

Nat'l TT from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

The eighteenth Econo national table tennis championships, under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation and hosts Jessore District Sports Association, begin tomorrow in Jessore.

Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam, who is also the chief patron of the tournament committee, will inaugurate the six-day competition at the Jessore gymnasium in the morning.

One hundred and sixty-nine paddlers—77 men, 23 women and 69 boys—representing 27 teams will be vying for 12 events.

In our report in Thursday's issue there was a mistake regarding the starting date of the tournament. We regret the mistake.

DMFA Cup groupings

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) tournament committee Thursday finalised the groupings and fixtures of both the first phase and the round robin league of the forthcoming DMFA Cup, which begins in the city from May 10.

Adamjee Sports Club will take on Pioneer Football XI in the opening match while in the day's second match Muktiyoddha Sangsad will be up against Dhanmondi Club.

The top four finishers of last year's Star Senior Division league have been placed directly in the round robin league. Reigning champions Abahani Krira Chakra and Arambagh Krira Sangstha are drawn into Group A while Mohammedan Sporting Club, last year's runners-up, and Brothers Union are expected to fight it out for the top two places in Group B. The top two outfits from each group qualify for the semifinals, scheduled for May 25 and 26. The final is billed for May 28.

Nineteen teams, split into four groups, will vie for in the elimination round. The group champions will earn qualify for the round robin league. The following are the groupings of the first phase.

GROUP A: Rahmatganj MFS, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Dhanmondi Club, Adamjee Sports Club and Pioneer Football XI.

GROUP B: Agrani Bank, PWD Sports Club, Dhaka Wanderers Club, Sadharan Bima KS, and Badda Jagarani Sangha, last year's Third Division runners-up.

GROUP C: Victoria Sporting Club, Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club, BRTC SC, 1992 Third Division champions Lalmita Club and Bangladesh Boys Club who earned promotion last year as the Second Division champions.

GROUP D: Warid Club, Farashganj Sporting, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and East End Club.

N'ganj cricket

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Apr 30: Narayanganj Cricket Club Red, aided by a superb all-round performance from Anjan, marched into the semifinals of the Gulubh Bhuiyan Smriti Second Division cricket league beating Three Star Boys Club by 95 runs at the Osmani Stadium today.

Sent in to bat the winners made 142 in 25 overs losing nine wickets with Mridul top scoring with 43. Ranjit and Anjan both scored 23 but the latter remained unbeaten.

Saeed and Shahabuddin picked up two wickets each. Three Star Boys Club were not even close to winning the match as their resistance just fell apart to an incisive spell from Anjan. Anjan returned the fantastic figures of 5-4-1-4. Tito dismissed three batsmen for 16 runs and Mridul claimed two for nought.

Narayanganj Cricket Club will take on Three Star Club in one of the semifinals. Staliskhya Club will meet the winners of tomorrow's match between Eastern SC and Chaturanga in the other semifinal.

Baghati Gold Cup

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 30: Iswardi Brothers Union Club today clinched the Baghati Gold Cup defeating Bogra Krira Sangha by 2-1 goals in the final match at the Baghati High School ground in Sadar Thana of the district, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain Khoka was present as chief guest and distributed prizes. Khoka handed over the eight-tola gold cup to Brothers Union and a 20-inch Sony colour TV to Bogra Krira Sangha.

Fifteen teams of the northern region and a team from Tangal district took part in the tournament, first ever in Sirajganj district.

The tournament has been introduced for the development of the age-old Baghati High School at village Baghati of Sadar.

Third Test begins today

Akram far from disheartened



ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 30: Despite two heavy defeats against West Indies, Pakistan captain Wasim Akram is far from downhearted before the final Test starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

"We are a young team. The boys are learning day by day," Akram said.

Akram, in his first tour as captain, is particularly encouraged by the form of Basit Ali.

As his side crumbled around him in Barbados, Basit scored an unbeaten 92 in the first innings and 37 in his second in only his second Test



appearance.

"Basit played unbelievably in both innings. He has been the find of the tour. No doubt about it," Akram said after the match which West Indies won by 10 wickets.

The home side crushed Pakistan in the first Test in Trinidad by 204 runs with two days to spare.

Akram, who blames too much one-day cricket for his own poor performance, admitted West Indies had outplayed his side in every department.

The West Indies are playing like the best team in the world. You can't take that away from them," he said.

Pakistan manager Khalid Mahmood said following some good one-day result he had hoped for a better performance in the Tests but the side still had enough fight in them to press for victory.

"Of course we would like to return home with a 2-1 result. It's much better than 3-0," he said.

BISHOP RETURNS

From Bridgetown, Barbados an AP report said: Ian Bishop has rejoined the West Indies but Kenneth Benjamin has been put on standby in case the fast bowler's back eliminates him from the final eleven.

Bishop left the second Test after bowling only 4.5 overs in Pakistan's second innings on Sunday, complaining of back pain and stiffness. A bone scan performed in his native Trinidad Tuesday revealed no recurrence of the stress fracture of his lower vertebra that kept him out of international cricket for 1 1/2 years before his return on the tour of Australia last October.

"We hope that Ian will be fit enough to play," team manager Oavid Holford said Thursday. "It's a relief to know that the injury is muscular and not as serious as a stress fracture. We'll wait until we get to Antigua to see how Ian goes at practice."

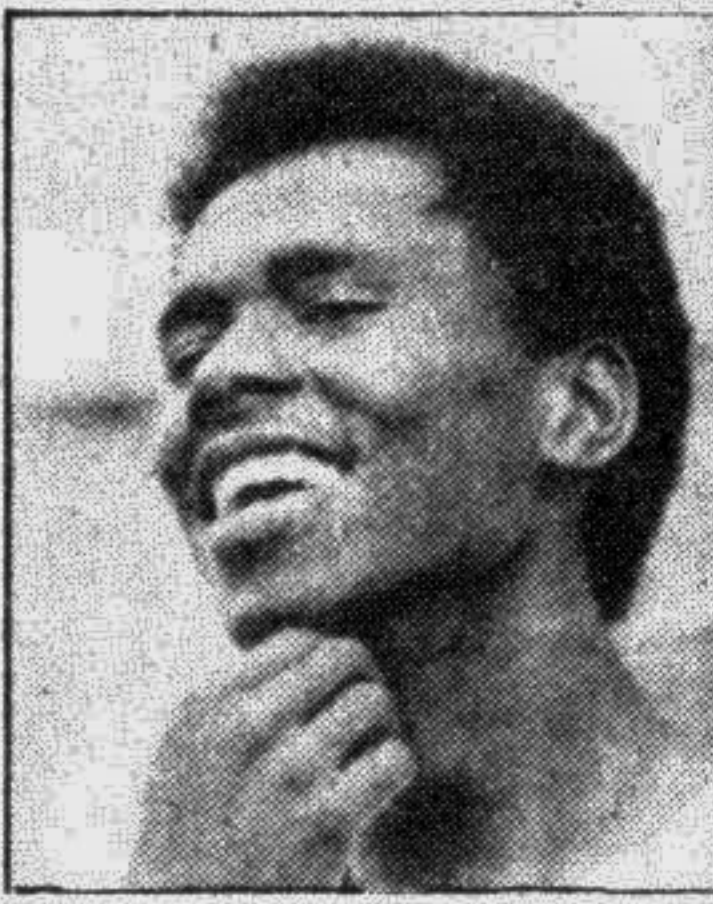
The West Indies have made no changes for the Test, which begins Saturday, to the squad of 13 they've maintained for the first two Tests. They won the first one by 204 runs in Port-of-Spain and the second by 10 wickets in Bridgetown.

Pakistan, devastated by injuries throughout the series, are likely to be without left-

handed all-rounder Aamir Sohail for the match. He strained groin and hamstring muscles prior to the second Test but still played. The injuries were aggravated and coach Mudassar Nazar said Thursday he was "very doubtful."

His place would go to either Zahid Fazal, the tall 19-year-old right-handed batsman who has played six Tests but none in this series, or Shakeel Ahmed, another right-hander on his first tour with Pakistan and yet to play a Test.

Pakistan lost fast-bowler Aaqib Javed even before the series started and lost spinner Mushtaq Ahmed during the first Test, both to back in-



juries. They were flown to London for special treatment.

TEAMS

WEST INDIES: Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes, Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Keith Arthurton, Carl Hooper, Junior Murray, Ian Bishop, Winston Benjamin, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Anderson Cummins, Jimmy Adams.

PAKISTAN: To be announced.

England rue, Holland rejoice



LONDON, Apr 30: England were counting the cost on Thursday of two lapses of concentration that altered their World Cup fortunes and left the Netherlands feeling luck might be guiding them to next year's finals, reports Reuter.

For the second time England dominated a game against one of their chief rivals for a place in the 1994 World Cup finals, and for the second time dropped a home point when the Dutch came from two goals down to snatch a draw in the dying minutes on Wednesday.

Having already conceded a vital home point to the Norwegians in October, England's 2-2 draw against the Dutch was a major disappointment after outplaying them for most of the game at Wembley.

England are a point behind group leaders Norway, who defeated Turkey 3-1 in Oslo on Wednesday, and level with the Dutch, who have played a game more.

England manager Graham Taylor was bitterly disappointed that a game his team dominated yielded only one point, while Dutch team chief Dick Advocaat expressed gratitude for the luck that kept his side in with a chance of qualifying.

"It's very rare that a team playing as well as England did can lose a two-goal lead," Taylor said. "We deserved to win but you don't always get what you deserve."

"We produced some good football against the Dutch and we have got to keep playing that way, get results and keep the spirit right."

Captain David Platt, who scored the 11th goal of his last 11 internationals, was equally disappointed and said England must extract the most from two difficult games in Poland and Norway at the end of next month.

Gooch, who has led England since 1989, will also be in charge for the three one-day internationals between the two countries next month.

Gooch's future as captain had been in doubt following England's disastrous winter tour of India and Sri Lanka. He has ruled himself out for future tours, including this winter's series in the West Indies.

"I am delighted to be asked to captain the side and I am looking forward to playing better than in the winter and beating the Australians," Gooch said. "It is going to be tough for us but I am certainly committed to the job. I do not like losing."

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GRAHAM TAYLOR

BAF soccer

CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: BAF Base Zahurul Haque annexed the title of Bangladesh Air Force Inter-base football championship defeating the Air Headquarters Unit team by a solitary goal here at the BAF Base Zahurul Haque playground yesterday, reports BSS.

Flight Lt. Rushad of Base Zahurul Haque netted the goal in the 15th minute of play.

Corporal Asad of Air Headquarters Unit was adjudged the best player of the championship.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Jamaluddin Ahmed witnessed the match as chief guest and gave away the trophies.

Qatar gave a poor showing and failed to produce any goal scoring chances against a tight Singapore defence.



Razzak, the country's most celebrated actor, is clean bowled in yesterday's charity match between the Film Actors' XI and Directors' XI at the Dhaka Stadium. The actors won the match on a better run rate. Star photo

Japan beat Bangladesh 4-1

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh lost to Japan 4-1 in the second leg of the 1994 World Cup Asian Zone F qualifying round in Dubai yesterday, according to a telephonic message received in Dhaka last night.

Bangladesh, playing their first match in the five-team competition, trailed 1-3 at the breather.

Japan, who won 8-0 when the teams met in the first round in Tokyo last month, shot into the lead in the very second minute. But Rizvi Karim Rumi equalised for Bangladesh by scoring from a Mamun Joarder pass from the right.

However, the repeated Japanese raids soon told on the Bangladesh defence which conceded three more goals, two of which were more due to goalkeeper errors on the part of Mohsin. As a result coach Kazi Salahuddin replaced Mohsin with Sayeed Hassan Kanan after the fourth Japanese goal.

Japan made it 2-1 in the 30th minute of play and followed that up with another goal in the 35th minute.

Bangladesh were reduced to ten men in the second half after defender Rehan received his second yellow card of the match from the referee. Another defender — Ataur — also received a yellow card, his second of the meet after being warned during the first leg in Japan and will miss the match against hosts United Arab Emirates on May 3.

Japan completed the tally by scoring their fourth goal in the 20th minute of the second session.

In another match on the day, UAE beat Thailand 2-0.

Gooch gets half of it

LONDON, Apr 30: Graham Gooch was reappointed captain of England's cricket team Friday, but only for the first half of this summer's "Ashes" series against Australia, reports AP.

The 39-year-old Essex batsman was named to head the team for three of the six Tests, beginning at Old Trafford in Manchester on June 3. The England selectors will then review the position.

"The committee emphasised its continued confidence in the quality of Graham's leadership," England committee chairman Ted Dexter said. "But we have adopted this formula to leave all options open."

Gooch, who has led England since 1989, will also be in charge for the three one-day internationals between the two countries next month.

Gooch's future as captain had been in doubt following England's disastrous winter tour of India and Sri Lanka. He has ruled himself out for future tours, including this winter's series in the West Indies.

"I am delighted to be asked to captain the side and I am looking forward to playing better than in the winter and beating the Australians," Gooch said. "It is going to be tough for us but I am certainly committed to the job. I do not like losing."

Charity match held

Sports Reporter

The film actors beat the directors on a better run rate in a charity exhibition cricket match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Batting first the Directors' XI made 58 for eight in 25 overs with Saiful Azam Kashem making 14 and Alamgir 13. In reply, the actors made 48 for five in 14.1 overs with Omar Sunny making 17, Ilyas Kanchan nine, Subrata eight and Ahmed Sharif eight.

The match was followed by a cultural programme in the evening participated by actors, actresses, playback singers and the comedians.

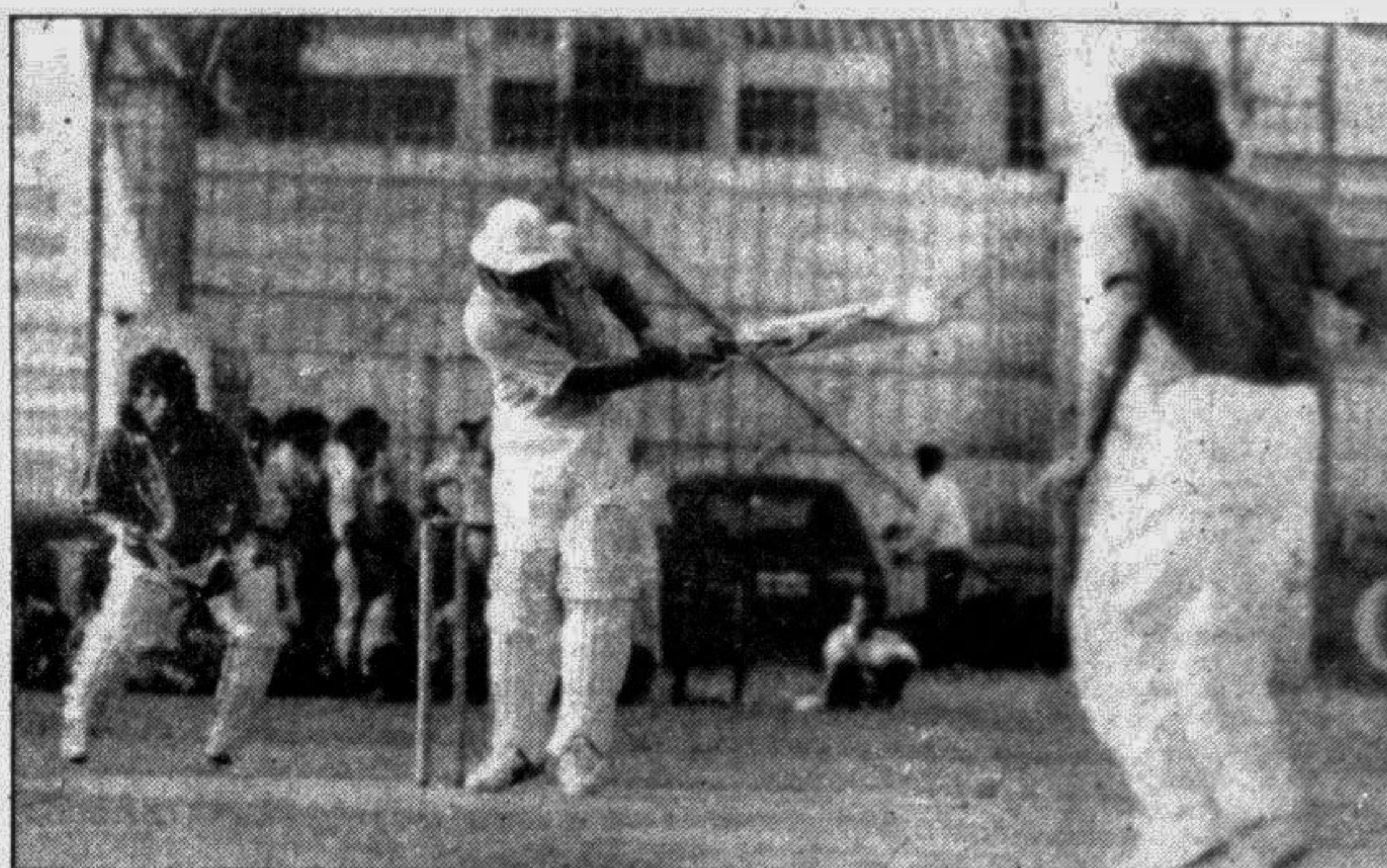
A crowd estimated between 15,000 and 20,000 paid at the gates to catch a glimpse of the stars, especially the bevy of actresses including Champa, Nazina, and Shabnaz. Superstars Razzak and Alamgir were also there among many others.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda was introduced to the players of the two teams prior to the start of the match.

Border to miss tour opener

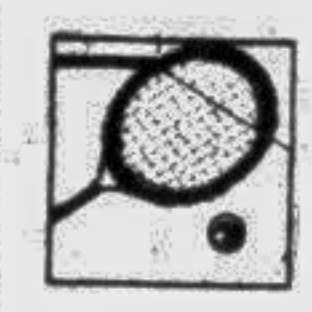
LONDON, Apr 30: Captain Allan Border has decided to miss Australia's first cricket tour match, a one-day contest against an England Amateur XI today, reports Reuter.

Border, making his fourth and final Ashes trip, will save himself for Sunday's meeting with the Duchess of Norfolk's XI at Arundel.



Matinee idol Alamgir barely manages to stave one off during the charity match between the Film Actors' XI and the Directors' XI at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The match was organised to raise funds for the Chalachitra Shilpi Sangsritik-O-Krira Kalyan Samity. — Star photo

Jansher denies Dittmar again



NEW YORK, Apr 30: Pakistan's Jansher Khan continued his domination of world squash and of Australian rival

Chris Dittmar by winning the Tournament of Champions on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The top-seeded Jansher beat second seed Dittmar 15-7, 12-15, 15-14, 15-9 for his tenth successive final-round win over the Australian in the last 16 months.

Dittmar fought his way back into the match in the second game, but the 23-year-old world champion refused to relax his stranglehold over the Australian.

"I thought I was in with a chance when I won the second game," Dittmar said. "But give the bloke credit, he seems to know just when to step up the pace and finish you off."

"But I am not discouraged," Dittmar continued. "Every time he looks over his shoulder I'll be there. He knows I won't give up."

The pair are seeded to meet in the final of the season's last major event on the circuit, the 140,000 dollar Brazilian Open, which begins in Rio de Janeiro on May 12.

Jansher said superior fitness gave him an edge as the match wore on.

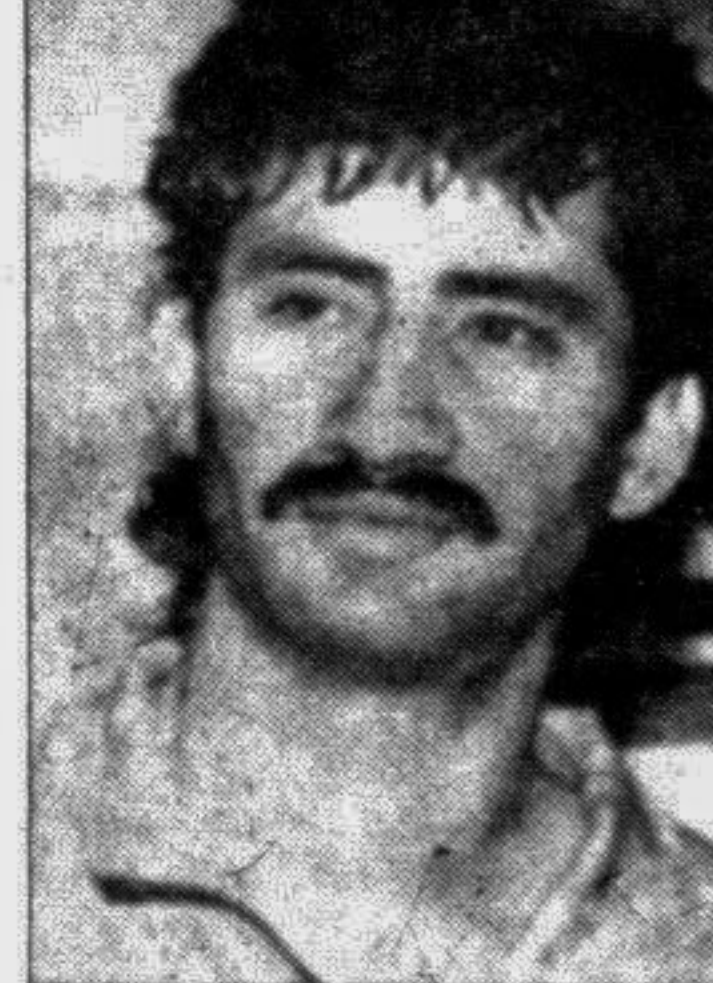
"Chris played well, but I knew I would win when he started to tire in the third game."

Jansher started as if he

meant to kill Dittmar off in double quick time as he won six successive points from 5-5 and took the opening game in 16 minutes.

Dittmar dug his heels in and refused to concede an inch in the second game. He established a 5-1 lead and hung on to level the match, but he game lasted 20 minutes and took a lot out of the 29-year-old from Adelaide.

Dittmar was swept aside in eight minutes in the third as



JANSHER KHAN

Jansher had him chasing to all corners of the court.

To his credit, the Australian tried to fight back in the fourth, slowing pace in an effort to regroup and stem the Pakistani charge.

Jansher, however, would

have one of it and tied up the match in 64 minutes with a perfect drop shot which left the Australian stranded.

Borg's moment of truth

STOCKHOLM, Apr 30: Tennis legend Bjorn Borg shelved his ill-fated comeback here on Thursday, reports AP.

The 36-year-old Swede, who has not won a match since he returned to top-class tennis at Monte Carlo two years ago, said he would be concentrating on the veterans' tour in future.

The former winner of five successive Wimbledon titles said: "From now on I'll play on the veterans' tour, where I can meet up with my mates like Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe or Ivan Lendl. They're family."

But he would not rule out one final fling—a possible wildcard entry for the Indianapolis tournament in August.

Borg drifted out of the sport and into premature retirement after winning the French title in 1981—his sixth—and has made a series of unsuccessful attempts since then to rediscover some standing in the sport.

Much of that failure stemmed from his inability to come to terms with the huge advances in tennis technology since his retirement. He consistently refused to jettison his wooden racket, long made obsolete by carbon fibre.

Seles harbours no high hopes



HAMBURG, Germany, Apr 30: Top seed Monica Seles took exactly an hour to dismiss Argentina's Patricia Tarabini 6-2, 6-2, to reach the quarter-finals of the women's open at Hamburg on Thursday—then admitted she did not expect to win the tournament, reports AP.

The German sports news agency SID said the 40-year-old man struck her with a knife in the back, causing her to collapse.

Germany's ZDF television network also reported that the man had a knife.

Both SID and ZDF said Seles was rushed to a nearby hospital. Her condition was not immediately known.

Although Tarabini offered good competition and engaged Seles in some lengthy rallies, Seles had the ability to pull her opponent out of position and hit fierce winners.

Tarabini made frequent use of the dropshot, but Seles was usually able to reach the ball and return the ball into space to take the point. Seles was also far stronger on serve,

giving up just one point on her serve in the first set, while Tarabini failed to hold serve without being taken to deuce every time.

Seles stabbed

HAMBURG, Apr 30: A spectator jumped from the stands at the Citizen Cup tennis tournament in Hamburg on Friday and attacked top seed Monica Seles, German news media reported, reports AP.

The German sports news agency SID said the 40-year-old man struck her with a knife in the back, causing her to collapse.

Germany's ZDF television network also reported that the man had a knife.

Both SID and ZDF said Seles was rushed to a nearby hospital. Her condition was not immediately known.

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Old foes delight fans



SAND SPRINGS, Okla., Apr 30: Muhammad Ali slowly walked back to his chair, paused, then bit his bottom lip and directed his familiar, menacing glare at a familiar rival, reports AP.

Joe Frazier looked up and smiled, and Ali sneered again.

Parkinson's syndrome has taken a toll on Ali's motor skills and his speech, but not his charm and wit.

He captivated more than 200 people Thursday at the Tulsa Boys' Home, where the two former heavyweight champs signed autographs. They later were guests of honour at Fight Night II, a black-tie, six-bout event to raise money for charity.

Ali won two of three memorable fights against Frazier, including the 1975 Thrilla in Manila, and he was the clear favourite among those at the Boys' Home. They watched his every move, no matter how slight, no matter how slow.

"There was a man who could float like a butterfly and sting like a bee, and he did," said 15-year-old Steve, reading a poem to Ali and Frazier, who sat at separate tables.

"There was a man who hit his opponents like a bolt of lightning ... how you feeling Joe?"

Steve couldn't give his last name because of confidentiality rules. When he finished reading, Ali slowly rose and said,

"Joe's gonna get you!"

All spoke barely above a whisper, but when it came to his pretty face, he wasn't at a loss for words. One Boys' Home resident, presented him a hand-painted portrait of Ali.

"I ain't that ugly," the champ said after a thorough review.

"We're lucky to have them both here together," said Tom Tanno, a spokesman for Dallas-based Fight Night Inc. "They sat across from each other at dinner last night. Ali said, 'You're still ugly.' Joe said, 'You're still stupid.' Then they got up and hugged each other."

"They're pals in that sense. They still respect one another," Tanno said. "Only Joe has the advantage now because he has a louder mouth."

Frazier, 49, who runs Smokin' Joe Frazier's Gym in Philadelphia, signed T-shirts, magazines and photos. He declined to sign Steve's poem, as Ali had done moments earlier.

"There's nothing in there about me except getting hit," he told the boy.

Frazier said he no longer feels and about Ali's condition, partly because he has come to accept it and partly, he says, because it could have happened to him.

"I was in there just like he was," Frazier said. "He had a great life and he's a great man. I can't go around feeling sorry for him. I don't think he wants that."

Lathwell stakes claim for a Test place

LONDON, Apr 30: Somerset's promising young opener Mark Lathwell scored an aggressive 99 on the first day of the English county championship on Thursday to stake an early claim to an England call-up, reports Reuter.

England manager Keith Fletcher, keen to find new talent after the national team's disastrous winter tour to India and Sri Lanka, was at Southampton to see Lathwell take command of the Hampshire attack.

The 21-year-old batsman, one of the few successes of the England A winter tour to Australia, faced 159 balls and hit eight fours as Somerset reached 343 for five.

Middlesex paceman Angus Fraser also offered hope to England as they prepare to take on Australia in the Ashes series this summer.

Fraser, who played the last of his 11 Tests in 1990, showed that he may have finally shaken off a career-threatening hip injury with some impressive bowling against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

His figures of 3-60 from 22 overs did not do him full justice as he was unlucky not to get an early breakthrough in a sharp new ball spell. Gloucestershire ended the day on 261 for eight.

This year's county championship matches are all being played over four days.