

MSC, Abahani to leave for Calcutta tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra, the two giants of local football will leave for Calcutta on March 3 to participate in a fund raising football tournament organised by All India Sports Journalist Federation.

Eight teams, divided into two groups, will take part in the nine-day long charity meet aimed at providing some financial assistance to the distressed Indian journalists.

Besides the two teams from Bangladesh, three leading clubs of India — East Bengal, Mohanbagan and Calcutta Mohammedan Sporting Club are in the fray.

The three other teams from India are Mahindra and Mahindra, Titanian Trivandram and Peersons.

Sirajul Islam will perform the managerial duties of a 40-member Mohammedan team while Dewan Saiful Arefin Tutul has been put in charge of the Abahani outfit comprising 19 players.

Mohammedan and Abahani who have been placed in two different groups of the meet have confirmed the services of some players from other clubs to bolster strength for this particular meet.

Abahani will play their first match on March 5 while Mohammedan appear on the following day in a round robin league fixture which is yet to be known.

Meanwhile, two-member DMFA delegation headed by DMFA secretary Kazi Mishu will leave for Calcutta on March 6 to confirm the participation of three top teams of Calcutta — East Bengal, Mohanbagan and Calcutta Mohammedan in the forth coming DMFA Cup football tournament in Dhaka scheduled to be held from April 25.

DMFA is awaiting confirmation of the Nepalese national team too. Should Nepal the gold winners of the Sixth SAF Games in Dhaka, take part, the number of foreign teams in the DMFA Cup, originally a domestic meet and normally regarded a prelude to the annual league championship of local clubs will go to four.

India, World XI charity cricket

NEW DELHI, Mar 1: A day before the Indian team leaves for New Zealand, it will have a tough encounter against a World XI at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground here, reports PTI.

Mohd Azharuddin and Allan Lamb will lead their respective teams on March five for this high profile charity fund raising event.

The 50 overs each 'side match is being played for the Tej Ram Memorial Cancer Society.

The teams (from):
INDIAN XI: Mohd Azharuddin (capt), Navjot Sidhu, Manoj Prabhakar, Vinod Kambli, Kapil Dev, Sanjay Manjrekar, Nayan Mongia, KP Bhaskar, Anil Kumble, Jagmal Shrinath and Venkatapathi Raju.

WORLD XI: Allan Lamb (capt), Roshan Mahanama, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Neil Fairbrother, Dermott Reeve, Olive Rice, Gladstone Small, John Emburey, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe, Malcolm Marshall and Alvin Kalicharan.

Litu sparkles in BEXIMCO cricket

Sports Reporter

Litu captured seven wickets for 36 runs to help Rajshahi get off to a flying start along with Dhaka, Chittagong and BKSP in the final phase of the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship yesterday.

On the opening day of the final round Rajshahi beat Comilla by seven wickets at the Dhaka Stadium brief scores: 161 all out, Shamim 51 not out Litu seven for 36.

BKSP cantered past Sylhet by 171 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium. Brief scores: 237 for seven in 45 overs. Ujjal 55, Munna 47.

Sylhet 66 all out in 27.2 overs. Ujjal and Munna 4 wickets apiece.

Chittagong beat Jessore by 45 runs at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Brief scores: Chittagong 183 for nine in the possible, 42 overs. Tareq 59, Azim 41. Two wickets apiece for Shimul, Ashiq and Babu of Jessore.

Jessore all out for 129 in 36.5 overs. Babu 48 and Ashiq 33. Nuruddin and Masum bagged three wickets apiece.

Dhaka edged past Dinajpur by two wickets at the Pallabi ground.

Brief scores: Dinajpur 181 seven wickets in 45 overs. Asif 30 and Chhoton 28. Mintu of Dhaka took three wickets for 25.

Dhaka 183 for eight. Bappi 42, Nahid 27 and Mintu 19.

Cronje's alarm for Aussies



BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Mar 1: Skipper Hansie Cronje smashed a career best 251 but couldn't save Orange Free State from a 60-run defeat at the hands of Australia in a four-day tour game Tuesday, reports AP.

Cronje boldly went in search of an elusive victory single handed after being set 457 runs to win in four sessions.

The 24-year old right hander in his last first-class innings before the first Test at Wanderers Friday kept the Australian attack at bay holding up one end while other capitulated.

He finally fell holing out to long off trying to avoid the packed leg side field after six hours and 49 minutes of batting.

His chanceless innings characterised his recent form against the tourists and in six successive innings on home soil so far has fetched him 599 runs at a startling average of 119.8 in 976 minutes of batting in 10 days.

On reaching his double century he hit off spinner Tim May for three sixes in successive balls and raced to his last 50 in just 20 balls.

The middle order provided stubborn support to Cronje, but didn't last long to see a great victory achieved.

He didn't spare a single bowler and started the day by pulling fast bowler Merv Hughes for four boundaries in five balls.

Cronje's innings lasted 306 balls and contained four sixes and 28 boundaries.

Having taken tea on 308 for six and needing 149 runs to win in a minimum of 35 overs.



H CRONJE ... 251

Cronje cut loose on reaching his first double century hitting three sixes off successive deliveries in a Tim May over.

His last 50 came off 20 balls and included three sixes and as many boundaries.

Hughes produced the best figures for visitors picking up four for 127 while leg-spinner

Shane Warne who bowled just 18 overs on the last day picked up the tallenders to seal victory.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 450 for eight decl (Michael Slater 65, Mark Waugh 154, Steve Waugh 102, Brad Player four for 107) and 270 for 6 decl (Mark Taylor 54, Michael Slater 105, Kosi Venter 5 for 101).

ORANGE FREE STATE: First Innings 264 (Mickey Arther 51, Louis Wilkinson 53, Tim May five for 98).

ORANGE FREE STATE: Second Innings (102 for one contd).

Arther 1bw b Hughes 10
Liebenberg 1bw b Hughes 39
Cronje c Reiffel b May 251
Wilkinson b Reiffel 5
Steyn c Healy b S Waugh 22
Venter run out 16
Van Zyl c Healy b Hughes 2
Player c Healy b Hughes 17
Boje b Warne 6
Radley 1bw b Warne 4
Bakkes hot out 12
Extras: (b-5, lb-2, nb-2, w-3) 12
Total: 396
Fall: 1-19; 2-127; 3-150; 4-225; 5-271; 6-286; 7-314; 8-374; 9-384; 10-396.
Bowling: O M R W
Hughes 25 2 127 4
Reiffel 23 3 60 1
Warne 28 2 6 70
May 26 4 111 1
S. Waugh 6 0 21 1
Australia won by 60 runs.
First Test at Wanderers on March 4.

French duo flake out in a day



INDIAN WELLS, Calif, Mar 1: Frenchmen Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch, two of the four seeds playing Monday, were upset on the first day of the \$ 1.72 million Champions Cup, reports AP.

Pioline, the ninth seed who reached the US Open finals last summer, lost to Jonathan Stark 6-3, 6-4. Boetsch, seeded 14th, was beaten by compatriot Fabrice Santoro 6-3, 7-6 (7-3).

Pioline won only 12 points while Stark was serving in the 85-minute match. Stark recorded seven service aces — three in the last game of the first set — and won 12 of the final 13 points.

The two seeded players to win Monday were No. 12 Alexander Volkov of Russia and No. 16 Carlos Costa of Spain. Volkov beat Nicklas Kulti of Sweden 2-6, 6-1, 6-3, and Costa edged Alberto Berasategui of Spain 7-6, (7-3), 7-6, (7-3).

Defeat dogs Japan

LUCKNOW, India, Mar 1: Japan's men's hockey team, preparing for the Asian Games in Hiroshima later this year, suffered a second, successive defeat in the Indira Gandhi tournament here Tuesday, reports AP.

Drubbed 5-0 by hosts India in their first match, the Japanese lost 2-0 to Kenya to slide to the bottom of the league table in the six nation tournament.

The Kenyans scored once in each half of a dull match through a penalty corner conversion by John Okoth and a field goal by Frederick Masibu.

Japan's attempts to score were foiled by the agile Kenyan goalkeeper Iwao Venitusu, who fended off hard shots with brave dives.

Kenya's victory in the lone match played Tuesday helped them overcome a 6-0 defeat against in-form South Africa in their opening encounter on Sunday.

The Kenyans take on India next in Wednesday's three-match programme that will also pit South Africa against Egypt and South Korea against Japan.

League standings Tuesday (played, won, drawn, lost goals for, against, points):

STANDINGS				
South Africa	2	2	0	12 0 4
India	2	2	0	10 0 4
Kenya	2	1	0	12 6 2
South Korea	2	0	1	12 8 1
Egypt	2	0	1	2 7 1
Japan	2	0	2	0 7 0

Mats Wilander of Sweden, formerly ranked No. 1 in the world, beat Horst Skoff of Monte Carlos 6-4, 6-4 in a night match.

Wilander, who won the US, French and Australian opens in 1988, has lost in the first round of three tournaments this year.

Wilander, 29, is ranked 231st in the world, while Skoff is ranked 82nd. Wilander retired and didn't play competitively from June 1991 to April 1993. His be Qa (159) since his return was in the Australian open in January, when he reached the fourth round.

The top eight seeds—Pete Sampras, Jim Courier, Stefan Edberg, Sergi Bruguera, Goran Ivanisevic, Michael Chang, Todd Martin and Thomas Muster — received first-round byes.

"Playing on a fast court is an advantage for me," Stark said. "It allows me to go for more shots. Everyone knows he's a great player. I think he was frustrated because he had hard time passing me."

Pioline gave Stark credit for beating him.

In other first-round action, Aaron Krickstein beat Bernd Karbacher of Germany 6-4, 6-0; Jim Grabb rallied to eliminate Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 0-6, 6-3, 6-3; Patrick McEnroe topped Jose Francisco Altur of Spain 7-5, 6-2; Jaime Yzaga of Peru downed Andrei Cherkasov of Russia 7-6 (16-14), 6-0; Emilio Sanchez of Spain overpowered David Engel of Sweden 6-1, 6-4; Steve Bryan rallied to beat Wally Masur of Australia 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; Patrick Rafter of Australia beat countryman

Jadukar Samad soccer

Sports Reporter

Shahjahan Smriti Sangsod defeated Begumjan Udayan Sangsod 3-1 in the inaugural match of the 4th Jadukar Samad juvenile football tournament at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Azad scored twice while Imran netted once for the winners.

Liton reduced the margin scoring one goal for the losers.

Earlier, director-general of Bangladesh Krira Siksha Protishthan, Ali Hasan opened the 12-team meet BSWA president Riqibul Hassan, BHF general secretary Samsul Bari, BKF general secretary Munir Hossain were also present on the occasion.

Jason Stoltenberg 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Marcos Ondruska of South Africa beat Alberto Manchini of Argentina 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Byron Black of Zimbabwe topped Javier Sanchez of Spain 6-1K? Andrei Chesnokov of Russia downed David Rikl of the Czech Republic, 6-2; and Robbie Weiss defeated Jon Lech 6-3, 6-4.

Cricket venues shifted

Sports Reporter

The venue of the today's 12th Nirman Schools cricket championship engagement has been shifted. The match will be held on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium instead of the Dhanmondi Club ground.

The venue of the 14th, BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship final round match between Rajshahi and Sylhet will be held at the Pallabi ground, instead of its scheduled venue the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, said another BCCB press release yesterday.

Bengal in Ranji semis

CALCUTTA, Mar 1: Bengal registered an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Hyderabad to cruise into the semi-finals of the Ranji Trophy championship on the penultimate day of their Ranji Trophy quarter final match at the Eden Gardens here today, reports PTI.

Resuming at their overnight score of 25 for no loss, the visitors were bundled out for a meagre 209 at the stroke of tea, leaving Bengal with the simple task of scoring 79 runs for an outright victory.

Bengal lost opener Arun Lal rather early in the innings but Indu Bhushan Roy (33 not out) and Srikanth Kalyani (20 not out) ensured that there was no further damage and reached the target just three minutes before close of play.

The Hyderabad middle order virtually gifted away their wickets in the second innings and were 122 and Young Syed Meraj (39 not out) came to the team's rescue with a face-saving 68-run partnership for the eighth wicket to cross the 20 mark.

M V Sridhar was the only other batsman to stand amidst the ruins with a fighting knock of 43.

Bengal will now clash with the winner of the Baroda-Punjab match in the semi final to be played at the Eden Gardens from March 12.

Pepsi Cup zonal finals today

Sports Reporter

Seven zonal final matches of the 20th Pepsi Cup national cricket championship commence today in different venues across the country.

At Sylhet, Narsingdi play against Mymensingh. At Jhenidah, Satkhira face Barisal. Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) play against Jhalakathi at the Barisal Stadium.

At Dinajpur, Rajshahi face Rangpur.

At Rangpur, Dinajpur take on Bogra.

At Pabna, Jessore face Kushtia while Dhaka play Pabna in their zonal final at the Chandpur Stadium.

A Comilla zone semifinal match will also held today.

Kenya in ICC Trophy final

NAIROBI, Mar 1: Kenya beat Bermuda by 64 runs in the first semifinal of the ICC Trophy and qualify for cricket's 1996 World Cup, reports Reuter.

Scores: Kenya 318-5 (50 overs), Bermuda 254-9 (50).

Intikhab is for red balls

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Mar 1: Pakistan cricket coach Intikhab Alam said today he may pursue a campaign to have red balls used for future daylight limited-overs internationals, reports AFP.

Red balls, which tend to remain consistent in hardness for longer than the white balls, are used for one-day internationals in Pakistan.

Intikhab said his team would have to spend the next couple of days getting used to the white ball, which will be used in the five one-day internationals here.

"It is a personal opinion but I think in day cricket they'd be better off using a red ball because it is easier to see than a dirty white ball," he said.

"Most of the players also think that way."

He said use of a white ball in a day-night game was easier to understand.

"But if we're going to play in the day then maybe we should look at using the red ball."

Registration deadline for Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

The deadline for registration formalities for Pioneer football league '94 has been fixed from March 3 to 20 interested clubs will have to pay Taka 200 as registration fees in addition to Taka 100 as entry fees, said the DMFA press release.

DMFA office will remain closed from March 12 to 16 due to the holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

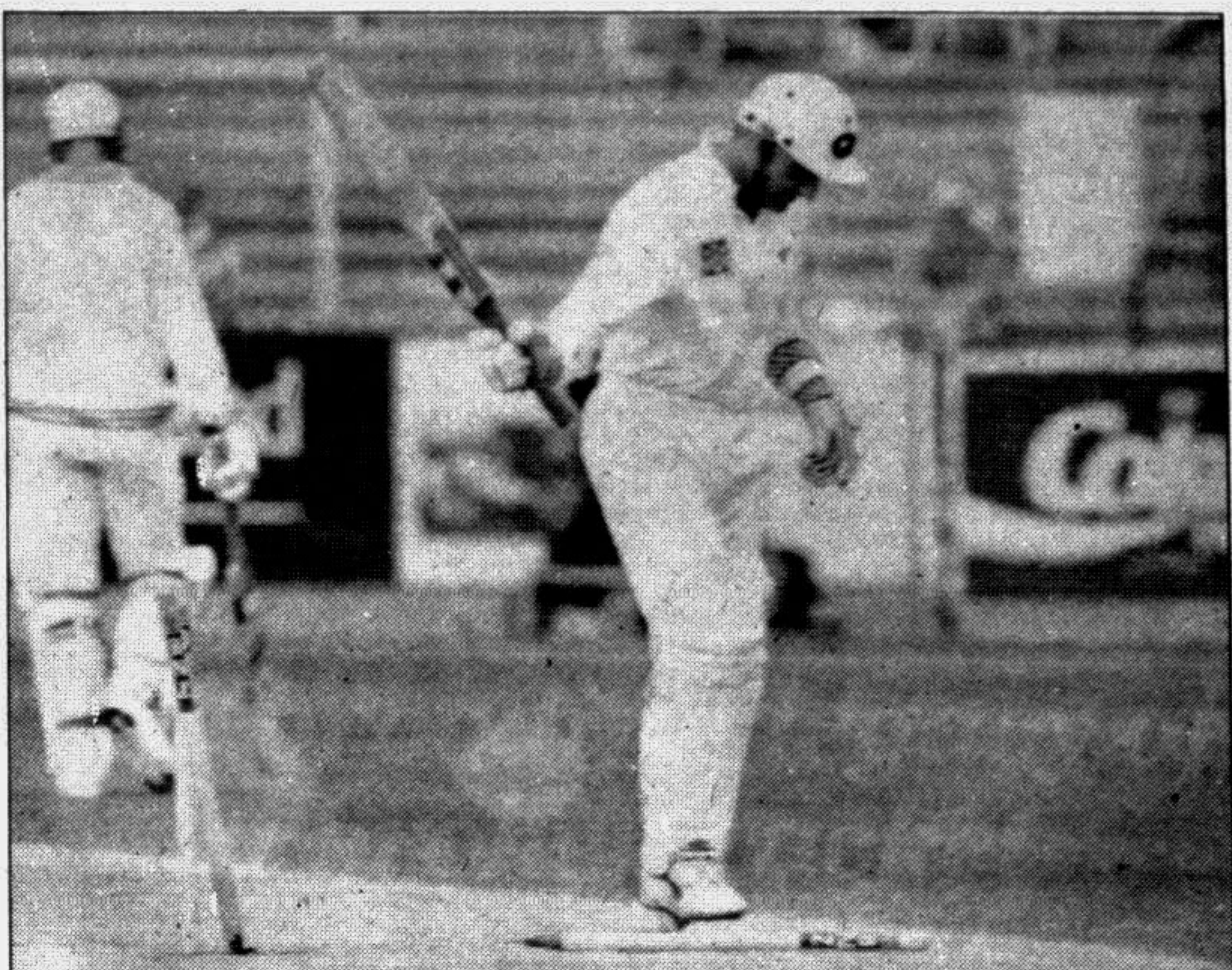
Shahbaz in the saddle

ISLAMABAD, Mar 1: Shahbaz Ahmad is to lead Pakistan in the Champions Trophy hockey tournament in Lahore from March 17, reports AFP.

Besides hosts Pakistan, teams from Australia, Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands are to participate in the six-nation tournament, considered the leading hockey event outside the Olympics.

The 16-member squad announced in the Punjab province's capital Lahore included fullback Rana Mujahid and right-half Muhammad Usman, who 'impressed' the selectors, he said. The pair had been doubtful after dismal performances at the World Junior Championships in Spain last year.

Squad: Mansoor Ahmad and Ahmad Alam (goalkeepers), Naveed Alam, Shamim Pal, Rana Mujahid (full-backs); Muhammad Usman, Khawaja Junaid, Muhammad Shafquat, Irfan Mahmood (half backs); Rahim Khan, Tahir Zaman, Kamran Ashraf, Shahbaz Ahmad (captain), Muhammad Shahbaz, Muhammad Asif, Asif Bajwa (forwards).



New Zealand batsman Bryan Young (R) swings his bat in dismay after being bowled for 120 on the final day of the third Test between Pakistan and New Zealand on February 28 in Christchurch. Pakistan won the three Test series 2-1 with the Kiwis having a consolatory five-wicket victory in the final Test which concluded on Monday. — AFP photo

SA to bank on pace quartet

JOHANNESBURG, March 1: South Africa opted for a four-pronged pace attack to exploit helpful conditions expected at the Wanderers when they chose their team for the first Test against Australia starting on Friday, reports Reuter.

Although South Africa's selectors named 12 on Tuesday, the final choice will be between Western Province all-rounders Brian McMillan and Eric Simmons.

"It all depends on McMillan's fitness," said convenor of selectors Peter Pollock. "He's involved in the current (Western Province) game in Cape Town against Border and hopefully he'll come through strongly."

"If everything is right and we consider him fit enough to be able to bowl as a fully-fledged member of a four-man pace attack, then he will play. If not, then Simmons will play," said Pollock.

McMillan has suffered left knee trouble since twisting it last December on the tour of Australia. The subsequent operation kept him out of the first two Tests and, although he played in the third and final Test, the knee continued to trouble him and he had a second operation two weeks ago.

Simmons played in three of the recent first four one-day games against Australia in South Africa but has yet to win his first Test cap.

Richard Snell has been overlooked on his home ground while fellow pacesman Allan Donald, who has had a poor one day series, received a vote of confidence.

Pollock said: "He's a good Test match performer and we believe the conditions will be dead right for him and we are looking for him to be a major contributor."

"We believe the wicket will be hard and it will have a good covering of grass. Everything points to it being favourable to

rounders Brian McMillan and Eric Simmons.

"It all depends on McMillan's fitness," said convenor of selectors Peter Pollock. "He's involved in the current (Western Province) game in Cape Town against Border and hopefully he'll come through strongly."

"If everything is right and we consider him fit enough to be able to bowl as a fully-fledged member of a four-man pace attack, then he will play. If not, then Simmons will play," said Pollock.

McMillan has suffered left knee trouble since twisting it last December on the tour of Australia. The subsequent operation kept him out of the first two Tests and, although he played in the third and final Test, the knee continued to trouble him and he had a second operation two weeks ago.

Simmons played in three of the recent first four one-day games against Australia in South Africa but has yet to win his first Test cap.

Richard Snell has been overlooked on his home ground while fellow pacesman Allan Donald, who has had a poor one day series, received a vote of confidence.

Pollock said: "He's a good Test match performer and we believe the conditions will be dead right for him and we are looking for him to be a major contributor."

"We believe the wicket will be hard and it will have a good covering of grass. Everything points to it being favourable to

the quicker bowlers so we have decided to attack and go for those four fast bowlers."

The only batting change from the final Test in Adelaide is the inclusion of captain Kepler Wessels, who was injured during the Australian tour, for Darryl Cullinan.

TEAM

Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Hansie Cronje, Kepler Wessels (captain), Peter Kirsten, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan or Eric Simmons, Dave Richardson, Craig Matthews, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald.

Windies recall Holder

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 1: Middle-order batsman, Roland Holder has been drafted into West Indies' squad for the third one-day international against England in Kingstown, St Vincent, on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Holder, who went on the tour of Sharjah, India and Sri Lanka late last year but has not played in a Test, joins the 12 who were on duty for the first two limited overs games.

The five-match series is level 1-1.

Squad: Richie Richardson (captain), Desmond Haynes, Phil Simmons, Brian Lara, Keith Arthurton, Roland Holder, Jimmy Adams, Roger Harper, Curtly Ambrose, Anderson Cummins, Winston Benjamin, Kenny Benjamin, Courtney Walsh.

The brooding legacy of a broken racket

SIALKOT, Pakistan, March 1: In thousands of homes across central Pakistan villagers are still

hug millions of footballs for the World Cup because 100 years ago a Scottish Missionary broke his tennis racket in this dusty town, reports Reuter.

This small town in rural Punjab province is home to a huge sports goods industry that is sending six million footballs for the World Cup and its promoters and companies that want to earn themselves a little glory by association, said Ghanafar Ali Shabbir, president of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

One Sialkot company alone will supply 70 per cent of all the professional balls for Adidas, official supplier of footballs for this year's World Cup in the United States, said Shabbir, who himself runs a football factory.

"Sialkot came into the limelight by chance 100 years ago when a Scottish missionary broke his tennis racket," Shabbir said. The missionary did not want to wait six months for the boat to arrive with a replacement from England and asked a local craftsman to make him and new one.

"It was so good that he suggested the man go into business — and so Sialkot's sports industry was born," Shabbir said.

Sialkot now produces 80 per cent of the world's hand-stitched footballs.

Factories in this former English garrison town near the heavily fortified border with India are working at full capacity to meet orders before the World Cup in June.

For the 1990 World Cup in Italy, orders streamed in as much as two years in advance but this year has seen a last-minute frenzy, local manufacturers say.

The United States — where

football is less popular — was slower to jump on the bandwagon and orders only began to flow in a year ago resulting in a rush to ship the footballs before April.

Such has been the rush for both professional and promotional balls that hamburger chain Macdonald's chartered a special plane to fly a shipment of one million footballs from Sialkot to the United States last month, Shabbir said.

At sublime sports on the outskirts of Sialkot, factory workers are on the maximum of three hours overtime as the plant hurries to complete orders for joint-venture partner Adidas, managing director Amin Javed said.

In 1981, sublime manufactured a few thousand balls for the 1982 World Cup, this year it will produce 2.01 million professional handstitched footballs for the Cup — more than double the number it turned out for Italy in 1990.

"By the grace of God, we have been very successful," said Javed, a former professor of Political Science and devout Muslim who provides a mosque on site for his workers and refuses to take bank loans in accordance with the Islamic ban on interest.

Javed has also profited from generous investment in research and development to keep abreast with — and ahead of — changes in international specifications for footballs.

"We have been pioneers," he said.

The factory employs 350 workers, farms the balls out to another 3,000 villagers for the laborious stitching process and turns out 7,000 to 8,000 balls a day.</