 to go one up in the three-match series, needing to return tomorrow morning to complete the formalities by knocking off the remaining 43 runs. That would put the seal on a truly deserving win, their first at the Eden Gardens since 1974-75 when the West Indians under Clive Lloyd lost to Mansur Ali Khan's team by 85 runs.

England's last defeat at the hands of India was at Headingley when Kapil Dev's boys beat them by a massive 279-run margin in 1986.

The return of Test cricket to Calcutta, which has proved to be such a favourable venue for Azharuddin, after a gap of five years has also given a much-needed boost not only to the Indian morale but also to the sagging fortunes of Azharuddin as India's captain. This is his 18th Test and touch wood it's going to be his only second win after seven defeats and nine draws. Not since Chandigarh against Sri Lanka in 1990 has Azharuddin had so much cause to savour and celebrate.

Indeed this match will go down as Azhar's match. His magnificent 182 in India's otherwise not-so-impressive total of 371 in the first innings will not only have etched itself indelibly in the minds of all those who were privileged to see it, it will have had a profound impact on Azhar's persona and his prospects with the Indian team in the immediate future. Very rarely has a captain had to dig so deep into his reserve of talent and character to save his reputation and his job. And Azhar did just that, with such élan.

There was none of the devil the pundits had predicted in the wicket today, or yesterday for that matter. Batting looked a much easier and safer task compared to the threat posed by the trio of Indian spinners in the afternoon of the second day. The Englishmen possibly gave away the initiative then by allowing themselves to be reduced to a pathetic 88 for five. From then everything followed — quite unlike cricket, though — in logical progression. Their lower order batsmen, no matter how hard they tried, found it beyond their limited abilities to ward off the immediate danger of a follow-on.

Yet, despite the wicket casting off and India's youthful spinners Raju, Kumble and Chauhan — the latter looking to be the best on view — tired or tiring, the English batting once again exposed its lack of skill against sustained spin. Just to highlight the sense of fear in the English camp, not one of their batsmen managed to give a catch to any of the Indian outfielders. Without saying that holding out in the outfield is an honourable way of dismissal it must be underlined that the England batsmen were so preoccupied with survival that none of them ventured — perhaps barring the exception of Chris Lewis and of course the more accomplished Gatting — to step out of his crease and play positive strokes in front of the wicket.

Instead Gooch's men displayed a fatal fascination for flat-footed fiddling and paid the consequent penalty. Their ultra-defensive approach only helped Azhar to put more pressure with a menacing ring of close-in fielders breathing almost down their necks for most of the time. If only India had had an Eknath Solkar the match might have ended already, the young Amre, Tendulkar and Kumble proving not quite alert or agile to the needs of those demanding, specialised positions near the bat. At least half a dozen pops from the tentative defensive prods or pushes by the Englishmen were grassed in the two innings and another six or seven half chances, the type one expects at his level of the game, went begging. The missed lollies were more often than not at the expense of debutant off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan, who could have announced his arrival in the Test arena in more emphatic manner.

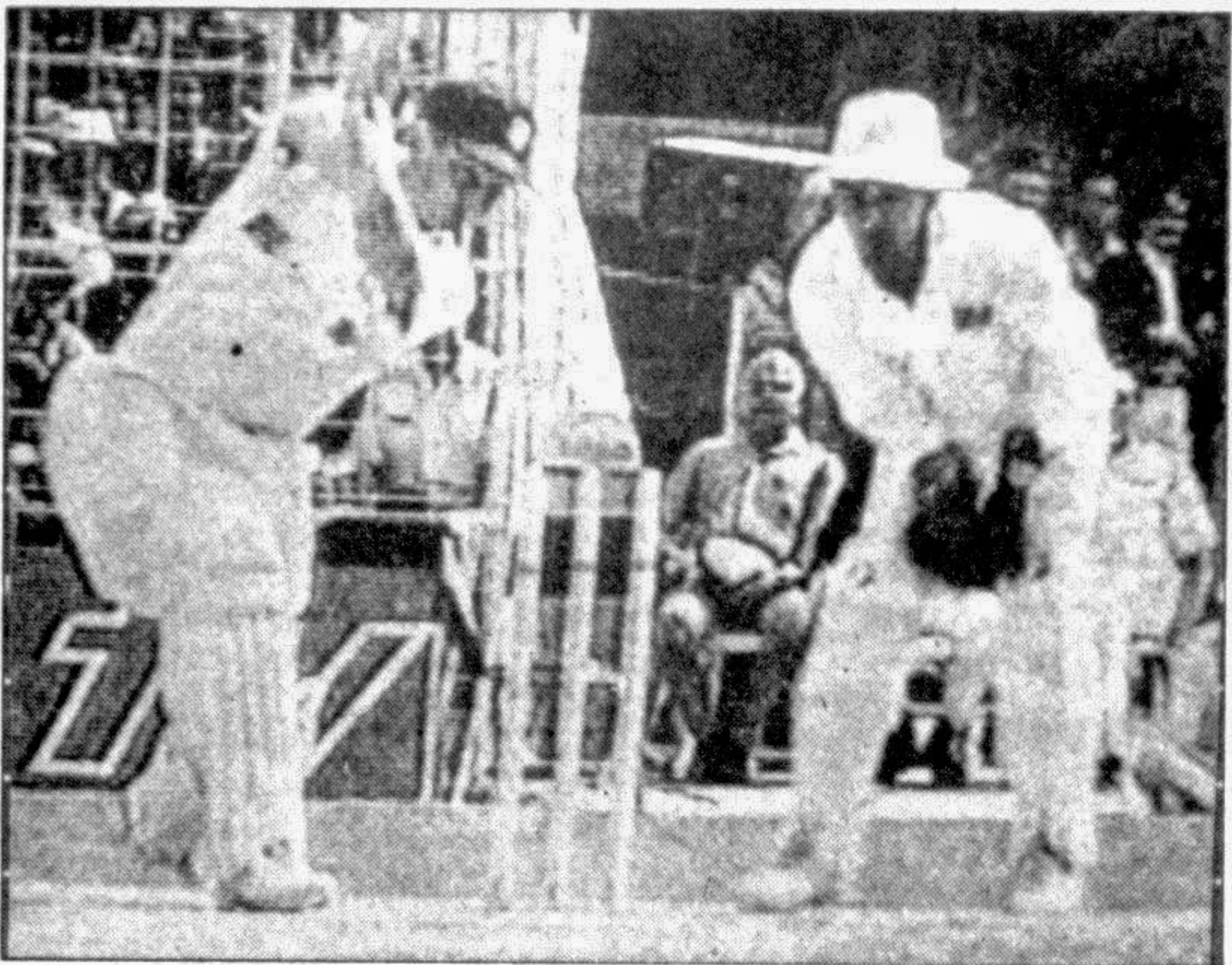
Gatting and Smith, not out on 48 and two overnight, had taken the score along to 145 from 128 for two before Smith ended his hour-long stay at the crease by edging Chauhan to More behind the stumps after making eight.

On the other hand Gatting promptly marched to his first

50 in nine Tests — since that famous (or infamous) fracas with Shakoor Rana in Faisalabad — with a crisply timed boundary in the opening over of the morning. He looked in fine fettle and convinced everyone that if England were

the midwicket fence. Paul Jarvis joined Fairbrother and helped add 18 runs to the total, he himself making six, before Raju had him lbw to make it 234 for seven.

Twenty runs later Fairbrother left, falling yet again picked up three wickets each to take their match haul to six scalps each, the bowling honours belonged more to Rajesh Chauhan whose marathon 45 overs cost a mere 79 runs and brought him two prize scalps — those of



Neil Fairbrother of England launches into an off-drive against an Indian spinner on the fourth day of the first cricket Test at the Eden Gardens yesterday.

to escape from their predicament here it would have to be their former captain who would need to do the most by producing a big knock. Such a prospect looked quite within the realms of possibility until, on 81 and the board showing 192 for three, Gatting attempted his famous sweep once too often, managing in only under edging Chauhan's delivery from outside the off stump on to his wicket. Gatting is usually a good sweeper, perhaps even better than Gooch who can employ this particular stroke to great profit. But while Gooch often gets away by sweeping balls outside his off stump because of his greater reach Gatting didn't on this occasion. He lasted 191 minutes.

On the same total of 192 Graeme Hick, despite all the prayers of English supporters here and back home fell, leg before to Venkat Raju, giving the left-arm spinner his first of three wickets today.

Hick, joining Gatting after Smith's fall, had looked to have started with much more confidence after his first innings failure. He played some handsome shots in front of the wicket and gave indications that he was out to prove a point at last. He had hit three sweet boundaries in his first 19 runs. His next scoring shot, a glorious soaring six over long off was, alas, to be his last. On 25, perhaps forced to adopt a defensive frame of mind following Gatting's departure, the naturalised England player from Zimbabwe didn't quite stretch far enough as he pushed forward and the ball from Raju wrapped him halfway up his front pad plumb in front.

Once again the outcome of the game became an almost foregone conclusion.

Yet once again, it was a case of *deja vu* with first Lewis and Fairbrother, then Fairbrother and Salisbury and again Salisbury and Paul Taylor doing their best to salvage England's sinking before hopes of saving the match.

Lewis, in a manner reminiscent of the first innings, stepped out on a couple of occasions to give the ball a good whack through the V but was again found wanting in skills against the spinners, giving Amre at forward short leg an easy catch off Raju. Before that Lewis had brought up the 200 of the innings with a lofted on-drive off Raju and thanks to him again the ignominy of an innings defeat was avoided in the second over after lunch when he smote the same bowler over

to answer England's call when he gave substitute WB Raman, fielding for Tendulkar, an easy catch at silly point off Kumble. Salisbury, batting on 12, was joined by debutant medium-pace Paul Taylor and the two, as in the first innings, batted sensibly and with a degree of confidence to add 32

dangerman Gatting and the dangerous Robin Smith. Kapil picked two for 12 off his 8.2 overs while Prabhakar's nine overs cost 26 runs.

So on the final day Tuesday Sidhu, batting on 20 and Prabhakar on 12, will come to the crease determined to complete the kill as soon as possible. Some wickets may, of course fall, but that shouldn't prevent India from achieving their most deserving victory. Yet, if cricket should once again play its cruel tricks, then heaven knows when another opportunity will knock at India's doors.

And as they pack their bags out of Calcutta, Gooch and his men will have the chance to meet if left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell — or the veteran John Emburey — might not have been a better inclusion in place of anyone of their four rather pedestrian medium-pacers.

Prabhakar, who came on at the far end in the 130th over of the innings, took the new ball after 132.2 overs with England on 285 for eight. It needed another five overs before the breakthrough was made.

Kapil Dev, playing in his 121st Test, eventually got among the wickets by inducing Salisbury to chase an away swinger into More's gloves after making 26 in 134 minutes off 109 balls with four hits to the fence. Next ball, Kapil took his 414th Test wicket — and his 13th in seven Tests — by trapping last man Devon Malcolm lbw for nought to restore England's lead to 78 runs at 286 all out.

Of the 137.2 overs bowled in the England second innings which lasted 459 minutes, the three spinners bowled all but the 17.2 overs sent down by Kapil and Prabhakar together. Although Raju and Kumble



GALLERY OF THE DEAD: Alec Stewart, Graham Gooch and Chris Lewis, all back to the pavilion watch the demolition of English castle by the three Indian termites — Venkatapathy Raju, Anil Kumble and Rajesh Chauhan at the Eden Gardens Monday.

DU cricket final today

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Department of Finance and Banking take on fancied Department of International Relations in the final of this year's Dhaka University inter-department cricket tournament at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Finance beat Marketing while International Relations defeated Management in their respective semifinals last week.

The 40-over-a-side match starts at nine in the morning.

Reeve's mother gets a new job

CALCUTTA, Feb 1: Monica Reeve, mother of all-rounder Dermot Reeve, is to become England's temporary cricket scorer, reports Reuter.

Regular scorer Clem Driver, 72, was returning to England on Monday night after being taken ill on the first day of the current Test here.

Monica Reeve, who has been in India for several weeks following England's fortunes and those of her son, is an experienced scorer.

She did the job with the MCC young professionals in their matches against County Second XIs from 1981-1986.

An official replacement for Driver will be announced later. Durham county player Simon Hughes, on tour as a journalist, has been deputising.

Reeve will start scoring during the three-day match against the rest of India starting on Friday.

Reefat, Taiyab lead in jr chess

Sports Reporter

National champion Reefat bin-Sattar and Taiyabur Rahman with full five points led the table of the 14th national junior chess championship after the fifth round at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

Reefat beat Jahangir and Taiyab defeated Shaiful Islam in their respective matches yesterday.

Six players with four points each followed the top two. They are Jahangir, Kazi Mahmudunnabi Lelin, Shaiful Azam, Arman Monir, Abdullah Al-Rakib and Kazi Taherul Islam.

Meanwhile, the second Zia Memorial Open chess tournament under the aegis of the Zia Smriti Sangsad began at the Tamanna Complex at Kachukhet in the city.

Seventy-three players including some First Division league players are participating in the eight-round Swiss league meet.

Saifuddin Lavlu, Kalam, Mintu, Altaf, Labu, Palash and Enayet were some of the notable players who won their respective first round matches yesterday.

Div II volleyball final tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Jiban Bima Krira Sangstha and Bangladesh Bank Club will contest in the final of the NBL Second Division volleyball league tomorrow at 3 pm at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

Bangladesh Bank outplayed Victoria Sporting Club 15-3, 15-9, 15-3 in the second semifinal which lasted for only 81 minutes.

Jiban Bima received a walk-over in the other semifinal when Partners Club failed to show up.

Meanwhile, Wari Club beat Bangladesh Fire Service 15-10, 12-15, 15-10, 15-10 and Dhaka Greens got the better Sonali Bank 15-12, 15-5, 15-12 in their respective First Division league matches yesterday.

The other two matches of the day—between Brothers Union and Nabajagaroni Sangha; Power Development Board and BTMC—were in progress at the time of filing this report.

Suncrest h'ball

Sports Reporter

Pragati Boys Club and Christian Youth Club won their respective matches of the Suncrest Second Division handball league at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

Pragati Boys beat Dipali Juba Sangha by 16 goals to 13 in the first encounter of the day. The winners led 6-3 at the breather.

Swapan netted ten goals for Pragati boys and Zaman got just half of it for Dipali Sangha.

Meanwhile, a fortnight-long handball coaching camp for the handball coaches will be held soon under the aegis of the Bangladesh Handball Federation.

Interested coaches of clubs, organisations and high schools of the country have been asked to contact the Bangladesh Handball Referees' Association with full curriculum vitae by February 15.

W for win, Wasim, Waqar



SHARJAH, Feb 1: Wasim Akram led Pakistan to victory in his first match as captain on Monday while Waqar Younis set a wicket-taking record, reports Reuter.

The double success came in the opening game of the Sharjah Trophy limited overs tournament in which world one-day champions Pakistan beat Zimbabwe by 49 runs.

Waqar, named vice-captain at the same time as Akram was appointed to succeed the sacked Javed Miandad, played a key role with a characteristically hostile spell of fast bowling.

When Waqar yanked Ali Shah for nought he became the quickest to 100 wickets in one-day internationals, reaching the landmark on his 59th appearance. Australian Dennis Lillee was previous best with his 60-match mark.

Facing Pakistan's 262 for eight in their 50 overs, Zimbabwe were restricted to 213 for six after an opening stand of 121 by Flower brothers, Arni and Grant.

A run out ended their stand and from then on Zimbabwe struggled against pace trio Waqar, Akram and Aaqib Javed.

Andy Flower struck 49 off 71 balls with four fours, while Grant scored 56 from 111 deliveries, his innings including four fours and a six.

Of the rest, only captain David Houghton offered resistance by hitting 36, including two sixes in an one over off part-time bowler Salim Malik.

Earlier, Pakistan were spurred by Inzamam-ul-Haq, who stroked a fluent 90 off 134 balls, hitting 11 fours.

But the real fireworks came in the last five overs in which Akram and Waqar plundered 63 runs.

Waqar summed three sixes in his 26 off 15 balls, the chief sufferer being Eddo Brandes.

who conceded 25 runs in his last over. Akram's 38 contained one six and three fours off 29 balls.

Pakistan's top order batting failed as slow medium Shah removed Rameez Raja, Malik and Miandad, the last two in the space of four balls. He finished with the highly creditable figures of 10-2-33-3.

Pakistan play Sri Lanka in Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Sharjah Trophy opening one-day cricket match between Pakistan and Zimbabwe today.

PAKISTAN:
Saeed Anwar c and b Shah 26
Rameez Raja c A Flower b Brandes 5
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Ranchod b Brandes 90
Javed Miandad c A Flower b Shah 14
Salim Malik c A Flower b Shah 0
Rashid Latif c Dekker b Brain 39
Wasim Akram c Shah b Brain 38
Waqar Younis c G Flower b Brain 26
Mushtaq Ahmed not out 4
Mohammad Arshad not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-10) 20
Total: (for eight wickets, 50 overs) 262

Fall of wickets: 1-18; 2-47; 3-88; 4-88; 5-163; 6-199; 7-252; 8-258

Did not bat: Aaqib Javed

Bowling: O M R W
Brandes 10 0 66 2
Brain 10 0 51 3
Ranchod 10 1 40 0
Peall 10 0 62 0
Shah 10 2 33 3

ZIMBABWE:
A Flower run out 49
G Flower c Waqar b Mushtaq 57
K Arrott c Latif b Malik 7
D Houghton b Waqar 36
M Dekker run out 7
G Brain not out 14
A Shah b Waqar 0
S Peall not out 12
Extras: (b-16, w-13, nb-2) 31
Total: (for six wickets, 50 overs) 213

Did not bat: D Brain, E Brandes, U Ranchod.

Fall of wickets: 1-121; 2-127; 3-138; 4-178; 5-188; 6-189.

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 10 0 34 0
Aaqib Javed 7 1 11 0
Mohammed Arshad 6 0 43 0
Waqar Younis 10 3 26 2
Mushtaq Ahmed 10 0 42 1
Salim Malik 7 0 41 1



WAQAR... new mark the second game of the triangular competition on

Wari Club regain lost right

Sports Reporter

Wari Club regained their lost right of rubbing shoulders with the teams from Navana Premier Division cricket league

when they completed their Milnars First Division engagement with a cushy five-wicket victory against City Club in a curtailed over match at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Early morning showers forced the match officials to re-fix it as a 20 overs a side contest and Wari won it handily to take the 'highway to heaven' alongside Dhanmondi Club who had earlier finished on even keel. Both the teams, however, will meet in a yet unscheduled play-off match to determine the champions and runners-up for academic interest only.

Wari skipper Didar won the toss in the morning and rightfully decided to field first on a soggy, sodden field. City were in trouble right from the word go with Imon losing his stumps to Arif. Wari's new ball bowler, for nought.

At twelve, Ujjal, the other opener followed suit when a

mix-up resulted in his run out. Further disaster was defied for some time with Moni and Pappa showing some resilient batting highlighted by discretion as well as caution.

Moni was the more aggressive of the two clouting two sixes in his 29 ball innings of 22 which ended when Ashim caught him off Zia.

Pappa, the top scorer of the City innings departed when Arif bowled him neck and crop for 29 off 38 balls with the help of just one four.

Masud remained unbeaten of 12 and Asif on three when City ran out of their quota of 20 overs, managing 89 for four with 15 extras contributing substantially to the total.

With the bowlers permitted to bowl a maximum of four overs individually Arif finished with figures of two for 14 to mark himself as the most successful of the Wari bowlers.

City's Farid prised out three Wari batsmen in a flat-out opening spell but the target of ninety runs for victory was too small for a strong outfit like Wari.

Farid had Biddiyut caught by Ujjal for seven, to signal the fall of the first Wari wicket at

14. The pace man then went on to clean bowl Suman and skipper Didar for 15 and 11 respectively.

Two more run outs suggested almost an out of proportion contest but 26 extras and an unbeaten 15 by Zia saw Wari home and dry in 17.3 overs.

Farid was clearly the most successful bowler claiming three for 25 off four overs.

Meanwhile, the scheduled two matches of the Navana Premier Division cricket league fell through because of inclement weather.

The matches will now be held tomorrow when the league resumes.

In another development the Senior Division league committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board yesterday at a meeting decided to stage the abandoned match between Gulshan Youth and Surja Tarun Club after February 7.

The match was abandoned following the reported inability of Gulshan Youth to play earlier last month at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

However, the league committee's decision came after consulting the representatives of both teams.

U-19 team to play in Nepal

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team will leave Dhaka for Kathmandu on February 22 to take part in a mini cricket tournament, rustled up in connection with the silver jubilee of the Birganj Club of Nepal. Bangladesh have been directly placed in the quarter-finals. Selection committee of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) will soon announce the squad.

Meanwhile Airport Gymkhana, a Pakistani cricket club who had earlier responded to BCCB's invitation for an international club competition in Dhaka, confirmed their arrival to play a number of exhibition matches in and outside Dhaka in the middle of this month. The Pakistani outfit, who are fitting in BCCB's revised plan

forced by the non-availability of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), are expected to be in Dhaka by the tenth of this month.

Sylhet will definitely be one of the venues outside Dhaka while the other venue will be any one from Tangail, Mymensingh and Jessore. The visiting Pakistani club will play three matches in Dhaka, one each against Mohammedan Sporting Club, Abahani Krira Chakra and a Navana selection. According to Wasim Haider, Biman's Pakistani cricketer, Airport Gymkhana has some former Pakistani Test cricketers. Test opener Aamir Sohail, who is now licking his wounds in Pakistan, is also reported to be one of the members of this team.

MCC PICKS SAJID
Sajid Hassan, son of former national captain Roqibul Ha-

ssan and a regular opening batsman for Victoria Sporting Club, has won the MCC scholarship for young cricketers.

Sajid, who is expected to be at the Lord's at the onset of the English summer this year, will have the option of availing food and lodging facilities of the hosts Marylebone Cricket Club.

Jadukar Samad final on Feb 4

Sports Reporter

Bangabir Sangsad will play Diamond Sporting Club in the final of the Jadukar Samad memorial juvenile football tournament on February 4 at the Dhaka Hockey Stadium.

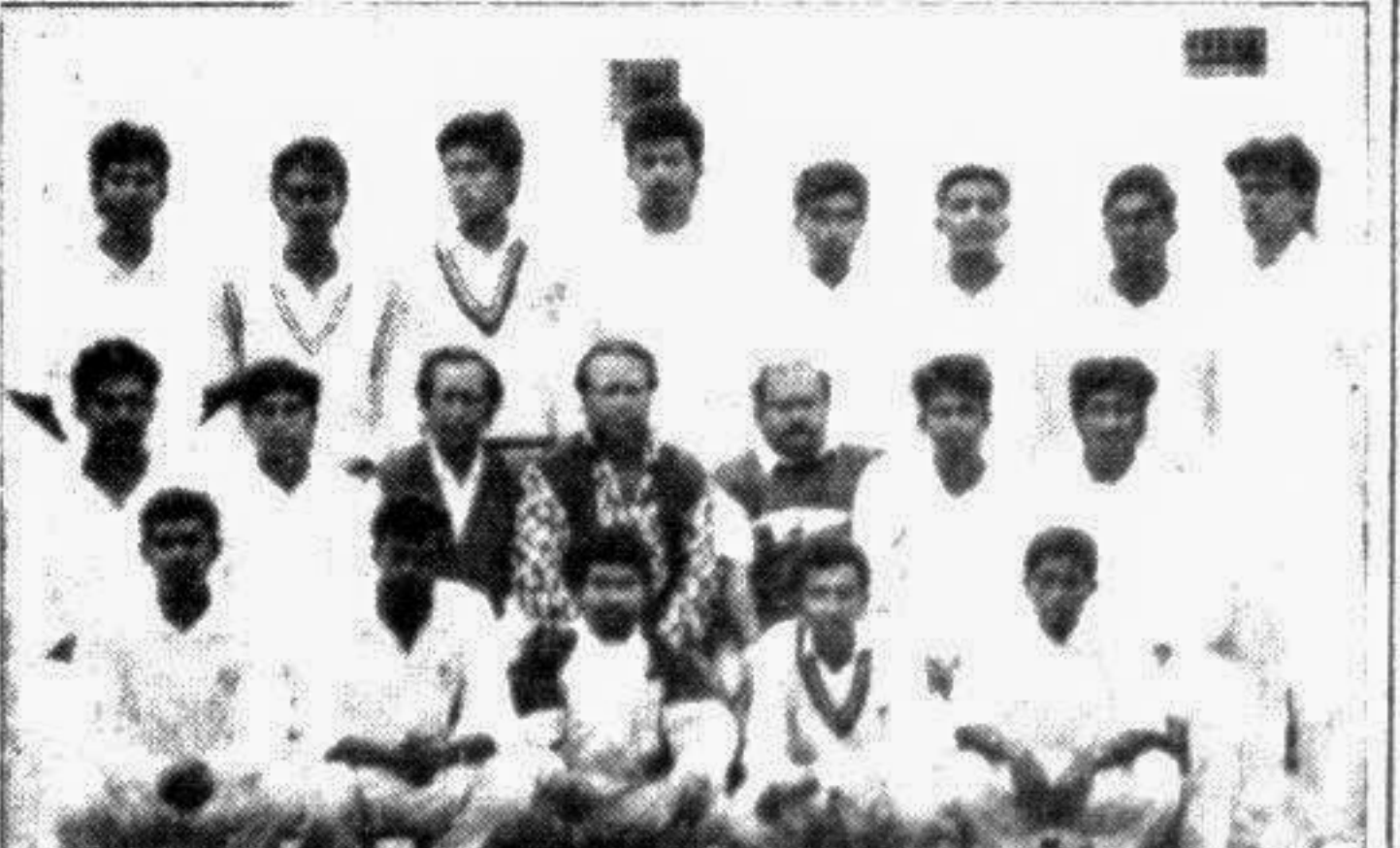
About five hundred players representing 20 teams participated in the month-long meet organised in connection with the 29th death anniversary of Syed Abdus Samad, who passed away on this day (February 2).

T & T sports on Feb 3

The 23rd annual sports competition of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board will be held at Mohakhali on February 3 and 4, reports BSS.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali will inaugurate the two-day competition on February 3 at 9 am.

One hundred and forty-seven athletes including 30 women from 11 zones will take part in different events of the meet.



Players and officials of Wari, one of the two promotees in next year's Navana Premier Division cricket league.