

# Biman retain men's team title

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman retained the men's team title with an astonishing ease when they beat Bangladesh Ansars in the straight sets in the final of the 18th national table tennis championships at the Jessore gymnasium yesterday.

Biman, boasting a number of national players to their ranks, started the best-of-five final in style when Mosaddequl Haq Rochi, defending men's champion, easily got rid of Munna of Ansars 21-13, 21-17, to take the airlines team one up.

But Rochi's teammate former national champion Nasimul Hassan Kochi almost squandered the lead before narrowly escaping with a 2-1 victory over Happy. Rochi began the match confidently taking the first set 21-16 but was totally outplayed in the next match. Happy, playing almost a flawless game in the second set, levelled the score with a 21-12 victory. In the third set, both Kochi and Happy started cautiously and fought for each and every point taking the set to deuce. Kochi kept his cool to snatch the set 22-20.

Saidul Haq Sadi wrapped up the final with a comfortable 21-19, 21-13 win over Mustafa.

Earlier in the semifinals, Biman beat BTMC and Ansars eliminated Dhaka DSA in straight sets.

It was a doubly disappointing day for Bangladesh Ansars as their boys' squad was also beaten in the final by Dhaka DSA in a four-setter.

Mahub was Dhaka's hero winning two singles matches. First he edged Hamlet of Ansars 21-18, 19-21, 21-15, in a hard-fought match and then got rid of Rubel 21-16, 21-19.

His teammates Manash and Shaon had antithetic experi-

## Kashem's triumph

Sports Reporter

Abul Kashem Bhuiyan of Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BTMC) became champions of the qualifying round of the 19th national chess championship yesterday.

Kashem who drew with Khandaker Kayes Hassan in the eleventh and final round of the championship at the National Sports Council chess room, finished with nine and a half points.

Rezaul Haq of Biman, the former national champion, emerged runner-up obtaining eight and a half points.

Rezaul Haq drew with Ziaul Quader Tuhin yesterday.

# Pakistan 241 for 8 at tea

Sports Reporter

Pakistan, resuming at their overnight score of 85 for three, were 241 for eight at tea on the third day of the third and final Test in reply to the West Indian first innings total of 438, according to Star TV monitored in Dhaka late last night.

Inzamamul Haq was batting on 64 and Nadim Khan on three when tea was taken.

Earlier, Asif Mujtaba, who was not out on 50 at close of the second day, added only nine to his overnight score before being sent back. Baat Ali, who faced only two balls before rain cut short the second day's proceedings Sunday presented yet another superb innings. The young Pakistani batsman who made a defiant 92 not out in the first innings of the second Test which Pakistan lost by 10 wickets, made 56.

Winston Benjamin was the most successful West Indian bowler claiming three for 46. Anderson Cummins picked up two for 46.

## Gold Leaf XI win

Sports Reporter

A breezy unbeaten knock of 91 by Akram Khan powered Gold Leaf XI to an easy five-wicket victory over Beximco XI in the Sponsors' cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The match, called off Monday due to intermittent rain for the third consecutive day, had better luck yesterday as 'rain the spotler' was nowhere near Dhaka Stadium and after a 1-30 start, as scheduled, ran smoothly through to the end.

Set to chase the Beximco score of 161 for three in 42.2 overs, the Gold Leaf outfit received a jolt when national opener Nurul Abedin Nobel was sent back to the pavilion for one with the score on six. A few runs later Rupom, who played for Bangladesh Biman in the recently concluded Navana Premier Division league, limped off the ground after scoring nine.

Akram Khan, brimming with confidence after scoring an unbeaten 115 in the previous game, dispelled the cloud of doubt, if there was any, over the fate of the match with his solid willow work. The burly Abahani allrounder kept the fielders on their toes with his agile running between the wicket. He raced to his half-century in 60 balls and made another 41 runs in only 31 balls when the chase came to an end. Akram's innings was interspersed with three fours and a huge six.

Apart from Akram, the only other batsman to have some success was Ripon who made 28 in 74 balls before being run out.

Barua, the wicketkeeper, walked back to the pavilion with Akram after Gold Leaf reached 163 in 41.2 overs — six balls inside the allocated 42.2. He made 15.

Beximco will take on Navana XI today in a day-night match.

## Standings

Team	G	W	D	L	F	A	P
UAE	3	3	0	0	12	1	6
Japan	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Thailand	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Shri Lanka	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Bangladesh	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

## Nat'l snooker

CHITTAGONG, May 4: Five games of the national snooker championship were decided till filing this report today at the billiard room of the Chittagong Club, reports BNA.

M A Rouf of Dhaka Club defeated K P Akbar Ali of Oulshan Club by 4-1 frame while N G Ghosh of Narayanjan Club beat Anwarul Hoque of Chittagong Club 4-0.

Rosen Rondoph of Catholic Club, Yaser Mohammed Faruk of Dhaka Club and Sharif Chowdhury of Chittagong Club got walkovers.

# UAE blank Bangladesh 7-0

AL-AIN, United Arab Emirates, May 4: The United Arab Emirates trounced Bangladesh 7-0 in a Group F World Cup qualifying match on Monday, report agencies.

In the other match, a hat-trick by Piyapong Pue-On gave Thailand their first second-leg victory, beating Sri Lanka 3-0.

The UAE-Bangladesh match was a one-sided affair and the manner in which UAE began their scoring spree was a little surprising as the Bangladeshis had lost to the Gulf country 1-0 in the first leg.

UAE's prolific goalscorers Adnan Talyani (2) and Abdul Razak Ibrahim (2) were up there in the front to orchestrate proceedings while, Mohammed Ali, Nasser Khamis and Khamis Saad added their contributions to the final tally.

Piyapong Pue-On was on the rampage against the Sri Lankans who on Saturday evening had tentatively wanted to quit the tournament and return back to the island following the assassination of their president.

The letter by the team manager to the tournament

## N'ganj volleyball

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 4: Kashipur Club and Shumo Hosier Club registered straight sets victories in their respective Azad Products First Division volleyball league matches at the local Osmani Stadium today.

Kashipur Club beat Dockyard Colony 15-6, 15-6 while Shumo Hosier took care of Chaurapara Juba Sangha 15-8, 15-10.

Dredger Directorate beat Shumo Hosier by three sets to nil in the inaugural match of the league yesterday.

Earlier, Deputy Super of Police Habibur Rahman inaugurated the eight-team league, organised by the Narayanjan District Sports Association. The league is being sponsored by Azad Products Ltd.

## Today's matches

Sona Mian Smriti Sangsad vs Bhuigarh United Club (3 pm)

Dredger Directorate vs Mandalpara Juba Sangha (4 pm)

## Div II basketball

Sports Reporter

Bakshibazar Club warded off a spirited second-half charge from Rising Force SC to etch a narrow 43-40 victory in the BGIC Second Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium basketball court adjacent to the wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The losers, having trailed the first half 18-25, stepped up the pressure in the second-half but fell painfully short of salvaging the match.

Tanveer caged 19 points to be the highest individual scorer for the victors followed by Shibli with ten points. Sajjad (16) and Mujib with 14 had the Rising Force's score rolling.

In the other match of the day, Rangers Club had a comparatively easy time against Josephites Hawks.

After leading the first half 22-18, the winners raced to a facile 43-30 margin at the end. Liton and Shaibal scored 16 and 15 points for the winners while Johnny caged 13 for the losers.

## Barisal soccer

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, May 4: BRIC beat fellow Dhaka Senior Division football leaguers Rahmatganj MFS 3-2 in tie-breaker after the regulation period ended goalless in the Barisal District Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament today.

Farashganj Sporting Club, another Dhaka First Division side, will take on Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Pratishtan tomorrow.

Earlier on Sunday, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury inaugurated the tournament.

## Menotti's new job

BUENOS AIRES, May 4: Cesar Luis Menotti, the controversial ex-manager of the Argentine national team, is to manage top local club Boca Juniors, reports AFP.

## Referee lets Malaysia down

KUALA LUMPUR, May 4: Malaysia protested hotly Monday after a penalty in the dying minutes forced them to a 1-1 draw with Saudi Arabia in the first leg of the Asian Group E World Cup soccer pre-qualifying round here, reports AFP.

The referee spoilt the game. He's a maniac with a whistle," Malaysia's Ken Worden said of Japanese referee Tachi Kitthiro who blew in the 86th minute to give Saudi Arabia the penalty which saved them from a humiliating defeat.

The Saudis, who wrote Malaysia off before the game, struggled to keep their play together and fend off the homside which attacked relentlessly after scoring in the 34th minute through forward Mubin Mokhtar off a free kick awarded after skipper Ahmad Yusof was brought down outside the penalty box.

But four minutes before the final whistle, Malaysian defender K Gunalan tackled Saudi striker Fahad Mehal inside the box and Kitthiro awarded Saudi Arabia the penalty, taken by Khalid al-Muwailid.

Worden, who is hoping to get Malaysia into their first ever World Cup next year,

## Iraq determined to reach WC finals

MANAMA, May 4: A hot night in New York as a crowd of 70,000 gathered at the Giants Stadium for one of the crucial matches of soccer's 1994 World Cup finals — the United States against Iraq, reports AFP.

"I'm looking forward to getting on with the job. I'd love us to win the series. They don't come any bigger than the Ashes."

"The most important thing is for us to have a successful summer. It's madness to look further ahead than that."

## Ban lifted

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has decided to exonerate Zahirul Islam Ripon, who was banned for three years for illegally participating in the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament for Morning Sun School, following his mercy petition.

Abdul Aziz and Giasuddin Ahmed Jewel, banned for five years for similar reasons, were also let off the hook.

## Azimpur boys to take part in Div II qualifying meet

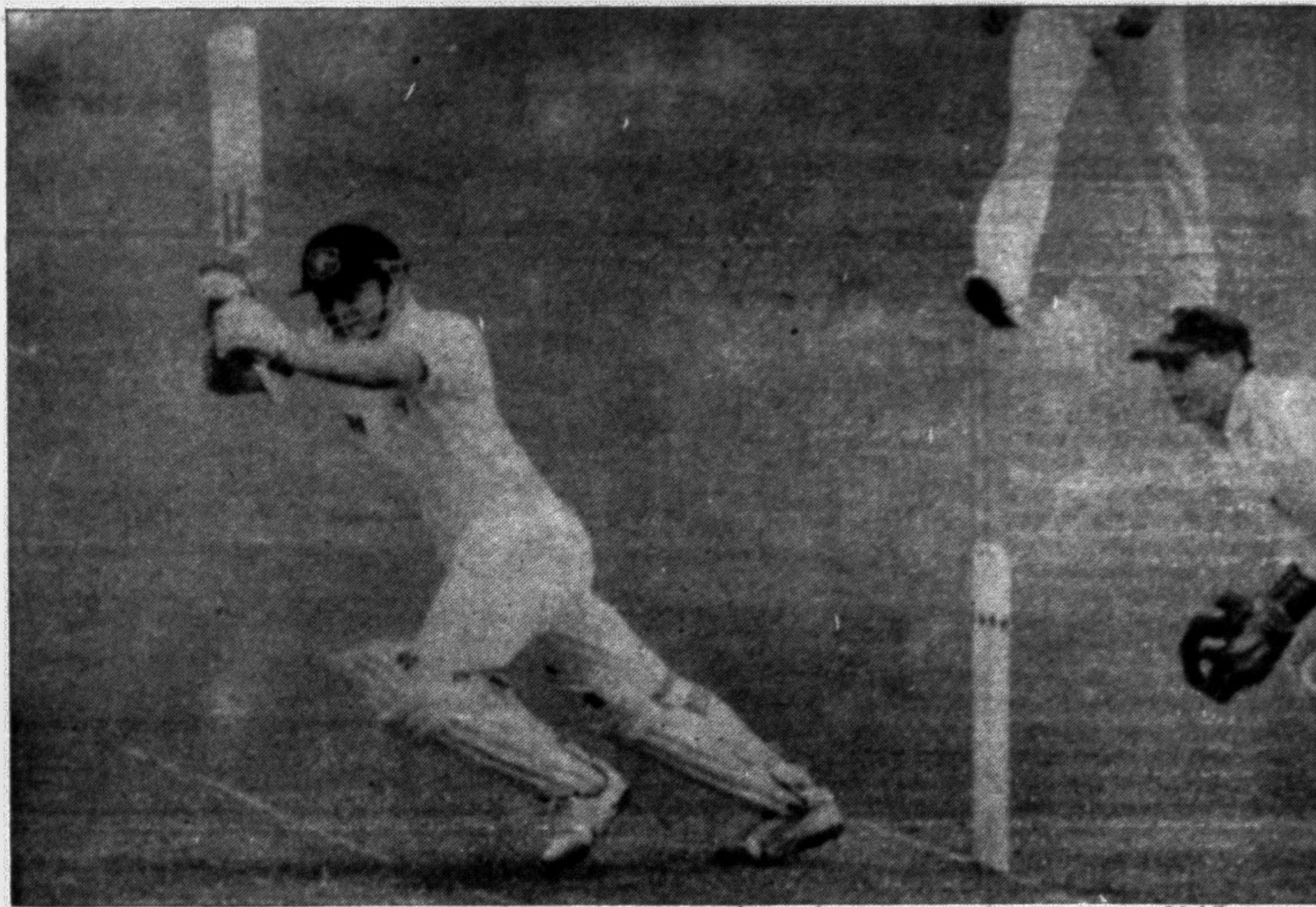
Sports Reporter

Azimpur Boys Club will participate in the forthcoming qualifying meet for the Second Division cricket league next season, says a press release.

Interested players have been asked to contact either Faisal or Liton at the Azimpur Garage ground soon.

## Menotti's new job

BUENOS AIRES, May 4: Cesar Luis Menotti, the controversial ex-manager of the Argentine national team, is to manage top local club Boca Juniors, reports AFP.



Australian Matthew Hayden on-drives during the 55-overs-a-side one-day international match against Middlesex at Lord's on Monday. Hayden, who hit a brilliant ton against the England Amateurs in Australia's tour opener, again flashed with the bat, scoring 122. Australia won the match by 69 runs. — AFP photo

# Getting injured in a bizarre incident

LONDON, May 4: Former England cricket captain Mike Gatting ended up in hospital Monday night after putting his arm through a plate glass window at Lord's and he is almost certainly out of the Texaco Trophy internationals, reports AFP.

Gatting, clearly unhappy after being run-out during Middlesex's incident-packed one-day match against Australia, seriously gashed his right forearm after trying to push open a dressing-room door.

He was taken to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, after he had several stitches put in his hand and arm.

Middlesex secretary Joe Hardstaff said: "Happily there's no damage to tendons or ligaments but he's likely to be out for a couple of weeks."

England are due to pick their Texaco Trophy squad next week and, with the first match against Australia taking place at Old Trafford on May 19, there now seems no chance of Gatting being considered.

"Gatting went to shove the door open but missed the wooden panelling and put his hand right through a pane of glass," said Middlesex teammate John Embury. "It's a serious cut — a horseshoe-shaped gash."

Incredibly, Gatting's bizarre accident was only one of three dramatic incidents on a day when tempers boiled over.

The others involved Australian captain Allan

## Gooch wants the other half too

LONDON, May 4: Graham Gooch wants to skipper England for all six of their Ashes battles with Australia and not just the first three Tests, reports AFP.

England selectors reappointed Gooch last week for the three Texaco Trophy internationals and first three Tests. The decision reflected Gooch's unwillingness to tour the West Indies next winter, as well as England's dismal performance in India earlier this year.

But on Tuesday Gooch made it clear he would like to be captain for the whole series.

The way things went in the winter, the selectors are quite within their rights to keep their options open, said 39-year-old Gooch.

"I've never known Allan perform like that before. I will have a word with him."

With opener Hayden crashing 122 to follow his 151 against England Amateurs on Friday, Australia totalled 243 for five from their 55 overs.

Middlesex badly needed a major contribution from Gatting to have any chance of

## Border, who faces a possible fine from his tour management following a petulant bat-swinging exhibition in front of 10,000 spectators.

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"It was just normal banter between a captain and a bowler who has gone for 35 runs," Fraser claimed later.

But that incident was just the warm-up act.

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challenging that target but he fell for 32 after setting off on a suicidal second run.

Middlesex were finally dismissed for 174 — leaving Australia winners by 69 runs.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Middlesex v Australia one-day cricket match at Lord's:

AUSTRALIA:

M A Taylor b Feltham 7

M L Hayden c Roseberry b Fraser 122

M J Slater run out 1

D R Martyn run out 66

A R Border b Fraser 8

S R Waugh not out 19

T J Zoehrer not out 7

Extras: (lb-7, w-6) 13

Total: (for 5 wkts) 243

(55 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-28; 3-167; 4-187; 5-226.

Did not bat: P R Reiffel, T B A May, C J McDermott, W J Holdsworth.

## Bowling

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Feltham	8	4	19	1
Cowans	11	0	36	0
Embury	11	4	37	0
Fraser	11	0	76	2
Weekes	7	1	31	0
Keech	7	0	37	0

## MIDDLESEX:

M Keech b McDermott	0
M A Roseberry c Taylor b Martyn	47
M R Ramprakash lbw b McDermott	0
J D Carr c Zoehrer b Reiffel	3
M W Gatting run out	32
P N Weekes c Zoehrer b Martyn	12
K R Brown c Holdsworth b McDermott	24
M A Reiffel b Reiffel	17
J E Embury b Martyn	10
A R Fraser not out	0
N G Cowans c Zoehrer b Holdsworth	20
Extras: (lb-6, w-9, nb-14)	29
Total: (48.1 overs)	174

## Fall of wickets:

1-5; 2-5; 3-14; 4-74; 5-103; 6-140; 7-145; 8-169; 9-173.
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## Bowling:

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McDermott	11	2	51	3
Reiffel	8	3	23	2
Holdsworth	7	0	22	1
May	11	2	31	0
Martyn	11	1	41	3

## Umpires:

V A Holder and R A White

## Australia beat Middlesex by 69 runs.

He was fined for showing dissent during last winter's first Test against West Indies in Brisbane and he was then severely reprimanded following another outburst at an umpire at the end of that series.

"This time, any punishment will rest with tour manager Des Rundle. Rundle did not see the incident but promised to investigate."

"From what I've heard there was some friction between bat and stumps," said Rundle, adding: "If that happened it was rather naughty but I cannot comment as I didn't see it."

"I've never known Allan perform like that before. I will have a word with him."

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