

Sport

SAF tennis draw held

Bangladesh will face the Maldives in the men's team event of the tennis tournament in the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games on December 20 at 8 am, reports BSS.

According to the draw conducted by tournament referee To-Yusu Hasagawa of Japan and chair umpire Zakaria Talib of Singapore at the National Tennis Complex here yesterday, India and Sri Lanka received first round byes for being the top-seed and second-seed respectively.

President of Bangladesh Tennis Federation and Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, senior officials of Bangladesh Tennis Federation and managers and officials of Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and hosts Bangladesh were present.

Pakistan will play Nepal in the first round on the inaugural day in the afternoon.

The semifinals and the final of the men's team event will be held on December 21.

In the women's team event Bangladesh will meet India on December 21 in the morning. Sri Lanka has been placed in the final directly as the top-seed. The winners of India-Bangladesh match will play against Sri Lanka for the gold on December 21 in the afternoon.

Bangladesh beat HK yet again

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh won the third match against Hong Kong to wrap up the four-match friendly one-day series, according to a faxed message received at the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) yesterday.

Bangladesh, who won the first two matches quite comfortably, yesterday beat Hong Kong by six wickets in a rain-curtailed match at the Kowloon Cricket Club ground.

Batting first, the Hong Kong selection used up their allotted 50 overs to post 198 for the loss of seven wickets.

Middle order batsman Sharma top-scored with 50. He was followed by S Bkew who made 42 and Farcy 36.

Left-arm spinner Enamul Huq Moni was Bangladesh's most successful bowler bagging three for 27.

Vice captain Athar Ali Khan captured two for 32.

Due to drizzle during the post lunch session, the match was reduced to 45 overs and 178 runs respectively.

Openers Athar Ali and Jahangir Alam started from where they had left off in the last two matches and once again gave their side a solid foundation.

Jahangir, Biman's wicket-keeper-cum-batsman, eventually top-scored with 53.

Although Athar, who made 23, and debutant Sajid left in quick succession — both falling to Reeswell — skipper Faruque Ahmed in tandem with in-form Akram guided their side to another easy win.

Faruque and Akram were unbeaten on 42 and 38 respectively after Selim Shahed came and went totting up 15 runs to the final total of 181 for four in 42.3 overs.

Enamul Huq Moni, who skipped Biman to championship in the recently-concluded domestic Navana Premier league, was adjudged man of the match for his tight bowling.

Bangladesh's tour of Hong Kong arranged, with a view to giving the Kenya bound team some match practice for the ICC trophy, will be rounded off with another one dayer billed for today.

SAF Games now hours away

Almost all the foreign teams have arrived to take part in the seven-nation sixth SAF Games, scheduled to begin tomorrow at the Dhaka National Stadium, reports UNB.

A 245-member Indian contingent led by DV Bhatta reached the city yesterday afternoon in two groups, one consisting of 181 members from New Delhi and another of 64 members from Calcutta.

The Indian team which had dominated all the previous SAF Games was accompanied by national Olympic committee Secretary General Raja Randhir Singh. VJ Sabastian is the deputy team leader.

The Sri Lankan squad comprising 250 members, so far the largest foreign contingent in the games, arrived here under the leadership of Farnado Manilal. NOC President Roy De Silva of Sri Lanka, which had hosted the 5th SAF Games in 1991, also accompanied the team.

of the small contingent, which will only take part in table tennis.

Bhutanese Foreign Minister and NOC President Lyompo Dawa Tsering also accompanied the squad.

A 77-member Maldives contingent arrived in the capital led by its NOC Secretary General Ibrahim Ismail.

Four members of the Nepalese squad with its chef de mission and NOC Secretary General Raj Bahadur Singh arrived Friday. The rest of the 170-strong contingent is due today.

Pakistan's contingent of 167 members is in the capital since last Thursday while four more tennis players will be arriving in



Two famed local athletes — sprinter Golam Ambia and Shooter Kazi Shahana Parveen — will take oath on behalf of the participants while renowned athletics judge Shahidul Islam will take oath on behalf of the judges.

Captain of the Swadhina Bangla football team Zakaria Pintoo will finally carry the Games torch and light it at the Stadium tower.

Well-known athletes from five divisional headquarters are on their way to the capital with Games torches to be handed over to the Games committee today.

More than 1,200 sportsmen and officials from all SAARC countries are expected to compete in the meet for the 117 golds at stake in 11 disciplines — athletics, swimming, shooting, kabaddi, football, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, wrestling, boxing and judo.

Ten different venues — Dhaka National Stadium, Mirpur National Stadium, National Indoor Stadium, National Swimming Pool at Mirpur, National Tennis Complex at Ramna, Gulshan Shooting Range, Dhanmondi Gymnasium, Outer Stadium, BKSP Skeet Range, Army Stadium — have been selected within 10 kilometers from the Games Village.

A Games' media centre was opened for local and foreign journalists at the Hotel Purbani annex building on Thursday. The centre will be formally inaugurated by Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda today.



The cuddly Adama, a tiger cub chosen as the mascot for the sixth SAF Games, being paraded on a float during a colourful dress rehearsal of the Games opening ceremony at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The eight-day extravaganza begins tomorrow in the capital.

— Star photo

India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will participate in all 11 disciplines. The Pakistani team will take part in 10 events.

The Director of Sports of the International Olympic Committee Gilbert Felli is expected here today to attend the opening ceremony of the Games on behalf of its president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Ahmed Al-Fahd Al Sabah will arrive on December 23.

Meanwhile, the final rehearsal of the Games opening ceremony was held yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium, the venue of the Games opening and closing ceremonies.

The dress rehearsal lasted for more than two hours and participated by about 13,000 performers from different schools, colleges and members of Air Force, Ansar and VDP.

For Rayer Bazar Farid and Anu claimed two wickets each.

In reply, despite determined 53 by Faiyaz, the Rayer Bazar could not reach the winning target, making 178 for the loss of nine of their batsmen in 40 overs.

Apu and Sohel were the two other batsmen to hit 20-plus scores collecting 29 and 24 runs respectively. Extras provided a handy 27.

Haider and Kalam evenly shared four wickets between them while Azad chipped in with one wicket.

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They got further in the mire when Carl Hooper, who was dropped twice, was run out with the score on 65.

Two runs later, mainstay Lara was bowled by Jayasuriya to give Sri Lanka a hint of another upset win.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and final one-day international between Sri Lanka and the West Indies on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: Mahanama c Richardson b Walsh 10; Jayasuriya c Atherton b Walsh 1; Tillekeratne b Walsh 6; De Silva c Ambrose b Simmons 34; Ranatunga c Adams b Simmons 7; Kalpage not out 26; Kulkarni not out 6; Extras: (b-1, lb-6, nb-1, w-5) 13; Total: (for five wickets, 23 overs) 103; Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-14; 3-25; 4-49; 5-82; Did not bat: D Samarawera, D Lyanage, P Wickremasinghe, D Anurasi.

Bowling: O M R W
Wickremasinghe 4.1 0 20 0
Lyanage 3 1 16 0
Anurasi 5 0 17 1
Kalpage 5 0 21 0
Jayasuriya 5 0 28 2

Result: West Indies won by six wickets.

First match: Colombo, Dec 1 — Abandoned due to bad light
Second match: Colombo, Dec 16 — Sri Lanka won by three wickets.

Windies restore parity

COLOMBO, Dec 18: The West Indies ended their short tour of Sri Lanka with a pride-restoring six-wicket victory in the third and final one-day international here Saturday, reports AFP.

The West Indies, who were humbled by Sri Lanka in the second one day match, Thursday, losing by three wickets, came back with a vengeance to easily win a game restricted to 25 overs.

Richie Richardson, winning the toss, put Sri Lanka into bat and his four-pronged pace attack restricted the home team to 103 for five, bowling only 23 of the allotted overs.

The West Indies then knocked off the required runs with five balls to spare, with man-of-the-match Keith Arthurton remaining unbeaten on 24 and Phil Simmons not out 15.

Simmons hit the winning runs when he swung paceman Promodya Wickremasinghe to the square leg boundary.

Simmons and Arthurton came together with the West Indies on a shaky 67 for four, with only five overs remaining.

Although the Sri Lankan spinners had their tails up and were bowling their usual mesmerising spell, Arthurton and Simmons refused to buckle under the pressure as they stayed calm to guide their side to victory and square the three-match one-day series.

The first game was abandoned due to rain.

Despite the loss, Sri Lanka kept their record of not losing a one-day series at home since August 1992.

Requiring a run rate of 4.47, the West Indies started soundly with Desmond Haynes and Brian Lara putting on an opening partnership of 42.

Haynes was first to go, for 23, when trying to hoist left arm leg spinner Don Anurasi over long on, he holed out a catch to Sanath Jayasuriya in the deep.

Skipper Richardson, who has struggled against spin throughout the historic tour, was out in a likewise manner, being caught by Dulip Samarawera off the bowling of Jayasuriya for 20 to leave his side on a shaky 56 for two.

ambrose 5 2 12 0
Walsh 5 0 24 3
Benjamin 4 0 21 0
Cummins 4 0 15 0
Simmons 5 0 24 2

WEST INDIES: Haynes c Jayasuriya b Anurasi 23; Lara b Jayasuriya 29; Richardson c Samarawera b Jayasuriya 2; Hooper run out 4; Simmons not out 15; Arthurton not out 24; Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-4) 10; Total: (for four wickets, 22.1 overs) 107; Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-58; 3-65; 4-67; Did not bat: J Adams, C Walsh, C Ambrose, A Cummins, W Benjamin.

Bowling: O M R W
Wickremasinghe 4.1 0 20 0
Lyanage 3 1 16 0
Anurasi 5 0 17 1
Kalpage 5 0 21 0
Jayasuriya 5 0 28 2

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LAHORE, Dec 18: David Houghton completed his maiden Test half-century as Zimbabwe's bid to take charge in the third and final Test against Pakistan was frustrated by bad weather on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Only 21 minutes' play was possible on the third day because of mist and bad light, with Zimbabwe extending their overnight score from 110 for three to 121 for three in reply to Pakistan's paltry first innings of 147.

Former Zimbabwe captain Houghton was exactly 50 not out, having reached his half-century in 144 minutes from 104 deliveries and hit eight fours, while skipper Andy Flower was 15 not out.

Two days remain after Sunday's rest day for Zimbabwe to try and press home their advantage against a Pakistan side who have already taken a 2-0 winning lead in the series.

Div II cricket Sports Reporter

Sajid claimed four wickets to lead the Nirman XI to an impressive seven-wicket victory over Evergreen Cricket Club in one of the two Second Division cricket league matches at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Evergreen, batting first, scored 171 in their quota of 40 overs with Shamim making an unbeaten 51. Mustafiz contributed 23 and Naimul chipped in with a useful 19 while extras provided a handsome 32.

Sajid spent only 19 runs for his four victims, Dipu, Liton and Nirmal claimed one apiece.

Needing over four runs an over to win, the Nirman cricketers raced to the victory target in 31.3 overs knocking 173 for the loss of three wickets.

Shahidul notched up the highest individual score of 40 for his side, followed by Dipu and Nantu making 35 and 33 respectively. Asad was at the crease on 29 with Nantu when Nirman posted the winning runs.

In the other match at the Jagannath Hall ground, Wari Kirra Chakra edged Rayer Bazar by 12 runs.

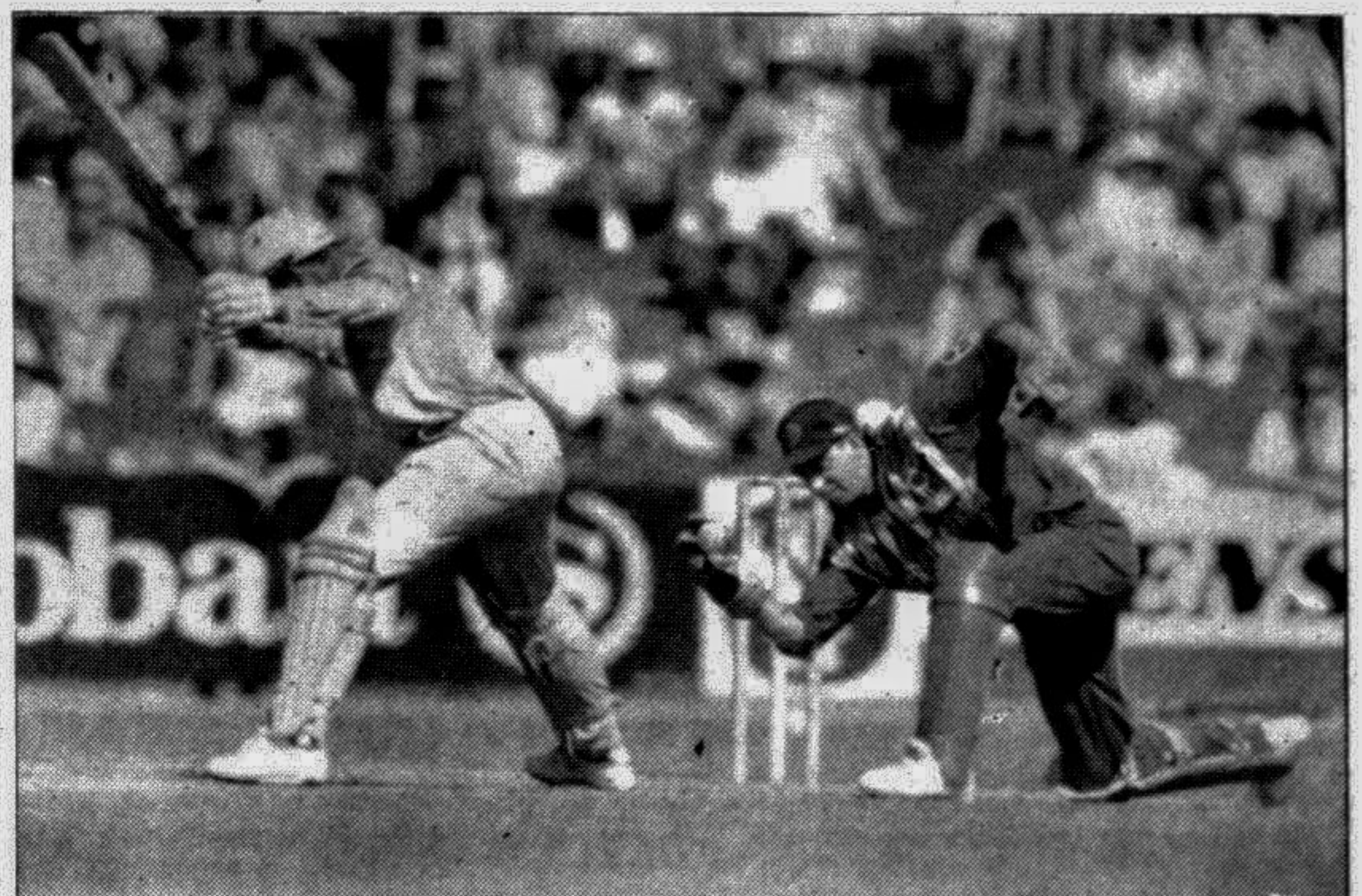
Wari batted first and amassed 190 for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 40 overs. Russel scored a fine 55 Dular and Musa made 33 and 26 respectively.

For Rayer Bazar Farid and Anu claimed two wickets each.

In reply, despite determined 53 by Faiyaz, the Rayer Bazar could not reach the winning target, making 178 for the loss of nine of their batsmen in 40 overs.

Apu and Sohel were the two other batsmen to hit 20-plus scores collecting 29 and 24 runs respectively. Extras provided a handy 27.

Haider and Kalam evenly shared four wickets between them while Azad chipped in with one wicket.



South African wicketkeeper Dave Richardson (R) fumbles a chance to stump New Zealand batsman Bryan Young off the bowling of Dipak Patel during their World Series one-day match in Hobart yesterday.

Young leads Kiwis all the way

HOBART, Dec 18: Opaer Bryan Young hit 74, his highest score in international one-day cricket, to take New Zealand to a four-wicket win over South Africa in their World Series Cup match today, reports Reuter.

Young, playing in his ninth limited-overs match, held the innings together as the Kiwis overhauled the South Africans with five overs to spare.

In reply to South Africa's disappointing 147 for seven in 50 overs, New Zealand cruised to 148 for six to record their first win in the triangular tournament.

The victory gives them three points from four games, level with the South Africans. Australia lead the table with six points from four games.

Young hit seven boundaries, two more than the entire South African team during their 50 overs.

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford said his side had finally played to its potential after a 2-0 Test series loss to Australia and successive defeats in this competition.

"We displayed a bit of pride in playing for our country," Rutherford told reporters.

"All the things said behind closed doors which were going through the players' ears finally sunk in. We're starting to show what were capable of as individuals and as a team."

The South Africans made an unconvincing effort following their record one-day defeat against Australia on Tuesday.

On a spiteful wicket in Sydney, they were routed for 69, their lowest-ever total, to lose by a massive 103 runs.

But there were no excuses to be found in the friendlier track at Hobart's Bellerive Oval which

offered the bowlers only limited movement.

The South Africans were shackled by an accurate Kiwi bowling attack, backed by enthusiastic fielding.

After 25 overs, the half-way point of their innings, the tourists, had crawled to just 55 for the loss of their top four batsmen.

Gavin Larsen, the man-of-the-match, took the key wickets of Kepler Wessels and Hansie Cronje with his ten overs of gentle medium pace at a cost of just 12 runs.

The South Africans surprisingly dropped Allan Donald, their fastest bowler, following a wayward spell in Sydney which cost 49 runs.

"Allan has not bowled particularly well of late but he accepted the decision to leave him," South African coach Mike Procter said.

Procter is also unhappy with the form of his batsmen as the tourists prepare for their first Test against Australia in Melbourne, starting on December 26.

"Hansie Cronje is the only guy who has been getting runs on tour and batting is about confidence," Procter added.

The tourists face Queensland in a four-day game starting on Monday, their last match before the three-Test series begins.

"We need our batsmen to be at the wicket for a long time against Queensland," Procter said.

The one-day competition resumes in January.

Wessels c Blain b Larsen 15
Cronje c Morrison b Larsen 18
Cullinan c Blain b Thomson 8
Callaghan b Pringle 25
Richardson not out 38
Symcox c Blain b Cairns 8
Snell not out 13
Extras: (lb-4, w-3) 7
Total: (for seven wickets, 50 overs) 147
Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-22; 3-50; 4-53; 5-66; 6-101; 7-119.
Did not bat: C Matthews, F de Villiers.

Bowling: O M R W
Pringle 10 1 28 3
Morrison 8 1 32 0
Larsen 10 5 12 2
Patel 10 2 25 0
Thomson 5 0 19 1
Cairns 7 0 27 1

NEW ZEALAND:
Young lbw b Matthews 74
Latham c Wessels b Matthews 7
Rutherford run out 9
Greatbatch run out 8
Cairns not out 30
Thomson b Matthews 9
Blain c Richardson b Matthews 5
Larsen not out 4
Extras: (nb-1, w-1) 2
Total: (for six wickets) 148
Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-54; 3-66; 4-112; 5-132; 6-142.
Did not bat: D Patel, C Pringle, D Morrison.

Bowling: O M R W
Matthews 10 1 38 4
De Villiers 9.1 1 23 0
Snell 10 0 29 0
Symcox 10 0 25 0
Cronje 5 0 33 0

Man-of-the-match: Gavin Larsen
Result: New Zealand won by four wickets.

Pele made persona non-grata

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Dec 18: World Cup star Pele is planning to go to Sunday's World Cup draw in Las Vegas, despite not being invited, reports AFP.

Pele had been the expected master of ceremonies at the draw here, but FIFA president Joao Havelange made it clear this week he would not be invited, preferring former French star Michel Platini.

Pele has countered by telling Brazilian reporters that he still plans to go along.

"I am going to ask Havelange why he didn't invite me," Pele said. "I don't know."

Havelange said here on Wednesday, "Platini will be invited, but not Pele. Since the elimination of France we wanted to give an important role to Platini," the co-president of the World Cup Committee for the 1998 event in France.

Pele's being left out in the cold may have been because of his allegations of corruption within the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF). President of the federation Ricardo Teixeira, is Havelange's son-in-law.

Teixeira recently began legal proceedings against Pele, after Pele spoke of corruption within the federation in an interview with Playboy magazine.

Becker ties the knot

LEIMEN, Germany, Dec 18: German tennis star Boris Becker married his long-time girlfriend Barbara Feltus on Friday in his home town of Leimen near Heidelberg, reports Reuter.

Becker and pregnant Feltus have played hide-and-seek with the pursuing media for more than a week, and the brief ceremony at Leimen's Town Hall caught out many reporters.

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Two days remain after Sunday's rest day for Zimbabwe to try and press home their advantage against a Pakistan side who have already taken a 2-0 winning lead in the series.

After mist prevented play in the morning, the game started 25 minutes after lunch. But only nine balls were delivered before the light deteriorated and the players came off.

Following an early tea, play restarted but poor light forced the players off the field again after just nine balls.

The stop-start play disappointed the modest crowd at the Gaddafi Stadium, but umpires Khizer Hayat, in his 29th Test, and Athar Zaidi, officiating his fourth, defended their decisions.

"We twice offered them the option to play but each time the two batsmen did not accept our offer," said Hayat.

Captain Flower said the light was not good from the pavilion end and they had difficulty seeing the ball.

"With Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in charge of the attack it was difficult for us to sight the ball properly against a dark background," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the limited-overs World Series Cup match between South Africa and New Zealand today:

SOUTH AFRICA: Hudson c Blain b Pringle 8; Kirsten c Young b Pringle 7

SCOREBOARD

Standings in the World Series Cup after the match today (tabulate under played, won to result, lost points):

Australia 4 3 1 6
South Africa 4 1 1 2 3
New Zealand 4 1 1 2 3

Weather holds Zimbabwe up

LAHORE, Dec 18: David Houghton completed his maiden Test half-century as Zimbabwe's bid to take charge in the third and final Test against Pakistan was frustrated by bad weather on Saturday, reports Reuter.

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SCOREBOARD

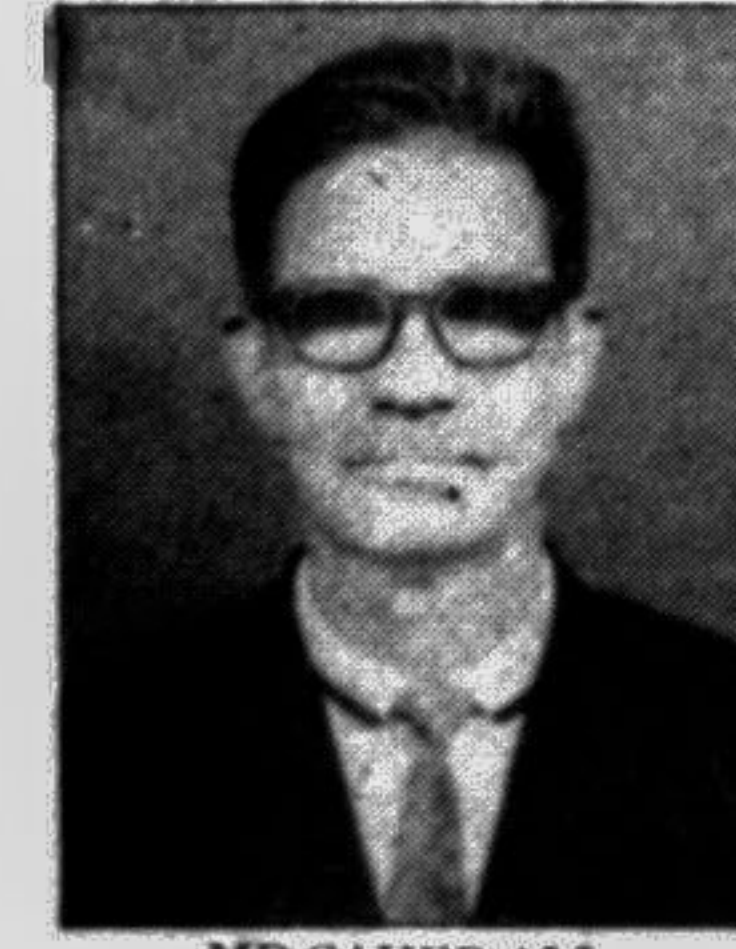
Scoreboard on the third day of the third and final cricket Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe on Saturday.

PAKISTAN: 1st innings 147 (D Brain 5-42).

ZIMBABWE: First innings (overnight 110-3): G Flower c Rashid b Latif b Rehman 30; M Campbell c Rashid b Latif b Akram 2; A Campbell c Rashid b Latif b Younis 6; Houghton not out 50; A Flower not out 15; Extra: (b-5, lb-7, nb-5, w-1) 18; Total: (for three wickets, 52.1 overs) 121; Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-35; 3-88; To bat: H Streak, G Whittall, W James, D Brain, E Brandes, J Renne.

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 20 6 35 1
Waqar Younis 18 1 6 45 1
Ata-ur-Rehman 10 4 20 1
Mushaq Ahmad 4 1 9 0

The match was frustrated by bad weather.



Saheb Ali injured

Sports Reporter

Former national football coach Sheikh Md Saheb Ali was seriously injured in a road accident along the Viswa Road near Golapbagh yesterday morning.

Ali, was taking a stroll when a truck hit from behind, is now undergoing treatment at a local clinic.

Tennis course

A month-long training course for junior tennis players will begin at the National Tennis Complex here on January 3, reports BSS.

Interested players or their guardians have been requested to contact the federation office by December 29.



German tennis star Boris Becker, 26, makes his way through the crowd accompanied by his new wife Barbara Feltus, a 27-year-old model. The couple were married on Dec 17 in Germany.

Nunn, too heavy for crown?

PUEBLA, Mexico, Dec 18: Michael Nunn was on the verge of losing his WBA super middleweight crown Friday night, weighing in seven pounds (3.2 kgs) over the limit a day before he was due to meet Merqui Sosa, reports AP.

But the World Boxing Association gave Nunn until 7 am Saturday to weigh in under the limit.

The confusion over Nunn's status overshadowed at least briefly the main draw on Saturday night's boxing card, the WBC super lightweight fight between Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez and British challenger Andy Holligan before a predicted 60,000 fans at the Cuauhtemoc soccer stadium.

Officials were stunned by Nunn's failure to meet the 168-pound (75.6 kgs) weight limit.

"You are not doing your job!" promoter Don King shouted at

Nunn's conditioning coach, Danny Dothard, as Dothard and manager Carlos "Panama" Lewis led the downcast champion from the room. "How much did that boy eat?"

"You all have been fooling with my champion," King added.

WBA supervisor Manuel R Landero at first pointed to a rule weight or sacrifice the title. He later said a clause indicated Nunn might have another hour and 20 minutes.

But King aides held a series of frantic meetings with Sosa's trainers, Puebla state boxing officials and Landero.

At 7 pm, Landero announced the parties had agreed that Nunn could weigh in, alone, at 7 am Saturday. King's officials claimed that, too, was part of WBA rules.

It Nunn is overweight, he loses the title. The fight would be held, but Sosa would be declared champion only if he wins. If he loses, the WBA No. 1 and No. 2 challengers should

fight for the championship, Landero said.

King said Nunn should automatically be the No. 1 challenger, but Landero said that was up to the WBA's ratings committees.

Dothard claimed that the official scales were wrong, possibly because of tampering.

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Dothard, who said he's been helping to train Nunn since the fighter was 14, said Nunn had been at fighting weight for a week.

He noted that some other fighters, including heavyweights Oliver McCall and Tony Tucker, has weighed more than he had expected.

But Puebla State Boxing Commission chairman Edgar Ramirez noted that most other fighters had weighed as expected, before and after Nunn was weighed. He said the scale had been calibrated, as required, before the match.