

Nat'l football team now leaves tomorrow

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh national football team, which was to take a flight to Malaysia today to take part in a number of exhibition matches, will now leave Dhaka tomorrow due to delay in getting visa from the Malaysian Embassy.

Handball final today

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Rifles will take on Bangladesh Ansars in the final of the 1993 handball tournament at the Outer Stadium at four this afternoon.

Langer gets a chance to lead

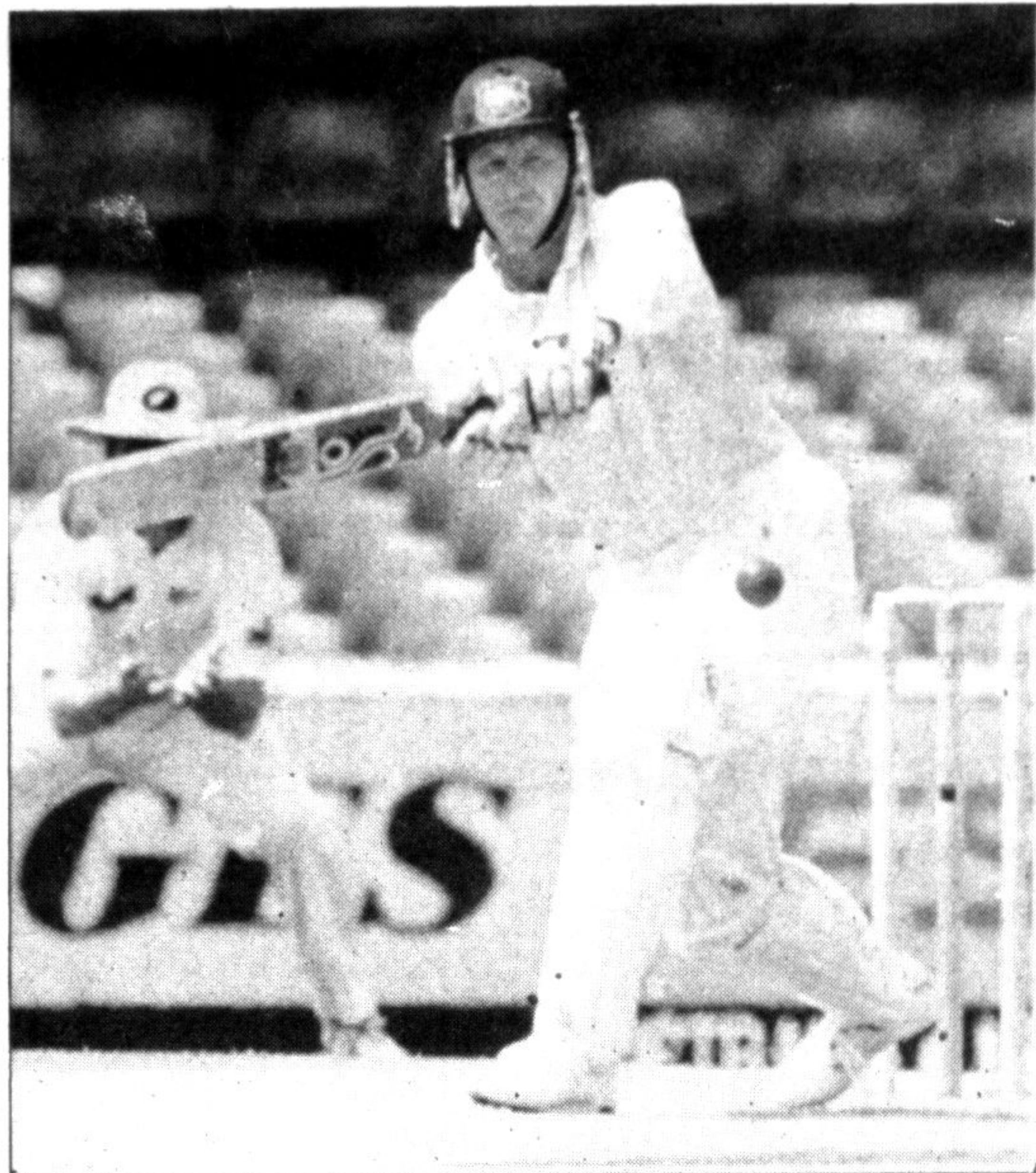
PERTH, Nov 13: Batsman Justin Langer who is on the verge of a Test place, will lead the Prime Ministers' XI in a one-day cricket match against South Africa at Manuka Oval in Canberra on Dec 2, reports AP.

Bismark's pair powers Kawasaki

TOKYO, Nov 13: Brazilian midfielder Bismark Saturday made a pair of goals, as the front-running Verdy Kawasaki came from behind to beat the JEF United Ichihara 4-1 in the Japanese Professional Soccer League, reports AP.

Kuhnen in Kremlin Cup final

MOSCOW, Nov 13: In an all-German semifinal of the 350,000 Kremlin Cup tournament Saturday, Patrik Kuhnen defeated Karsten Braasch 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2), reports AP.



Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy pulls one away during his classy innings of 113 not out. Healy's ton guided the Aussies to a formidable first innings total of 398 against New Zealand on the second day of the first Test in Perth yesterday. - AFP photo

Healy heals Aussie wounds

PERTH, Nov 13: Stubborn Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy stole the initiative for his country on the second day of the first cricket Test against New Zealand here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Queenslander said after the day's play he had been inspired by the death of his grandfather, George Healy, on Friday. Healy, 29, completed an uncompleted 113, his second century in Test ranks, as Australia rattled up a formidable first innings 398 - a total which seemed way out of reach when they were 6-198 on the opening day.

New Zealand fought hard to be 2-123 at the close, when veteran Andrew Jones was unbeaten with a stylish 62 and skipper Martin Crowe was anchored on two, made in 36 minutes.

Healy said the death of his grandfather had provided the motivation for him to keep going. "I wanted to do well for him and for my father, Neville," he said. "I am proud that I have managed to achieve something."

The Kiwis were in early trouble in their innings when experienced left-handed opener Mark Greatbatch fell to Test fast bowling debutant Glenn McGrath for 18.

McGrath, 23, tall and willowy, struck in his fifth over, angling the ball across the batsman, who tickled it to Healy. Blair Pocock and Jones fought valiantly for almost two hours in adding 75 for the second wicket.

They were separated when David Boon, only five metres (16 feet) from the bat at short leg,

Germany set pool afire

GATESHEAD, England, Nov 13: Sandra Vaelker and Sylvia Gerasch led a German sweep of the women's titles in the opening series of finals at the European sprint swimming championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

Volcker, victor in the 50 metres backstroke at the last two European sprint championships, showed her versatility by winning the 50 freestyle in 25.55 seconds, edging out Sweden's European long-course silver medalist Linda Olofsson by one hundredth of a second. Gerasch, East German long-course world champion in 1986 and European champion in Sheffield this year, took the 50-metre breaststroke.

Court again gets tough with Doordarshan

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: An Indian court on Friday ordered the state television company to start coverage of a five-nation cricket tournament from the next match, reports Reuter.

The High Court in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta directed the nationwide television network Doordarshan to begin coverage of the tournament with Sunday's match between South Africa and the West Indies in Bombay.

The state network had decided to blank the tournament after a row over home telecast rights, sparking widespread protests in India. The tournament's organisers, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), has sold worldwide telecast rights to the global media company Trans World International (TWI). Doordarshan refused to buy the telecast feed from TWI.

Canine custodian

OSLO, Nov 13: Dogs specially trained to sniff out bombs, will play a key role in security at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics, reports Reuter.

Bad news for Soccerroos

BIRMINGHAM, Nov 13: Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich on Friday withdrew from Australia's squad for next week's crucial World Cup qualifying match against Argentina, reports AP.

Medals Table

Table with 5 columns: Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Total. Shows medal counts for Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, Spain, Britain, Estonia, Russia, Croatia, and Finland.

Bon voyage for S Koreans

HIROSHIMA, Nov 13: South Korea pulled off an upset victory when they knocked out three-times defending champions Pakistan 4-0 in the men's semifinals at the Asia Cup hockey tournament here today, reports AFP.

Kim Young-Kyu and Shin Seok-Kyo put South Korea two up, then Choi Jung-Ho completed the scoring with field goals in the 37th and 55th minutes. The Koreans, who had to be satisfied with the bronze medal in the 1990 Cup, will take on silver medalists India in the final Sunday.

The Indian men, who drew with South Korea 1-1 in the preliminary tournament here, edged past Malaysia 3-2 with Arif Mohamed firing the decider in the final minute in the other semifinal. Sanjay Bishit opened the scoring for India at the end of the first half and Mukesh Kumar made it 2-0 in the 50th. But the Malaysian captain M

Abdul Hadi evened the match in the 57th and 61st minutes before Mohamed's coup de grace. In the play-off round for fifth-eight places, Bangladesh whitewashed Thailand 6-0, while Kazakhstan beat China 2-1. South Korean women's squad followed the steps of their male counterparts when they became champions shocking defending champions China 3-0 in the final later today. It was the second Asia Cup victory for the Koreans, bronze medalists in the 1990 event, who triumphed at the inaugural 1986 tournament in Seoul in 1986.

Captain Ro Young-Mi's scoring chance was molested by a Chinese defender just in front of the post to give South Korea their first penalty stroke in the 22nd minute. Chinese goalie Ding Hong-ping deflected left-handed Shin Yoo-Ri's shot on the penalty but the ball landed in the top corner to put one up for the Koreans, who were also the Seoul Olympics silver medalists. Kwon Soo-Hyun made it 2-0

with a hard slap shot into the left corner in the 30th minute, showing a quick silver passing playing to the shooting circle to get past Chinese opponents. Few minutes later, the Koreans had a big chance on a penalty corner, only to see Cai Donghong's two consecutive shots narrowly miss the target to end the first half. The spirited Koreans made a good start into the second half with Cho Eun-Jung unleashing an exquisite shot to the left to take a decisive 3-0 lead in the 39th minute, while their tight defence never permitted the Chinese to break through. India captured the bronze medal by forcing hosts Japan into fourth place with a 1-0 victory in the women's play-off match. The sole goal for the Indian women, fourth placed in the 1990 tournament, came in the 12th minute with Aleyamma Matthews scoring on a penalty corner. Neither side was able to find the net for the remainder of the match.

Sampras, Becker in ECC semis

ANTWERP, Belgium, Nov 13: Swede Magnus Gustafsson, playing on a sore knee, upset second-seeded Michael Stich 7-6 (8-6), 7-5 Friday to set up a semifinal match against Boris Becker in the European Community Championships, reports AP.

Top-seeded Pete Sampras also needed a first-set tiebreaker against Swede Niclas Kulti, ranked 50th in the world, but he kept his perfect record here intact with a 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 win for his third straight-set victory. Becker, seeded third, played his best tennis of the week to beat Sweden's Magnus Larsson 6-1, 7-6 (7-0). But Goran Ivanisevic could still spoil Friday's victory by eliminating the German from next week's World Championships. Ivanisevic, seeded fifth here and a winner of two of his last three tournaments, will earn the last available place in next week's World Championships if he beats France's Cedric Pietrangeli late Friday. It would keep Poline, ranked 11th in the world, and Becker out of the top-eight in the world and out of the ATP's season ending World Championships. "I know I have only a very small chance to reach the finals," said Becker. Pete Sampras will play the winner of the Poline-Ivanisevic

match and is unlikely to lose his concentration in the semifinal, as he did against Kulti. "I got off to a good start but then I just got a little careless," Sampras said. Kulti undid an early service break and chased the American up to the tiebreaker. At that point, Sampras started playing up to his No 1 ranking again and cruised to victory in just under an hour. Playing on anti-inflammation pills, Gustafsson wore Stich down for most of the match and relied on the errors by the third-ranked player in the world to clinch his upset win. "But the Swede, ranked 19th in the world, said Stich's heavy programme over the past weeks, had made his job easier. "Once you get on top of a guy who has been playing a lot, it's easier," he said. The decisive break came at 5-5 in the second set when Stich double-faulted twice. Ivanisevic is currently ninth in the computer ranking but will break into the top eight if he reaches the semifinal of the dhrs 1.11 million event. The Croat already won last week's Paris Open. Becker is still seeded seventh in the world this week, but is expected to tumble well out of the top-eight unless he wins here. Seven of the eight places in Frankfurt have already been clinched by Sampras, Jim Courier, Sergi Bruguera, Stich,

Stefan Edberg, Andrei Medvedev and Michael Chang. Becker is the defending world champion, but hasn't won since the spring. On Friday, though, he found some of his old form against Larsson. Becker was totally on top in the first set, displaying some of the aggressive all-court game that made him the world's No 1 only two years ago. Serving well, and playing near-flawless groundstrokes, He wrapped up the first set in just 23 minutes. But this year, Becker has never been able to sustain his form, and quickly he was trailing 5-2 in the second set. The moody German started complaining again, swinging at thin air, and shouting - mostly at himself. Unlike his earlier matches though, it immediately paid off and he steadily fought himself back into the match. In his earlier matches here he wasted almost any break-point thrown at him, but Friday, he used the first to get back in the match and force a tiebreaker. "This time, I was able to capitalise on the opportunities," he said. Larsson, ranked 39th in the world, collapsed under the pressure, and did not win a single point in the tiebreaker. For Becker, the win was also sweet revenge, Larsson had beaten Becker in the fourth round of the US Open.

Sabatini out, Graf glides

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 13: Amy Frazier rallied from 0-2 in the second set to upset fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 Friday in the quarter-finals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, reports AP. Frazier broke through the Argentine's service four consecutive times in the second and third sets and sealed the win with a dramatic running shot from off court that Sabatini stabbed into the net. "In the past, I've had problems staying in the rallies with her," said Frazier, who had never won a set from Sabatini in three previous meetings. "I had problems reading her shots and her topspin had given me problems. Today, I was able to just keep the ball in play until I could get a short ball."

Garrison-Jackson 6-2, 6-4, Graf downed No 8 Amanda Coetzer 6-4, 6-1 Friday morning. Sabatini, winner of the 1990 US Open but without a title since May 1992, out-pointed Frazier 30-19 in the first set and 9-4 in the first two games of the second set. But Frazier broke Sabatini's service on the fourth break point of the third game and fended off two break points in the 20-point sixth game to even the score at 3-3. She targeted Sabatini's backhand with her own strong, two-handed backhand, forcing Sabatini to play defensively and make errors. Leading 4-3 in the third set, Frazier missed an overhead smash that would have given her another service break. Service then held until the 12th game, when Sabatini doublefaulted to reach match point. Graf jumped to a 4-0 lead against Coetzer before the South African won three straight games with speed and a series of dramatic recovery plays. Coetzer said that's the only way to challenge Graf, the world's top-ranked player.

"The serve is fast, the bounce is high and it's not easy," Coetzer said. "You have to really move well and take it on the rise. Otherwise, you're in trouble." When Coetzer won the first point of the ninth game, Graf asked herself aloud in German "Why was sleeping." "I wasn't moving too well," Graf said. "I just didn't step into the shots. I lost a bit of concentration." Though she lost that game, the wake-up call apparently worked. She went on to win seven of the next eight games. Playing in her first tournament since undergoing foot surgery five weeks ago, Graf said she feels healthy and is happy to play in a tournament before next week's season-ending Virginia Slims Championships in New York. If she wins the Philadelphia tournament, she will set a record for one-year earnings in professional tennis. The dhrs 150,000 top prize would increase her earnings this year to dhrs 2,653,837, breaking the record of dhrs 2,622,352 set by Monica Seles last year. The men's record is dhrs 2,363,837, set by Stefan Edberg in 1991.

Fresh air in tennis world

WELLINGTON, Nov 13: The next generation of tennis big stars gather here next week for the Youth Cup featuring elite players from 32 countries, reports AFP. Teams began arriving here Friday with practice days from today, a draw on Sunday and the first day of competition on Tuesday. A number of players attending are already beginning to attract attention. Among them is Ludmila Richterova, 16, from Slovakia, with a junior world ranking of nine. On the international circuit she is ranked around 200 after nine senior tournaments. Britain's best young tennis prospect, James Delgado, 16, will be here with his ninth ranking in world juniors. Australia's team includes Annabel Ellwood and Sibhan Drake-Brockman, both 15, who took part in World Junior Tennis, the junior equivalent of the World Youth Cup.



Norway's Nalle (C) tries to weave through two Turkish defenders Yusu (L) and Ertugrul (R) during their World Cup qualifying game Nov 10. Turkey beat Norway 2-1. - AFP photo