

Bangladesh take on Myanmar today

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh national football team takes on the visiting Myanmar national team in the second friendly match at the Mirpur Stadium today.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter
Kathalagan and Young Pegasus 'A' recorded wins in their respective matches in the Second Division cricket league at different city venues yesterday.

Rain runs show

COLOMBO, Dec 12: Heavy overnight rain prevented any play on the fourth day of the inaugural cricket Test between Sri Lanka and West Indies today, reports Reuter.

Russian runners reap rich

SANTA CATERINA VAL-FURVA, Italy, Dec 12: Russia won the women's cross-country relay Sunday to wind up the opening weekend of the World Cup events in northern Italy, reports AP.

Japanese sumo wrestlers shine

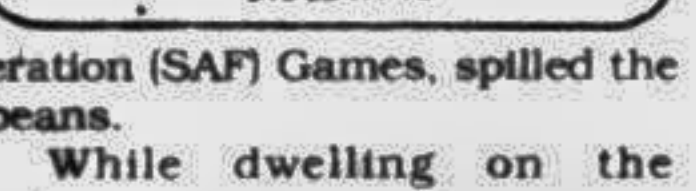
TOKYO, Dec 12: Japanese amateur wrestlers swept all five titles in the Sumo World Championship tournament held on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Gallizio glitters

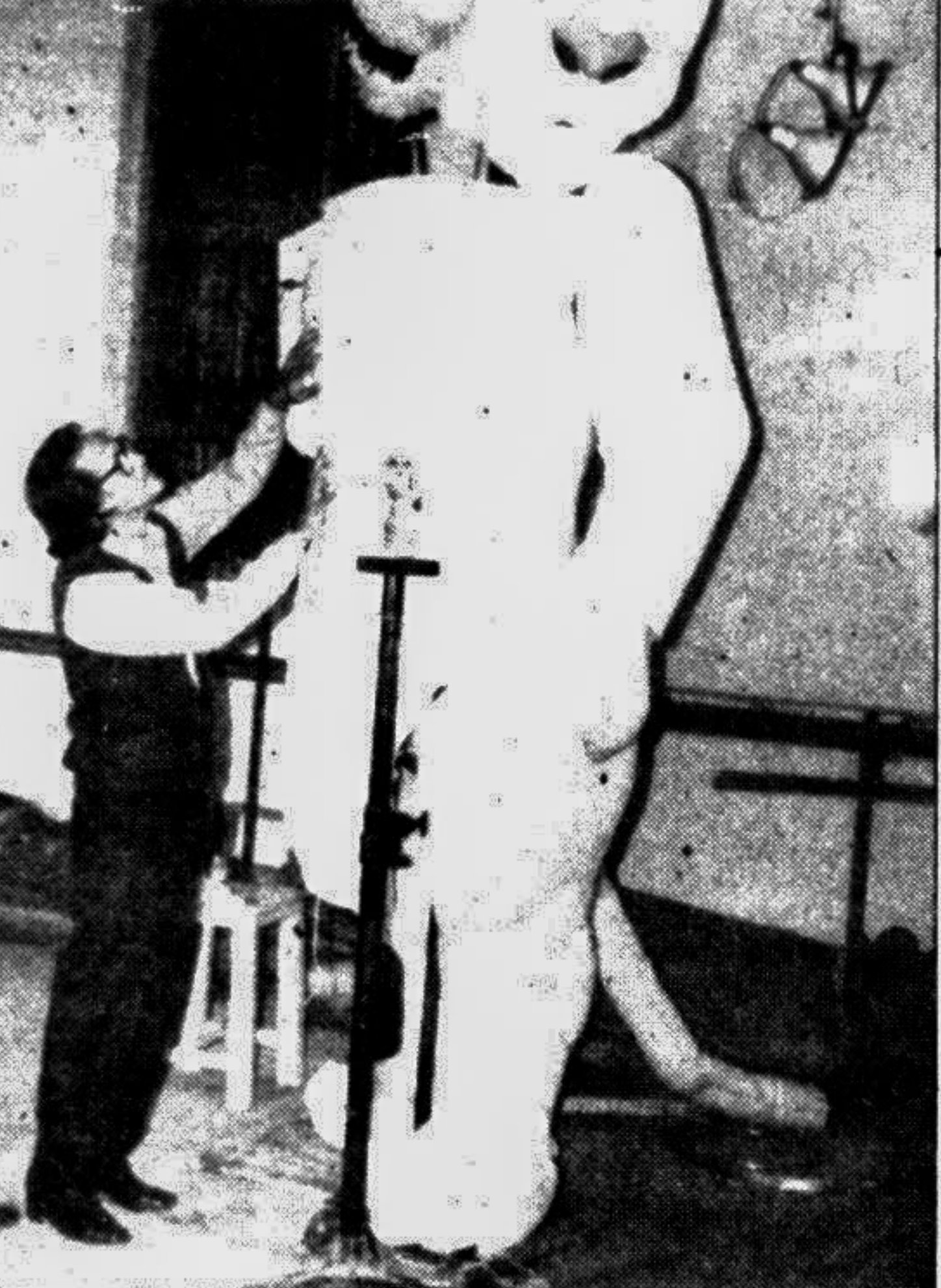
VEYSONNAZ, Switzerland, Dec 12: Italian teenager Morena Gallizio led after the first run of a World Cup slalom Sunday, .07 seconds ahead of her compatriot Bibiana Perez, reports AP.

It's a dads' army: Li Lian

Jokingly though, Li Lian Yi, the Chinese coach of the Bangladesh table tennis team for the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, spilled the beans.



While dwelling on the main problem in women's department.



Mustafa Monwar, the doyen of country's cultural domain and an artist in his own right, is now busy in preparing the mascot for the sixth SAF Games to be held in Dhaka from December 20 to 27.

Pak prestige at stake

RAWALPINDI, Dec 12: Pakistan face an uphill struggle to reassert their anticipated superiority over Zimbabwe when the second cricket Test resumes on Monday, reports Reuter.

Bangladesh men's team has been placed in Group A along with Pakistan, Maldives and Bhutan firm favourites India, Nepal and Sri Lanka form the Group B.

As hosts Bangladesh will enjoy the privilege of having three singles matches in addition to the common two doubles matches.

Meanwhile, about 165 liaison officers, including 50 females, will work with different local and foreign contingents during the Games.

These liaison officers were selected through interview of some 730 applicants, said Kazi Mishu, secretary of the Reception and Liaison Committee.

These officers were groomed with a week's training early this month. During the training, they were briefed on mannerism, conversation and first aid as well as on ideas about the transport and accommodation facilities.

The Reception Committee will receive and welcome the foreign teams and delegates at the Zia International Airport and also see them off from the same place after the closure of the Games.

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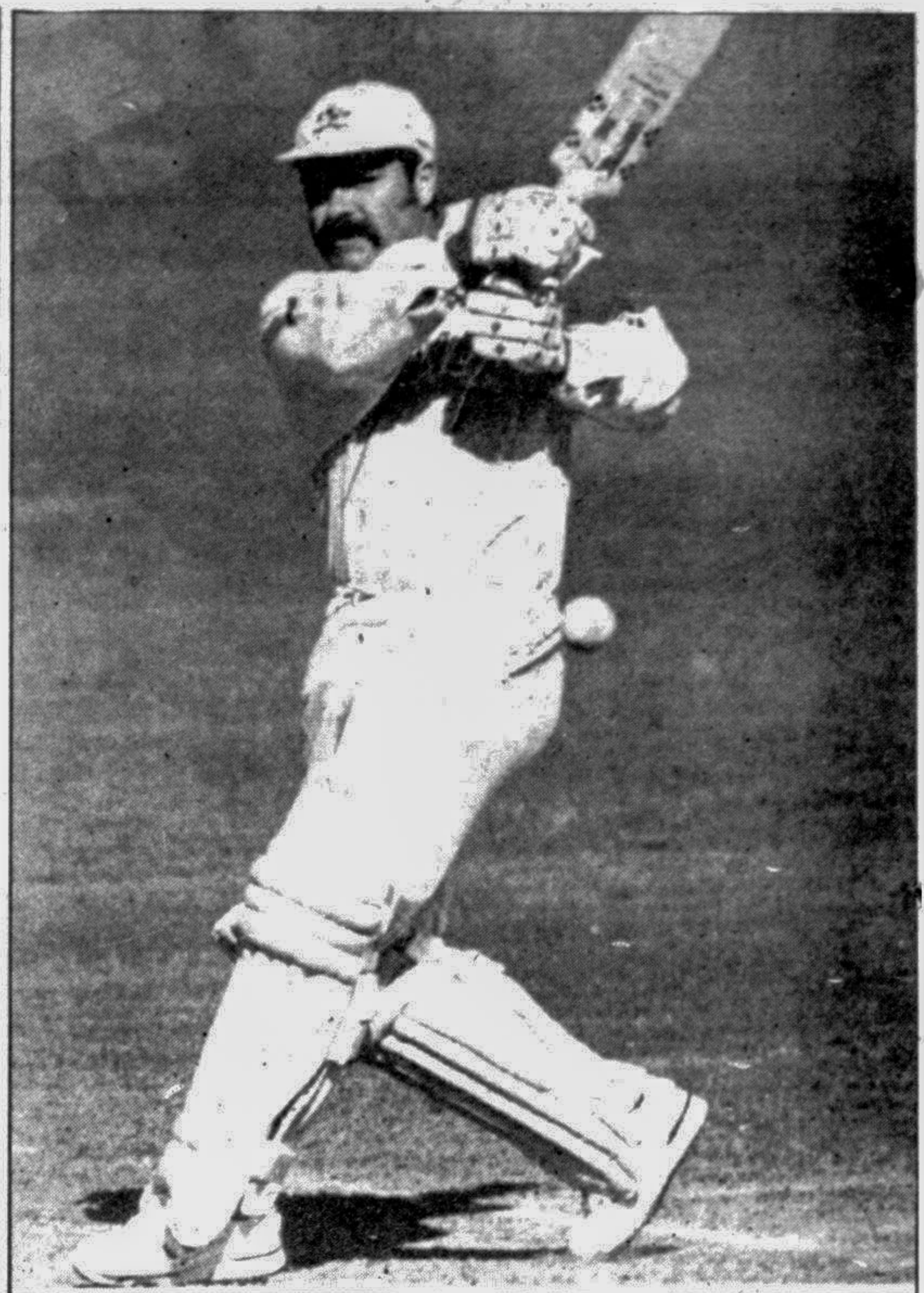
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Australian batsman David Boon pulls one to the mid-wicket fence to collect the winning runs during their World Series one-day cricket match against New Zealand in Adelaide yesterday.

Jones blazes with willow

HOBART, Australia, Dec 12: Dean Jones returned to form today with an elegant unbeaten 158 for Victoria on the third day of their Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania, reports Reuter.

Jones, who still hopes to force his way back into the powerful Australian batting line-up, took Victoria to 329 for three declared in reply to Tasmania's 328.

The highlight of the Victorian innings was a sparkling partnership of 201 between Jones and his 18-year-old protege Brad Hodge, who hit 106.

It was Hodge's maiden first class century and brought his aggregate for the season to 492 at the impressive average of 61.5.

Hodge was only 10 when Jones made his Test debut against the West Indies in 1984 and, in common with many teenagers, had a poster of his idol on his bedroom wall.

"It's still really exciting very time I bat with Deano but I guess he's becoming more of a teammate now," Hodge said.

Before adding: "He's still a good though."

Winners get 'em all

PORT OF SPAIN, Dec 12: Winners of the forthcoming Test series between West Indies and England in the Caribbean are to receive 5,000 US dollars, reports Reuter.

In addition to the prize for the series winners, there is 2,000 US dollars for the winning team in each Test, while the man-of-the-match receives 400 US dollars and the man-of-the-series gets 1,000 US dollars.

The winners of the one-day tournament collect 2,000 US dollars, and 800 US dollars will be awarded to the winners of each game. Each man-of-the-match gets 400 US dollars.

Hayden makes most of it

ADELAIDE, Dec 12: Australia's Matthew Hayden made the most of his long-awaited opportunity to help steer his country to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over New Zealand in their one day cricket match here today, reports AFP.

Hayden, preferred to Mark Taylor, hit an unbeaten half-century as Allan Border's side thrashed the tourists with more than 12 overs to spare.

Hayden shared an unbroken stand of 94 for the third-wicket with David Boon, who finished unbeaten on 51, to lead Australia to 136 for two in reply to New Zealand's meagre 135 all out from 48.2 overs.

The lefthanded Hayden is still waiting in line behind Taylor and Michael Slater for a Test vacancy but made the most of today's opportunity to impress the selectors, hitting four boundaries off 99 deliveries.

Earlier leg-spinner Shane Warne tormented the New Zealanders with 4-25 from his 10 overs while rockie pacemen Glenn McGrath finished with 4-32.

Strike bowler Craig McDermott claimed the scalp of Dipak Patel and did much to put the tourists under pressure by allowing only 15 runs from his 10 overs.

"I could have played better but it was still a good feeling to get 50," Hayden said later.

"It wasn't the usual buzz but I think I did the job I had to do."

"I love this ground because everything is made for batsmen."

"I felt I started to come good but I'm a perfectionist and I didn't like a few things in the innings."

The Australians needed a little over 2.7 runs an over for victory and cruised along to the target, despite a hiccup when Mark Waugh was run out for 21 in a mix-up with Hayden.

Hayden had to wear some of the blame for the dismissal but shrugged it off and ensured he was at the crease until victory was secured.

The New Zealand innings was another sorry chapter from the book of batting collapses which ruined their chances in the recent Test series.

From 104 for three in the 36th over, the last seven wickets tumbled for 31 runs to give New Zealand their second-lowest total in a one-day international in Australia.

Chris Cairns top-scored with 31 but only one other batsman, Mark Greatbatch, with 28 topped 20 runs.

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford said his side's batting was paper-thin.

"You have to give credit to their bowlers and maybe I can console myself that this was our one bad one-day game," Rutherford said.

"It was our first of the summer and we really have to pick things up quickly."

Australia play South Africa in Sydney on Tuesday and then New Zealand in Melbourne next Thursday.

Scoreboard in the World Series

Table with columns: Bowling, O, M, R, W. Lists players like McDermott, McGrath, Reiffel, Waugh, and their performance stats.

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Result: Australia won by eight wickets.

Navana Premier Div averages

Two Indians - Test-discard Sanjeev Sharma and Arup Bhattacharya - topped batting and bowling averages in the recently concluded Navana Premier Division cricket league.

National player Enamul Huq Moni, skipper of Bangladesh Biman, who shared the league title this year with Abahani Krra Chakra, bagged 23 wickets at the cost of 11.04 runs apiece to finish as the highest wicket-taker.

Pakistani allrounder Kaiser Rashid scored 576 runs in 11 matches at an average of 57.60 to be the highest run-getter.

Following are the top ten batting and bowling averages:

Table with columns: Batting, Tabulate under match played, not out, highest score, total, average, 50s, no scores. Lists players like Sanjeev Sharma, Kaiser Rashid, Ashoke Malhotra, etc.

Table with columns: Bowling, Tabulate under overs bowled, runs conceded, wickets, average, best bowling. Lists players like Arup Bhattacharya, Enamul Huq, etc.

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Host judokas on top

FUKUOKA, Japan, Dec 12: World champion Ryoko Tamura led hosts Japan's gold medal tally winning the 48-kilogram bantamweight category for a fourth consecutive time to close the two-day Fukuoka international women's judo tournament here Sunday, reports AFP.

The 18-year-old Japanese, who had to be satisfied with the silver in the Barcelona Olympics, defeated Spain's Yolanda Disu by yusei in the semi-finals, and went on to win the final, beating Tatiana Kouzechinova of Russia by ippon in two minutes seven seconds.

Chiyoari Tateno fixed Noriko Sugawara on the mat in the all-Japanese 56 kg lightweight final in 3:13 while the remaining two titles went to Legna Verdecia of Cuba and Zhang Ying of China.

Games' sacrifice

ATLANTA, Georgia, Dec 12: A steel walkway girder dislodged by gusting winds killed a woman here Saturday as she walked to work at the Georgia Dome Stadium, police said, reports AFP.

The walkway is being built to link the enclosed stadium with the nearby World Congress Centre and the Omni indoor arena. All three will be important sites for competitions and meetings at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Dawn McNally, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene after being struck in the head while upon a walkway that was under construction. Another person who was not identified was injured in the mishap.

Workers were off when the incident took place.



LEST WE FORGET: A glittering gallery of portraits featuring late exponents of different games from 1901 to 1993 has been erected at the road side to set the mood for the biennial sporting spectacle of the seven SAARC members beginning for the sixth time in Dhaka from December 20.