

India one up against England



CALCUTTA, Feb 2: India's drought of Test victories ended today when they defeated England convincingly by eight wickets in the first Test at the Eden Gardens here today, reports AFP.

Resuming at the overnight score of 36 for no loss, the Indians raced to the 79 run victory target 65 minutes after the start of the fifth and final day's play to take a vital 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Opener Navjot Sidhu and Manoj Prabhakar put on 51 for the first wicket before off-spinner Graeme Hick broke through by bowling Prabhakar for 13.

Hick also had Sidhu stumped for 37 when 17 more were needed, but childhood friends Vinoo Kambli (18 not out) and Sachin Tendulkar (nine not out) scored the remaining runs easily.

The win ended a wretched streak for the Indians, who

Fletcher predicts English comeback

CALCUTTA, India, Feb 2: England's cricket manager Keith Fletcher is confident his team will bounce back in the three Test series against India despite the eight wicket defeat in the first Test here today, reports AFP.

"This series is not over yet, we will come back," Fletcher said as he led his boys out for a training session at the Eden Gardens after the match.

Fletcher defended the decision to field four seamers instead of two specialist spinners on a wicket that assisted slow turn from the first day.

"We thought the seamers would get early purchase, but our plans, went away after we were bowled out for 163 in the first innings."

"The boys batted better in the second innings and I am confident England will perform to full capacity as we try to win the remaining two Tests," he said.

Fletcher called the umpiring "very good" and paid handsome tribute to Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, who hit 182 in the first innings.

"I think Azhar's batting made all the difference in the Test. He is a class player but we will find ways to get at him early," Fletcher said.

Meanwhile, the Indian selectors have retained the winning 14-man squad for the second Test starting in Madras on February 11. The third and final Test will be played in Bombay from February 19.

had only one victory to show in their last 25 Tests — against Sri Lanka on a spiteful track in Chandigarh in November 1990.

On either side of that innings win was a dismal record of four drawn Tests in Pakistan in 1989, series losses in New Zealand and England in 1990, a 4-0 rout in Australia last year and defeats in both the Test and one-day series in South Africa earlier this season.

Some 30,000 jubilant home

previous 17 Tests as captain. Azharuddin, who was initially named captain for only the first Test and the opening two one-day internationals, was retained skipper for the remaining two Tests and four internationals.

"I was never really concerned whether I was captain or not," Azharuddin told AFP as Sidhu and Prabhakar raced to victory.

"Playing for the country is itself a great honour."



Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin holds the Charms Cup aloft after defeating England by eight wickets in the first Test at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta yesterday.

fans were at hand to see the last rites being performed, letting off firecrackers as India inched towards the victory target.

They had a special cheer for skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, who broke free from a lean patch to hit a brilliant 182 in India's first innings after struggling to compile just 120 runs in six Test innings in South Africa.

The victory was a stunning answer to critics who questioned the 29-year-old Hyderabad batsman's leadership qualities after India lost seven and won just one of his

"But now that we have got over the lean trot, we should continue the winning ways in the remaining two Tests."

Azharuddin's hour of glory sourced counterpart Graham Gooch's 100th Test match and left England the awesome task of winning both the back-to-back Tests in Madras (February 11-15) and Bombay (February 19-23) to clinch the series.

India's heroes, besides their captain, were the three spinners Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Raju and debutant Rajesh Chauhan, who took 17

of the 20 English wickets on a wicket that assisted turn.

The match also proved a good advertisement for Test cricket as some 300,000 attended the game on the five days. India's win is expected to draw huge crowds in the remaining two Tests also.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the first cricket Test between India and England at the Eden Gardens which ended here today.

INDIA: 1st innings: 371 (M Azharuddin 182, S Tendulkar 50, D. Malcolm 3-67, G. Hick 3-19).

ENGLAND: 1st innings: 163 (M Gatting 33, A Kumble 3-50, V. Raju 3-39, R Chauhan 3-30).

ENGLAND: 2nd innings: 286 (M Gatting 81, V Raju 3-30, A Kumble 3-76).

INDIA: 2nd innings: M. Prabhakar b Hick 13, N. Sidhu st Stewart b Hick 37, V. Kambli not out 18, S. Tendulkar not out 9, Extras: (lb 4, nb 1) 5.

Total: (two wkts) 82. Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-62.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	6	1	16	0
Jarvis	5.2	1	23	0
Taylor	3	1	9	0
Salisbury	6	3	16	0
Lewis	3	1	5	0
Hick	6	1	9	2

Result: India won by eight wickets

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Azharuddin

Pollution, latest bee in English bonnet

CALCUTTA, Feb 2: An expert is looking into pollution levels in Indian cities after England's cricket players expressed concern, particularly during the first Test here, reports Reuters.

Ted, Dexter, the England committee chairman who has commissioned an expert study into the issue, said on Tuesday, "In general, I'm told, the players have nothing to worry about."

"But we need to have proper information on the subject and I think the players quite reasonably have been talking about the levels of pollution and how it could affect the way they feel and the way they perform."

"There is no reason why they should not be able to perform flat out. The human body is extremely efficient despite pollution in the air."

"We have not been able to give the players the reassurances they deserve and we were under-prepared in our knowledge about what to expect here."

"I have spoken to an Indian doctor, who works in Sheffield and is a chest specialist, and I have asked him to give us some facts and figures relating to the pollution levels, in Indian cities compared with those in London, say, or Manchester."

"We want to know what effect that might have on people's general health, and on their performance if, for instance, you were bowling 25 overs in a day."

Many England players have been ill with viral infections on this tour but there is no evidence to suggest the poor air quality in most Indian cities has been the cause.

Airport Gymkhana due on Feb 10

Sports Reporter

Rashid Khan, former Test pace bowler of Pakistan, will lead the 18-member Airport Gymkhana Club which will be on a twelve-day visit day to play a number of exhibition limited-over matches in and outside Dhaka.

The team, which contains former Test cricketer Rizwan-uz-Zaman also will arrive in Dhaka on February 10. Wasim Haider, one of the members of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad, now playing for Bangladesh Biman in local league cricket, is one of the 16 players of the Karachi outfit. Renowned cricketers like Asif Mujtaba, Moin Khan and Amin Lakhani are also affiliated with the team but will not accompany the Dhaka-bound team because of their engagement elsewhere.

While Mujtaba is doing national duty, Moin and Lakhani are both busy playing for Karachi team in national championship.

However, the officials have apprised the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) of their efforts to rope in few more Test discards to add to the glamour of the team. Amir Sohail, who has just fallen out of the favour of Pak selectors, is on top of the priority list of the Gymkhana officials regarding the 'drafted' players.

Airport Gymkhana will play their first match on February 12. However, the venue has not been fixed yet. According to a BCCB official any one place from Tangail, Mymensingh and Jessore will be chosen for the first of the seven matches. Sylhet in all likelihood will host two more matches outside Dhaka on February 14 and 15.

From February 17 to 20, four matches are scheduled for Dhaka. League champions Mohammedan Sporting Club, Damal Summer champions Abahani Krira Chakra and a Naana Eleven will play one match each with the visitors while a fourth match is being thought of between the Pak club and a Milnars Eleven or the Nepal under-19 team.

SHAHEED SMRTI CRICKET

Meanwhile, the 1993 Shaheed Smriti cricket tournament under the aegis of the BCCB will begin from February 10 in the city.

All the Milnars First Division leaguers, the ten Super league teams of the Second Division and five divisional elections of the country will be eligible to participate in the meet.

Interested teams have been asked to complete the registration formalities with an entry fee of one hundred taka by February 7.

Women's volleyball

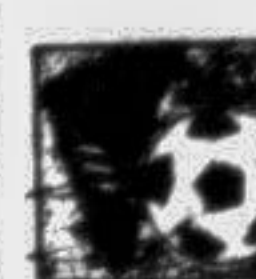
The Rabbani Sports Women's Volleyball championship organised by the Bangladesh Women's Sports Association, begins at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex today, says a press release.

State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda will inaugurate the four-day meet at 3.30 pm. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain will be present as special guest.

Eight teams in two groups are expected to take part in the meet.

Four Russians for MSC

By Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman



Four Russian footballers will play for last year's runners-up Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club in the forthcoming Premier Division league.

Russian trio of Boris Kuznetsov, Abdou Rahimov and Nabikov — all from Moscow Spartak — donned in the Mohammedans' colours last year.

But none of them — not even Rahimov, the highest scorer of the last league — will feature in the Mohammedans' squad this year, according to Anwarul Haq Helal, a senior Mohammedan official.

In a telephonic conversation with The Daily Star last Monday Helal — a former joint secretary of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) — confirmed that Mohammedans would present some 'unknown faces' in the upcoming league.

"Not only are they unknown to us, they are less known even to the Russians," Helal stressed.

Helal, who had visited Russia last month and confirmed the services of the now-extinguished Soviet Union's youth football coach Nikolai Smirnov for Mohammedans for the whole year, however, failed to name these players.

"I don't know yet. All I can say right now is that they will be neither from Moscow Spartak nor from Moscow

Torpedo," Helal said. The defending First Division league champions Abahani Krira Chakra last year received the services of three players — Sergei Zhukov, Alexi Arifiev and Alexander Polinkov — from the latter-named club.

"The players may even be recruited from the St Petersburg League or from the Kharkov or Kiev leagues," the Mohammedan football secretary said when asked to elaborate his point.

The newly-appointed Russian coach may make the preliminary selection but Mohammedan officials will see the players for themselves before signing them up.

"Either I or manager Abdus Salam Murshed will make a visit to Russia soon after the completion of the inter-club players' transfer, scheduled to begin from March 1," Helal affirmed.

After the much-talked about transfer we will be in a position to ascertain the weakness in the squad and then try to make it up by recruiting the four Russians," Helal explained.

Helal, one of the many First Division club officials who wants that both cricket and football be played at the Dhaka Stadium and is adamant not to involve in the players' transfer proceeding until the authorities come up with a positive announcement in this connection, never the less told this

correspondent that two of the four Russians would be mid-fielders.

"Let time come and you'll know everything" quipped the Mohammedan official when he was asked to throw some light on Mohammedans' local recruits.

However, a source close to the Mohammedan tent told The Daily Star yesterday that the title-aspirants had already made the primary selection of local players.

According to that source, only eight players from the last squad will possibly be retained this year. They are goalkeeper Sayeed Hassan Khan; defenders Kaiser Hamid, Jewel Rana, Shamim, Tito and Barun Dewan; winger Syed Rumman bin Wali Shabbir and striker Imtiaz Ahmed Naqib.

Veteran mid fielder Imtiaz Sultan Johnny and forward Mahbubur Rahman Roxy are likely to be dropped.

Mohammedans will also sign up five or six talented young players, who played with distinction in and outside the country last year to form a real good and fighting team.

"Although Mohammedans will go will out to regain the title, they will not recruit more than sixteen local players," told the source.

"Sixteen good local and four foreign players! That really makes a good stuff," said the source with a note of deep satisfaction.

Waughs make it to NZ tour



PERTH, Feb 2: All-rounder Steve Waugh, who struggled for much of the five-Test series against the

West Indies, has kept his place in the Australian squad to tour New Zealand later this month, reports Reuters.

The Australian top-order batsman was a for the axe after managing only 228 runs, which included a century, with an average of 25.33 in the series won 2-1 by the West Indians.

But the selectors today named Waugh, 27, and twin brother Mark, in the 13 man squad to play three Tests and five one day internationals.

Veteran South Australian off-spinner Tim May was also included in the expectation that he will overcome the finger injury that forced him out of the fifth Test.

Victorian medium pace Paul Reiffel, a regular choice for the one-day triangular series against the West Indies and Pakistan, also won a tour spot with the absence through injury of pacemen Mike Whitney and Bruce Reid.

The two young Western Australian batsmen, Damien Martyn and Justin Langer, also impressed enough in their debut series against the West Indies to win their first tour places ahead of one day specialist Dean Jones.

Opener Mark Taylor was retained as vice captain, despite missing the last Test against the West Indies here, and should open with David Boon, the only senior batsman to survive the West Indies series with his reputation unscathed.

needs only 50 runs to become Test cricket's greatest run-maker by overtaking the 10,122 scored by the now retired Indian batting master Sunil Gavaskar.

His side will have warmup matches in New Plymouth



THE WAUGH TWINS... made it

By bringing Taylor back into the side, Justin Langer would move to the number three spot.

Australia has not visited New Zealand for a three Test tour since 85-86 but lost the solitary Test played at Wellington in early 1990.

The series is likely to be an historic landmark for the veteran captain Allan Border who

and Nelson before the first Test starts in Christchurch on February 25.

The Australian squad: Allan Border (captain), Mark Taylor (vice captain), David Boon, Ian Healy, Merv Hughes, Justin Langer, Damien Martyn, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh.

ICC may face deadlock over WC bid



LONDON, Feb 2: Cricket's world governing body face the prospect of a deadlock at their meeting at

Lord's today to decide who is to host the next World Cup in 1995, reports Reuters.

England are keen to stage the sixth edition of the premier international one-day tournament but are up against a joint bid from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

International Cricket Council (ICC) delegates meet at Lord's to choose between the two bids of around five million pounds sterling (7.4 million dollars) each, with indications that neither will get the necessary two-thirds majority from the nine Test-playing nations' votes.

With Australia, New Zealand, West Indies and South Africa believed to be backing England, the way Test newcomers Zimbabwe vote holds the key to the outcome.

The sub-continent bidders are claiming Zimbabwe's support, which would produce a 5-4 stalemate.

Both England and the Asian bid for 1995 offer similar cash guarantees.

Tejgaon School make it

Sports Reporter

Tejgaon Govt High School qualified for the final round of the Dhaka zonal championship for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament.

Yesterday they clinched the Group E championship by outplaying Udayan High School by a massive 55 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Sent in to bat Tejgaon School were all out for 141 in 20.2 overs with Sadek topscoring with 37.

Shantoo and skipper Rana claimed four and three wickets respectively for Udayan School. Udayan School were skittled out for a paltry 86 in 19.5 overs, thanks to two devastating spells from Morshed and Zafar.

Morshed, the Tejgaon School skipper, ripped through the opponents' batting claiming as many as five wickets for 37 while Zafar with four for 14 lent him able support.

Rana with 42 was the only Udayan batsman to reach the double figures.

The Test-playing ICC members would receive 300,000 pounds each (444,000 dollar) from England compared with 250,000 pounds (370,000 dollar) from the subcontinent.

The three associate members who qualify for the competition get 150,000 pounds (222,000 dollar) if England are hosts and 125,000 pounds (185,000 dollar) if the Indo-Pakistan-Sri Lanka bid is successful.

However, the sub-continent trio is guaranteeing the 16 non-playing associate members 100,000 pounds (148,000 dollar) while England's figure is 65,000 pounds (96,200 dollar).

England, who plan to open the Cup programme on May 24 and play the final at Lord's on June 17, have set aside 250,000 pounds (370,000 dollar) in prize money.

If staged in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the competition would be played later in the year with prize money of 200,000 pounds (296,000 dollar).

The sub-continent's proposal emphasises the success of their 1987 tournament and the diversity of having three geographically close countries as hosts.

England have comparatively short travelling distance between venues, and also point out that only one of a total of 57 games in the three World Cups they have organised was prevented by bad weather from running its scheduled course.

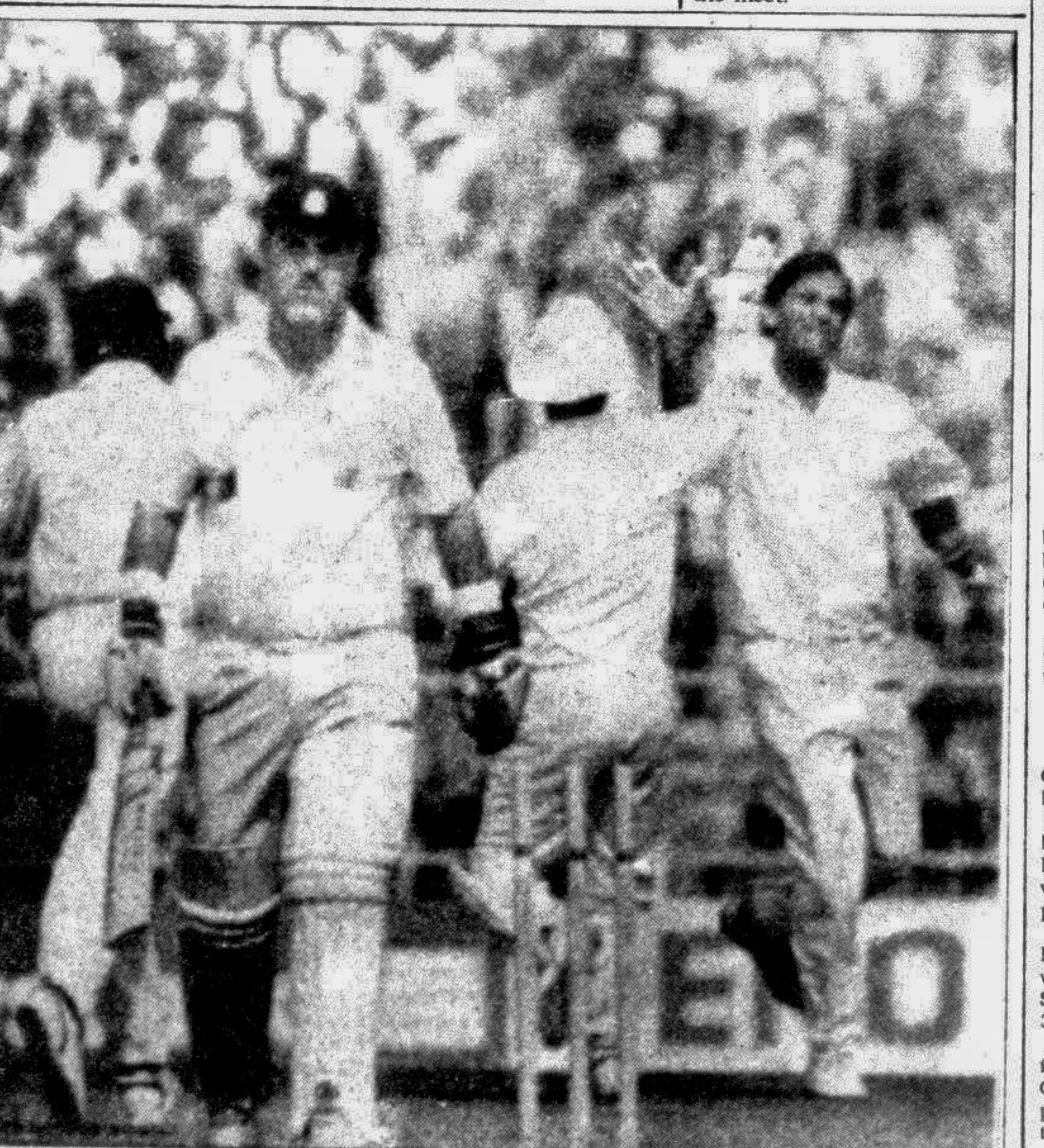
England hosted the first three Cups in 1975, 1979, and 1983 while India and Pakistan jointly staged the next tournament in 1987. Australia and New Zealand shared the fifth edition of the Cup early in 1992.

The 1995 competition will comprise 12 teams — an increase of three on last year with 50-over matches whether in England or on the sub-continent. Previous Cups in England have been played over 60 overs.

Today's meeting will also discuss whether matches played by rebel teams in South Africa should rank as first class in the record books.

The issue has been highlighted because Graham Gooch recently scored what he hoped was his 100th first class century during England's tour of India.

There is doubt over



Indian spin bowler Rajesh Chauhan (R) is congratulated by wicketkeeper Kiran More (C) after he clean-bowled England's Mike Gatting (L) on the fourth day of the first Test in Calcutta on Feb 1.

—AFP photo