

# Biman get MSC on the same plain

Sports Reporter

Biman, aided by an effortless century by Zakaria, upset Mohammedan's apple-cart with a stinging six-wicket defeat. It was a holiday yesterday and Biman once again batting second repeated the leveling act.

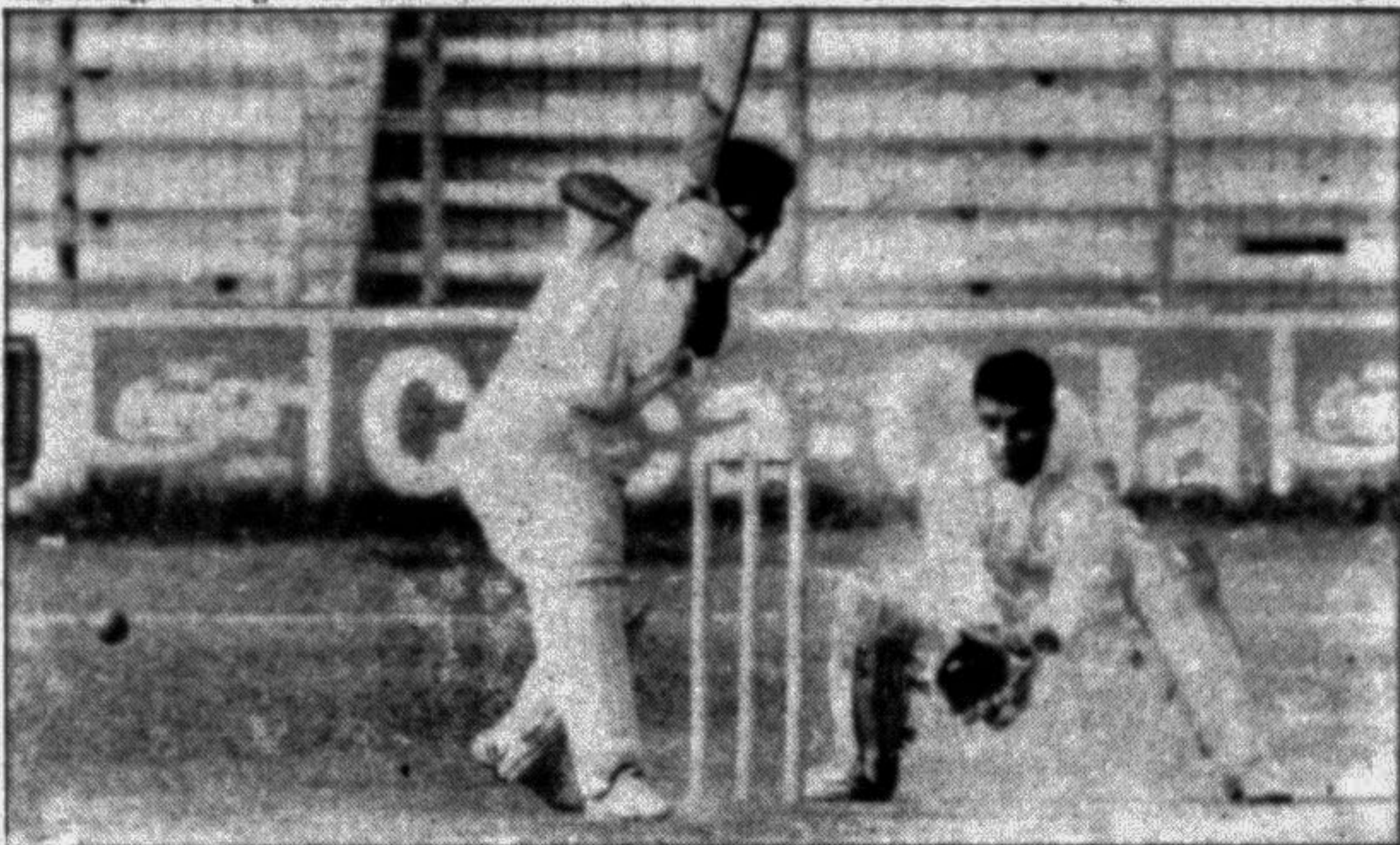
This time around, the nature of their victory was same, the margin being a bit narrower and two-men, instead of one, played vital roles in the victory.

Skipper Enamul Haq Moni's fine allround abilities matched by cool batsmanship of Pakistani allrounder Wasim Haider gave Biman their second major victory within a week, following their thrilling four-run triumph over Brothers Union, not to be oblivious of the fact that with a bit of luck they could have beaten Abahani Krira Chakra, the other popular title aspirants apart from Mohammedans.

The speculation that Wasim Haider, the Pakistani fast medium bowler, who was a member of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad, would be a formidable customer for anyone batting first, did not quite materialise. Instead the spinning combination of Moni and Rupam claimed seven of the ten wickets in the Mohammedan innings of 217, not adequate but fighting score anyway.

Moni set the pattern in the morning when he called the coin correctly and paceman Babul proved his captain right in the third over by inducing hard-hitting Mohammedan opener Harun-Ur-Rashid Liton to edge an away going delivery behind the stumps in the third over.

Azhar Hossain Shantu who was demoted to number three instead of his customary opening slot, then paired with Rafiq to take the score to 73 before the slothful Rafiq left, run out for 37 made with the help of



Biman's hero Enamul Haq Moni follows through a rather deceptive cover drive against a Mohammedan bowler at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Biman ended MSC's unbeaten streak with a five-wicket victory. — Star photo

perhaps the best possible local replacement of batsman Nannu, Mohammedan innings lost its momentum. The blow on his hand, went, one of the four leg before dismissals in the Biman innings.

Mohammedan's bugbear Zakaria was the third Biman casualty in the 16th over with the addition of five more runs—Rafiq hitting him on the pads and winning the umpire's nod.

Delhi medium pacer Sanjeev Sharma sent back Shah Nawaz Shaheed Shanu at 61 in the 21st over, to give Mohammedans the whip-hand. Unfortunately his teammates were not in their elements to take a cue from him.

After Mahbubur Rahman Selim had left for 22, Moni and Wasim blossomed in an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 118 runs to register a creditable victory.

Moni completed a day of fine allround achievement with an excellent unbeaten innings of 66 off 64 balls with the aid of six fours. Wasim who took 13 runs of one Wahid over including a whacked cross-batted sixer over long on off the expensive leg spinner, remained unconquered on 60. He played 65 balls and hit four fours, as Biman romped home with a total of 220 for five wickets with one over to spare.

Sanjeev Sharma was the most successful Mohammedan bowler, taking two for 46. Rafiq, Zakir and Bulbul got one wicket apiece.

Holders Mohammedans now have 12 points from seven matches while Biman have eight points from as many outings.

# Biman Open from Monday

Sports Reporter

The first Biman Open squash championships under the aegis of the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation (BSRF) will begin on Monday, February 8 at the Dhaka Club squash complex.

The 12-day meet will feature 80 players in two groups. In the general group (under 45 years of age) 64 players including 12 resident foreigners will participate while the veteran group (above 45 years of age) will feature 16 participants including four foreigners.

Talking to the press at the Biman Bangladesh Airlines office in Motijheel yesterday, the BSRF president and managing director of the national flag carrier in distant places of world, Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, said that out of an estimated budget of eighty-one thousand taka Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the sponsors, would provide Taka 75,000 while the remaining 6,000 taka would be available from the federation fund.

Ten thousand taka will be distributed among the winners of the general group. The champion will receive Taka 5,000, the runner-up will have a Taka 2,500 cash award which the third and fourth place holders will get Taka 1,500 and 1,000 respectively.

There will be no cash awards for the veterans. Instead they will receive certificates.

Besides raffle draw will be introduced with the lucky-winner of quarterfinals winning Dhaka-Kathmondu-Dhaka air-ticket.

In addition, the winner of the general raffle, which includes all participants, will be given a Dhaka-Cox's Bazar-Dhaka air-ticket.

Mueyed Chowdhury, underlining the national airlines' contribution to the development of games and sports in the country, said, "We have cricket, badminton, chess and table tennis teams."

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will sponsor the squash tournament for four successive years with raising the sponsorship amount upto ten per cent every year.

A new accord between the federation and Biman Bangladesh Airlines will possibly be signed in this connection on the fifth year of the tournament.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the first-ever Biman squash tournament as chief guest on Monday at 5:00 pm at the playing venue.



Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Managing Director of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines and President of the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation, addressed the press at the Biman office in Motijheel yesterday. — Star photo

# Imran on street

ISLAMABAD, Feb 5: Pakistan cricket celebrity Imran Khan led hundreds of people on a walk here Friday to raise donations for a cancer hospital project, reports AFP.

The organisers said a number of institutions and individuals made handsome donations besides purchasing souvenirs during the 10-kilometre (six-mile) march.

The former captain, whose star-studded career includes Pakistan's cricket World Cup win in Australia last year, is building the hospital in Lahore, capital of Punjab.

# Little Flower in the last four

Sports Reporter

A brilliant ton from Manna powered Willes Little Flower School to the semifinals of the Dhaka zonal championship for the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Manna scored 118 to do the brick work for a massive 255 for Little Flower School and then played a vital role with the ball to restrict BCSIR School for a paltry 114, thereby earning a glorious 141-run victory for the eventual semifinalists.

The Little Flower School skipper Opee won the toss and elected to bat and soon found his side in dire straits with the first three batsmen back at the pavilion with the scoreboard showing only 18 in 5.4 overs.

However, Opee, teaming up with Manna steered the rocking Little Flower School boat collecting 143 runs for the fifth wicket. Opee scored a whirlwind 71 from 48 balls hitting half a dozen of fours and three sixes while Manna hit as many as 18 boundaries in his 95-ball 118.

Mamun and Zia bagged three and two wickets respectively for BCSIR School.

In reply BCSIR School were bundled out for 114 in 29.2 overs.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Collegiate School, by virtue of eight-wicket victory against Saint Gregory's School in the Group H final at the Brothers Union ground yesterday, qualified for the final round of Dhaka zonal championship.

However, St Gregory's School lodged a protest with the tournament committee soon after the match challenging the legality of the Collegiate School wicketkeeper Moniruzzaman.

The tournament committee is taking a decision over the yet to controversy.

Sent into bat the Gregorians were all out for 138 in 31.1 overs with Saikat Rana making 29 and Saikat and Mozammel scoring 23 and 20 respectively.

Amin and skipper Reza claimed four and three wickets respectively for Collegiate School.

Collegiate School were home and dry in 28.5 overs making 139 for two wickets with Moniruzzaman topscoring with 47 and Tarik remaining unconquered on 34.

Sajjad took one wicket for St Gregory's School.

# No cricket today

Sports Reporter

No cricket matches will be held today following Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) in a familiar press release, marked by worn out phraseology of "unavoidable circumstances", said that the two Navana league encounters—Abahani vs Brothers Union and Gulshan Youth vs Kalabagan Krira Chakra—scheduled for today will now be held tomorrow following bodily shift in the fixture.

However, fresh dates for the Nirman Schools cricket will be announced later.

# Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

An unbeaten century by Rafiq steered Ajax Sporting Club to an easy eight-wicket victory over Nabin Sangha in the Second Division cricket league at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Opening the Ajax innings after Nabin Sangha set a winning target of 168 in 35 overs Rafiq remained unconquered on 106 at the end of the chase.

# England 230 for 5

VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Feb 5: England were 230 for five wickets at the close of play on the first day of their three-day cricket match against a Rest of India XI on Friday, reports Reuter.

Scores: England 230 for five (Robin Smith 82, Richard Blackey, 55 not out).

# Cairns extends contract with Nottinghamshire

LONDON, Feb 5: New Zealand allrounder Chris Cairns has accepted the offer of a new three year contract from English cricket county Nottinghamshire, reports Reuter.

Cairns still has a year to run on his current contract but Notts have made him a new offer, even though he could be missing for half of the 1994 season when New Zealand will be touring England.

Paceman Cairns is currently recovering from an operation to cure a kidney ailment, but he is expected to spearhead New Zealand's attack in the forthcoming home Test series against Australia.

# Reefat retains jr chess title

Sports Reporter

National chess champion Reefat bin Satter retained his junior title when he finished as unbeaten champion at the National Sports Council chess room yesterday.

It was Reefat's third.

Reefat shared point with Shafique Ahmed, the eventual runner-up, in his ninth and final round encounter yesterday. Shafique collected seven and a half points.

Shafiqul Azam with seven points secured the third position.

Five players earned six points each and were placed from fourth to eighth positions after tie-breaker. They are, Abdullah Al-Rakib, Javed Hossain Palash, Ruhul Islam Bobby, Kazi Taherul Islam and Md Sajjad Kishore.

Shafiqul Azam beat Kismat, Rakib drew with Kishore and Bobby split points with Taher in their respective final-round encounters yesterday.

The meet organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation began on December 28, 1992.

# ROLL OF HONOUR

- Following is the roll-of-honour of national junior chess championship:
- 1979 — Mansour Rahman Raja
  - 1980 — Zillur Rahman Champak
  - 1981 — Farid Ahmed
  - 1982 — Idris Ali
  - 1983 — Moniruzzaman Khan
  - 1984 — Neamul Haq Niru
  - 1985 — not held
  - 1986 — Syed Weheedul Islam
  - 1987 — Ziaur Rahman
  - 1988 — Reefat bin Satter
  - 1989 — Ziaur Rahman
  - 1990 — Khandaker Kayes Hassan
  - 1991 — Ziaur Rahman
  - 1992 — Reefat bin Satter
  - 1993 — Reefat bin Satter

# Polgar wins Game 4

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Feb 5: Teen-age chess wonder Judit Polgar, widely seen as a potential contender for the world title, beat former world champion Boris Spassky in the fourth game of their dirsa 200,000 match Thursday to take the lead 2.5-1.5, reports AP.

# Ali Cup soccer

Badda Nagar Kishore Sangha moved into the semifinals of the Ali Sports Cup football tournament beating Jatrabari Apollo Club by two goals to nil at the Azimpur ground yesterday.

Javed and Montr scored for the winners in the seventh and 19th minute into the second half.

# Windies arrive in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 5: The first official tour of the republic, were due to arrive later today.

South Africa returned to international cricket in November 1991 after years of isolation because of the country's apartheid policies.

West Indies captain Richie Richardson welcomed the use of the "electronic eye" television replay facility which will be in operation for the coming series.

It was used in Test matches for the first time during India's recent tour of South Africa and hailed a success by both sides.

Monitored by a third umpire, it is used in the case of close decisions in stumpings and run-outs.

Richardson said: "It is a good thing. The umpire's work is a hard one and it is easy to make mistakes. It is important that there are no confrontations between players and umpires."

West Indies will have a warm-up match on Sunday against mining magnate Nicky Oppenheimer's Invitation XI which will include several top provincial players.

South Africa play Pakistan in the opening match on Tuesday at Durban's Kingsmead Stadium.

West Indies arrived without fast bowler Andy Cummins who remained in Australia with chicken pox and will join the team late next week.

# Smog to dog England everywhere

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: If England's defeat in the first Test against India in Calcutta earlier this week was caused by smog—as suggested by their chief selector Ted Dexter—Graham Gooch's men have not seen the worst yet, reports AFP.

A chart on pollution levels in Indian cities released by the Central Environment Ministry Thursday says the situation is worse in cities like Bombay and Bangalore where the tourists are due to play on the current tour.

According to the chart, while the pollution load in Calcutta is 244 toxic tonnes a day, Bombay's load is a whopping 548 and Bangalore's is around 253 tonnes.

England will spend a week in Bombay for the third and final Test from February 19 to 23 while the southern Indian city of Bangalore will host the third of six one-day internationals on February 26.

The tourists, however, had no complaints about New Delhi which recorded the highest toxic load among Indian cities (871) and where they played two warm-up matches last month.

Dexter was severely criticised by the British press for suggesting that the heavy smog in Calcutta was largely responsible for the illness to many England players and the eight-wicket defeat the tourists received in the first Test.

Joining the anti-Dexter brigade was the widely circulated Indian Express which published the chart today under the heading: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if our spin doesn't get you, our smog must."

"Next time the English want to play a Test in India they had better stick to cities like Nagpur, Lucknow, Kanpur and Jaipur where the air is purer and the pollution load is less than 75 tonnes a day," the newspaper wrote.

"If that is not possible then they should insist on play only after a day's good shower which would wash down all the particulate matter and toxic gases. Infact, a rainwashed Delhi has cleaner air than the most salubrious hills of the British Isles."

The Newspaper suggested tongue-and-cheek that the tourists should consult Delhi's traffic police who "wear gas masks at the capital's dirtiest intersections."

"After all, if the batsmen can wear helmets to ward off bouncers, surely they can don masks to avoid inhaling polluted air," the newspaper wrote.

Kamal Nath, the Central Environment Minister, conceded Calcutta contained

# TCCB to look into pollution

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: Ted Dexter, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, today admitted that it was for the first time that the TCCB is commissioning an agency to find out whether the pollution levels in a foreign country had affected its players health, reports PTI.

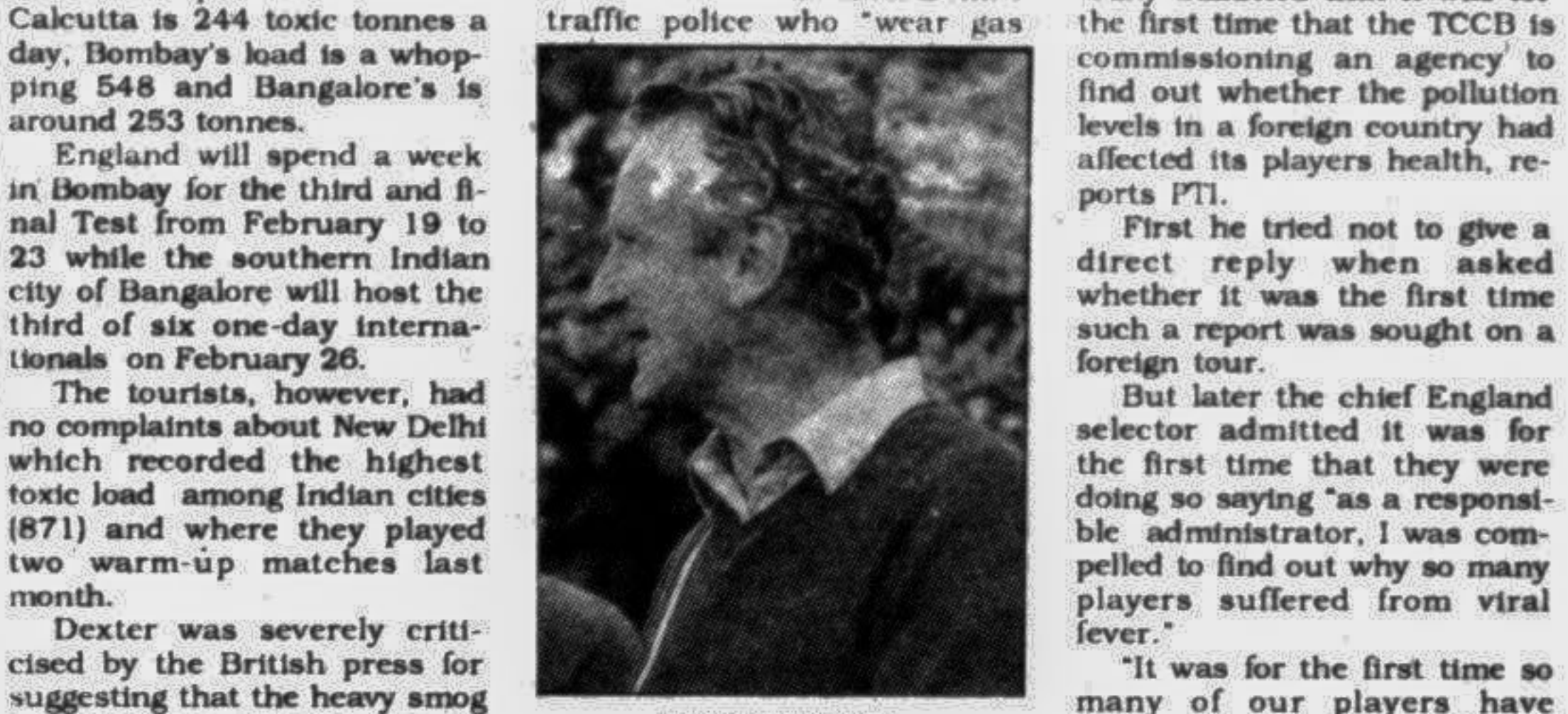
First he tried not to give a direct reply when asked whether it was the first time such a report was sought on a foreign tour.

But later the chief England selector admitted it was for the first time that they were doing so saying "as a responsible administrator, I was compelled to find out why so many players suffered from viral fever."

"It was for the first time so many of our players have caught this virus and had high fever. I have to find out the reason," he said.

Dexter, a former England captain, said he has only asked for a medical report which would show whether the pollution levels in India have anything to do with the viral and chest infections.

He said he was expecting the report only after the tour ends.



TED DEXTER

# Blatter for pro league in USA

CHICAGO, Feb 5: The general secretary of the International Soccer Federation on Thursday said US soccer officials should use the 1994 World Cup as a springboard for a new professional league in the United States, reports AP.

"We at FIFA expect something from the US soccer family, and especially the US Soccer Federation," Blatter said at a meeting of the group here. "We want to see the World Cup 1994 used as a model to promote our game into the future."

The World Cup will be held in summer 1994 at nine US sites. The sport's premier event commands huge interest everywhere except the United States.

An estimated 1.3 billion people watched the televised finals of the 1990 event.

Soccer officials in the United States and from the Zurich, Switzerland-based international federation are counting on the 1994 event to give the outdoor game a boost in the United States.

A US and Canadian outdoor professional soccer league, called the North American Soccer League, folded in 1984 after 17 years.

An indoor-only circuit, the Major Indoor Soccer League, operated from 1978 to 1992. The 13-team indoor National professional Soccer League is the only remaining league.

"Establish a professional league to create not only an internal market but an international market. This is the message we want to give you," Blatter said.

He cited data showing as many as 16 million Americans play soccer. Of that group, many are high school age and younger, he said.

"You have to offer these young players hope for the future" and give them incentive to look at playing soccer professionally, he said.

The economic impact of soccer in the United States also would be significant, Blatter said. He said some people predict as many as 50 million Americans could become interested in the sport, with each spending about \$15,000 on equipment, tickets, travel, novelty items and concessions.

"When you multiply \$15,000 times 50 million, that's

# ICTVTR sports

The annual sports competition of the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) was held at the centre playground in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

A good number of students of the centre, a subsidiary organ on the Organisation of the Islamic conference (OIC), took part in different events of the meet.

Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan witnessed the events as the chief guest and distributed prizes.

Director General of the Centre Dr A M Patwari, diplomats of OIC member countries including Indonesia, Pakistan were present.



There are more things for cricketer than batting, bowling and fielding. Biman skipper Enamul Haq Moni atones for having reacted at provocation during the vital Biman-MSR tie at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo