

A rather anticlimactic finish

By Mir Ashfaq Zaman



After Sunday's runs galore in the first match of the Gold Leaf one-day series, the batsmen found scoring quite difficult yesterday as the visiting Pakistani national team beat Bangladesh by seven wickets at the Dhaka Stadium.

It was some sort of a disappointment for the local cricket lovers, who, following Bangladesh's remarkable performance in the previous game, crowded the stadium, hoping to see the local boys do even better.

Set a modest task of scoring 185 for outright win, the visitors, who won the first encounter by 62 runs, journeyed past the victory target with two overs to spare of their 45-over quota, making 186 for the loss of three wickets.

The world champions of the instant version of the game owed much to Shoaib Mohammed, the son of former Pakistan captain Hanif Mohammed, and Shakeel Ahmed. The two featured in a slow but steady stand of 110 runs for the second wicket. Aamir Sohail, Shoaib's opening partner, was departed very early in the innings.

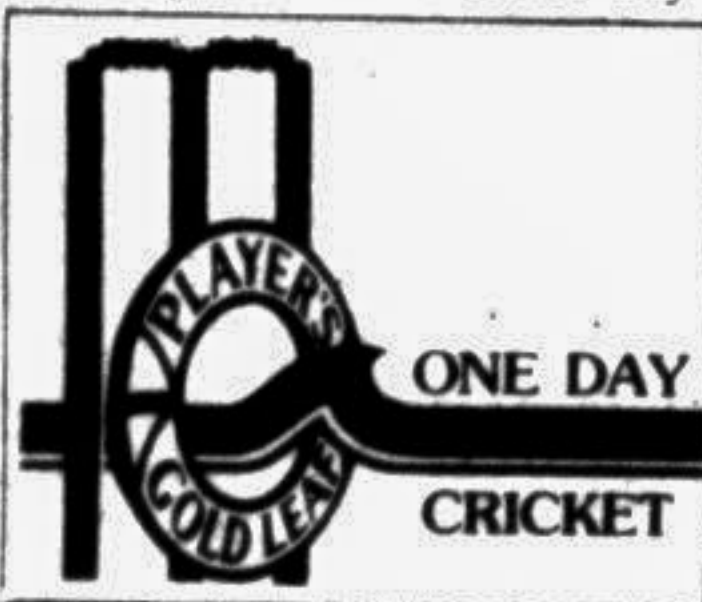
Pakistan, having restricted the hosts for a modest total after Bangladesh skipper Faruque Ahmed won the toss and decided to make the first use of the strip, didn't quite

have an ideal start. Aamir Sohail, the flamboyant left-hander, was given out leg before to the last delivery of Jahangir Talukder's third over for 11 with the score on 17. Sohail, who was dismissed in a similar fashion on Sunday, seemed annoyed at the decision and took a while before finally starting the long trudge to the pavilion.

The early departure of Sohail, who hit two exquisite fours off Dulu in the over he got out, revived the Bangladeshi players up and with Prince and Dulu going with their tails up, the World Cup holders found themselves under consistent pressure for the next six overs.

However, Shoaib, not really the best of the one-day open-

the way during his 22-ball knock and was finally dismissed when an Aamir Rehman away swinger brushed the outside edge of his bat on its way

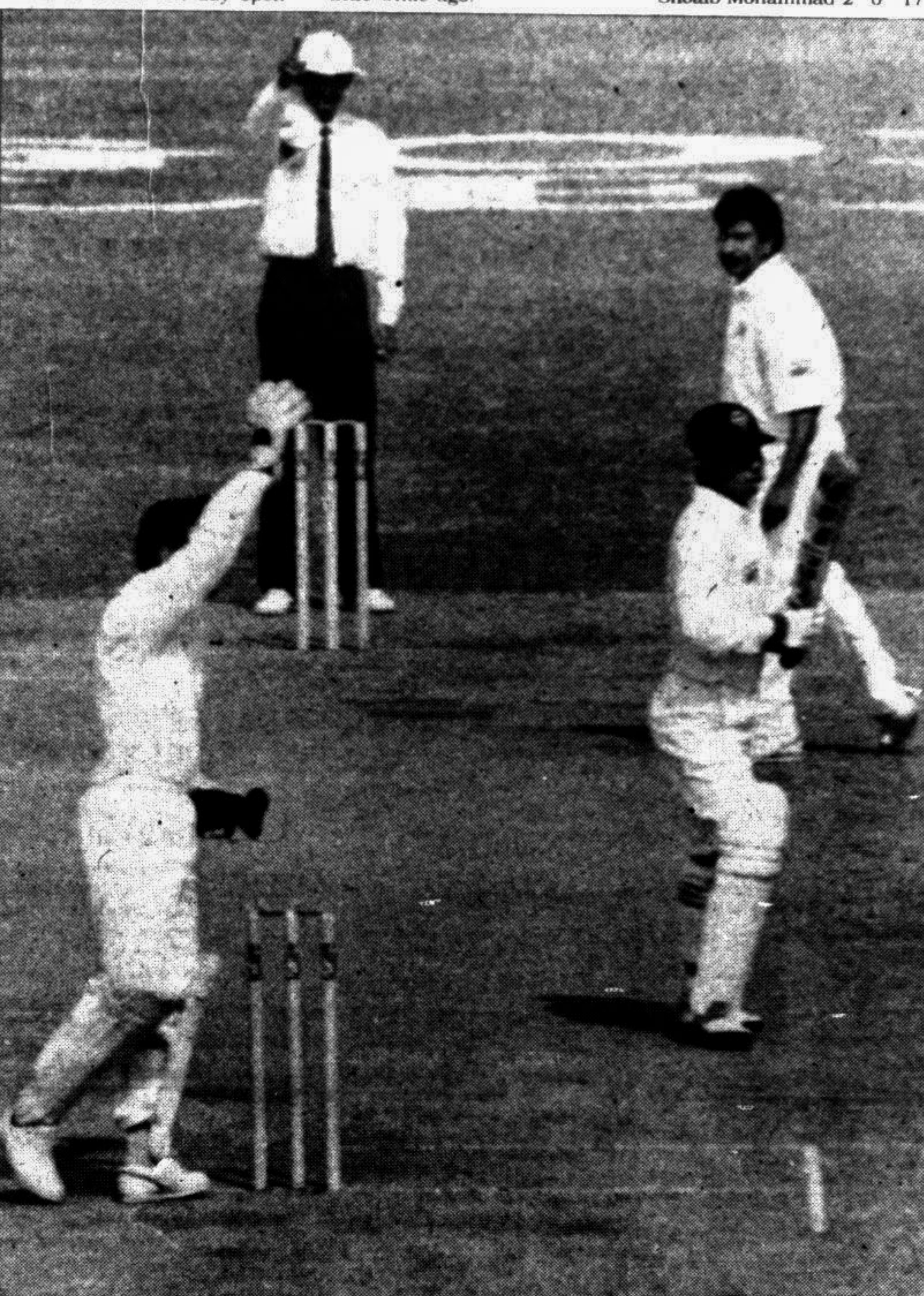


to the grateful hands of Inzamamul Haq, who floored a regulation catch from the other opening bat, Athar Ali a little while ago.

Jahangir c Inzamam b Ataur Rehman 03
Faruque rtd hurt 00
Shahed c Shakeel 08
Ahmed b Ashfaq Ahmed 08
Nannu lbw b Salim Malik 25
Akram Khan not out 45
Bulbul run out 38
Moni not out 10
Extras: (lb-9, wb-7, nb-4) 20
Total: (for five wks, 45 overs) 184
Did not bat: Dulu, Prince, Saikat.

Fall of wickets: 1-24; 2-39; 3-84; 4-86; 5-154

Bowling: O M R W
Ataur Rehman 9 1 32 1
Ashfaq Ahmed 8 0 21 1
Mushaq Ahmed 9 0 34 0
Aamir Sohail 9 1 27 1
Salim Malik 8 1 44 1
Shoaib Mohammad 2 0 17 0



Minhazul Abedin Nannu, one of the most experienced cricketers of the present national cricket team is adjudged leg before to Selim Malik. Nannu made 25 in the Bangladesh total of 184 for five wickets. Bangladesh lost the second and final Gold Leaf one-day series match to Pakistan by seven wickets, at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

ers, held firm and staved off the inspired Bangladeshi charge along with Shakeel, who looked a bit tentative initially but grew in confidence with every ball.

Shakeel, who celebrated his half century with a huge six off Minhazul Abedin Nannu over mid-wicket that landed into the stands, got out a la Sohail when one of Bulbul's off-spinner, rapped on his pad. The right-hander sent three shots across the fence apart from the huge six in his 85-ball stay.

Basit Ali didn't occupy the crease for long. The stocky Pakistani, who delighted the crowd with his aggressive batting the day before, cracked two blazing fours before a brilliant diving catch at cover point by Nannu off Enamul Huq Moni had him on the way back. He scored 15 in 10 balls.

With Pakistan poised at 148 for three, skipper Salim Malik walked in and stayed with Shoaib at the wicket till the end. Malik notched up 22 from 24 balls with the help of a couple of fours.

The winning runs came when Shoaib, who nearly had himself stumped out in Moni's second over, hit Golam Nawsher Prince to the mid-wicket boundary. The diminutive right-hander had 80 runs to his name when the chase came to an end. In his 121-ball knock, Shoaib only hit five fours.

Although Prince and Dulu bowled commendably in their first spell, the other Bangladeshi bowlers failed to make any impact on the Pakistan batting. Moreover, a rather drab performance from Jahangir behind the wicket aggravated things for the local side.

Jahangir, who also performed indifferently on Sunday let Shoaib off the hook with the Pakistani opening batsman struggling to regain his ground. He followed this up with another missed stumping chance that gave Shakeel enough time to run in.

Earlier in the morning, the Bangladesh opening pair of Athar Ali Khan and Jahangir never really found Sunday's touch. Jahangir struggled all

Athar, who sported a vandyke beard, produced a solid knock. Only if he could keep his cool he wouldn't have given a return catch to Aamir Sohail that led to his downfall. The tall right-hander made 38 with two fours of 90 balls.

Meanwhile, Faruque Ahmed, who came to bat after Jahangir got out, was forced out of the field when a Rehman lifter struck straight on his helmet. The wicket at the pavilion end behaved rather strangely — with the ball popping up and keeping low more often than not.

Selim Shahed, who was out for no score in the previous match, appeared to have settled down when he cut Ashfaq Ahmed for four but he paid for impetuosity, giving Shakeel an easy catch behind the stumps the next ball.

Nannu, the former Bangladesh captain, was a bit too conservative in his approach and killed at least ten balls too many for his 46-ball 25 that featured a couple of fours. Nannu was out leg before to Salim Malik off a delivery that kept a little low.

Akram Khan and Aminul Islam Bulbul gave the partisan crowd something to cheer for, teaming up for a 68-run sixth-wicket stand. Akram, the burly right-hander and Bulbul kept the Pakistani fielders on their toes until a ferocious mix-up left the dark allrounder stranded in the middle. Bulbul contributed 38 off 44 balls.

Akram, however, wasn't disheartened by this and kept up his good work with the willow. With Moni at the other end, Akram added 30 runs from 18 balls and quite fittingly rounded off the innings with a huge six over mid-wicket off Malik's last ball.

When the innings folded Akram and Moni were unbeaten on 38 and 10 respectively.

Shoaib Mohammad was later adjudged man-of-the-match by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) and the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association (BSJA).

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH
Athar Ali c and b Aamir Sohail 35

Border's plans

SYDNEY, Jan 24: Allan Border's long-term future has been settled even though the Australian cricket captain has yet to announce when he'll retire from the game, reports AP.

At a testimonial dinner on Monday, Australian Cricket Board chairman Alan Crompton said the 38-year-old Border had agreed to become a management officer for the ACB, covering all aspects of the board's development programmes.

"Whenever he retires, and the day after he does, Allan has a new career with the Australian Cricket Board to promote Australian cricket," Crompton told the gathering of over 500 guests.

Border said he would not make any decision on a possible retirement until after the South African tour.

"First and foremost, I'm looking forward to a strong performance by the team in Adelaide and of course to the tour of South Africa," he said in a statement giving details of his future with the ACB.

"Any further talk of retirement can wait until after that."

Steve Waugh recalled

ADELAIDE, Jan 24: Middle-order batsman Steve Waugh was recalled to the Australian team Monday for the third and final Test match with South Africa, reports AP.

Waugh returns to the Australian side in place of West Australian state player Damien Martyn for the Test that begins Friday at the Adelaide Oval. The first match in Melbourne was drawn, while South Africa won the second in Sydney earlier this month.

Waugh missed the first two tests with a hamstring injury but proved his fitness in two Sheffield Shield state games for New South Wales earlier this month.

Martyn contributed 59 in the first innings at Sydney but was ninth man out for six in the second innings as Australia tumbled out for 111, losing the match by five runs.

The 22-year-old Martyn said he had expected Waugh to return to the lineup once the allrounder had proved his fitness.

"It's always disappointing to miss out but Steve did well against New Zealand and in England last year," Martyn said.

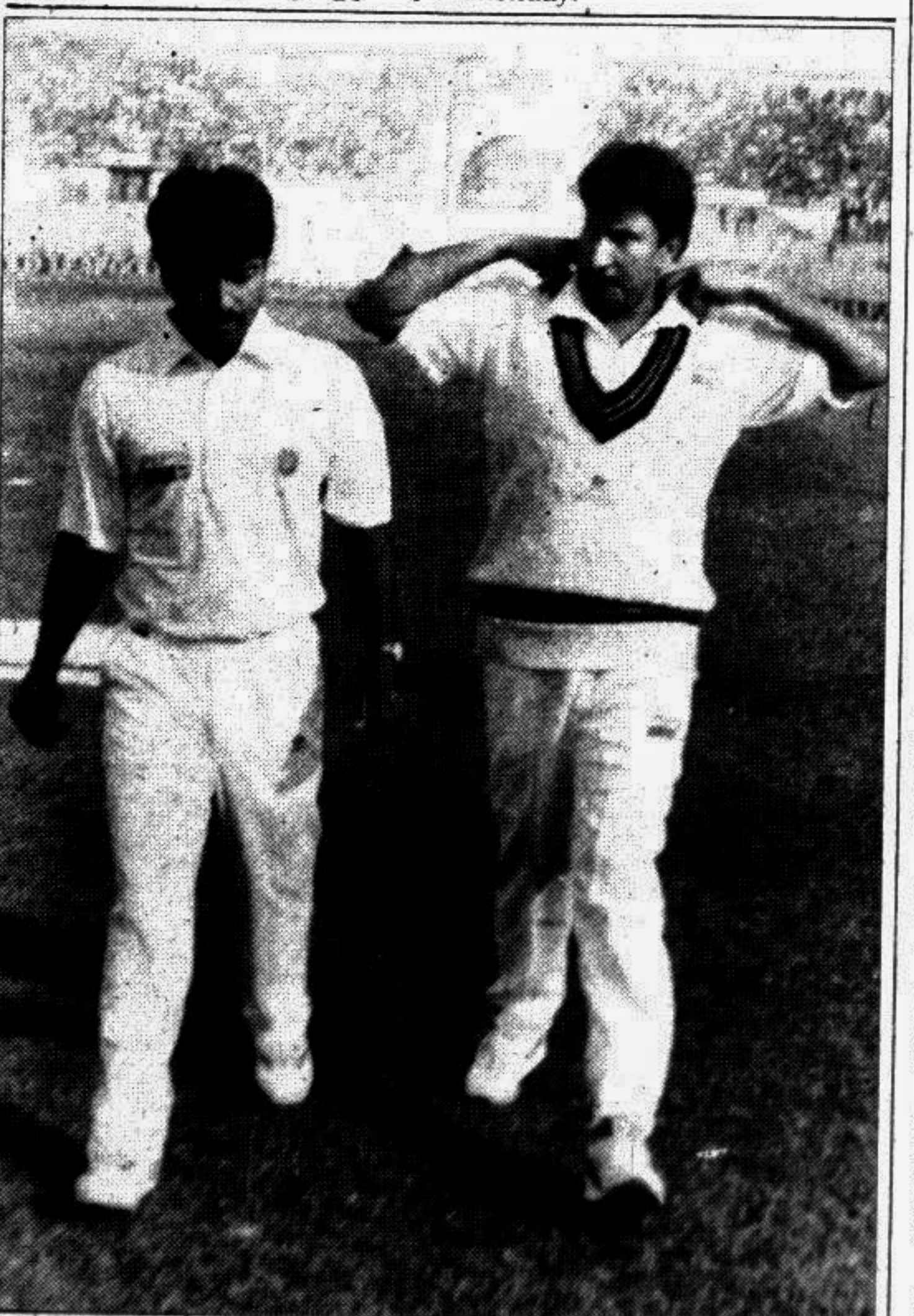
Waugh topped the averages, on the Ashes tour last year and did so again in the recent three-match series against New Zealand, scoring 216 runs.

Clark new Kiwi soccer coach

WELLINGTON, Jan 24: Former Scottish international goalkeeper Bobby Clark was named coach of New Zealand's national soccer team, reports AP.

Clark played more than 800 professional matches in Scottish league and cup football, including 697 games for Aberdeen FC. He had 17 starting appearances for Scotland, including the 1974 and 1978 World Cup campaigns.

"Bobby Clark brings to the position the varying attributes sought by the New Zealand Football Association to lead its international programme and to develop and oversee a wide range of player development programmes," association chairman Harry Dods said Monday.



Bangladesh captain Faruque Ahmed (L) and Pakistan's Salim Malik (R) return to the pavilion after the toss in the second and final match of the Gold Leaf one-day series at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo



Man-of-the-match Pakistani opener Shoaib Mohammed, who top scored with a patient 80 not out in the second match of the Gold Leaf one-day series between Bangladesh and Pakistan, receiving the crest from Raymond Accorda, managing director of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd (BTC), the sponsors of the series. — Star photo

Bangladesh leave for Kenya today

Sports Reporter

The twenty-member Bangladesh cricket team leaves Dhaka for Kenya today to take part in the

upcoming ICC Trophy, the prime contest for the associate members of the ICC.

Three top teams of the meet starting in the Kenyan capital Nairobi from February 12 will qualify for the next world championship of limited over cricket scheduled to be held in the subcontinent in 1996.

Faruque Ahmed, the right handed middle order batsman, who got a sickening blow on the head yesterday while facing up to Pakistani fast bowler Ataur Rahman will lead the side.

His Abahani teammate Akram Khan will be his deputy in the championship which concludes on March 6.

The team comprises four pacers, two spinners, two wicketkeepers and eight batsmen including three openers.

There will be four officials

as well with former Bangladesh Cricket Control Board president and Nirman supremo K Z Islam in the forefront as the chief of mission.

BCCB treasurer Reza-e-Karim is the team manager, with Golam Faruque, one of the two joint secretaries of the BCCB getting the job of assistant manager of the Bangladesh team.

Mohinder Amarnath, the indifferent, tough and buttoned up former Indian Test batsman who has been looking after the Bangladesh team for the last three months would go as the coach.

The 16 players chosen for the Kenyan tour are, Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Enamul Huq Moni, Athar Ali Khan, Jahangir Alam, G M Nawsher Prince, Saiful Islam Khan, Jahangir Alam Talukdar Dulu, Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Sharfuddinul Ilah Shahed Saikat, Selim Shahed, Shahnawaz Shahed Shanu, Mizanur Rahman Babul and Sajid Hassan.

Ambrose weary of playing cricket

PORT OF SPAIN, Jan 24: Curtly Ambrose, the leading West Indies' strike bowler, has said he is considering quitting international cricket, reports Reuters.

In a newspaper interview published on Sunday, Ambrose was asked how long he planned to stay in the game.

"It won't be for much longer, I can tell you that," Ambrose replied.

"I am getting tired of playing cricket all the time. I have lost some interest in playing because we are playing so much."

"I just want to make my contribution and get out. Nobody cares about you when you stop playing. You just become another former player."

The Antiguan, who plays for Northamptonshire in the English County Championship, said international cricket was a precarious life.

"You are as good as your last game," he said. "One minute you are playing. The next you're injured and your career is over."

"How many old players have been able to get jobs? One has to think about the future."

WSC final showdown today

SYDNEY, Jan 24: The toss of a coin could decide whether Australia or South Africa take the winning prize of 31,000 dollars in a limited-overs final showdown on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The teams, with one game each in the World Series Cup finals, meet for the decider at Sydney Cricket Ground, where teams batting second under floodlights in 50-over matches rarely win.

"Here in Sydney, and in Melbourne, it probably is an advantage to bat first," said Australian captain Allan Border.

In the first final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday, South Africa won the toss, batted first and amassed 230, to which Australia replied with 202.

At the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday Australia won the toss and made 247, to which South Africa replied with 178.

The hard, dry and grassless Sydney wicket is ideally suited to spin. Australia's trump cards are leg-spinner Shane Warne, who took three crucial wickets

for 42 on Sunday, and off-spinner Tim May.

South African captain Hansie Cronje has told his team they have to improve in all facets if they are to win. "I think Australia were the urgent side in the second final and a little hungrier," he said.

"We were too relaxed and didn't field very well. We let them get too many twos in the outfield."

"There was some ordinary bowling in the middle part as well, and we have suddenly realised they're not going to lie down and give the trophy to us," Cronje added.

Cronje hinted he may also field two spinners on Tuesday. Off-spinner Pat Symcox, who played on Sunday at the expense of all-rounder Dave Callaghan, was relatively economical, conceding 26 runs in six overs.

"Maybe we will have to look at our line-up again," said Cronje. "You're never sure what's going to happen."

In the Test series South Africa hold a 1-0 lead before the third match in Adelaide on Friday.

The playing of the third fi-

nal is just as important as any training we'd do leading up to a Test match so I'm just happy we're there," said Border.

Australia are unlikely to make any changes despite nagging injuries to fast bowler Craig McDermott (knee), May (hamstring) and Warne (shoulder).

"I'd be loath to change a combination that has just won," Border said.

"May and Warne did a tremendous job — they took wickets even though they might have conceded a few runs — and that's what it's about in the middle order."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (likely): Matthew Hayden, David Boon, Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Allan Border (captain), Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Mark Taylor (12th man).

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Peter Kirsten, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje (capt), Jonty Rhodes, Daryll Cullinan, Brian McMillan, David Richardson, Pat Symcox, Richard Snell, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Craig Matthews, Dave Rundle.

AC return to winning ways

ROME, Jan 24: Daniele Massaro and Jean-Pierre Papin struck second half goals to help AC Milan

defeat Piacenza 2-0 on Sunday and open a four-point lead at the top of the Italian First Division, reports Reuters.

The victory ended the champion's run of three successive games without scoring and capitalised on a 1-1 draw between the two teams sharing second place — Sampdoria and Juventus.

A late free-kick from Fabrizio Ravanecci kept Juventus fading championship hopes alive after Attilio Lombardo's 29th minute penalty had given the home team a first-half lead.

Milan lead the championship with 30 points from 20 matches Sampdoria and Juventus have 26.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Parma tightened their grip on fourth spot with a convincing 2-0 win over Lazio.

The Rome side, for whom Alen Boksic failed a late fitness test, never recovered from the shock of conceding a second minute goal to Alberto Di Chiara.

Inter's much criticised Dutch internationals, Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk, played key roles in their side's impressive 4-1 victory at Cremonese.

Jonk scored two first half

goals to take his season's tally to six, while Bergkamp set up the third goal for Antonio Paganin. Ruben Sosa added a fourth in the 80th minute.

In three meetings this season, Milan has failed to score a goal against Piacenza and, for much of Sunday's match the visitor's efficient man-to-man marking looked like restricting the champions to their fourth successive scoreless draw.

In the second-half, manager Fabio Capello replaced playmaker Dejan Savicevic with Gianluigi Lentini but his side continued to struggle.

It took a 72nd minute goal from veteran Massaro, to break the deadlock when he raced unmarked into the penalty area to fire home a low cross from defender Christian Panucci for his fourth goal of the season.

As Piacenza pushed forward, Papin grabbed a typical opportunistic goal, seizing on a loose ball after Taibi failed to hold a powerful free-kick from

V-Day gymnastics

Sports Reporter

A day-long Victory-Day gymnastics competition begins tomorrow (Wednesday) at the National Sports Council gymnasium under the auspices of the Bangladesh Gymnastics Federation, according to a federation press release issued in Dhaka yesterday.

Demetrip Albertini. Equal second-place at the start of the day, Sampdoria and Juventus started their match aware that defeat could dent either side's hopes of the championship so a draw went some way in satisfying both team's needs.

Sampdoria went ahead after 30 minutes when Lombardo scored from the spot after Sampdoria skipper Roberto Mancini was hauled down, but Juventus had to wait until the 88th minute to equalise when Ravanelli blasted home a 20-metre shot.

Soon after Sampdoria had scored European footballer-of-the-year Roberto Baggio hit the post with a swerving free-kick.

Parma dominated their match against Lazio and only inspired goalkeeping from Italy's international Luca Marchegiani kept the scoreline to a respectable 2-0.

After Di Chiara had given the home side the perfect start with an early goal, Marchegiani saved bravely from Tomas Brolin, Faustino Asprilla and defender Antonio Benarrivo.

Gianerico Zola squandered a chance to seal victory when his 73rd minute penalty hit the bar with Marchegiani, for once, well-beaten.

The Lazio goalkeeper kept his side in the game until the final minute.

Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer

Sports Reporter

Hosts Feni became the first team to join defending champions Dhaka University in the final round of the eighteenth Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship when they eliminated Chittagong 2-0 yesterday. The final round begins in Khulna from February 6.

Jhilani opened the Feni account in the third minute of the second half while Mizan doubled the margin in the 67th minute.

Besides five more teams — Sylhet, Tangail, Bogra, Kustia and Bhola — moved into their respective zonal finals at different venues across the country.

Hosts Sylhet advanced to the zonal final edging past Sunamganj 1-0 in semifinal.

Anwar netted the match decider in the 16th minute.

A solitary goal by Bakhtiar enabled Tangail to beat hosts Sherpur in a zonal semifinal.

Hosts Bogra trounced hapless Naogaon 3-0 in another zonal semifinal.

Shahidul, Mitu and Bulbul found the net for the winners.

In the zonal semifinal match between hosts Kustia and Jhenidah, the hosts won 5-3 in the tie-breaker after the scores were locked at one apiece in normal time.

Bhola needed a single goal from Rizaul to beat Barisal in their zonal semifinal at Bagerhat.

Partex b'ball

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Winners Club and The Greys Club won their respective matches in the Partex First Division basketball league at the outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

In a keenly contested match, Dhaka Winners Club beat Fleet Club 53-43.

The winners led the first half 31-21.

Tanu, who top scored with 18, was followed by Asif with 14 points for Winners.

Mizan with 10 and Mahmudur with nine points were the main cagers for the losers.

In the other match of the day, Greys recorded a huge 142-54 victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club.

Gregs led the first half 70-22.

Iqbal caged 43 points while Faisal scored 35 for the winners.

Uttam and Beni Faus with 17 and 12 respectively, were the major contributors for the losers.

H'ball league resumes today

Sports Reporter

The remaining matches of the Phoenix Insurance handball tournament '93 resumes today at the Outer Stadium handball court, according to Bangladesh Handball Federation press release yesterday.

Eight teams are taking part in this league basis tournament.

Brothers take on Pragati today at 3-30 in the opening match.

Aussie to tour S Africa

ADELAIDE, Jan 24: Allan Border will lead a 16-strong Australian side to tour South Africa starting next month, reports Reuters.

The Australians will play three Test matches in their first tour of the republic since 1969-70.