

Sport

Biman wing to another win



Former champions Bangladesh once again gave a trial of their strength, may be all too late, when they beat one-time title winners Brothers Union by six wickets in the super league tie of the Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Unlike their first phase match, a thriller which the airline team won by four runs mainly because of the devastating pace bowling of Pakistani



SHANU... 74

paceman Wasim Haider. Biman yesterday controlled the match right through with the Brothers batting, except for a stolid knock of 72 by opener Zahid Razzak Masum, never blossoming in the face of tight bowling by the Biman bowlers.

Wasim Haider, who had captured six Brothers wickets for 39 runs in the first leg match, was very much there yesterday but it was a team effort rather than any individual brilliance that helped Biman cruise to a comfortable victory.

After their bowlers had justified the decision of fielding first by restricting Brothers to 194 for seven in 45 overs, Shah Nawaz Shaheed Shanu and Zakaria toted up 144 runs for the third wicket in 29.4 overs of entertaining batting that paved the path for a smooth take off for Biman. They collected 198 for four wickets in 42.2 overs to raise their tally

to 18 from 13 matches, a fact that would only add to the frustration of their handful supporters and officials. Had only they pulled their socks up a little earlier, could only they do without those three under-achieving first round losses!

However, yesterday Biman did not appear to be suffering from any hangover of the pessimism of wishful speculations as Moni sent Brothers to bat first after winning the toss in the morning.

The fast improving right-arm paceman Babul, who was recruited from Young Pegasus only this season, sent back Brothers skipper Nurul Abedin Nobel for one in the fifth over with Brothers on 14.

Wasim Haider, replacing an expensive Rafiq, struck immediately when he rattled the stumps of one-drop Tomal, the wicketkeeper of the Gopibagh side, for 13.

A 58-run partnership for the third wicket somewhat redeemed Brothers position, with Athar Ali bearing Masum a firm hand to shore up the disintegrating innings.

Veteran Jahangir, keeping instead of regular Debashish Barua, whipped the balls off Moni's bowling to mark the end of Athar's innings for 25.

T. L. Fernando, the frizzy-haired Sri Lankan all-rounder, tried his best to help Brothers' cause with a typically punitive knock of 21 off 20 balls with the help of a sixer and a four.

The Sri Lankan, now almost a naturalised Bangladeshi, was soon followed into the pavilion by the tall opening batsman Masum who has been fighting all this while to push the Brothers boat to safe waters.

Masum was trapped leg before the wicket by Wasim Haider for a well-made 72 off 138 balls, inclusive of five fours.

Golam Faruq Suru was lost in the slog surge for seven and Brothers finally ended their essay on 194 for seven.

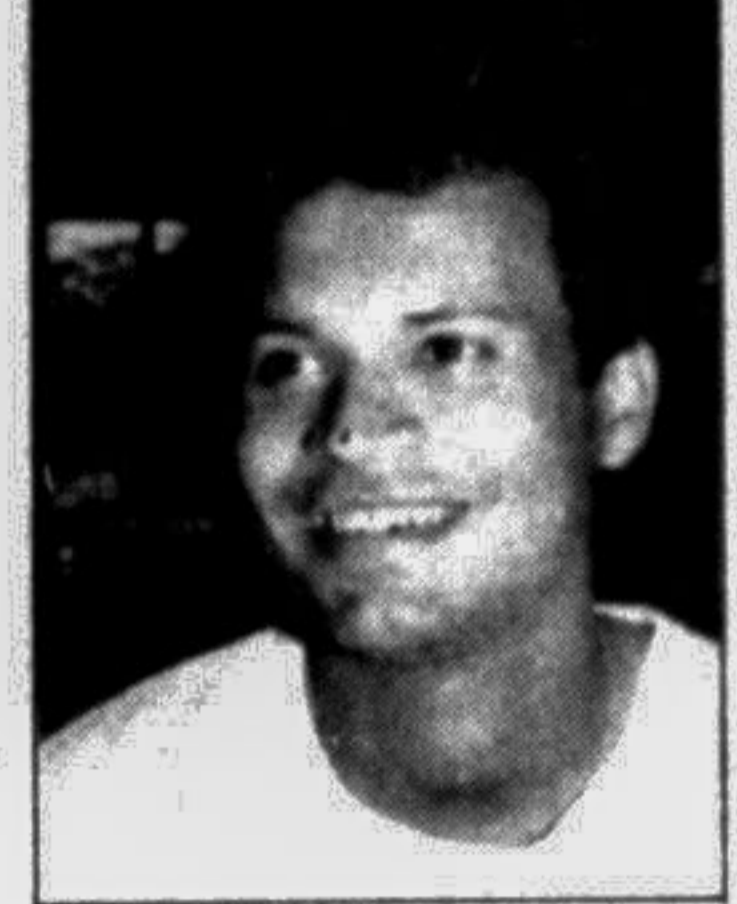
Enamul Huq Moni's left-arm spin earned him three wickets for 34 runs. Wasim bagged two for 42 and Babul bowled exceptionally well to take one for nine from six

overs. Suru and Fernando snatched one wicket each to dent Biman hopes but Zakaria and Shanu got together to take Biman from a very shaky position of two for seven to 151.

Zakaria left in the 33rd over for a fine 64 made off 79 balls when Tomal stumped him off a very consistent Salahuddin.

Although Shanu followed suit three runs later for a cracking 74, the unfinished task was completed by Wasim Haider and Mahbubur Rahman Scim.

Shanu, the dark, stuggy



MASUM... 72

batsman from Rajshahi, played 117 balls for his 74 and sent the ball across the fence eight times before being bowled by Suru.

Wasim remained unbeaten on 29 which included a customary sixer while Scim had the time and requirement of scoring 12 as Biman pranced to 198 for four in 42.2 overs.

Suru and Fernando caused some flutter early in the Brothers innings claiming one wicket each which eventually cost them 37 and 34 runs respectively.

Salahuddin bowled with his usual accuracy and craft to finish with one for 37.

The win raises Biman's tally to 18 points from 13 matches while Brothers Union so far have 12 points from a similar number of outings.

TODAY'S MATCH Abahani vs Gulshan Youth.

Rain may ruin Zimbabwe's first overseas Test

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: Bad weather threatens to play the spoilsport in Zimbabwe's first overseas Test match set to start at the Kotla here Saturday, reports AFP.

Unseasonal showers late Thursday and Friday left the inadequately-covered wicket waterlogged and the bowler's run ups slushy, raising doubts of there being any play on the opening day of the one-off Test.

Both teams had a light training session on the wet outfield Friday morning before a sharp shower drove the players back to their hotel. They delayed naming their playing elevens till just before the toss.

The thin tarpaulin covers blew off during a mild thunderstorm Thursday night which drenched the greenish wicket, leaving frustrated groundsman Radhey Shyam blaming local officials for not providing adequate covers.

"What can I do when I don't have proper facilities to work with?" Shyam said. "All the hard work of the last week in preparing the wicket has gone waste."

It's not that the officials don't know how bad covers can ruin a match, Shyam said, reminded of the India-Australia Test match here in 1986 which began late on the fourth day because of rain.

Zimbabwe, who were accorded Test status last year, played three Test matches at home before embarking on their first official Test tour. They are also scheduled to play three one-day internationals on the 16-day tour.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter Bangladesh Boys Club suffered their first defeat in the Second Division cricket super league when they lost to Ajax Sports Club by 52 runs at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Bangladesh Boys skipper Babla won the toss and invited his Ajax counterpart Roopam to make first use of the strip.

Ajax were all out for exactly 200 in 39.5 overs with Babu topscoring with a quickfire 45 from 32 deliveries. He hit four fours and six.

Sohel made 41 off 65 balls with the help of a couple of boundaries and Rafique got 26 while Bhola and Dola collected 15 each.

Ujjal with four wickets for 35 was most successful of the Bangladesh Boys bowlers while skipper Babla with three for 34 lent him able support.

Kamrul and Sumi took a wicket apiece for Bangladesh Boys.

Bangladesh Boys were dismissed for 148 in 34.1 overs with Palash topscoring with 50 from 88 balls, an innings inclusive of four hits across the fence.

Sumi scored a run-a-ball 32 and Nasim made 22 from 29 deliveries.

Dola, Babu and Rojel evenly shared six wickets among them while Bhola, Torique and Rafique got a wicket apiece for Ajax.

The result leaves both teams at par with four points from three outings each.

TODAY'S MATCHES Three Star vs Nirman XI (Mirpur Pallabi)

Aussies at receiving end



AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Mar 12: Australia Collapsed to 139 for nine on the first day of the final day of the New Zealand tour, today reports Reuter.

lunch the tourists were 48 for six.

Following on from his haul of 7-89 in the second test in Wellington, Morrison ripped through the Australian middle-order, becoming only the eighth New Zealander to take



Australian fast bowler Merv Hughes smashes one to the fence for four during the first day's play of the third and final Test against New Zealand in Auckland yesterday. Hughes wielded the willow well to score 33 runs in a dismal Aussie total of 139 for nine at stumps. —AFP photo

Only bad light and rain, which prevented any play in the final session, saved the tourists from an embarrassing rout.

By 3 pm last man Craig McDermott was at the crease after a disastrous decision to bat by Australian captain Allan Border gave New Zealand's bowlers the chance to exploit movement on an Eden Park wicket that looked deceptively flat.

Pace bowler Danny Morrison took five for 37 as New Zealand demolished the fancied Australian batting lineup. Australia lead the three-match series 1-0. The second Test was drawn.

Only a gutsy 53-run partnership by all-rounder Steve Waugh and flamboyant bowler Merv Hughes saved Australia from total disaster.

The day started ominously for New Zealand, with openers David Boon and Mark Taylor batting confidently for the first hour and putting on 38 runs.

But then disaster struck for Australia and six wickets fell for 10 runs. Five minutes after

100 test wickets when Ian Healy became his fourth victim.

Boon struck three boundaries in his innings of 20 be-

fore he played across the line to Willie Watson and was adjudged leg before wicket.

Two balls later, Taylor was hit on the pads by Morrison and adjudged lbw for 13.

Youthful West Australian pair Justin Langer, and Damien Martyn then both departed with the score at 39, falling for nought and one respectively.

Langer edged a catch to wicketkeeper Tony Blain off the bowling of Morrison, while Martyn also offered a thin edge to the keeper, this time from Watson's bowling.

Martyn had come into the side to replace the out-of-form Mark Waugh.

Australian captain Allan Border was then victim to a bizarre dismissal. A Morrison delivery beat him comprehensively, brushing his off stump on the way through to wicketkeeper Tony Blain.

The balls remained on, but umpire Chris King raised his finger, indicating Border had got bat to ball. Morrison said later he felt Border had edged the ball, but he agreed television replays appeared to show the "Woody" sound was probably the ball touching his off stump.

A furious-looking Border eventually walked while Waugh remonstrated with King. Wicketkeeper Ian Healy departed for a duck, like Border and Martyn, before Hughes joined Waugh at the crease.

The bats remained on, but umpire Chris King raised his finger, indicating Border had got bat to ball. Morrison said later he felt Border had edged the ball, but he agreed television replays appeared to show the "Woody" sound was probably the ball touching his off stump.

Waugh struck seven fours in his 77-ball innings before he was caught in the gully by Andrew Jones off the bowling of Watson. Hughes, after lofting four fours and a six, was eventually caught on the boundary after scoring 33.

Paul Reffel became Blain's fourth victim of the day and Morrison's fifth just before bad light stopped play.

Australian team manager Bobby Simpson said his bowlers were looking forward to Saturday, when similar overcast weather conditions are forecast.

"I don't think New Zealand's batsmen will be looking forward too much to going out there," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the first day of the third and final Test match between New Zealand and Australia today.

AUSTRALIA: First innings D. Boon lbw b Watson 20 M. Taylor lbw b Morrison 13 J. Langer c Blain b Morrison 0 D. Martyn c Blain b Watson 1 S. Waugh c Jones b Watson 41 A. Border c Blain b Morrison 0 I. Healy c Jones b Morrison 0 M. Hughes c Su'a b Patel 33 P. Reffel c Blain b Morrison 9 S. Warne not out 3 C. McDermott not out 6 Extras: (lb-7, nb-6) 13 Total: (for nine wickets) 139

Fall of wickets: 1-38; 2-38; 3-39; 4-39; 5-43; 6-48; 7-101; 8-121; 9-153.

Bowling: O M R W Morrison 18 5 37 5 Su'a 14 3 27 0 Watson 18 8 47 3 Patel 4 0 21 1

Bad day for city schools

Sports Reporter A fine all-round performance from Pavel Nyogi of Rajbari Govt High School and the dual ouster of city schools marked the inaugural day of the final round of the eleventh Nirman schools cricket championship yesterday.

Rajbari High School registered a massive 165-run victory over St Gregory's High School at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium while Madaripur United Islamia High

with the help of four fours and a couple of over boundaries. Mahboob made 29 and Golam Azam remained unbeaten on 11 as Rajbari School reached 256 when the overs ran out.

All the St Gregory's bowlers were savaged by the Rajbari batsmen. But they were particularly severe on Suman for whom the match was indeed a nightmare. The poor bowler conceded 74 runs from eight overs and remained wicketless.

Iftekhar and Partha claimed two wickets each for 38 and 54 respectively while Moyn took a wicket for 45.

With wickets falling at regular intervals the Gregorians were skittled out for a paltry 91 in only 23.2 overs.

Moyn Sobhan made 16 with the help of two fours and Rajib, Saikat and Zahidul Malik got 13, 12 and 11 respectively for St Gregory's School.

Pavel Nyogi, who had top-scored for Rajbari School, went one better with the ball bagging two wickets for 17.

Golam Azam and captain Wahid Palash also claimed two wickets each for 10 and 12 runs respectively while Tarek Aziz got one for 29.

Quite expectedly, Pavel Nyogi received the man-of-the-match award.

Rajbari School will play Patuakhali Adarsha High School in the pre-quarterfinals tomorrow.

MADARIPUR'S WIN

Madaripur United Islamia High School also moved into the pre-quarterfinals beating Scholastica International by two wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Put into bat, Scholastica International were bundled out for a modest 146 in 39.2 overs. Scholastica International fans had every reason to blame their opening batsman Ilamed for his painfully slow innings. He made 25 from 99 balls.

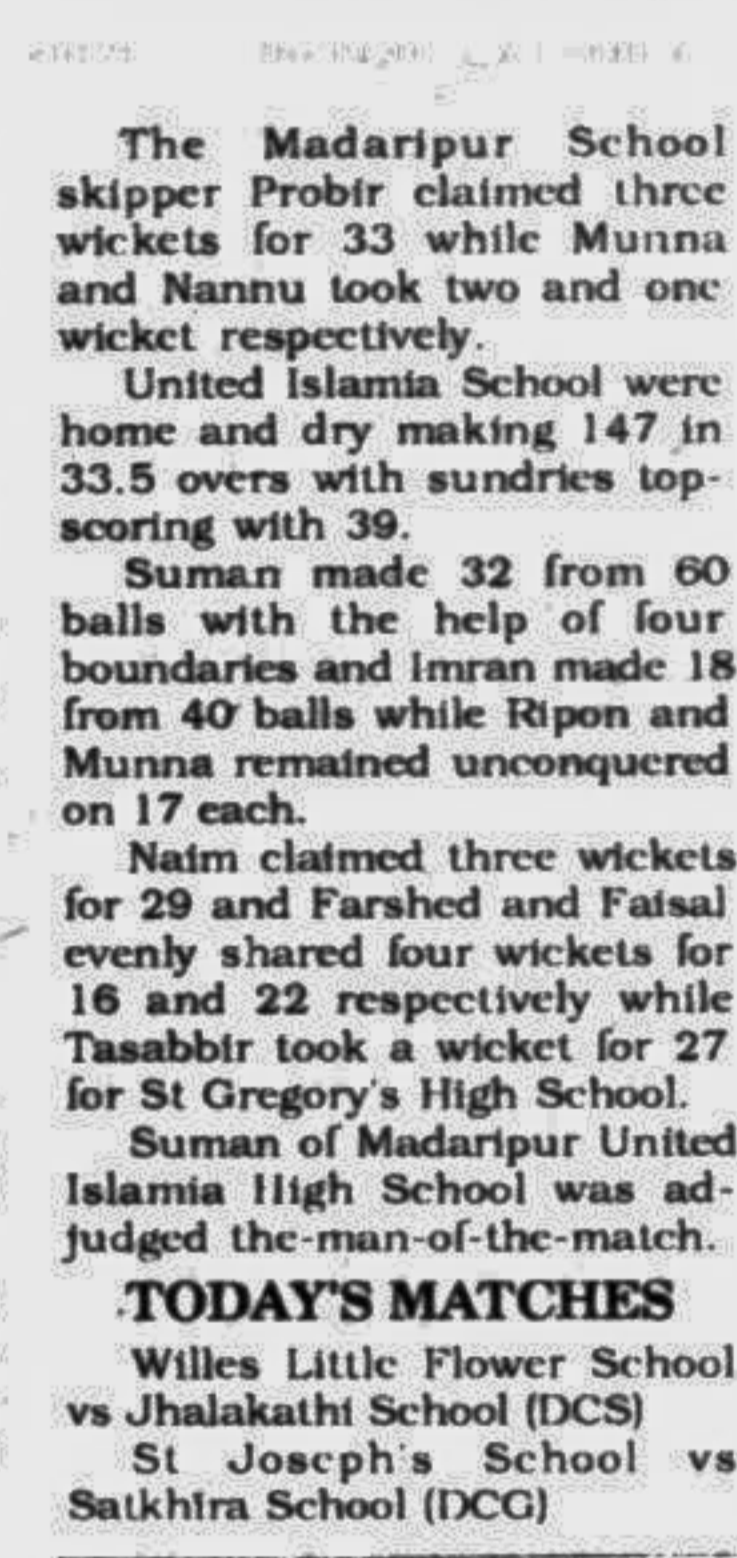
However, Tosabbir went great guns with the willow making 24 from only 12 balls with the help of three sixes.

Junaid, Naim and Mursheed scored 12, 10 and 10 respectively while extras added 35 to the total.

Ramos replaces Molefyane

SYDNEY, Mar 12: Arman Ramos of the Philippines will face Australian Ricky Rayner for the vacant World Boxing Federation junior-lightweight title in Sydney on March 19, promoter: Konrad Janson said Friday, reports AP.

Ramos will replace South African Paul Dita Molefyane.



P NYOGI... man-of-match

St Gregory's School and Scholastica International were the losing semifinalists of the Dhaka zonal championship held last month.

At the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, the Rajbari Govt School skipper Wahid Palash won the toss and elected to bat.

Rajbari School amassed a handsome 256 for the loss of seven wickets in their stipulated 40 overs.

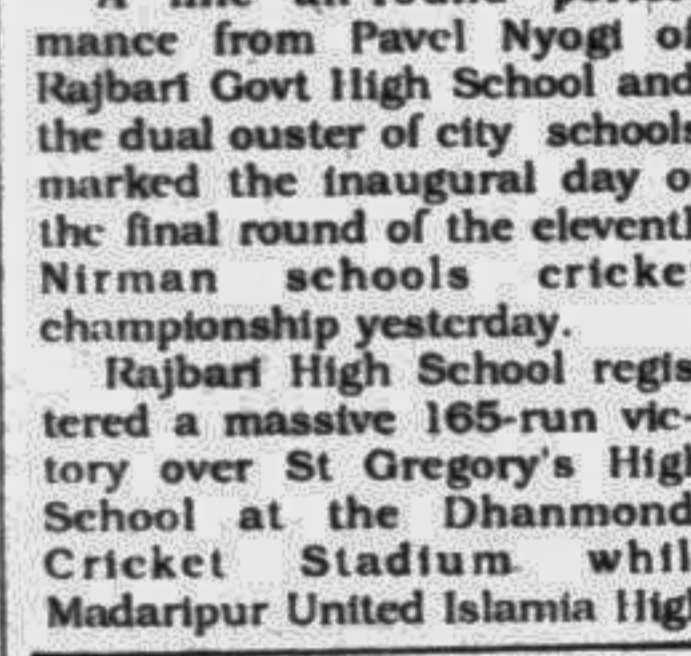
The opening pair put on 56 runs in only 9.5 overs. Arman Shahadat contributing a run-a-ball 41 with the help of seven boundaries and Mir Kamal Ahmed making 12.

Another brilliant 55-run stand for the fifth wicket between Biswajit Nyogi and Pavel Nyogi helped Rajbari School pile up their impressive total.

Pavel remained unbeaten on 66 from 50 balls, an innings that included half a dozen boundaries and four over boundaries. Wicket-keeper Biswajit made a 29-ball 39



Wahid Palash and Suman, the skippers of Rajbari Government High School and St Gregory's High School respectively, tossing prior to the start of the inaugural match of the 21-team final round of the eleventh Nirman schools cricket championship at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. —Star photo



School beat Scholastica International by two wickets at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Kamalapur Samaj Kalyan and Krira Sangha drew goalless with Ek Jhak Paira in the other match at the venue.

Nabodoy Sangha edged past Mirpur Nabarun Sporting Club by two goals to one at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Masudur Rahman gave Nabodoy Sangha the lead in the third minute while Ripon doubled the margin in the 16th minute (2-0).

Sirajul Islam pulled one back for Nabarun Sporting in the 41st minute (2-1).

K R Boys Sporting Club outplayed Arambagh Krira Sangha (Jrs) by three goals to nil at the Outer Stadium.

Rana, Babu and Rajanikant were the scorers.

Badshah Smriti Sangsad beat Amilgola Tarun Sangha by two goals to nil in the other match at the venue.

Hossain and Palash were the scorers.

Mukti Khelaghar beat Maniknagar Unnayan Sanity by two goals to nil in the only match at the Jagannath College ground.

Mashur Rahman and Shahidul Islam scored for the winners.

At the Banani ground, Kawran-azar Pragati Sangha beat Jatrabari Krira Chakra by a solitary goal.

Bachchu netted the decider.

Kurmitola Apollo Club shared points with Uttaran Sporting Club in a one-all draw in the other match at the same venue.

Aminur Rahman scored for Apollo Club and Abdur Rab for Uttaran Sporting.

Azimpur Heroes Club drew goalless with Dhaka Dynamo Club in the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Club ground.

Gustafsson left in the cold

ZARAGOZA, Spain, Mar 12: Second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden fell in Thursday's second round of the 175,000 Zaragoza Open to Germany's Arne Thoms, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6), reports AP.

Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic, the tournament's top seed, won his second-round match over Richard Matuszewski of the United States, 6-4, 6-2.

In another mild upset, No. 5-seeded Stephane Simian of France fell 6-3, 6-3 to Martin Damm of the Czech Republic.

Aussies to play 3 Tests in SA



JOHANNESBURG, Mar 12: Australia's cricketers are to play three Tests and eight limited overs internationals when they tour South Africa in 1994, their first official visit to the republic in 24 years, reports Reuter.

Australia were the last team to play a Test series in South Africa before the country was isolated from the international arena, though rebel Australian sides toured in the 1980s.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said at a news conference to announce the itinerary on Thursday: "The Australians have always played hard, competitive and attractive cricket."

"I have no doubt in my mind that they will be desirous of avenging their 4-0 defeat in South Africa in 1970."

Bacher captained the victorious 1970 team.

Australia, whose two-month tour starts next February, have four day-night games among the eight limited overs internationals, and Tests in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

The visit will be hard on the heels of a South African tour of Australia starting next November.

Bacher said no agreement had been reached on neutral umpires or use of television replay facilities by a third umpire. South Africa has used replays for close run-out decisions in all international home matches since last November.

Bacher said the UCBSA

would put pressure on the provinces to ensure proper pitches were prepared for international matches.

The groundsman at Newlands in Cape Town was heavily criticised last month after West Indies routed Pakistan for 43 on a treacherous pitch. The match was part of a triangular one-day series.

Andy Atkinson, groundsman for English county Warwick-

shire, will visit Cape Town next week to advise on pitch preparation.

Border wasn't out, admits Crowe

AUCKLAND, Mar 12: New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe admitted Friday that his Australian counterpart Allan Border should not have been dismissed on the first day of the third Test, reports AP.

Border was given out for a duck, caught behind by wicketkeeper Tony Blain, but felt the ball had nicked the stumps rather than his bat.

New Zealand's players were convinced at the time that Border had edged the ball and umpire Chris King shared that view.

The Kiwis changed their mind after watching television replays of the incident.

"You don't know at the time," Crowe said.

"You think it's hit the stump, but he may have nicked it as well. It's not until you see at the end of the day that it clearly missed the bat and did hit the off-ball quite hard."

While the ball hit the ball, it failed to dislodge it.

Border's dismissal was one of the key factors as Australia slumped to 139 for nine before rain stopped play.

Australian coach Bob Simpson refused to comment on Border's dismissal.

"We'll accept all decisions, and in the best possible spirit," Simpson said.

"I'm certainly not going to comment on what happened today, but just generalizing, I think there is a tendency for umpires to go off (make decisions) too early."

Browning's feat

PRAGUE, Czech Republic, Mar 12: Canada's Kurt Browning used a "Casablanca" theme to regain the men's title Thursday at the World Figure Skating Championship ahead of compatriot Elvis Stojko, reports AP.

AUSTRALIA'S 1994 ITINERARY

Feb 10: vs Nicky Oppenheimer XI, Randjesfontein
Feb 12-15: vs Transvaal, Centurion Park, Pretoria
Feb 17: vs President's XI, Potchefstroom
Feb 19: One-day international, Johannesburg
Feb 20: One-day international, Centurion Park
Feb 22: One-day international, Port Elizabeth
Feb 24: One-day international, Durban
Feb 26: vs Orange Free State, Bloemfontein

March 4-8: First Test, Johannesburg
March 12-14: vs Bowl XI, Stellenbosch
March 17-21: Second Test, Cape Town
March 25-29: Third Test, Durban

April 2: Day-night international, East London
April 4: Day-night international, Port Elizabeth
April 6: Day-night international, Cape Town
April 8: Day-night international, Bloemfontein