

Stars in their courses

Sports Reporter

After the completion of the eighth round matches the 15th national junior chess championship is now delicately poised with defending national champion IM Reefat bin Sattar and IM Ziaur Rahman jointly heading the points table, having collected seven and a half points each.

In case, both Reefat and Zia win in the last ninth and final round matches today, which they are very likely to do, the championship will have to be decided through tie-breaker.

At the National Sports Council chess room yesterday, Reefat beat M Alamgir while Zia defeated Hossain Arif in their respective matches.

Shawkat Hossain Pallab, who enjoyed a brief stay at the top on Monday, held on to his place after the top duo with a win over Sheikh Nasir Ahmed.

Pallab now has six and half points from eight matches.

Tuhin's ton throttles Orient

Sports Reporter

Tuhin sparked with an unbeaten century as Orient Sporting Club posted a huge 139-run victory over Rayer Bazar Club in the Second Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday.

Orient, bolstered by Tuhin's ton, the fourth in this year's league, amassed an imposing 234 for seven in their quota of 40 overs. Tuhin sent the ball across the fence on occasions for his 104-ball 102.

Rayer Bazar, with an unenviable task of getting almost six runs an over to win, folded their innings in the 22.1 overs, making 95.

Zahir, the captain, top-scored with 30.

Richards' prediction

ANTIGUA, Jan 19: Strike bowler Curtley Ambrose poses the major threat to England's cricket tour hopes, according to Viv Richards, reports AFP.

Former skipper Richards, who led the West Indies during 50 of his 121 Tests, predicted here on Tuesday the series would be tighter than many experts were predicting — but that Ambrose would give the home side the edge.

First Div b'ball

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Winners Club beat Dhaka Wanderers Club 58-34 in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 27-17.

Tanu topscored for Winners with 18 followed by Asif, who caged 17.

Rumel and Debasish scored 12 and eight respectively for the losers.

Twenty paddlers picked

Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation yesterday picked twenty promising paddlers from all over the country to give intensive training under a foreign coach, reports UNB.

A Chinese trainer is expected to conduct a five-week training camp beginning in the capital on Tuesday.

The selected players are: Mahboob, Manas, Mahid, Shauvon, Tuhin(Dhaka); Halmet, Rubel, Sagar (Ansar); Mahboob, Abid, Nabi, Saiful (Tangail); Monir (Jessore); Zia, Rakib (Rajshahi); Partha, Ferdous (Habiganj); Pappu, Goutam (Narail) and Joyantha (Gai-bandha).

Biman athletics begins

The two-day thirteenth annual athletics championship '94 of Biman Bangladesh Airlines got underway at Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday, reports BSS.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan formally declared the meet open as chief guest in the morning. Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation Afzalur Rahman was the special guest. Biman Managing Director Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, Director administration and president Biman Sports and Cultural Council Lt. Col (ret'd) Shahriyar Ahmed Chowdhury were present.

1190 athletes representing all directorates and domestic stations under Biman are participating in 37 events of the competition. On the first day finals of 24 events were held.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Government Printing Press defeated Kadamtala Sangsad 2-0 in the lone match of the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Habib and Murad scored once each for the winners.

After Bima, it's Eskaton



Eskaton Sabuj Sangha became the second team to ensure promotion to next year's Navana Premier Division league with when they outplayed Dhaka Wanderers Club by eight wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sadharan Bima earlier booked a berth in the Navana league, having won three super league matches on a trot, Eskaton, who too with yesterday's win took their tally of wins to three in a row, will play Bima in the last encounter of the two teams to decide the champions of this year's ten-team Milnars First Division league.

A solid first-wicket partnership of 106 runs between open-

ers Biplab and Jewel shaped Eskaton's massive victory. Jewel was unconquered on a sedate 58 made off 91 balls with four hits to the fence when Eskaton, chasing 164 for an outright win, posted the needful in 35.4 overs for the loss of four wickets.

Biplab was little unfortunate in not being able to troop back in harness with his partner as his innings of 61 made from 92

sixers. Jahangir followed him with a sluggish 46 coming from 116 balls.

Lipu kept Sagir company with 16 not out while opener Shaqiq contributed 17 to a total that contained two ducks, interestingly from two Babus — Farhad and Shariful.

Eskaton's Khokon bowled beautifully to finish with two for 18 from nine overs.

Mona bagged one for 24 also from nine overs.

LALMATIA INCH ON
Lalmatia Club continued plying towards safe waters when they handed a smug Agrani Bank a crushing seven-wicket defeat at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Lalmatia largely owed their second win in three matches to Nasim, who remained unbeaten on 40 following his tight bowling during the Agrani Bank innings in the morning. Opener Saiful made 30 while Chayan, his partner, was the other double-digit scorer with 17.

With Hassan bearing Nasim a hand, remaining unbeaten on 37, Lalmatia had few problems in making those required 165



Players and officials of Eskaton Sabuj Sangha who confirmed a place in next year's Navana Premier Division cricket league beating Wanderers Club by eight wickets in their penultimate match of the Milnars league yesterday. Sadharan Bima booked the other promotion berth.

— Star photo

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Atiq captured two of the three wickets that fell in Lalmatia's innings bagging two for 13. Biplab bagged the other wicket.

Put in to bat Agrani Bank managed 164 for nine in the morning. The main scorers were Rabbu, Neaz, Ripon and Sohail who made 35, 26, 25 and 24 respectively.

Still simmering

ISLAMABAD, Jan 19: Students demonstrated Tuesday in Karachi, demanding the inclusion of star batsman Javed Miandad in the Pakistan team for the New Zealand tour, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said, reports AFP.

The agency said scores of students took part in the demonstration and, elsewhere in Karachi, four unidentified men claiming to be Miandad supporters disrupted play in a national cricket tournament match.

Miandad, along with two other test players, Rameez Raja and Aaqib Javed, was dropped by selectors on the grounds of fitness and form.

The cricket authorities Monday removed Wasim Akram as captain under pressure from a revolt by nine members of the team led by pacesman Waqar Younis.

They made Salim Malik skipper in his place and appointed Asif Mujtaba vice-captain in place of Waqar, who hailed the decision saying the crisis had been resolved.

The 16-member team is due to leave for Bangladesh on January 22 to play two matches there, before proceeding to New Zealand for a tour of more than 40 days.

Wasim has accepted to play under the leadership of Malik, rejecting advice from friends, including former captain Imran Khan, that he withdraw from the tour.

Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer

Five more district teams — Netrokona, Cox's Bazar, Jessore, Sirajganj and Kurigram — reached the zonal semifinals of the eighteenth Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship from their respective zones yesterday, reports UNB.

Netrokona trounced My-mensingh 5-0. They will meet the winners of Jamalpur and Gazipur DSA in the zonal semifinals on Sunday.

At Fenh Cox's Bazar DSA defeated Noakhali DSA 5-4 in the breaker in a zone three match after the stipulated time ended goalless.

Cox's Bazar will face the winners of the tie between Chittagong and Laxmipur in the zonal semifinals on Saturday.

In zone six, Jessore DSA eliminated Chuadanga DSA 3-1 at Jhenidah. They will play in the zonal semifinals on Sunday against the winners of the Magura and Satkhira DSA game.

In a zone seven match at Bogra, Sirajganj DSA beat Rajshahi DSA by a solitary goal scored by Fariduzzaman Sterling in the 83rd minute.

They will play the winners of the match between Joypurhat and Pabna DSA in the zonal semifinals on Sunday.

In zone eight encounter at Lalmonirhat, Kurigram DSA overcame Rangpur DSA 4-3 in tie breaker after a one-all draw in the scheduled session.

Kurigram will meet Nilphamari DSA in the zonal semifinals on Saturday.

Shantinagar Div II soccer champs

Sports Reporter

Shantinagar Club, who had earlier confirmed promotion to the Star First Division football league, ended their campaign with twin satisfaction when they emerged unbeaten champions of this year's Sonali Bank Second Division league beating Lalbagh Club 1-0 in their last encounter at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Siraj, who had earlier scored a hat-trick, netted the match winner in the 55th minute.

Relegated to the Second Division in 1977 after playing only two years in the First Division, Shantinagar will play again in the First Division after a lay-off of 16 years.



David Boon watches anxiously the ball go closely past the wicket after the Australian opener, attempting a square cut off Chris Cairns only managed a thick inside edge during the World Series Cup match against New Zealand in Melbourne yesterday.

— AFP photo

Aussies to play S Africa in WSC finals

Kiwis out of the fray



MELBOURNE, Jan 19: South Africa and Australia will contest the World Series Limited overs final, after New Zealand slumped to a 51-run defeat in their last preliminary match on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The New Zealanders needed to beat Australia's 217 for three from 50 overs, but were bundled out for 166 with 13 balls to spare.

The defeat allowed South Africa to sneak into the best of three final series against Australia, starting on Friday.

Australia headed the table after the triangular tournament's round-robin qualifiers with ten points from eight games.

New Zealand and South Africa were locked on seven points, but the South Africans advanced because of their superior run-rate over the eight matches.

It was a bitterly disappointing outcome for the New Zealanders who appeared certain to qualify only one week ago.

But two defeats in six days proved costly, while South Africa stayed in contention by winning their last two matches, significantly improving their run-rate in the process.

A bitterly disappointed New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford praised South Africa for their stunning comeback.

"They probably deserve to get to the finals ahead of us given their recent form," said Rutherford, who added that losing the toss was a key factor in his side's defeat on Wednesday.

"As soon as Allan Border elected to bat I knew it was going to be very difficult for us. The wicket got slower as

the game wore on and winning the toss was worth about 20 runs," added Rutherford.

"A week ago the feeling in the team was euphoric but everyone is totally shattered right now. At times we performed well in this competition but we also played some real shockers."

Australia's man-of-the-match Dean Jones hit 82 in front of 62,000 spectators on his home ground to put the game out of New Zealand's reach.

Jones added a crucial 121 runs for the second wicket with opener David Boon, who made 65.

Pace bowlers Glenn McGrath, Paul Reiffel and Damien Fleming then shackled New Zealand's top order batsmen who quickly fell behind the required run-rate.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne took full advantage, taking three wickets at a cost of 28 runs as the New Zealanders hit out with increasing desperation.

Border, while praising his side's performance following two successive losses, said Australia would have to improve to beat the South Africans in the final.

"They are the team in form at the moment. All their batsmen seem to be hitting runs and their bowling attack is very strong," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Series Limited overs cricket match between Australia and New Zealand played here on Wednesday.

AUSTRALIA:
Hayden c Blair b Watson 13
Boon c Rutherford b Cairns 65
Jones c Cairns b Pringle 82
M Waugh not out 45
S Waugh not out 0

Extras: (lb-12) 12
Total: (3 wks, 50 overs) 217
Fall of wks: 1-15; 2-136; 3-214.

Bowling:
Pringle 10 0 45 1
Watson 10 2 33 1
Cairns 10 0 53 1
Larsen 10 1 23 0
Thomson 4 0 27 0
Latham 6 0 24 0

NEW ZEALAND:
Young b Warne 43
Latham c Warne b Reiffel 10
Jones lbw b Fleming 9
Rutherford run out 0
Greatbatch c Reiffel b Warne 13
Thomson lbw b McGrath 12
Cairns lbw b Fleming 39
Blain c Hayden b Warne 4
Larsen not out 17
Pringle b Reiffel 6
Watson c Healy b Reiffel 0
Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-1) 13
Total: (47.5 overs) 166

Fall of wks: 1-37; 2-60; 3-64; 4-80; 5-82; 6-107; 7-124; 8-147; 9-166.

Bowling:
McGrath 9 1 48 1
Reiffel 9.5 2 35 3
Fleming 9 2 15 2
S Waugh 10 0 36 0
Warne 10 1 28 3

Australia won by 51 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Dean Jones (Australia).

STANDINGS

Standings in the World Series triangular cricket tournament at the completion of the round-robin qualifying series on Wednesday (tabulate under played, won, lost, no result, points):

Australia 8 5 3 0 10
South Africa 8 3 4 1 7
New Zealand 8 3 4 1 7

Note: South Africa second placed on higher net run-rate. Australia and South Africa qualify for the best of three in the finals series starting Friday in Sydney.

Tendulkar does a la Sidhu



LUCKNOW, India, Jan 19: India's youthful genius Sachin Tendulkar hammered a brilliant 142 Wednesday to push Shri Lanka against the ropes in the first Test here, reports AFP.

The gifted 20-year-old's seventh Test century in only 29 Tests helped India pile up 511 in the first innings before being all out for the penultimate ball of the second day's play at the Babu Stadium here.

Shri Lanka begin their reply Thursday morning on a wicket that has been a bowler's graveyard so far even though groundsman Sita Ram predicts it will assist spin and keep low as the match progresses.

The Sri Lankans watched happily as Tendulkar helped himself to 22 boundaries in sterling fashion over Tuesday and Wednesday.

He started the day 88 not out and reached his century with three boundaries of the morning's first four deliveries bowled by seamer Pramodaya Wickramasinghe.

The in-form Tendulkar,

who made his international debut in 1989 and is already the team's vice-captain, now



TENDULKAR ... 142

has three centuries and five 50s from his last 10-Test in-

nings.

Skipper Mohammed Azharuddin, who made 47 in a 142-run stand for the fourth wicket, with Tendulkar and the recalled Sanjay Manjrekar (61) boosted India's score.

Debutant wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia hit a sparkling 44 off 55 balls with the help of six boundaries to take India past the 500-run mark.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan returned as Sri Lanka's most successful bowler with five for 162 off 41.5 overs despite the hammering he received at the hands of opener Navjot Sidhu, who slammed him for six sixes Tuesday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the India first innings at close of second day's of the first cricket last against Sri Lanka here.

INDIA: First innings (overnight 269-3)
Prabhakar lbw b Liyanage 21
Sidhu c Kalpage b Muralidharan 124
Kambli run out 5
Tendulkar c Samaraweera b Anurasi 142
Azharuddin c Tilkekaratne b Anurasi 47
Manjrekar c and b Muralidharan 61
K Dev c Wickremasinghe b Muralidharan 42
Mongla c Samaraweera b Muralidharan 44
Kumble b Wickremasinghe 4
Chauhan c Tilkekaratne b Muralidharan 3
Raju not out 5
Extras: (lb-3, nb-8, w-2) 13
Total: 511

Fall of wickets: 1-63; 2-84; 3-205; 4-347; 5-370; 6-446; 7-459; 8-482; 9-491.

Bowling:
Wickremasinghe 20 3 84 1
Liyanage 17 1 55 1
Ranatunga 3 2 1 0
Anurasi 58 13 147 2
Kalpage 22 2 59 0
Muralidharan 41.5 3 162 5

Ma gets weary of it



BEIJING, Jan 19: China's celebrated athletics coach, Ma Junren, whose team of record-breaking women distance runners took the world by storm last year, has tendered his resignation over a row with sporting authorities, a report said Wednesday, reports AP.

Ma told the Beijing Evening News that he had handed in his resignation on January 15 to protest against interference by local sporting officials in his training methods and the lack of financial support for his team of runners, better known as "Ma's Army."

Ma said he had given the local authorities in the north-eastern province of Liaoning, where his training camp is based, until February 6 to address his complaints or accept his resignation.

An official with the Liaoning Sporting Provincial Commission confirmed by telephone that Ma had handed in his resignation, but refused to comment on the reasons.

The larger-than-life coach became an international celebrity when his team of athletes, spearheaded by Wang Jinxia and Qu Yunxia, demolished world records in the 1,500m, 3,000m and 10,000m at the World Championships in Stuttgart and the National Games in Beijing.

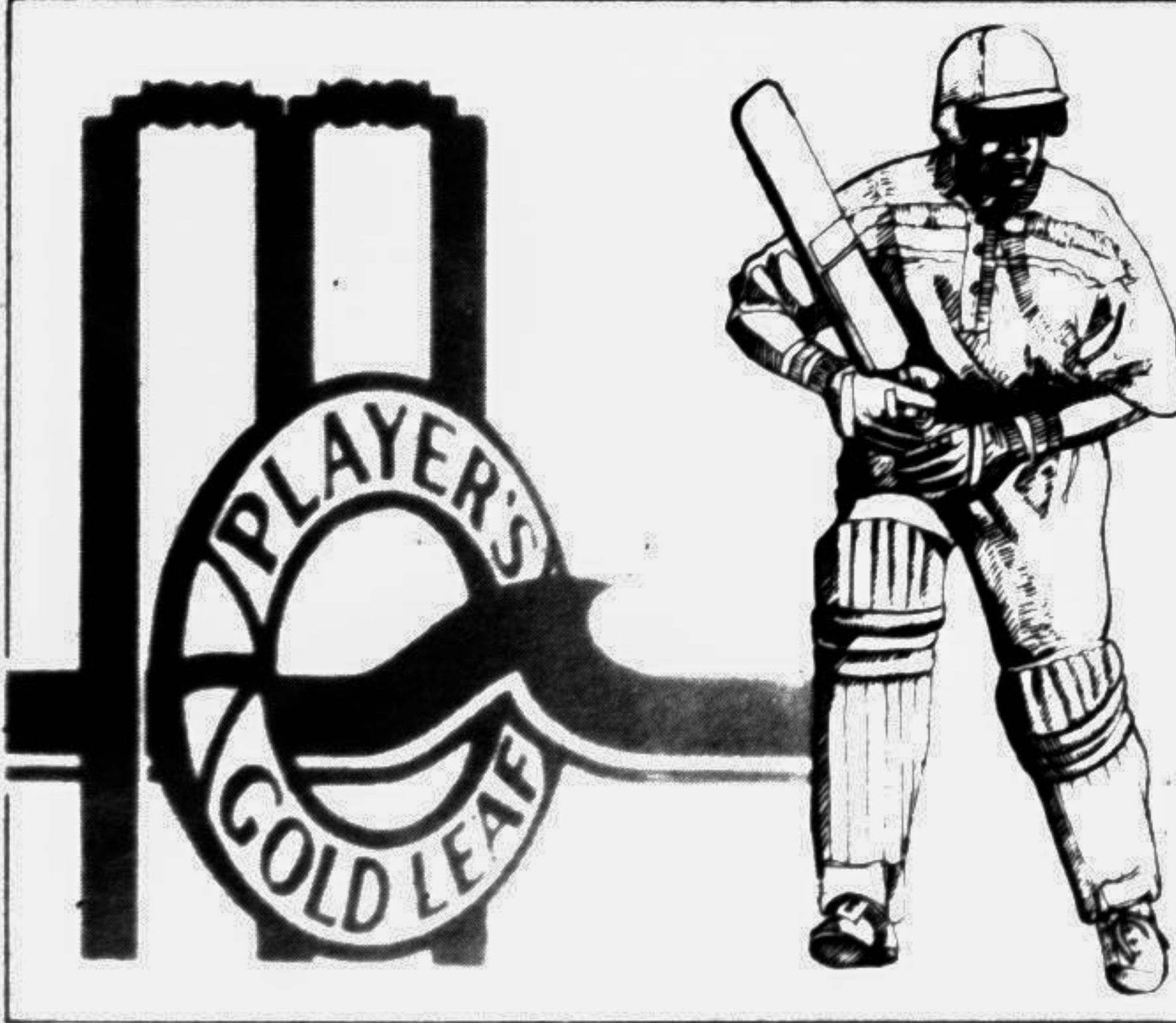
Ma said his relations with the Liaoning Sports Commission had become "too complicated" and were affecting his work as coach.

According to the report, Ma also complained that the National Sports Ministry had

failed to come through with promised grants totalling 1.32 million yuan (150,000 dollars), forcing him to cancel a planned trip to a high-altitude training camp in the southern province of Yunnan.

Further, Ma said his name had been used in advertisements for certain products without his permission, damaging his reputation and the image of his team.

"All these problems have left me too tired to continue with my work," the newspaper quoted Ma as saying.



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