

Azhar augments Lankan woes

AHMEDABAD, Feb 9: Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin led from the front with a dashing century which helped his team take firm control of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka today, reports Reuter.

At the close of the second day, Azharuddin was on an unbeaten 134 in an Indian total of 329 for eight, replying to Sri Lanka's 119.

Neither accurate spin bowling nor a rapidly crumbling pitch made any impression on Azharuddin as he cut and drove the Sri Lankan attack.

It was Azharuddin's 14th century, made with 15 fours and one six.

After reaching the century, Azharuddin opened up further as his teammates struggled on a pitch showing deep cracks.

The pitch was ably exploited by the Sri Lankan spinners, who briefly put their side back in the match when India resumed their innings in the morning on 90 for one.

Vinod Kambli took the attack to the bowlers with some audacious strokes, but miscued a square drive off a ball from Pramodya Wickremasinghe into the hands of Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga at second slip after making 57.

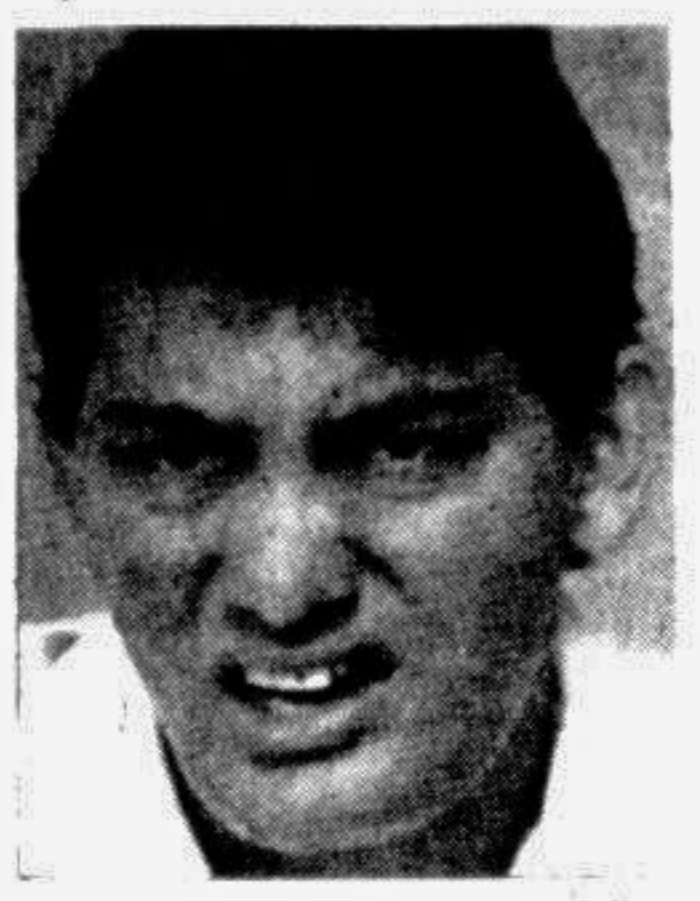
The left-handed Kambli had hit 10 fours and put on 83 runs for the second wicket with opener Navjot Sidhu, who was caught in the deep by Ruwan Kalpage trying to hit spinner Muttiah Muralidharan

out of the ground. Sidhu had made 43.

Wickremasinghe gave Sri Lanka, seeking to prevent a 3-0 whitewash, a glimmer of hope by bowling batting prodigy Sachin Tendulkar for six.

The dismissal brought together Azharuddin and Sanjay Manjrekar, who were separated at lunch by Aravinda de Silva. De Silva had Manjrekar caught by Ranatunga for 16.

After tea, Kapil Dev, who



AZHAR ... 134

held centre stage on Tuesday by breaking Sir Richard Hadlee's record and becoming Test cricket's highest wicket-taker, made just four before being trapped leg before by Aravinda de Silva.

Wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia went to a similar decision, trying to sweep Don Anurasiri after making 14, leaving

Azharuddin in danger of running out of partners.

But tallenders Anil Kumble and Rajesh Chauhan, gave a display of dour batting to see their skipper through.

Chauhan had occupied the crease for 71 minutes, faced 55 balls and had yet to make a run when play ended.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka today:

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 90-1)			
Prabhakar b Anurasiri	14		
Sidhu c Kalpage b Muralidharan	43		
Kambli c Ranatunga b Wickremasinghe	57		
Tendulkar b	6		
Wickremasinghe	134		
Azharuddin not out			
Manjrekar c Ranatunga b De Silva	16		
Kapil Dev lbw b De Silva	4		
Mongia lbw b Anurasiri	14		
Kumble c Kalpage b De Silva	15		
Chauhan not out	0		
Extras: (b-17, lb-5, nb-4)	26		
Total: (for eight wickets)	329		
Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-110; 3-123; 4-123; 5-169; 6-203; 7-249; 8-288.			
To bat: V Raju.			
Bowling:			
Wickremasinghe	32	9	99 2
Ranatunga	6	1	9 0
Anurasiri	22	3	64 2
Muralidharan	33	6	76 1
Kalpage	7	2	9 0
De Silva	23	5	50 3

Rare gift for a rare feat

BOMBAY, Feb 9: One adoring fan presented Kapil Dev with a set of diamond-studded gold stumps as all of India celebrated the triumph of their great cricketer in becoming the game's highest Test wicket-taker, reports Reuter.

The outpouring of praise continued on Wednesday a day after the hugely popular all-rounder took the wicket of Sri Lankan batsman Hashan Tillekeratne to pass New Zealand's Richard Hadlee's mark of 431 Test wickets.

Life temporarily came to a halt in this cricket-crazy country as millions of fans watching a live telecast of the Test match saw Kapil leap into the air after dismissing Tillekeratne for his 432nd victim.

One fan presented 35-year-old Kapil three diamond-studded gold stumps at the Motera Stadium in the Indian city of Ahmedabad as the 6,000-strong crowd chanted his name.

India's newspapers, some recently critical of Kapil for his inability to take wickets over the past few seasons, were gushing in their tributes to him and on Wednesday carried page after page of his cricketing record.

His feat, achieved in 130 Tests, was also hailed by India's president and prime minister and retired cricket greats including the country's other international star, retired opener Sunil Gavaskar.

Both president Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao said the country was proud of the achievement.

"You have made all of us feel a few feet taller and god knows I personally needed that after AB (Allan Border) chipped inches off me last year," Gavaskar said in congratulating Kapil.

Gavaskar, called the Little Master because of his diminutive size, lost the record of Test cricket's highest run scorer to Australia's Border last February. However, he has still scored more centuries.

"Congratulations Kapil, you have done us proud," was the banner headline across the free press journal in Bombay, India's cradle of cricket and commercial centre.

Even the staid Economic Times, the country's leading business newspaper, reported the event on the front page, but predictably concentrated on the business aspect of the feat.

It said Indian liquor giant Shaw Wallace Company was counting its profits after sponsoring the series against Sri Lanka for 10 million rupees (\$22,500 US dollar).

India are already 2-0 in the three-Test series and Kapil's tilt at the wicket record was the focus of interest in the third and final Test which began on Tuesday.

Kapil said after taking the much-awaited wicket he would now try to reach 450 and then perhaps take a further 25 before retiring.

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WC rehearsal for Americans

HONG KONG, Feb 9: The United States, hosts of this summer's World Cup, face European champions Denmark on Thursday in the Carlsberg Cup soccer tournament, reports AP.

If the Americans win, they are likely to meet the Romanians in Sunday's final in what would be a dress rehearsal for their group game in the World Cup tournament in June. Switzerland and

Colombia are the other two teams in that group.

The Romanians are favoured to beat the Hong Kong League XI squad in the four-team Carlsberg Cup, a tournament held annually to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The three visiting teams are without some of their top players who could not come because of playing commitments to their clubs in the European soccer leagues.

The Americans have added defender-midfielder Janus Michalik and striker Joe-Max Moore to their original 16-man squad. Moore scored four goals in the United States 7-0 victory over El Salvador late last year.

Coach Bora Milutinovic said the Hong Kong tournament will be good preparation for the World Cup.

"Our main is to play as many games as possible," he said.

Goalkeeper Tony Meola said the team had already gained considerable experience since he played in the last World Cup in Italy in 1990, when the Americans failed to win a single match.

The Danish team include only two members of the squad that won the 1992 European Cup: reserve goalkeeper Mogens Krogh and defender Morten Bruun.

The Danes are rebuilding their team following their fail-

ure to qualify for the World Cup.

Denmark's coach Richard Moller Nielsen said the team failed to qualify because his players had trouble scoring goals.

"I am trying to give some new strikers a chance to prove themselves," he said.

The Romanians have four players from the team that beat Wales 2-1 in the last qualifying match to earn a berth in the World Cup finals.

The final will be played at the Mongkok Stadium on Sunday.

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China's first

BEIJING, Feb 9: Veteran American Pam Shriver and several of Asia's top players will compete in the first Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tournament to be staged in China, starting on Saturday, the organisers said in a statement on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

They said the field for the Nokia Open 1994, with \$100,000 dollars in prize money, will include Wang Shi Ting of Taiwan, three times Asian singles champion, Yaurpt Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia and the top two Chinese players, Li Fang and Chen Li.

The event will be held at the National Olympic Sports Centre in Beijing from February 12-20. It will have a 32 women singles competition and a doubles competition.

Di Meco back in favour

PARIS, Feb 9: Marseille full back Eric di Meco made a surprise return to the French national side when new trainer Aimé Jacquet announced a 17-man squad on Tuesday to play Italy in a friendly in Naples on February 16.

Di Meco, who won the last of his six caps three years ago, earned a recall to the defence along with uncapped St Etienne stopper Jean-Pierre Cyprien.

Three stalwarts of the team which suffered a stunning setback when they were eliminated from the World Cup with successive home defeats to Israel and Bulgaria last year were not named.

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Maradona's latest flare-up

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 9: Diego Maradona, at war with the press after firing an air rifle at reporters, got into a new fight with two journalists who tracked him down to a scheduled beach resort, local dailies said Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Maradona and a group of his friends clashed with a reporter and a photographer who had asked the soccer star for an interview Monday in Amrisol, a resort 375 miles (600 km) south of Buenos Aires, La Nacion newspaper reported.

The fight started shortly after the reporters' request was turned down when one of Maradona's infant daughters complained that the photographer had snapped pictures of her outside a restaurant, La Nacion said.

The Daily Clarin, however, reported that the Argentina captain and his group had "inexplicably" ganged up on the photographer, who often works for that newspaper.

Clarín said Maradona's friends trashed the restaurant where the incident took place, breaking chairs and tables.

Maradona had been summoned to appear before a court Tuesday to testify on charges that he fired an air gun at journalists outside his home last week.

But the judge handling the case, Francisco Lilo, late Monday told Reuters that Maradona may not show up in court this week.

Released by his local club Newell's Old Boys for repeatedly missing practice, Maradona fired on journalists staking out his country home last week.

He fled with his wife and daughters the day after police raided the sprawling residence and took his fingerprints.

Maradona is charged with inflicting bodily harm and minor injuries — an accusation which under Argentine law carries a sentence of one month to two years, usually meted out in suspended form.

In 1991 the former Napoli and Barcelona skipper was arrested and briefly detained in Buenos Aires for cocaine possession. That same year the FIFA world soccer governing body banned him for 15 months from the professional game.

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Unfortunate

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Feb 9: Grouping two Arab teams — Saudi Arabia and Morocco — in this summer's World Cup soccer championship in the United States should have been avoided for the better interests of the game, a US organizing official said, reports AP.

Teddy Roe, government relations specialist with the World Cup 1994 Organizing Committee, speaking to journalists in Gulf countries on the Worldnet dialogue programme monitored late Tuesday said:

"We personally look forward to seeing Saudi Arabia and Morocco play, but there would have been more value if the teams were playing in separate groups."

Saudi Arabia is competing in its first-ever World Cup finals, and soccer pundits here felt the December draw spoiled the pleasure of the Arab nations by grouping them together with Morocco.

In oil-rich Saudi Arabia, many are planning to fly to the United States to support their national team and to watch the event.

Security was the No. 1 one budget item, Roe said, adding that the committee was taking it very seriously, despite the diminished problems of hooliganism when England did not qualify.

Akmal, Maruf doubles champs

M Akmal Hussain and Ahmed Maruf became doubles champions in Dhaka Officers' Club tennis competition beating the pair of Reazul Islam (Bir Bikram) and Golam Molla 6-4, 6-2 in the final played at the club court on Tuesday.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia witnessed the final and later gave prizes among the winners as chief guest.



A resident of Lillehammer slides past the mascots Kristin and Hakon of the XVII Winter Olympic Games yesterday. The Games begin on Feb 12. — AFP photo

Kljuic gives vent to his anger

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 9: Bosnia's Olympic chief marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Sarajevo Winter Games on Tuesday, by accusing the United Nations of letting the city become "The largest concentration camp in the world," reports Reuter.

And members of Bosnia's 10-strong Olympic team at the Lillehammer Games said they still had no idea whether their relatives had been hurt in a weekend mortar attack on a Sarajevo market that killed 68 people.

Ten years ago exactly on this day, Sarajevo was the world sports centre. Ten years later, it is the largest concentration camp in the world," Bosnian Olympic Committee president Sjean Kljuic told a news conference.

"Unfortunately Bosnia-Herzegovina, being the victim of fascist aggression, has been left without United Nations protection," Kljuic added.

Kljuic, a Croat who is also a member of Bosnia's collective presidency, was joined at the news conference by the entire Bosnian team — made up of Serbs, Muslims and Croats. "This team is ... representative of all Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said.

They will compete in four sports in the Games beginning this weekend: Alpine and cross-country skiing luge and bob.

They related how they had fled the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo to reach the Lillehammer Games.

Luge racer Nedžad Lomigora dodged sniper bullets in a dash across a field at Sarajevo Airport.

Bobsledder Nizar Zacragic, a 25-year old television journalist, was luckier. Because he had a press card, he was able to leave on a UN aid flight and should be able to get back in safely.

Some of the other Bosnian athletes face an uncertain future in refugee camps.

Zacragic, who spent 10

months as a soldier in the Bosnian government army, said training in Sarajevo itself had been very difficult — and not just because of snipers and shelling.

"We had extremely hard conditions for training, especially with food. We didn't have meat, eggs, milk — essential food for health," he said.

Even in recent months, when most of the team was training in the west, life had still been tough. On Saturday, after the mortar attack on the Sarajevo market, they broke off training and were too upset to eat their evening meals.

"After this massacre in Sarajevo nobody knows what happened to their families," Zacragic said.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of people led by Lillehammer mayor Audun Tron gathered in the Lillehammer Town Square to sign a book carrying a message of solidarity with the citizens of battered Sarajevo and hope for an end to the 22-month war.

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Punsalan, sad but determined

SHEFFIELD LAKE, Ohio, Feb 9: US ice dancing champion Elizabeth Punsalan attended the funeral of her murdered father Tuesday and then planned to travel to Norway to compete in the Olympics, authorities said, reports Reuter.

Ricardo Punsalan, 20, Elizabeth's younger brother, was being held without bond in a Lorain county jail after pleading innocent in the stabbing death Friday of their father, Ernesto Punsalan, a Filipino-born doctor. A judge refused Ricardo's request to attend his father's funeral Monday night.

The stabbing at the family's home took place three hours after Ricardo Punsalan was released for the weekend from the psychiatric ward of St Joseph Hospital where he was admitted January 27 suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts, said Thomas Schmidt, the police chief in this affluent Cleveland suburb.

Schmidt said Ricardo Punsalan, who was "in good spirits" when he left the hospital Friday, later told police his motive for the slaying, but they would not release it. Schmidt also contradicted suggestions by Elizabeth Punsalan that a change in her brother's medication played a role in the attack.

Elizabeth Punsalan, 23, who recently married her ice-dancing partner Jerod Swallow, 27, said that her family had urged her to compete in the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

The stabbing at the family's home took place three hours after Ricardo Punsalan was released for the weekend from the psychiatric ward of St Joseph Hospital where he was admitted January 27 suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts, said Thomas Schmidt, the police chief in this affluent Cleveland suburb.

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Norwegian fears allayed

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 9: Norwegian concerns that their best cross-country skiers might be thrown out of the Lillehammer Winter Games over commercial endorsements were dispelled on Tuesday by the International Olympic Committee, reports Reuter.

A leading IOC official said there was no question of Olympic champions Bjorn Daele and Vegard Ulvang being disqualified over breaches of advertising rules, but Norwegian officials were told to ensure the guidelines are followed to the letter.

About 20,000 Scandinavian Airline magazines are being pulped to ensure that Ulvang and Daele, unaware their pictures were being used in advertisements, were not penalised for violating the IOC ban on such commercial activities during the games.

Three advertisers agreed to the recall of all copies of the offending issue of SAS Norway magazine and pay 200,000 crowns (27,000 dollars) to print a new addition omitting the adverts featuring the two national heroes promoting furniture and skis.

If the advertisements stayed, the skiers could risk being shut out of the Games," said Rolf Loevestrom, spokesman for SAS (Scandinavian Airlines System).

The Norwegian Olympic Committee feared they would be forced to reprint the official Lillehammer Games programme because of an advert featuring Daele that it had not authorised.

But the advert turned out to have been sanctioned by the Lillehammer organisers and included only official Olympic sponsors, which satisfied the IOC.

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IOC marketing director Michael Payne said the rules were in place to protect the exclusivity of the companies who are supporting the Games or the teams.

"From the IOC standpoint whether it is the National Olympic Committee or the Lillehammer Olympic organising committee that approves it from a marketing standpoint it does not really matter," he said. "In any other country it would have to have been approved by the National Olympic Committee."

Austrian skier Karl Schranz was barred from the 1972 Olympics in Sapporo, Japan, by then-IOC president Avery Brundage in an attack on professionalism in skiing.

But IOC executive board member Dick Pound said: "Avery Brundage is dead. The rules are a lot more relaxed than they used to be."

Hilary will be there

LILLEHAMMER, Feb 9: United States first lady Hilary Clinton arrives in Norway on Friday, Lillehammer Olympic Organising Committee officials said, reports AP.

President Bill Clinton's wife was scheduled to be with US team officials in the stands at Saturday's opening ceremony.

She was due to watch the men's downhill ski race on Sunday and the US hockey team play France before leaving next Monday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Triangular sail

4 Take to the pool

8 Anjou, for one

12 Oklahoma city

13 Popular pop

14 Today, in Turin

15 Gibson or Brooks

16 The world of cinema

18 Disney deer

20 Young chap

21 Un-repaired

24 Dinner on a stick

28 Spectral figures

32 Discourteous

33 "Alley" —

34 Pens

36 Author Deighton

37 Did in

39 "Sesame Street" lesson

41 Spindle

DOWN

2 Inventor's need

3 Soothing agent

4 Crystalline rocks

5 Court

6 Under the weather

7 Shopping plaza

8 Cosmetic form

9 "I" strain

10 Past

11 Disen-cumber

17 Run up the phone bill

19 Just say no

22 Title "cheese"

23 Say "Doo-Dah"

26 Zip —

27 Predilection

28 Mail

29 Gaffer's target

30 Summit

31 Calendar abbr.

35 Put in irons

38 Blues man Fats

40 Every last crumb

42 Opinion

45 Masticate

47 Gymnast Korbut

48 Garden intruder

49 Exigency

50 WWII's Gen. Arnold

51 Oriental sash

52 Recline

53 Brutus' breakfast?

54 Spanish literary hero

Solution time: 28 mins.

L	I	A	R	B	E	T	A	M	A	T	
A	C	M	E	A	G	O	N	A	M	I	
P	H	O	N	E	B	O	O	K	T	O	N
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F	O	U	L								
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59				60					61	

CRYPTOQUIP

WUQC IZ JCAAVS YICCC

ZNGX "UYA XRXXS W

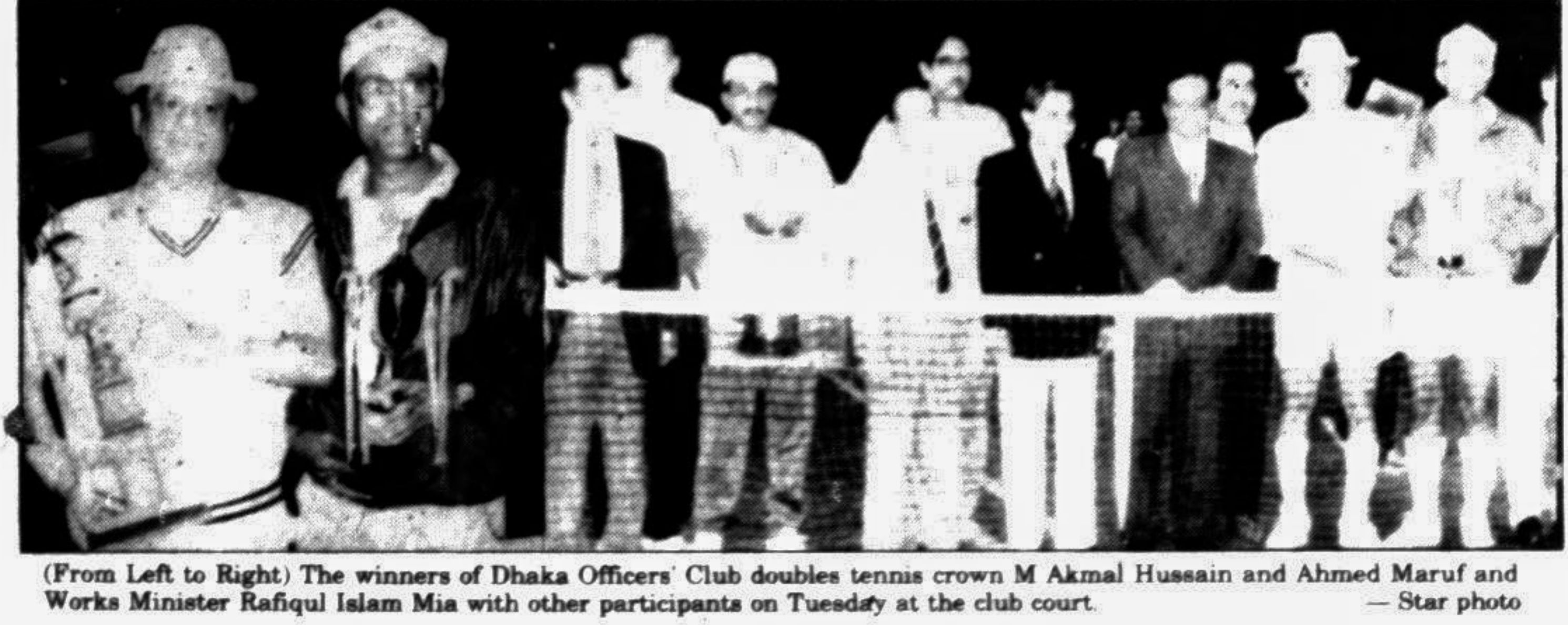
JRCWA TQW QGG TCQV

VAF RV NO YNXWAGZ

Yesterday's Cryptquip: GRANDMOTHER'S COLOGNE WAS OLD AND NOT WORTH A SCENT.

Today's Cryptquip clue: X equals M

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



(From Left to Right) The winners of Dhaka Officers' Club doubles tennis crown M Akmal Hussain and Ahmed Maruf and Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia with other participants on Tuesday at the club court. — Star photo