

Dhaka Mohammedans play today

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Mohammedans take on Titanium of Kerala to start their campaign in the All India Sports Journalists Federation invitational tournament at the East Bengal Club around today.

Abahani Krira Chakra, another Dhaka outfit will also meet Calcutta Mohammedans today at the same venue.

The two football giants from Dhaka along with six Indian teams — divided into two groups — are taking part in the fund raising tournament for the distressed Indian journalists.

Dhaka league champions Mohammedans who play their first match have been placed in one group along with East Bengal, Titanium and Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Abahani who won their opening encounter against IFA XI by the odd goal in three will have a testing time in today's match against in-form Calcutta Mohammedans.

Meanwhile, PFI adds East Bengal defeated Food Corporation of India (FCI) by the odd goal in three in their second league match to virtually assure themselves of a semi-final berth.

Singer Carlton Chapman put East Bengal in the lead midway through the opening session while striker Sisir Ghosh struck the second goal after the interval in a rather one-sided contest.

The hard-working Sudip Chakraborty reduced the margin for FCI with a consolation goal just two minutes before the long whistle but the late effort was not enough to change their fate.

A minute's silence was observed before the start of the match in memory of P N Sundarasan, veteran sports journalist and former Sports Editor of the Hindu who passed away on Sunday and Chandranath Banerjee, a former Bengal Ranji Trophy player who died of a heart attack while batting for his club.

Progoti win

Sports Reporter

Tushar scored a splendid 73 to help Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha to a three-wicket victory over Kathalbaggan GCC in the Second Division super league play-off at the Mirpur Pallabi ground yesterday.

Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha, needing 169 to win, scored 171 for seven in 36.2 overs. Their opener Tushar knocked 73 runs off 87 balls in his innings. He sent the ball five times across the fence before being bowled by Munna with the total on 156 in the 34th over.

Liton with 31 and Piklu with 26 were the other notable scorers for Dhanmondi while the extras amounted to 17.

Zaman was the pick of the Kathalbaggan bowler with three for 31.

Earlier, put in to bat, Kathalbaggan posted 168 for nine in the stipulated 40 overs.

Tanvir, Rawnak and Turki were the mainstays with scores of 36, 35 and 21 respectively.

Fleet cruise

Sports Reporter

Fleet Club, trailing 41-44 at the first half, fought back gallantly to register a 91-73 victory over The Hornets in the Partex First Division basketball league at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

Mahmudur, who top scored with 23 for the winners, was closely followed by Mizan, Rana and Faez who had scores of 18, 14 and 14 respectively.

Farabi, with 25, was the major scorer for the losers.

Lentini's payola problems

ROME, Mar 5: AC Milan winger Gianluigi Lentini has been questioned by magistrates probing alleged financial irregularities over the deal which took him to the Italian champions from Torino, state radio reported on Friday, reports Reuters.

Lentini, who joined Milan for an estimated 16 million dollar in 1992, was interviewed for an hour on Thursday evening as a witness in an investigation into alleged undeclared payments.

Milan had no comment to make on the reports.

The case is part of a wider inquiry into the affairs of former Torino president Gianmauro Borsano. He has alleged that Milan made a secret payment of some 3.5 million dollar to a Swiss bank account to help secure the services of Lentini.

The Lentini inquiry, initially conducted by magistrates in Turin, is expected to pass into the hands of Milan public prosecutor Gherardo Colombo.

The 24-year-old Lentini, an Italy international, has been restricted to a few brief appearances this season following a near-fatal car crash last August.

Dhaka in nat'l youth final

Sports Reporter



Defending champions Dhaka DSA moved into the final of the 14th BEXIMCO national youth cricket championship eliminating Chittagong by seven wickets in a crucial match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka finished top from Group A winning all their three round robin league matches and will face the winners from Group B in the final to be held on March 9.

Chittagong, who had a fair chance to qualify for the final with two straight wins to their credit, surprisingly elected to bat after winning the toss.

The decision of their skipper Rezaul proved disastrous for them as they were bundled out for 145 in the stipulated 45 overs.

Barring opener Tarek and middle order Manna none could cope with the Dhaka attack.

Tarek scored a patient 53 — his second successive fifty — with three boundaries while Manna who held to one end up with unbeaten 37 did not get any support from others.

New-ball bowler Bapji finished with two for 13 in his nine-over spell. Spinner Rana who also bowled very economically, took one wicket in his quota of nine overs giving away only 17 runs.

Chasing an easy target of 146 for a win Dhaka reached 149 in 37.1 overs losing only

three wickets.

Openers Biplab and Adil built a solid foundation for Dhaka and later skipper Opee batted soundly to rule out any possibilities of hiccups.

Biplab contributed 45 runs before being run out with Dhaka on 105 in the 28th over.

Adil departed hitting a quick fire 32 with the help of four hits to the fence.

After Chayan (15), the third batsman was out with the total on 106, Opee cruised Dhaka to the final scoring 31 off just 33 balls. He executed four hits to the fence.

Jessore and Dinajpur, who were virtually out of the competition conceding two defeats, played their last round robin league encounter from the same group with Jessore winning the match by nine runs at the Jagannath Hall ground.

In a low scoring match, Jessore scored 151 before being bowled out in 44.4 overs with extras contributing 33 in winners' collection.

Shimul, who made 20 for Jessore, was the other notable run-gather.

Life was the most successful Dinajpur bowler claiming three wickets for 19 runs.

Chasing an easy target Dinajpur were bundled out for 142 in 42 overs.

Babu with 32 top scored for the losers while Pappa (not out 26), Tushar (22), Life (21) and Chhoton (11) figured in a double-digit scorers.

Laiq, Apu, Babu and Asi-

quzzaman shared two wickets each for Jessore.

In the other match of the day, Comilla kept their hopes alive for a berth in the Group B final registering a massive 141-run victory over Satkhira at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Put in to bat, the last year's runners-up compiled a huge 260 in the allotted 45 overs losing seven wickets.

Middle order Suman hammered a sparkling 58 off 54 balls in the formidable Comilla total. His polished innings included eight hits to the fence.

Skipper Lipu followed him with 40 while Anis and Baglu contributed 37 and 27 respectively.

Bapji and Tapu took two wickets each giving away 53 and 30 runs in their nine over spell.

In reply to the awesome Comilla total Satkhira were skittled out for a meagre 119 in 37.2 over with Tapu scoring the highest 24.

Hassan who shone with the leather did most of Satkhira's damage claiming two wickets for only four runs.

Opener Akhter, who scored 20 for the losers, were among the three batsmen who were run out in the Satkhira, innings.

Rajshahi will take on BKSP in a crucial Group B encounter at the Dhaka Stadium today.

If Rajshahi win the match they will earn the right to qualify for the final as Group B champs.

N'ganj in Pepsi Cup final round

Sports Reporter

Narayanganj emerged zonal champions of the Pepsi Cup 20th national cricket championship when they beat Faridpur by a narrow margin of 14 runs at the Comilla Stadium yesterday.

Batting first, Narayanganj piled up 239 for seven in the stipulated 45 overs. Their innings was mainly guided by the two half-centuries from Biddut with 69 and Anup (67).

Mona and Wahid, with scores of 44 and 18, were the other notable contributors for Narayanganj.

Altab was the pick of the Faridpur bowlers with a spell of five for 63.

Chasing a huge target of 240 to win, Faridpur were all out for 225 with four balls to spare.

Highlights of the Faridpur innings were Tariq's half-century (60), Biplot and Nasim made 37 and 22 respectively, and extras with 34 contributed to the Faridpur total.

Zia had a devastating bowling figure with three for 16 while Khokon took two for 28 for the winners.

Comilla joined as the last team with the seven other zonal team — Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Jessore, BUET, Satkhira, Dinajpur and Dhaka — who became zonal champion to qualify for the final scheduled to be held in Dhaka later on.

Besides, these eight teams, last year's four semifinals will also vie for the 12-team final round to have a go at the title.

The four teams, who will play directly as last year's semifinalists, are Chittagong, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Sylhet and Dhaka University.

Holland confirm World Cup ticket

NAIROBI, Mar 5: The Netherlands qualified for the 1996 World Cup when they beat Bermuda by 103 runs in the ICC Trophy third place play-off on Saturday, reports Reuters.

ICC Trophy finalists Kenya and the United Arab Emirates had already qualified for the World Cup.

Scores: Netherlands 306-2 (50 overs), Bermuda 203 all out (42.2 overs)

Torrence's trial of strength

ATLANTA, Georgia, Mar 5: Reigning Olympic 200m champion Gawn Torrence broke her American indoor record at the United States championships here Friday, when she won a preliminary heat in 22.84 secs, reports AFP.

Torrence was just one hundredth of a second outside the United States record she set in San Sebastian, Spain, in February last year. But she was almost a full second off the world record of 21.87 set by Jamaica's Merlene Ottey.

"I just wanted to run easy and better my personal record," said Torrence, who found the new mondo surface 'slippery'.

"I kept trying to flap my way through, I had a difficult time staying in my lane."

Britain's John Regis, a silver medal winner at last year's World Outdoor Championships and making his first indoor appearance in the United States, won his 200m heat in 20.89 secs.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola won her 800m heat in 2:06.91, while Kenya's David Kiptoo won her 800m heat in 1:50.83.

Several top United States athletes boycotted the championships to protest against foreign competitors receiving appearance fees.

Among those absent are Michael Johnson, Leroy Burrell, Andre Cason and Mike Conley.

Ollan Cassell, executive director of USA Track and Field, plans to resolve the problem next year by signing athletes to contracts requiring them to compete in the final and five other indoor meetings.

In Duisburg, Franz-Josef Steinger scored on a blunder in Wattenscheid's defence in the 21st minute and Patrick Notthoff put Duisburg 2-0 ahead in the 36th.

Three minutes later Polish international Marek Lesniak scored for next-to-bottom Wattenscheid, who dominated the second half and fought hard to equalise. But Duisburg goalkeeper Juergen Rollmann stopped several good chances.

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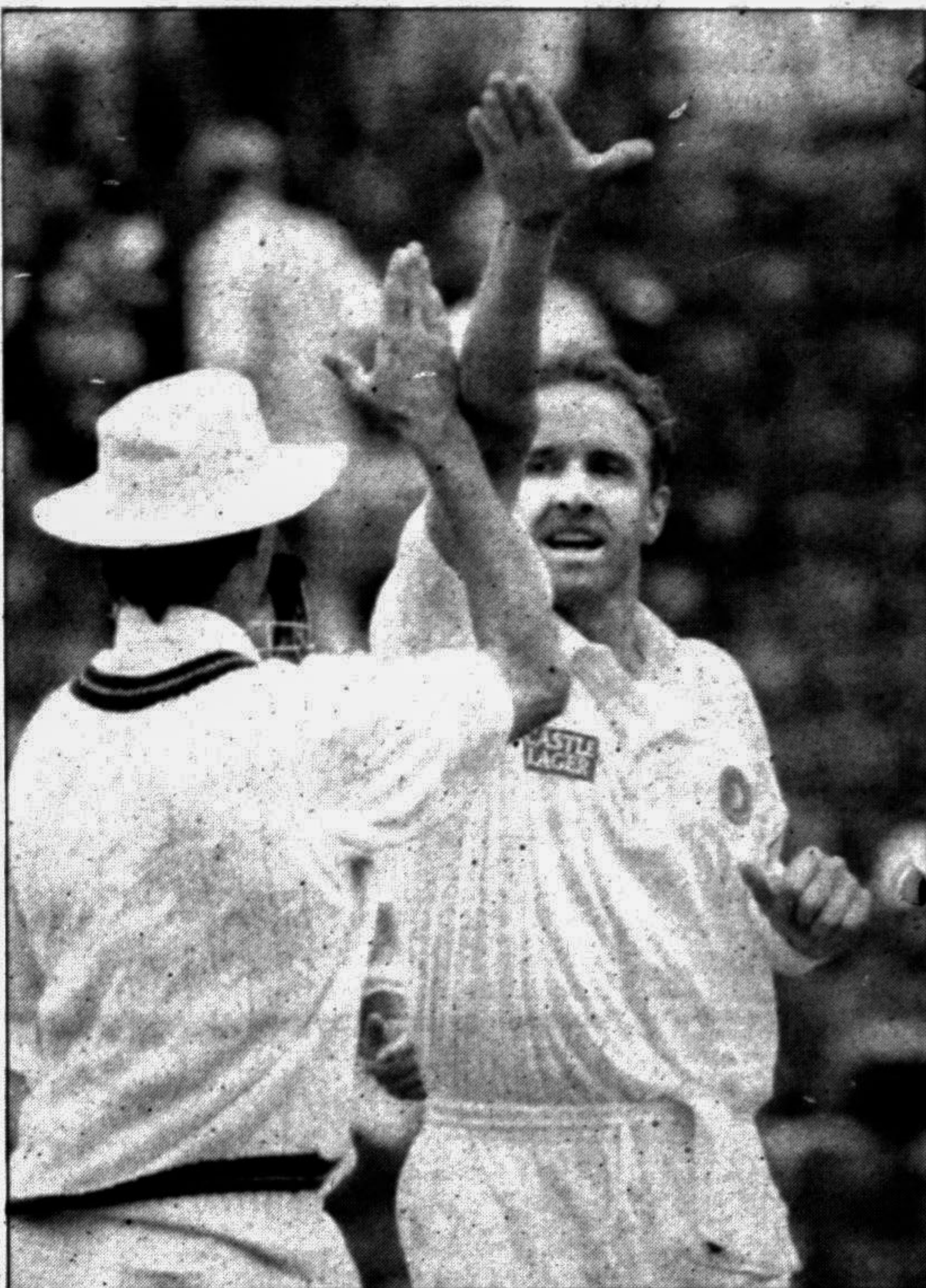
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South African bowler Allan Donald (R) celebrates after taking the wicket of Australian Matthew Hayden during the second day of the first Test at the Wanderers in Johannesburg, South Africa yesterday. — AFP photo

Aussies follow SA track



JOHANNESBURG Mar 5: South Africa ended the second day of the first Test against Australia here today with an overall lead of 45 runs and 10 second innings wickets standing, reports AFP.

Australia could only manage 248 all out in their first knock, failing by three runs to improve on South Africa's mediocre 251 all out posted on Friday.

South African openers Andrew Hudson (22 not out) and Gary Kirsten (17 not out) saw the home side to 42 without loss at the close of play after the visitors were dismissed shortly after tea.

Australia's batsmen, like their South African counterparts on Friday, failed to create any significant partnerships, struggling on a wicket that while providing bounce, was a good batting track.

Two unnecessary run outs broke the back of the Australian innings just when captain Allan Border and Mark Waugh were threatening to build a concrete partnership.

The two had steadied the innings after Australia struggled to 123 for 3 at lunch, but both went out chasing singles that were not on.

Waugh (42) was run out by the Kirsten brothers, Peter providing the throw from the covers to Gary, who broke the stumps.

Border then took on the arm of Jonty Rhodes and lost

when the lightning-quick fielder threw to Gary Kirsten, who again whipped off the balls.

It was left to Steve Waugh to rescue the Australian innings, but eventually he was stranded without partners, finishing on 45 not out, the visitors' highest score.

At one time the Australians looked like passing the South African total as Craig McDermott played his characteristic attacking game before playing leg-before-wicket to Allan Donald.

McDermott hit 31 runs of just 23 balls, but when he departed only three more runs were added to the total before number 11 Tim May was adjudged leg-before for two.

Donald picked up three wickets, but was expensive, conceding 86 runs from just 19 overs.

The normally economical Fanie de Villiers was also hit around the Wanderers Stadium, giving away 74 runs from his 19.3 overs, but also claiming two wickets.

Craig Matthews picked up two wickets for 40 runs and the fourth seamer in the home attack, Brian McMillan, took one wicket for 46 runs.

A feature of the game so far has been the high scoring rate, perhaps a hangover from the four one-day internationals the two sides played in the two weeks before the Test.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the first cricket Test be-

tween South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 251 (J Rhodes 69, G Kirsten 47, M Hughes three for 59, C McDermott three for 63)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 34 for no wicket): Slater c Hudson b De Villiers 26

Hayden c Richardson b Donald 42

Boon c De Villiers b Donald 42

M Waugh run out 34

S Waugh not out 45

Healy b Matthews 11

Hughes c G Kirsten b McMillan 7

Warne lbw b Matthews 15

McDermott lbw b Donald 31

May b De Villiers 2

Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1) 3

Total: 248

Fall of wickets: 1-35; 2-56; 3-70; 4-136; 5-142; 6-169; 7-176; 8-201; 9-245

Bowling: O M R W

Donald 19 0 86 3

De Villiers 19.3 1 74 2

McMillan 14 3 46 1

Matthews 15 4 40 2

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings Hudson not out 22

G Kirsten not out 17

Extras: (lb-2, nb-1) 3

Total: (for no wkt) 42

Bowling: O M R W

McDermott 7 0 15 0

Hughes 6 3 9 0

May 3 1 6 0

S Waugh 3 0 10 0

Overs: 19

McCallum on tenter-hooks



LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Mar 5: Jamaican veteran Mike McCallum stopped Randall Yonker in five rounds here on Friday but a legal right hook prevented him claiming Jeff Harding's WBC light-heavyweight crown, reports AFP.

Promoter and manager Dan Duva had a restraining order from a New Jersey court slapped on the bout preventing any title from being awarded.

The bout was supposed to determine an interim WBC champion for Australia's Harding, who was unable to defend his title against McCallum after being injured in training.

The WBC stripped Harding of the title, which he has not defended since 1991, but said he would be given the chance of fighting for it by facing the winner of Friday's interim contest.

But Duva argued that Canada's Edgerton Marcus was a higher-rated contender and consequently he should have been involved in any interim title challenge.

Although there was no title at stake, the experienced McCallum took Friday's contest deadly seriously.

A flashing left hook early in the fifth sent Yonker down and although he managed to get up on one knee he could not beat

the count.

McCallum, 37, has now won 46 and drawn two of his 49 fights. It was Yonker's third defeat in 32 contests.

Four world title bouts on the same bill failed to produce any new champions but American Orlin Norris was judged lucky to maintain his WBA cruiserweight belt after a controversial split decision over compatriot Arthur Williams.

Although Norris knocked Williams down in the first round, he came under heavy punishment in the second half of the 12-round fight and the decision was roundly booed by the crowd.

Gerald McClellan needed just 97 seconds to retain his WBC middleweight crown.

Gilbert Baptist, a last minute replacement for injured contender Lamar Parks, crumpled down for the count after being caught by a big body punch. It was his second visit to the canvas.

The big-punching McClellan, who has won 30 of 32 fights and 28 inside the distance, is now set for a May 7 rematch with Julian Jackson, who he took the title from last August.

"I'm more than ready for Jackson or anyone else who wants to take me on," McClellan said.

McClellan is due to meet

Jackson on the same night that Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez attempts to regain the WBC light-welterweight crown from Frankie Randall and wipe out the memory of the only defeat of his career.

Julio Cesar Vasquez of Argentina retained his WBA light-middleweight title by stopping Armand Picar of the Philippines in the second round.

Picar lost on the three knockdowns rule after 2 mins 05 secs of the round.

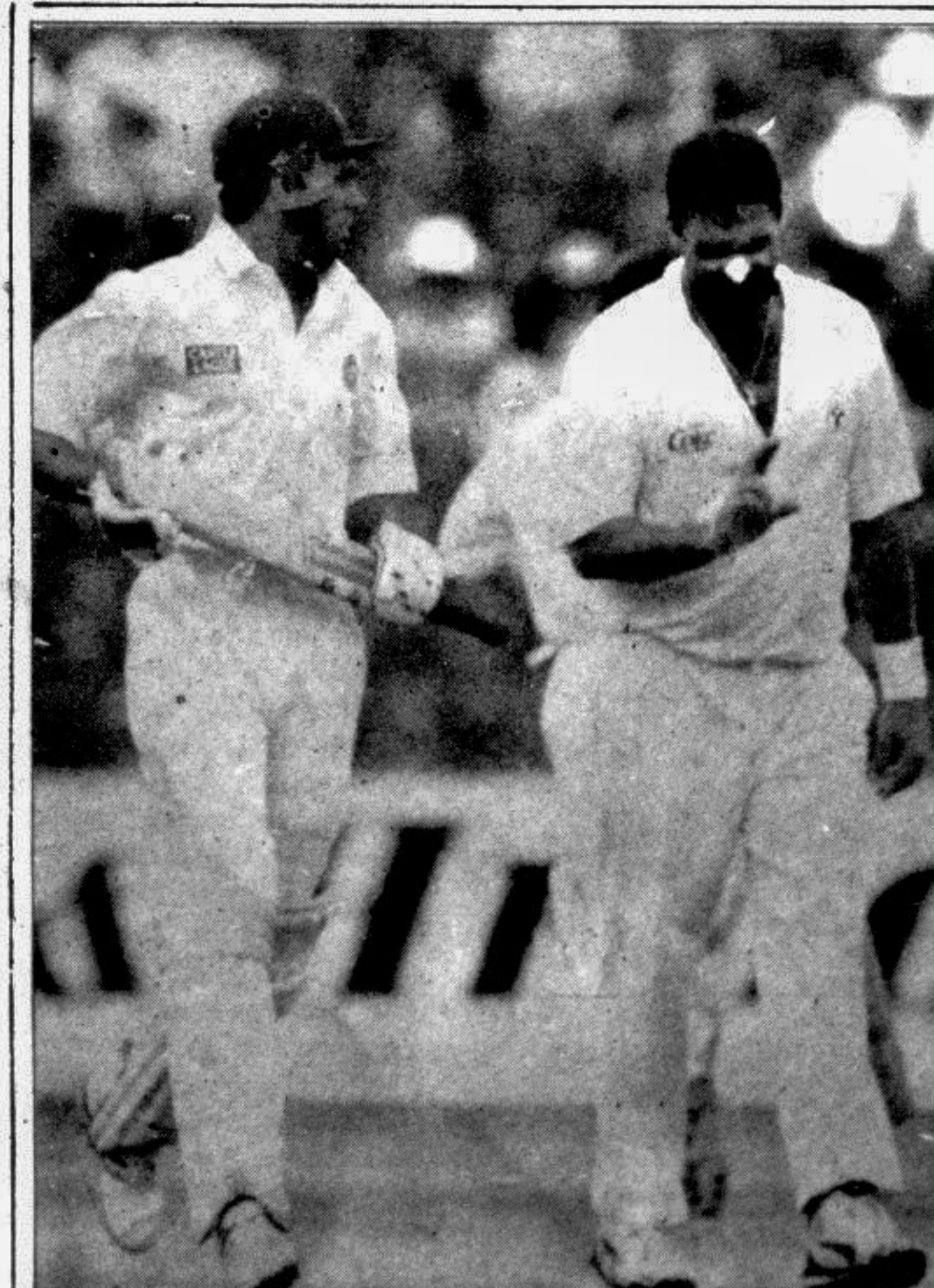
Vasquez, a southpaw, has now won 48 of his 49 fights and stopped 34 opponents inside the distance.

Italy's Gianfranco Rosi kept his IBF light middleweight crown after a clash of heads with American Vincent Pettway in the sixth round the left him with a cut above the left eye.

Treatment could not staunch the flow of blood and the referee declared a technical draw, even though all three judges had the Italian ahead on points.

IBF rules say six rounds must be completed before a victory can be awarded in the event of accidental injury. IBF officials said a quick rematch was likely.

It was Rosi's 11th defence of his title since he dethroned Darrin van Horn in 1989.



Australian opening bowler Merv Hughes checks his action as South African Hansie Cronje takes a run during the first day of the first Test between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Friday. — AFP photo