

Khulna clinch nat'l title

By Munir U Ahmed

Selim who had to surrender a corner in the process.

The match was held up for five minutes when a bottle was thrown at the referee from the Feni players' bench.

The game ended goalless, and extra-time was then played.

Khulna ended the deadlock in the twelfth minute of the first period of extra thirty minutes. Rumi headed a ball from throw in by Chanchal and Jahangir placed the ball into the net (1-0).

In the 14th minute Babu of Khulna missed another sitter.

With four minutes left to play in extra-time, Khulna's substitute Babuzzaman Babu put the result beyond doubt (2-0).

Four Feni players—Mizanur, Sawkat Ali, Mohiullah and Muraduzzaman were cautioned.

Khulna Sports Writers Association adjudged Khulna's Partho as best player of the tournament while Jaglu was awarded the best player of the final.

Khulna Photo Journalists Association named Feni's Manik as their best player.

Chief guest Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali distributed prizes among the winners after the final.

TEAMS

Khulna: Sukur Moham-

mad, Mosabbir Mohammad, Partho Kundo, Mostafa Zaman, Jaglu Karim, Shah Alam Khan, Rumi Rizvi Karim, Asaduzzaman, Sheikh Jahangir (Babuzzaman), Sheikh Aslam (Chayan), Jahangir Hossain (jr).

Feni: Sawkat Ali, Mohiul Hassan, Shipar Uddin, Mizanur Rahman jr (Zakir), Ataur Rahman (Golam Mohammad), Muraduzzaman Shimu, Nurul Hoque Manik, Mizanur Rahman (sr), Ahmed Ullah, Ratan Kumar (Sayed Golam Jhili).

Referee: Monirul Islam.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1973	Dhaka	Kushtia
1974	Dhaka	Barisal
1975	Dhaka	Chittagong
1976	Jessore	Rajshahi
1977	Kushtia	Chittagong
1978	Barisal	Rangpur
1979	Barisal	Dhaka
1980	Army and DU (joint)	Army
1981	Army and DU (joint)	DU
1982	Khulna	DU
1983	Sylhet	Dhaka
1984	Feni	DU
1985	Comilla	DU
1986	Dhaka	Comilla
1987	Not held	
1988	Not held	
1989	Army	DU
1990	DU	Army
1991	Not held	
1992	DU	Khulna

Bangladesh play HK in ICC Trophy today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play their last second round match of the fifth ICC Trophy competition against Hong Kong in the Aga Khan Ground, Kenya, today.

Radio Bangladesh will give the running commentary of the match.

The match is inconsequential from Bangladesh's view point since they lost to hosts Kenya and Holland in their previous second round matches which effectively ruled out their possibilities of finding a place among the last four.

ICC Trophy

hats up

NAIROBI, Feb 26: With a week left of the ICC Trophy the four strongest teams—the Netherlands, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and Bermuda—have emerged to qualify for next week's semifinals, reports Reuter.

At stake is a place in the next World Cup. There are three places available so one of the four will miss out.

Bangladesh had high hopes when their team reached the quarterfinals, prompting an influx of their nationals. But hosts Kenya beat them on Friday.

Bangladesh had more to play for than most and it showed. The organisers of the next World Cup to be held jointly by Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, had mooted a couple of fixtures in Dhaka, the Bangladesh capital, if they had been one of the three qualifiers from the ICC Trophy.

Seeing his team go down, Bangladesh assistant manager, Golam Faruque Apu, looked visibly grief-stricken in the VIP enclosure.

Some critics have suggested that there is not one team in this competition worthy of a place in the World Cup, let alone three.

Simon Hughes, the former Middlesex and Durham pace bowler, is one who believes that the ICC were wrong to allow three of its associate members the chance to play in a World Cup where they will quite definitely be making up the numbers.

Friday scores: The Netherlands 288-8, Hong Kong 154 all out.

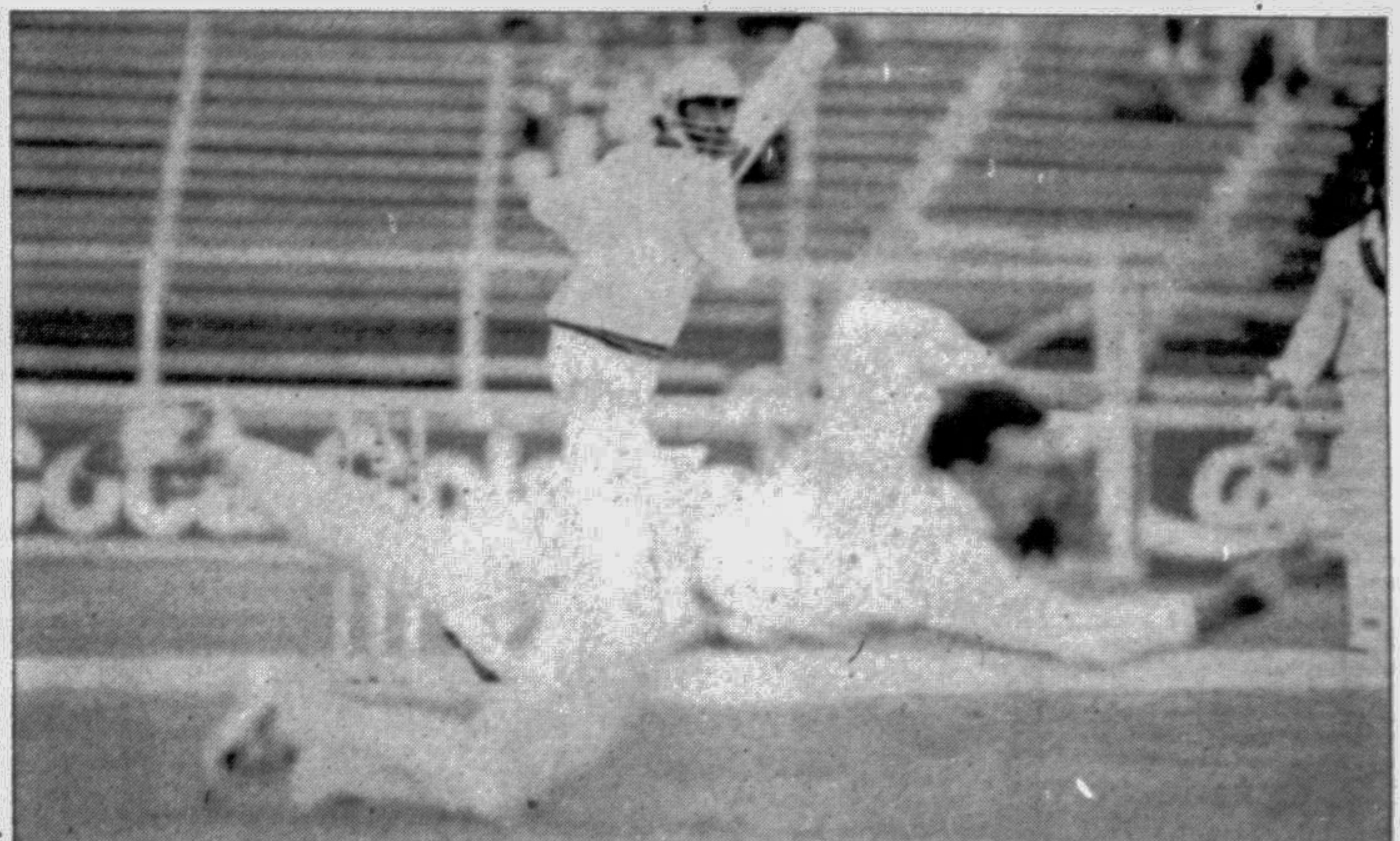
Result: Holland beat Hong Kong by 134 runs.

Canada 278-6, UAE 279-9.

Result: UAE beat Canada by one wicket.

Ireland 202 all out, Bermuda 206-3.

Result: Bermuda beat Ireland by 7 wickets.



Pakistan captain Salim Malik looks back anxiously as Kiwis fielder Brian Young makes a valiant attempt to catch the ball during the third day's play of the final Test in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP photo

A total Thai triumph

Sports Reporter

year younger than her rival observed after the match:

"She is very strong down the line with powerful forehand and backhand returns and I was unable to cope with her speed."

The win which took Suksamaran about one hour and twenty minutes, got the match point in the eighth game of the third set when weary Rampen led her volley nestled in the net.

Suksamaran for whom it was the first title in any major meet outside the country was clearly quite ecstatic with her performance. "I was a little bit uneasy in the first set but once I settled down it started falling into place for me nicely."

The win earned Suksamaran 4-0 points while Vinca Rampen got 2-0 as runner-up.

Top-seed Roymoni Putipong of Thailand who won the boys' doubles title in tandem with compatriot Wittonpasich Bhee beat Indian pair Amandeep Singh-P Laxminarayan by 6-1, 5-7, 6-4 in a gruelling final in the morning, never thought for a sauntering afternoon.

The 17-year-old Putipong had a gift of the singles' title when his Indian rival Joldepp Setty withdrew due to a bout of allergy only after fifteen minutes at which point of the game the Thai led 4-0.

A veteran of 18 ITF meets it was Putipong's second visit to Bangladesh.

His twin successes in his

second tour of Bangladesh will considerably raise his ITF ranking.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman who was the chief guest on the concluding day of the five-day long International Junior ranking meet gave away the prizes.

Seven countries—Austria, Germany, Greece, Thailand, Indonesia, India and hosts Bangladesh took part in this meet.

H'ball referees' course today

Sports Reporter

An eight-day handball referees' training course begins today under the aegis of the Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF), according to a federation press release issued yesterday.

All concerned are asked to report to the BHF office at 2.30 pm today.

Malcolm returns home

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Feb 26: Pace bowler Devon Malcolm is to return home from England's West Indies tour today amid fears that he has cartilage damage, reports Reuter.

Malcolm, developed a swelling on his right knee during the first Test,

35 young booters picked

Sports Reporter

Thirty-five youngsters have been picked to join a training camp to prepare for the coming Sixth Asian under-16 football tournament which is scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia in April, says a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) press release.

The players have been requested to report to BFF office.

Two local coaches Abdus Sadeq and Swapas Kumar Das will conduct the programme.

Uphill task for New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 26: New Zealand were nine for no wicket at the close of he third day of the third and final cricket Test today in their quest for 324 to win, reports Reuter.

The Kiwis, convincingly beaten in the first two Tests and surrendering a first innings lead of 144, gave themselves a slim chance by dismissing the powerful Pakistan batting line-up for 179.

Pakistan will rely on the peace of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram who have ripped through New Zealand in each of the five previous innings of the series.

"We have to come to terms with the two Ws—that's got to be the key to the game," captain Ken Rutherford said.

New Zealand faced just 3.1 overs before the batsmen successfully appealed against bad light. Both Blair Hartland and Bryan Young were on three not out.

They still have two days in which to make the runs but history is again them. The highest winning total a New Zealand team has scored in the fourth innings was the 278 for eight made in 1985 to beat Pakistan in Dunedin.

Fast bowler Danny Morrison and slow left-arm, Matthew Hart, spearheaded Pakistan's demise.

Morrison, who has been numerous catches dropped from his bowling this summer, ended with four for 66 while

21-year-old Hart, playing in his second Test, ended with three for 47.

Hart also had the satisfaction of running out Basit Ali for 67, the only batsman to get a reasonable score.

Basit made 103 in the first innings and 85 in Pakistan's only innings in the second Test in Wellington.

As with the other innings he had a large measure of luck—ironically it was Morrison who dropped a simple catch at mid-on when Basit was on 38—but the dashing right-hander again delighted the crowd with free-flowing drives and wristy leg-side shots.

Pakistan began the day in trouble at eight for two and never really recovered.

The only real resistance came was a partnership of 56 in 66 minutes between Basit and Inzamam-ul Haq.

The tourists were soon in deeper trouble when debutante Atif Rauf was out for nine, caught at slip off Simon Doull and they slipped to 53 for four when nightwatchman Akram Raza was stumped by Tony Blair for 26 in Hart's second over.

Captain Salim Malik looked well set on 23 but played a rash slash off Morrison to give Chris Pringle a catch on the third man boundary.

Inzamam, shaky to start with, belted Hart a huge six high onto the embankment and then on 20 was caught by substitute Mark Hastings for 20 off Morrison.

Hart's run out of Basit just before tea was a vital blow. After the break, he quickly had

Rashid Latif caught and bowled for three and bowled Akram for 17.

Morrison finished the innings when he had Younis caught behind by Blair for 10.

New Zealand lost the services of medium fast bowler Simon Doull, who left shortly before lunch because of a strained side. Doull had two for 13 from his five overs.

Ninety minutes were lost in the morning due to bad light.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the third and final cricket Test today between Pakistan and New Zealand.

PAKISTAN: First innings 344 (Basit Ali 103, Saeed Anwar 69)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 200 (A Jones 81, Waqar Younis 6 for 78)

PAKISTAN: Second innings

Saeed Anwar c Blair b Morrison	0
Aamir Sohail c Young b Doull	3
Atif Rauf c Young b Doull	9
Akram Raza st Blair b Hart	26
Salim Malik c Pringle b Morrison	23
Basit Ali run out	67
Inzamam-ul Haq c (sub)	
Mark Hastings b Morrison	20
Rashid Latif c and b Hart	13
Wasim Akram b Hart	3
Waqar Younis c Blair b Morrison	10
Aamir Nazir not out	0
Extras: (nb-1)	1
Total:	179

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-4; 3-26; 4-53; 5-77; 6-133; 7-152; 8-154; 9-171

Bowling

Morrison	21.3	5	66	4
Pringle	17	3	14	0
Doull	5	0	13	2
Hart	18	5	47	3
Thomson	4	0	12	0

Court takes Pele's advice

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 26: In response to allegations made by soccer legend Pele, a criminal court has ordered an investigation of Brazil's top soccer body and its president, newspapers reported Friday, reports AP.

Last year, Pele said in a magazine interview that officials of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation, or CBF, had demanded a bribe in return for granting the TV broadcasting rights to Brazil's 1993 national soccer championship.

Pele, who retired from play in 1977 and now is a successful businessman, said he lost the contract because he refused to pay the bribe.

The 13th Criminal Court in Rio de Janeiro ordered an investigation of the soccer federation and its president, Ricardo Teixeira, newspapers reported.

The Rio court also reacted to a second public suit, in which CBF would have benefitted from irregular tax exemptions and government donations, according to press reports.

Public prosecutor Andre Barbetas gave the Ministry of Finance 60 days to investigate the financial history of CBF and its administrators.

Teixeira, the son-in-law of Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA, international soccer's governing body, has sued Pele for libel for making the allegations.

Havelange banned soccer's greatest player from the World Cup draw last December in Las Vegas and refused to invite Pele to this summer's tournament in the United States.

On Thursday, Havelange said in New York that Pele could attend "if he's invited by the local organizing committee or ... as a spectator."

Tomba wants to end in style

OLYMPICS 1994

OSLO, Norway, Feb 26: Alberto Tomba aims to make his final Olympic race a record-breaking one.

The muscular Italian, who plans to quit after next year's World Championships, can become the first Alpine skier to win four gold medals when he skis Sunday on the final day of the Lillehammer Games, reports AP.

Tomba, 27, has skied at three Olympics and has counted himself out of a fourth at Nagano, Japan, in 1998. "I will be there as a tourist," he said.

Tomba won the giant slalom and slalom titles at Calgary in 1988 and the giant slalom at Albertville two years ago. He missed a gate in the giant slalom here so everything hangs on Sunday's race.

Wary of getting hurt in the

speed races—downhills and super-giant slaloms—Tomba throws everything into the technical events. While some skiers have five chances of winning titles, he has only two.

When he does, wild celebrations break out among the hordes of Italians who follow him around. Tomba-mania started in Calgary six years ago, and the Italian and his fans re-named Albertville "Albertoville" two years ago.

Could Lillehammer become "Lille-Tomba?"

His form in slalom races this season has been impressive. He has won four, including the last two at Chamonix, France, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and placed second twice.

But the Italian has failed to finish three other races and the two skiers who finished ahead of him—Austria's Guenther Mader and Slovenia's Jure Kosir—will both race against him Sunday.

Aussies in for final check

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Feb 26: Australia will go into the final showdown before the first Test in Johannesburg minus four of their key players, reports AP.

Skipper Allan Border has rested himself and fast bowler Craig McDermott from the visitors' lineup against Orange Free State in the four-day fixture that starts Saturday.

Also dropped for the match were batsman Dean Jones and fast bowler Glen McGrath, who figured in the four one-day internationals last week.

Jones is considered more a one-day batsman since his omission from the Australian side 12 months ago, and his exclusion indicates he will be out of the first Test side.

Since being dropped during the home series against the West Indies in 1992-93, Jones

toured New Zealand in February 1993 just for the one-day matches and later was overlooked for the Ashes tour of England.

McGrath, the lanky fast bowler, was forced into the top side too early due to the unavailability of key fast bowlers, according to coach Bob Simpson.

"He has come out fantastically here. He is one of those to hit early tour form," Simpson said during his side's training Friday. "But he has been pushed in too early, probably 12 months before. And that was because some of our top players were not available due to injuries."

This means Merv Hughes, who has played just two games and missed the first half of the one-day series, becomes an automatic choice to share the new ball with McDermott.

Hughes has been crippled by a back injury on tour and his progress will be closely

monitored, keeping in mind he hasn't played Test cricket since the 1993 Ashes series.

Australia will face a strong Orange Free State provincial side led by Test vice captain Hansie Cronje and fast bowler Allan Donald.

Donald will be under close scrutiny after suffering a loss of form that forced him out of two of the four one-day matches so far.

TEAMS

ORANGE FREE STATE: (from) Hansie Cronje (captain), Mckey Arther, Gerhardus Liebenberg, Louis Wilkinson, Rudi Steyn, Kosi Venter, Corie van Zyl, Brad Player, Philip Radley, Nick Boje, Herman Bakkes, Chris Craven and Allan Donald.

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Matthew Hayden, Ian Healy, Paul Reffel, Shane Warne, Merv Hughes and Tim May.

Blatter's call for tougher rules

PARIS, Feb 26: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in an interview to be published today that tackles from behind should be banned and offenders automatically sent off, reports Reuter.

The law change could be in force by the time the World Cup finals kick off in Chicago on June 17.

"These tackles must be banned and any player fouling in this way must be sent off," Blatter said in an interview with OM Plus, the magazine of French Club Marseille.

The new ruling—which clearly has FIFA's backing—will be discussed at a meeting on soccer's rule-making body, the international board, and FIFA officials in Zurich on March 5.

"Referees must be far stricter in implementing the rules of the game and should no longer allow tackles from behind where the ball is not touched," Blatter said.

Blatter also hinted at increased powers for linesmen who, he said, should be regarded more of a "deputy referee" than merely a "line-judge."

"Any four-year-old child can tell you when the ball is outside or inside the field of play," he said.

Next week's meeting will consider a number of other proposals discussed at FIFA delegates meeting in New York this week.

Technical details relating to the World Cup finals, including changes to the rules regarding substitutes, drinking liquids on the pitch and players excessively celebrating after scoring a goal, are likely to be discussed.

New law changes normally become effective on July 1 but as the World Cup starts in Chicago on June 17 any amendments to the law this year would be introduced early.

Nirman cricket results

Sports Reporter

Govt Laboratory High School and Scholastica moved into the semifinals of the 10th Nirman schools cricket championship at two different city venues yesterday.

On the western strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium Scholastica recorded a massive eight-wicket win over Mirpur Bangla High School.

Put into bat, Mirpur were bundled out for 132 in 32.2 overs.

Sajjadur Rahman with 33, Mosaddek 20 and Aziz Ahmed 24 were the notable scorers for the losers while extras amounted to 17.

Junaidd of Scholastica who also later dazzled with the bat claimed four wickets for 24 runs. He was well assisted by Haasan who took two for 20.

Scholastica reached their target thanks due to a sparkling 63 by opener Shaker Chowdhury.

Junaidd Rahman and Sajjadur Rahman both remained un-



Thailand's Suksamaran plays a backhand return to Indonesia's Vinca Rampen in the girls' singles final of the eighth Bangladesh International junior championship at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. Suksamaran won 2-6, 6-0, 6-2. — Star photo

FIFA's faith in fans' encratty

NEW YORK, Feb 26: The world soccer body FIFA confirmed on Wednesday that fans at the World Cup finals in America this summer would not be fenced in.

"There will be no bars. We trust our spectators to behave honourably and according to the spirit of fair play," Joseph Blatter, general secretary of the International Football Federation (FIFA), told a World Cup workshop.

Soccer hooliganism, mostly involving groups of English fans, flared in some cities during the 1990 finals in Italy but US organisers expect little trouble.

The two-day meeting in New York brought together delegations from all 24 of the nations that qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals to discuss their plans and potential problems ahead of the month-

long tournament.

The session continues today.

Among technical details raised, Blatter said teams competing in the Cup were set to be allowed to substitute goalkeepers in addition to two players per match.

He said the rule change was expected to be agreed at a board meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, on March 5. Current rules allow for only two substitutions per match.

"This is a proposal which has been presented to the International Board several times and it has always been rejected," Blatter said in an interview.

"Now the International Board will consider positively this proposal presented by FIFA," he said.

Blatter said the rule change would normally become effective on July 1 but as the World Cup was due to start in Chicago on June 17 it would be intro-

duced early.

He said many National Associations had pressed for the rules to be changed to allow a third substitution.

FIFA opposed this general idea but agreed to a third substitution specifically for goalkeepers.

The change means that if a goalkeeper is injured during a match, as happened to Argentina's Nery Pumpido in Italy in 1990, he can be replaced with a specialist keeper while still allowing a team to make two regular substitutions.

Blatter said a team would be allowed 11 substitutes and seven officials on the bench and those substitutes used could be any of the 11.

On doping controls, Belgian Michel D'Hooghe of FIFA's Sports Medicine Committee told team delegations that a 24-hour fax hotline would be set up to advise team doctors on medication they could safely administer.