

Sport

Nirman cricket

Sports Reporter
 Mohammadpur Government High School and Motijheel Government High School won their respective matches in the 12th Nirman schools cricket tournament at different city venues yesterday at the Dhanmendi Club ground.
 Motijheel Govt High captain Cezanne produced a fine all-round performance to power his side to a 48 run win over Kakoli High School.
 Motijheel batted first and made 137 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the rain reduced quota of 25 overs.
 Cezanne top scored with 34 runs. Adnan and Palash contributed 27 and 23 runs respectively.
 Munir claimed three for 26 while Barkoti took two for 17.
 Kakoli were all out on 89 runs in 22.1 overs.
 Murad and Ashraf were the only two batsmen to have crossed the double-digit mark with scores of 29 and 18 respectively while extras provided a handy 22 to the poor total.
 Cezanne, spurred on by a superb show with the bat, ripped through the Kakoli batting line-up, dismissing four for 17.
 In the other match, held on the western strip of the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium, Mohammadpur High School recorded an impressive 40 run victory over Tejkunipara High School.
 Winning the toss, Tejkunipara sent Mohammadpur school to bat.
 Mohammadpur rattled 121 run for eight wickets in 20 overs.
 Leo top scored for the victors with 27, closely followed by Adnan with 33 and Shamim with 21. Morris, Manju and Rubel equally shared six wickets among themselves.
 Chasing just over six runs an over of an outright win, Tejkunipara could manage 96 for nine wickets.
 Rubel, who earlier captured two Mohammadpur wickets, was top-scorer with 30. Other two-digit run getters for the vanquished were — Nantoo, Sumon and Palash — having scored 11 each.
 Papon dismissed four Tejkunipara batsmen while Palash took three.
 Meanwhile, Monday's postponed matches have been rescheduled.
 West Dhanmendi High School will take on Nabakumar Institution tomorrow, while Kamalapur High School will play against Mirpur Bangla High School on Monday next.

SAARC sure, Asiad unsure
 Bangladesh may or may not take part in the Asian Games but will take part in the second SAARC football tournament to be held in Sri Lanka in November.
 The decision was the outcome of a retrospective, reflective session of deliberation of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) officials over the mind-boggling failure of the Bangladesh national team in the sixth SAF Games.
 The meeting was held on Monday with Minister for Communications and federation president Oli Ahmed in the chair.
 Looking back at Bangladesh's dismal performance in the SAF Games in which the hosts came sixth in the six-team competition, causing widespread resentment among numerous soccer fans. The federation president called for a fresh start. Characterising himself as an optimist, Ahmed said that a foreign coach will be brought to prepare the football team in future. However, the BFF officials failed to come to any decision regarding Bangladesh's participation in the Hiroshima Asian Games, scheduled for an October start.
 Bangladesh will, however, take part in the second SAARC football tournament to be held in November in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.
 Meanwhile, the proposed participation of two local league giants — Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra — in a tournament in Calcutta has hit some sort of a snag.
 Organisers, the Sports

Nat'l youth meet from today

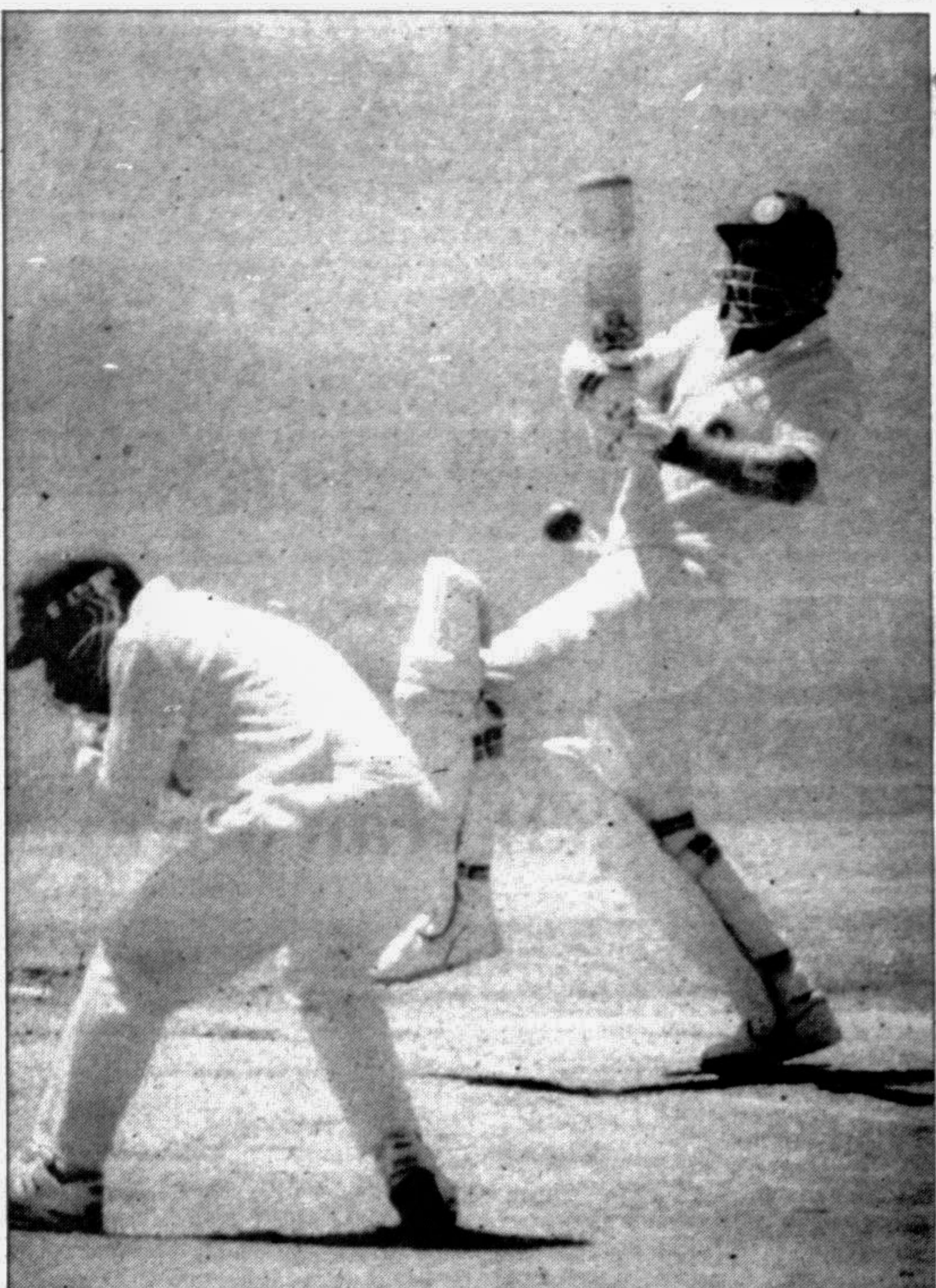
Sports Reporter
 Chittagong take on Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan (BKSP) in the inaugural match of the 13th national youth hockey championship at 3:00 pm today at the hockey ground of the BKSP, the sprawling sports complex at Jirani, Savar.
 Fifteen district teams divided into four groups are taking part in this knockout meet, the final of which is scheduled on February 10.
 Reigning champions Faridpur will play their first match against the winners of the Sylhet-Rajshahi Prime Sports Training Institute (RPSTI) tie on February 7.
 Dhaka, who finished runners

up last year, will open their campaign against Pirojpur tomorrow.
 The contestants are: Faridpur, Dhaka, Jessore, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Patuakhali, Chittagong, Pirojpur, Munshiganj, Gazipur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka Education Board (DEB), BKSP and Rajshahi Primary Sports Training Institute (RPSTI).
 State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain will inaugurate the nine-day meet at 2:30 pm today.
 With organisers Bangladesh Hockey Federation unable to find sponsors for the meet, hosts BKSP will provide the food and lodging for the participating teams.
 Originally planned for the Hockey Stadium, the meet is being held at the BKSP for the

first time because the Hockey Stadium ground, which hosted the kabaddi competitions of the recent Sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games, is yet to be ready for staging any matches. Moreover, the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) decision to hold some of the Second Division matches contributed substantially to the deterioration of the ground condition.
 Meanwhile the BHF selected 15 umpires for the 13th national youth hockey championship. They are: Mirza Farid Ahmed, Sheikh Nurul Islam, Pratap Shankar Hazra, Abdur Razzak, Ehtesham Sultan, Maqsoodur Rahman, Aslam Belim, Nazimuddin, Monowarul Islam, Iqbal Hossain, Delwar Hossain and Nur Mohammad.

Kirsten fined again

ADELAIDE, Feb 1: Veteran South African batsman Peter Kirsten has been fined for a second breach of the International Cricket Council (ICC) code-of-conduct, reports AFP.
 Kirsten, 38, was fined 40 per cent of his match fee after ICC referee Jackie Hendricks, the former West Indies Test player, had found he had breached the code on the final day of the third Test won by Australia by 191 runs.
 The penalty came only one day after the accomplished right hand batsman had been fined 25 per cent of his match fee for a similar offence in South Africa's first innings.
 Officials have refused to say how much South African players are paid, but informed sources say they receive about 6,000 rand (2,100 US) per Test.
 The first offence related to an exchange of words with umpire Darrell Hair on Sunday.
 The incident occurred after Hair had given three lbw decisions against South African batsmen.
 The second relates to dissent shown by Kirsten after he was given out lbw by Hair on Tuesday.
 Kirsten left the wicket slowly, glancing back at the umpire pointedly.
 He was reported by Hair and his co-umpire Terry Prue.



A pull shot from Peter Kirsten off Craig McDermott has David Boon ducking for cover during the first session on the last day of the third and deciding Test between Australia and South Africa in Adelaide yesterday. Australia won by 191 runs to square the three-match series 1-1. —AFP photo

SAARC sure, Asiad unsure

B'ball results
Sports Reporter
 Dhumketu Club and Josephites Club won their respective matches in the Partex First Division basketball league at the Outer Stadium woodent floor gymnasium yesterday.
 Dhumketu trounced Dhaka Wanderers Club 85-62, after leading the first half 54-28.
 Titas top scored for the victors with 27 while Jabbar scored 16.
 Abdul caged 34 points for the losers.
 In the other match, Josephites Club beat Eagles Club 85-73.
 Shahjketu and Mamun scored 19 and 16 points respectively for the winners, who had a shaky 43-41 lead in the first half.
 Towfiq and Siraj with scores of 20 and 13 respectively were the notable scorers.

Div II cricket matches called off
Sports Reporter
 Today's Second Division cricket league matches have been called off owing to inclement weather, said a Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) press release yesterday.

Manila interests Lennox Lewis
MANILA, Feb 1: Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, is negotiating to defend his crown in the Philippines, a Philippine sports official said Tuesday, reports AP.
 Francisco Sumulong Jr, chairman of the Games and Amusement Board, said Ben Morgan of the World Boxing Hall of Champions Inc. wrote Philippine Sports Commission Chairman Mel Lopez saying the Lewis camp was interested in a title bout in Manila.
 Morgan attached a copy of a letter to him from Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, who said the heavyweight champion "would be very keen" to defend his title here in the first two weeks of May.
 Maloney asked for site or location rights that include a \$5 million fee, 75 hotel rooms and seven suites for the fighters and their entourage, roundtrip air fares and prime location for satellite television cameras.
 Sumulong said President Fidel Ramos was willing to host the defence fight here.
 But Sumulong said he and Lopez have not yet discussed details of the offer such as who should be Lewis' challenger.
 "We want to have a challenger that is credible", he said. "We want a repeat of something to similar to the Ali-Frazier fight in Manila" in 1974.
 He said the best challenger would be Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson or Tommy Morrison, the "Great White Hope".
 Holyfield would not be available because he has a scheduled fight at the Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and it was unlikely that Mike Tyson would be allowed to leave prison to fight Lewis.
 That leaves Morrison as the Lewis' possible challenger, Sumulong said.

Indonesian sporters' doping disgrace
JAKARTA, Feb 1: In the Indonesian National Game's biggest doping scandal ever, the nations sports governing body has stripped five athletes of their medals and meet records, an official said Tuesday, reports AP.
 The four cyclists and a swimmer all tested positive for banned steroids, said Suweno the body's executive chairman. Further punishment would be decided by their individual sports organizations, he added.
 The five are female swimmer Catherine Surya, female cyclist Alvi Dwiningrum and male cyclists Ronny Yahya, Dadang Haris and M Basri.
 Catherine, 13, who swept seven gold and two silver medals in her first appearance in the national games last September, faces a possible 18-month ban from competition, which would make her one of the world's youngest banned athletes.
 The four cyclists, who together accounted for three golds, two silvers and a bronze, face bans of up to six months.
 None of the five has competed internationally since last September.

Controversy mars Adelaide Test as Australia square series

ADELAIDE, Feb 1: South Africa refused to comment publicly on an umpiring decision which may have cost them the third cricket Test and the series against Australia here today, reports AFP.
 A courageous partnership by veteran Peter Kirsten and injured nightwatchman Fanie de Villiers which promised to save the game finally came to nothing as South Africa went down by 191 runs 73 minutes before the scheduled close.
 The fourth wicket pair, who came together shortly before stumps on the previous day, kept the hungry Australian bowlers at bay for another three hours before the rest of the second innings collapsed dramatically, with seven wickets toppling for 29 runs.
 South Africa were all out for 129 after being 'set a target of 321'.
 Kirsten (42) and the injured De Villiers (30), in great pain with a broken right thumb, survived the two-hour opening session and stayed together until the drinks break an hour into the second session.
 But the pace of Craig McDermott (4-33) and the legspin of Shane Warne (4-31) finally won the day as Australia levelled the series at 1-1, thwarting the visitors hopes of winning a series in this country for the first time.
 A crucial turning point on an electrifyingly tense day was the dismissal of key middle-order batsman Jonty Rhodes, fifth man out when adjudged by umpire Terry Prue to have been lbw to off-spinner Tim May.
 A galaxy of former Australian Test greats among the media contingent looked aghast when they watched television replays suggesting the ball would have missed legstump by a big margin.
 South African captain Hansie Cronje and team coach Mike Procter, at the post-match media conference, steadfastly refused to comment on an issue on which they are known to have strong private views.
 Australian captain Allan Border was more forthcoming, expressing general satisfaction with the umpiring of Prue and his on-field partner Darrell Hair.
 Umpires are under incredible scrutiny with the television replays, and good and bad decisions are made in every Test, said the veteran of 153 Tests, more than any player in the history of the game.
 "I was quite happy with the umpiring this summer, given the extreme pressure they are under. An umpire in the 1960s (before TV replays) would have had a dodgie."
 "We are all brilliant in mind,

sight, but it is tough (for umpires) on a wicket like this where there is low bounce and the ball is nipping in a bit."
 Border said the game had been one of the toughest Tests in which he had played.
 "It takes a fair bit of character to come back from one down to draw a series," he said.
 He admitted that he and his teammates had started to get worried when Kirsten and De Villiers were still together at lunch.
 Border forecast that healthy competition would develop between Australia and South Africa.

lunch time they were sleeping in the dressing rooms," he said.
 "But they played tremendously well and fought it out to the end. I am very proud of them."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of the fifth and final day of the third Test between Australia and South Africa here.

AUSTRALIA: 1st innings 469 for 7 dec (S Waugh 164, A Border 84, M Taylor 62, M Slater 53, D Boon 50, B McMillan 3-89, A Donald 3-122).
 2nd innings 124 for six dec (M Taylor 38, D Boon 38, A Donald 2-26, R Snell 2-38).

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings 273 (A Hudson 90, P Kirsten 79, G Kirsten 43, S Waugh 4-26, C McDermott 3-49).
 2nd innings
 Hudson c S Waugh b McDermott 2
 G Kirsten b Warne 7
 Cronje lbw Warne 3
 P Kirsten lbw McDermott 42
 De Villiers c Reffel b McDermott 30
 Rhodes lbw May 4
 Cullinan c Healy b McDermott 5
 MC Millan lbw Warne 4
 Richardson c Taylor b May 10
 Snell c and b Warne 1
 Donald not out 0
 Extras: (b-9, lb-7, w-2, nb-3) 21
 Total: 129

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-17, 3-18, 4-100, 5-105, 6-113, 7-116, 8-128, 9-128

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
McDermott	19	8	33	4
Reffel	11	4	15	0
Warne	30.5	15	31	4
May	32	20	26	2
S Waugh	6	3	4	0
Border	4	3	1	0
M Waugh	3	2	3	0

Batting time 377 mins, overs 105.5.

Australia won by 191 runs. Series drawn 1-1.
Man-of-the-match: Steve Waugh (Australia).
Man-of-the-series: Steve Waugh.



STEVE WAUGH

"We play a very similar game — it is fairly aggressive and no quarter is given or asked," he said.
 "This series has been great cricket, acceptably hard cricket by both sides. They are very good opposition, a tough side."
 He predicted the new series starting between the two countries in South Africa early next month would be equally competitive.
 "They will be especially keen in front of their own crowds, but we have all the angles covered."
 Cronje said it was disappointing to lose after performing so well over the first half of the day.
 "But if someone had told us two months ago that we would draw the series 1-1 we would have been happy," he said.
 Cronje heaped praise on the courage of De Villiers, who took pain-killing tablets to relieve the agony.
 "The pain was so severe that during the lunch break he could not pick up the bat with his right hand in the dressing room."
 "He just kept going and guts it out," Cronje said. All South Africa should be 'proud of him'.
 Procter said players were extremely tired after three months on tour.
 "Some were so weary at

Awaiting glimpse of class

MADRAS, Feb 1: The international invitational athletic meet, for which the new synthetic track at the modern Nehru Stadium here will be inaugurated, is expected to bring out the proficiency of world class athletes over three days from February three, reports PTL.
 Over 90 athletes from 30 countries are to participate in the meet, and 65 of them have already arrived. A seven-member squad from Chinese Taipei and a lone Chinese athlete were part of the 30 to land this morning. A 13-member group from Pakistan is expected tonight.
 The international meet, which is to be held concurrently with the 33rd open national meet, will have quite a few reputed names in both the men's and women's sections, with African men likely to get the full backing of fans.
 Zambia's Samuel Matete,

silver medalist in the 400 metre hurdles at Stuttgart World Championships a few months ago and Sunday Bada will be two from the continent to exhibit the natural grace of African runners. Both will figure in the 400 metres.
 Kenya's Robert Kibet and Vincent Malakwen in 800m should exhibit their typical team running style. Experienced Wilfred Kirochi, second in the 1500m at the 1991 Tokyo world meet, and Ibrahim Kunititha (5000m) would be their counterparts in the longer distances.
 Discus throw should attract the most attention and best comparative performance. World champion Lars Riedel (Germany), who won the gold at Stuttgart (67.72m) will face stiff challenge from Ade Olukoju (Nigeria) and Vesteinn Hafsteinson (Iceland). Shakhthi Singh will be the Indian challenger.
 Li Tong (China), who won the 110 metre hurdles at the

Manila Asian Track and Field meet clocking 13.49 sec will be the best Asian representative on view.
 In the women's section, reigning Olympic 300m champion Elena Romanova (Russia) and long jumper Larissa Berezina (Ukraine), who won the silver in Stuttgart (6.98m) are expected to show their class. The 400m hurdles, where Monica Woten (Sweden) and Russia's Anne Konrose (both with below 55 secs. Timinos) will duel it out, should be another interesting event.
 Besides Shakhthi Singh, the Indian field will have Bahadur (1,500m, 5000m, 10000m), Shiny Wilson (400, 800m), K Saramma (200m, 400m) and Molly Chacko (1,500m, 3000m).
 The open nationals will see about 800 athletes vying for impressive timings and distances with the coming Hiroshima Asiad and its selection in mind.

Johnny Huang takes it all

HYDERABAD, India, Feb 1: Johnny Huang of Canada made the 11th Commonwealth table tennis championships here his own today with an impressive bag of three titles, reports AFP.
 The world number 14, who won the men's doubles final Monday with team-mate Joe

Gideon, added the men's singles and mixed doubles crown on the last day of the 12-nation meet.
 Huang, top seeded in men's singles, blasted No 2 Alan Cooke of England in straight games in a disappointing final at the Lal Bahadur Indoor Stadium here.
 Huang needed just 33 minutes to win the match at 21-15, 21-17, 21-17.
 With colleague Barbara Chiu, Huang had earlier won the mixed-doubles title beating Chan Chi Ming and Chan Tan Lai of Hong Kong 21-17, 21-15 in under 20 minutes.
 Hong Kong's Choi Po Wa justified her top billing in the women's single by coming from behind to defeat second seeded Jing Juan Hong of Singapore in four games.
 Chai, ranked eight in the world, lost the first game at 21-23 before raising her game to take the next three at 14, 7 and 15.
 Huang, a professional player who trains in France with world champion Jean Philippe Gatién, said he was not surprised at his performance — but was not satisfied either.
 "I badly wanted to win the team event for Canada, but that one eluded me," he said, referring to a 3-5 defeat by England in the final last Friday in which Huang won all his three singles matches.
 "My aim is to become the best player in the world. I still have a long way to go but I hope this is just a beginning," said Huang, who had also won the Commonwealth title at the last meet in Nairobi in 1991.

Huang underlined his superiority by dropping just two games during the 'eight-day meet — to Indian Chetan Baboor and Cooke during the team events.
 "I played okay in unfamiliar conditions. The heat and humidity inside the stadium did not bother me as much as the uneven bounce on some tables," Huang said.

East Bengal struggle

CALCUTTA, Feb 1: Title aspirants East Bengal struggled hard to down Eastern Railway by a solitary second half goal in the Charms Super Division league match at the Salt Lake Stadium here yesterday, reports PTL.
 Striker Sisir Ghosh struck the all-important goal in the 15th minute of the second session to win the day for the giant giants in a rather listless encounter.
 The East Bengal forwards put up a rather disappointing performance as they missed a number of chances before Sisir netted the match winner off a pass from their Bangladeshi recruit Munna.
 East Bengal, who had tamed arch rival Mohun Bagan 1-0 to consolidate their position in the league table, failed to play cohesively and invariably made a mess of things inside the box.
 East Bengal will take another local giant Mohammedan Sporting while Mohun Bagan lock horns with Tollygunge Agraagami in their league matches today.

China's first
BEIJING, Feb 1: World champions Earl Strickland of the United States and Allison Fisher of Britain are to take part in China's first pool tournament. Scheduled to be held in Beijing from February 12 to 14, reports AFP.
 Four other foreigners will take part, alongside three Chinese men and one Chinese woman, all of whom are amateurs. Two firms, one Chinese and one Taiwanese, are the sponsors.
 China has hosted several billiard tournaments, but previously never ventured into pool, which is becoming increasingly popular.

Verdy's place assured
BANGKOK, Feb 1: Yomiuri Verdy, Japan's professional soccer champions, appeared assured of a second successive semifinals place in the Asian Club Championships after beating the Omani Club of Oman 1-0 Tuesday, reports AP.
 Verdy now are tied with the Omani Club for the lead in Group A in preliminary play, but need only a draw with Lebanese club Al Ansar in its final preliminary game to advance.
 Without top stars Kazuyoshi Miura and Ruy Ramos, Verdy took time to win the battle of the midfield, but their defence consistently outwitted the Omanis with a four-man offside trap.
 In the second half, Verdy finally made good the overwhelming possession advantage they had enjoyed. In the 74th minute, Kenichiro Takura's cross found an outstretched Shigetoshi Hasebe, who cracked home a fine volley from six yards (metres) out.
 Verdy placed fourth in the 1992 championships, won by Pas of Iran.

SAF Games transport body submits accounts

The Transport Committee of the Sixth SAF Games has submitted its final accounts to the Finance Committee for adjustment, says a press release.
 After successfully fulfilling its responsibility at half the initial estimated cost, the committee has handed back Taka 11 lakh to the Finance Committee, the press release adds.
 Transport committee had to arrange a total of 225 vehicles for the athletes, technical delegates, officials, visiting dignitaries, journalists and other committees. Out of these the committee got 50 buses and 50 cars free of charges from the Bangladesh Bus-Track Owners Association and Dhaka Road Transport Association and different government and private organisations.
 Meanwhile, the Marketing Promotion Committee formed a few days before the Games to bridge the deficit in finance, collected about Tk 18.50 lakh from different commercial and multinational concerns.
 Major General Abdur Rab, PSC Master General of Ordnance was the Chairman of Transport and Marketing Promotion Committees.

Ctg sports From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 1: A week-long sports competition organised by the Chittagong Divisional Women Sports Association was inaugurated at the local stadium here today.
 Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Alhaj Omar Faruk opened the meet as chief guest.
 Competitors from ten districts under the division are taking part in the sports week.

Robinson puts WBO crown on line

CARDIFF, Wales, Feb 1: Welshman Steve Robinson will defend his World Boxing Organization featherweight title against former World Boxing Council champion Paul Hodgkinson on March 12, reports AP.
 Promoters said Tuesday the fight will take place in Robinson's home town at the Cardiff Ice Rink.
 Robinson won the title last April as a last minute stand-in for Colombian Ruben Palacios, who tested positive for the HIV virus two days before the fight.

Els moves up

VIRGINIA WATER, England, Feb 1: South African Ernie Els leaped to the top of the European PGA money list with his 6-stroke victory Sunday in the Dubai Desert Classic reports AP.