

Border's traumatic departure

SYDNEY, May 11: Australian cricket captain Allan Border, the world's most prolific batsman, on Wednesday, declared an end to his Test career, reports Reuter.

After 16 years and a world record 156 Test matches, the 38-year-old Border ended months of speculation by announcing his retirement.

But his departure was marked by controversy as Border criticised his employers, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), over the handling of his announcement.

"It was a tough decision for me," Border said. "It is like part of me died."

"Making this decision to retire was a painstaking process. It is done with a heavy heart and it has taken me a lot of weeks to come to this decision."

Border said: "I am basically fed up with all the innuendo and speculation and I am basically telling you officially I am going to retire from international cricket."

Although Border is retiring from Test cricket, he did not say whether he would carry on playing for Queensland in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition and it was unclear late on Wednesday whether he had decided to quit the sport entirely.

But Queensland Cricket Association chief executive Barry Richards immediately issued Border an invitation to carry on.

"I'm sure everyone in Queensland would be delighted if he chose to come back and play for Queensland but that's a decision only Allan can make," Richards said.

Sir Donald Bradman, Australia's most revered batsman, paid tribute to Border.

"Few people, if any, have graced the stage for as long as Allan and he can look back with pride on his achievements," Bradman said in a statement.

"I hope that he now turns to administration where his assistance would be invaluable," Bradman added.

Batsman David Boon, 33, the only player in the current Australian side to have played under a Test captain other than Border, added his salute.

"He's been a great cricketer for Australia for several years and I can fully understand the trauma he has gone through in reaching his decision," Boon said.

Several of Australia's greatest former Test players advised Allan Border today to quit as captain rather than risk being sacked.

Former captain Ian Chappell said the gritty left-handed batsman should stand down end in international career spanning 16 years and 156 Test matches.

"He's given such great service to Australia that I'd hate to see him put himself in a position where he could get the show," Chappell said.

"Given that sort of service, you shouldn't leave it (your future) in the hands of administrators or selectors... I think it's time for a change of direction."

"Should be (Border) continue to play and be unsuccessful that would be a pity," said former Test batsman Doug Walters. "He'll certainly have more to lose than gain if he decides to keep going."

Although Border, who has scored more Test runs than any other player, is reluctant to tour Pakistan, he is understood to relish the idea of defending the Ashes when England visit Australia later in the year.

Another former Test batsman, Norman O'Neill, said Border's fate should rest on his willingness to lead Australia in Pakistan.

"If he's not going to tour to Pakistan, then the ACB (Australian Cricket Board) should rightly tell him it's all over. The game is bigger than the individual," O'Neill said.

Former Test bowler Geoff Lawson said Australia's Test side needed a change of leadership.

Although the overwhelming weight of opinion called for vice-captain Mark Taylor's promotion to the top job, one former Test player, Greg Chappell, urged Border to carry on as captain.

"There would be no more fitting way for him to end his unique association with the game he loves so much than at home against the old enemy England," Greg Chappell said.

But Border said he was angry about the circumstances surrounding the timing of his announcement.

On Tuesday, Australian selectors delayed naming the 15-man squad to tour Pakistan in September, suggesting Border's indecision over his future had prompted their action.

"I am disappointed by some of the comments made by Graham Halibax (ACB chief executive) and Alan Crompton (ACB chairman)," Border said.

"They are saying that I am gumming up the works yet they knew full well that my decision was being made at a press conference (on Thursday). I am very angry."

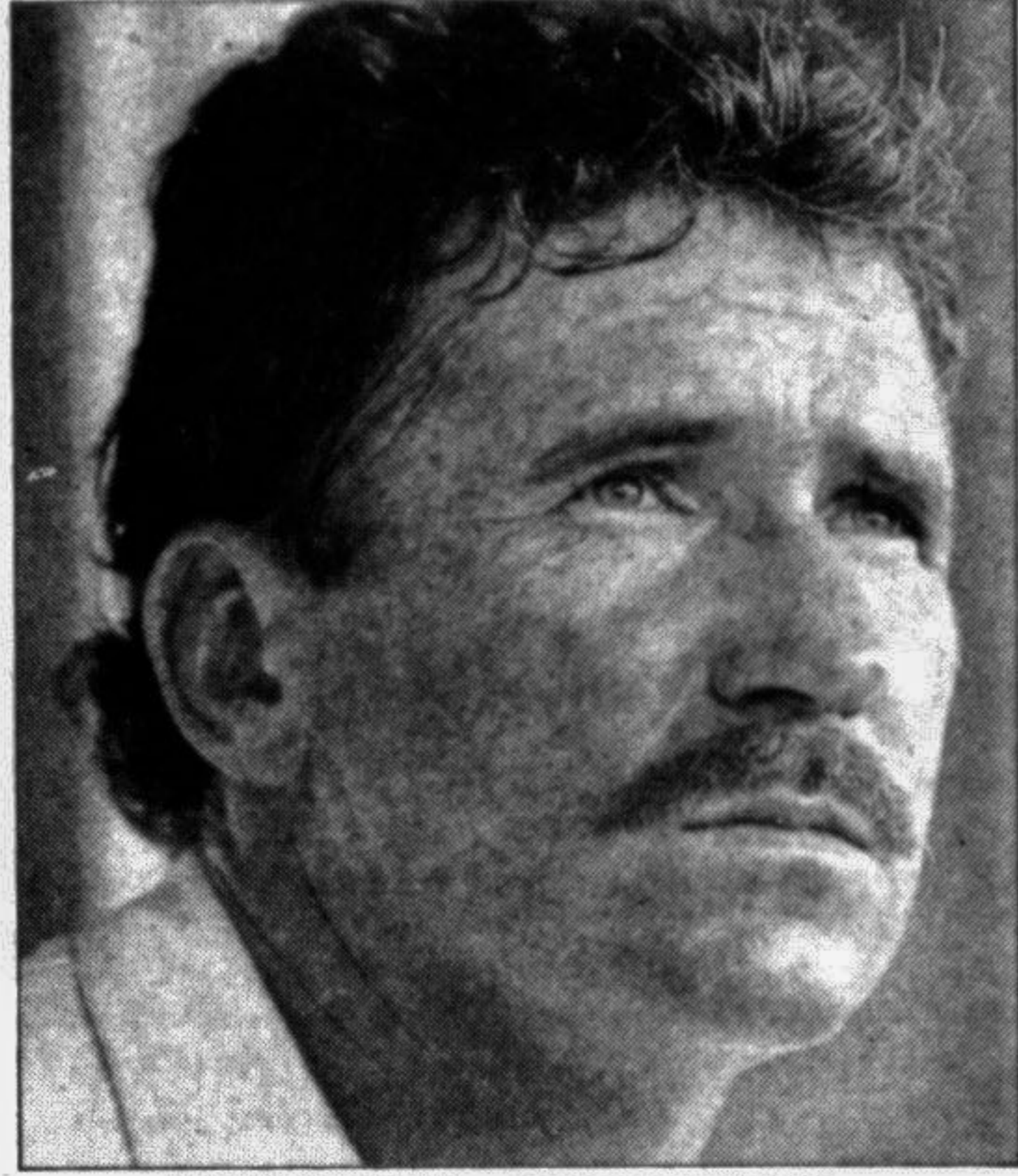
Border had been due to make his announcement at a news conference on Thursday but brought the news forward by a day after the ACB comments and told a TV station in Brisbane.

Border's reign was highlighted by two successful Ashes campaigns, against England on English soil in 1989 and 1993 and Australia's victory in the 1987 World Cup.

He made his Test debut against England in Melbourne in December 1978, amassing 11,174 Test runs at an average of 50.56.

The tenacious left-handed batsman captained his country 93 times, more often than any other Australian, most recently in the drawn third Test against South Africa in Durban in March.

The ACB is expected to name a new captain later this week. Current vice-captain Mark Taylor is favourite to land the job.



ALLAN BORDER ... unceremonious exit

Of a master builder

SYDNEY, May 11: Allan Border's first-class cricket career milestones:

Born-July 27, 1955, Sydney.

Dec 1976 — makes first-class debut for New South Wales v Queensland, scoring 36 and taking three catches.

Nov 1978 — Test debut v England in Melbourne, scoring 29 and 0.

Mar 1979 — first Test century, 105 v Pakistan in Melbourne.

Mar 1980 — first player in history to score 150 in each innings of a Test, 150 not out and 153 v Pakistan in Lahore.

Mar 1984 — scores 98 not out and 100 not out in the 2nd Test v West Indies in Trinidad, a performance he rates as his finest with the bat.

Dec 1984 — first Test as Australian captain, 3rd Test v West Indies in Adelaide. Australia lose by 191 runs.

Mar 1986 — threatens to quit after losing the three-Test series in New Zealand 1-0. Withdraws threat after the one-day series is drawn 2-2.

Nov 1987 — captains Australia to first World Cup triumph in the final against England in Calcutta.

Dec 1987 — hits his highest Test score (205) in the 2nd Test against New Zealand in Adelaide. Passes Sir Donald Bradman and Greg Chappell to become Australia's leading Test run-scorer.

Dec 1987 — a draw in the third Test against New Zealand gives Australia a 1-0 series victory — his first as captain.

Dec 1988 — plays his 100th Test against West Indies in Melbourne.

Jan 1989 — takes 7-46 and 4-50 — his best bowling figures and the best by an Australian against West Indies — in 4th Test in Sydney.

Aus 1989 — Australia regain the Ashes in England for the first time in 55 years with victory in the fourth Test series won 4-0.

May 1991 — plays his 125th Test, tying the world record set by Indian Sunil Gavaskar.

Nov 1992 — fined for abuse of umpires after the drawn first Test against West Indies in Brisbane.

Jan 1993 — passes 10,000 runs in the 3rd Test against West Indies in Sydney.

Feb 1993 — passes Gavaskar's world record of 10,122 runs during the 1st Test against New Zealand in Christchurch.

Aus 1993 — leads Australia to a 4-1 series victory in England, capped by an unbeaten 200 at Leeds.

Jan 1994 — plays last Test in Australia in the 3rd Test win over South Africa in Adelaide.

Mar 1994 — captains the first official Australian side to South Africa in 24 years, series drawn 1-1.

May 11, 1994 — announces his retirement from international cricket.

Fletcher denies rumours

LONDON, May 11: England cricket team manager Keith Fletcher on Tuesday scotched media suggestions there was a rift between himself and new chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth, reports Reuter.

Fletcher was concerned by recent reports speculating that he and Illingworth, who was appointed only last March, were already falling to see eye to eye.

Former England captain Fletcher said: "I've known Ily for 30 years, and we actually think alike on so many matters. People should not think there is a problem between Ily and myself that's just not on."

Ily has not changed. He still speaks his mind but there are occasions when what he says is misconstrued.

"I believe that we can act very much as a team. We will all have our say in selection but my main job will be to prepare the side for the match in hand."

On Sunday, Illingworth had publicly criticised Fletcher for failing to pin down Graham Gooch on the question of whether he had a change of heart and would tour Australia later this year.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 CSA president

6 Seafood offering

12 Bicycle-seat style

13 Westerns author

14 Yearbook

15 Even the score

16 Authentic

17 Lane with many curves?

19 CIA fore-runner

20 O'Hara estate

22 "— Rosen-kavalier"

24 Broadcast

27 Celtics emeritus

29 Where the Vikings landed

32 "Hush!"

35 See to

36 Filmom's Elephant Boy

37 Deposit

38 Begley Sr.

and Jr.

40 Cheer

42 Assn.

44 "Brian's Song"

46 Cartoonist

50 Less of Louis

52 Female warrior of legend

54 Wrecked

55 Cut aid

56 Inebriated

57 Singer Della

DOWN

1 Victor Borge, e.g.

2 Patty Duke book.

"Call Me —"

3 Leap

4 Once — while

5 IRS data

6 Potential sculpture

7 Col-lapsed, with "in"

8 Soul, on the Seine

9 Amusement-park transport

10 Prize-fighters

11 Angers

12 Slot-machine symbol

18 Hillary's predecessor

21 Stomach muscles, for short

23 Ostrich's cousin

24 Suitable — de France

26 Apostate

28 Suave

30 Stephen of "The Crying Game"

31 Pen

33 Do arithmetic

34 Status —

39 It's part of the act

41 Occupation

42 Responsibility

43 Dollars for quarters?

45 "O, my Luve is like —"

47 Arms of terrorism

48 Clavicle, e.g.

49 Chemical suffix

51 AAA job

53 Curly's companion.

Solution time: 24 mins.

J A B L A M B S H A H
A G E A B T E W I N E
D I S T R E S S O D O R
E N T A I L I W O
G A L D O N A T E
F L O U T L E O P A L
L O I S D I S S E M I
A N N P U P F I X E S
B I K E R S O A T
J O T S C A M P I
J A N E M I S T R E S S
O P E C O L I O S I L
B E E T P E E R S S E

Yesterdays answer 9-11

CRYPTOQUIP

I G . I D X R Q X Y G Y V G K P
P X Y G S B - W Q Z B X Q , 2
R F K P 2 V P Z 4 - W G S X
Y G S Y F K P V G S .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: UNTALENTED DRESS DESIGNER'S BUSINESS IS HANGING BY A THREAD.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals P

The Cryptoquip 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.

BFF to bear out DMFA a hand

Sports Reporter

With the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) out of its depth to secure the threatened future of this year's troubled DMFA Cup, Bangladesh Football Federation, the supreme body for country's football, has entered a rather chaotic and boiling arena, to bail out its subsidiary body.

Azzur Rahman, who is also the senior vice president of the BFF, presided over the unscheduled meeting at the BFF office.

However, the main purpose of the meeting was denied by the conspicuous absence of Salman F Rahman, a BFF member and a supreme of Abahani Krira Chakra Limited, whose decision to boycott the curtain-raising meet of this year's domestic football season has given a new twist to a lingering stalemate.

Abahani decided to stay away from the meet once the organisers rescheduled the meet following a bickering with Mohammedan Sporting Club. Last year's champions Mohammedans carried out a strong campaign that verged on brinkmanship to wring out some time on grounds of inadequate prep time. After a war of words and letters, the DMFA buckled under mounting pressure from the popular club bringing partial if not full change in the fixture and that gave Abahani, an equally popular team the handle it needed. Attributing it to the question of ethics announced their turn of boycott after having played their first match of the second round of the now suspended DMFA Cup.

The DMFA, which had failed in its earlier bids to cool Abahani, will resume its adjourned meeting for a breakthrough. With the BFF down to business too, it looks like the stalemate may finally give way to a sensible and desirable conclusion.

BHF picks 26 for residential camp

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) which is yet to decide on the proposed participation of a Bangladeshi Eleven in the Him Gold Cup hockey tournament in India, yesterday culled 26 players for the residential camp.

The selected players, who are expected to huddle up at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP), shortly will train to take part in the Him Gold Cup beginning in the Indian State of Himachal from June 1. The meet is likely to serve as a warm-up for the Bangladesh hockey team which will participate in the Hiroshima Asiad scheduled to begin in October.

But BHF, which termed the preparatory period for the warm-up tournament as very short, will rely on the coaches' report before taking decision regarding participation.

Ehtesham Sultan, the head trainer and Nurul Islam, his deputy, are expected to put the authorities in the picture within ten days, for a decision. If the decision is positive then a finally selected 16 players will take part in the meet that is reported to have all the matches played on natural turf. But the Bangladesh team will certainly miss the experience of veteran striker Jamil Parvez Lulu who was not called by BHF after his refusal to join the national camp earlier.

The selected players are: Rahmat Ali, Mamunur Rashid, Khurshid Alam, Abdullah Piru, Mahabub Harun, Abu Zafar Tapan and Alamgir Alam of Abahani KC, Mahfuj Alam Nixon, Haider Alam, and Mohammed Sadek of Mohammedan SC, Tushar Kanti Halder, Irteza Kader Guddu, Rabl Uddin, Zahirul Islam Mitul, Rafiqul Islam Kamal and Ehtesham of Usha KC, Isa Miah, Shahiduzaman and Biaka Lusal of Meriner Youngs, Jahangir Alam, Moksed and Shajahan of Bangladesh Army, Shamim and Musa Miah of Ajax and Tutul Kumar of Azad SC.

The selected players have been asked to report by 5 pm at the Hockey Stadium today.

Lablu leads

Sports Reporter

Saifuddin Lablu of BTMC took the solo lead in the qualifying round of the 20th national chess championship after the fourth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council (NSC) yesterday.

Div II qualifying cricket results

Protiva Jubo and Samaj Kalyan, Srizan Krira and Sangskritik and Muradpur Cricket Club won their respective matches in the qualifying round of the Lotus-Kamal Second Division cricket league played at the different city grounds yesterday, reports UNB.

Lara's purple patch ends

LONDON, May 11: Young Middlesex bowler Richard Johnson needed only one ball to achieve what men of greater experience have tried and dismally failed to do in the past month: He stopped Brian Lara's prolific run feast, reports agencies.

For the first time in five innings, Lara failed to reach three figures. The 19-year-old Johnson bowled the West Indian batsman for 34 with his first ball to the world record-holder in a second-round match Tuesday in the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Despite Lara's relative failure, Warwickshire scrambled to a three-wicket win over Middlesex, reaching the target of 151 with 10 balls to spare.

Lara sparked a stylish run chase with seven boundaries in his 47-ball innings, but was out when he inside-edged a defensive push on to his wicket.

After Lara's dismissal, Warwickshire's attack struggled against the bowling of Johnson and Paul Weekes, who took two wickets in two overs. Trevor Penney, top scorer with 39, and captain Dermot Reeve, with 23, then steadied the chase with a 70-run partnership to set up the win.

Lara, who set the world single-innings record when he scored 375 against England last month, had scored 147, 106 and 120 in his first three first-class innings with the county team.

All-rounder Dominic Cork blasted a match-winning 64 not out from 34 balls as holders Derbyshire inflicted more Benson and Hedges Cup torment on Lancashire.

Cork, who played a key role when Derbyshire beat Lan-



BRIAN LARA 284 for six with one ball to spare.

needed 71 off the last seven overs.

Cork stylishly sealed his side's place in the quarter-finals by pulling paceman Mike Watkinson for four and six off the fourth and fifth deliveries of the final over.

Graham Gooch marked his 100th Benson and Hedges tie with a brilliant, unbeaten 130 as Essex beat Leicestershire by eight wickets at Chelmsford.

Former England captain Gooch, who hit a six and 17 fours, added 111 in 18 overs for the second wicket with Nasser Hussain, who contributed 59 in 64 balls.

Gooch atoned for dropping West Indian opener Phil Simmons before he had scored. Simmons made 57 but Leicestershire's 241 for nine never looked good enough.

England batsman Graeme Hick hammered an unbeaten 104 as Worcestershire coasted to an eight-wicket win over Durham at Stockton, where paceman Phil Newport took the gold award for the winners after a spell of three for 14 in his 11 overs.

Durham made 190 eight and although Worcestershire lost captain Tim Curtis to the second ball of the innings, Hick and Australian Tom Moody (65 not out) shared an unbroken third wicket stand of 138.

Former England batsman Tim Robinson hit an unbeaten 91 and put on 163 with West Indian Jimmy Adams (86) as Nottinghamshire beat Sussex by seven wickets at Trent Bridge.

Robinson hit eight fours in his three-hour innings while third-wicket partner Adams, playing his first season in county cricket, struck one six, a five and seven fours.

1997 to see the last of Lewis

RALEIGH, North Carolina, May 11: Eight-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis said on Tuesday that 1997 absolutely would be his last year of competition, reports Reuter.

The 32-year-old Lewis, the world's dominant sprinter and long jumper for much of the past decade, also indicated that the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, could be his last major championships.

"The absolute latest will be 1997," Lewis told Reuters in a telephone interview from his Houston office when asked how long he planned to continue competing. "And even if I run in '97, I'm not sure I'll compete in the World Championships."

Fully recovered from a back injury that hampered his running last year, the 100-metre world record holder quickly let it be known, though, that he did not plan to ease into retirement.

"I feel I can go undefeated in the 100 and long jump this year," said Lewis, who has a 100-metres matchup with Olympic and world champion Linford Christie scheduled for the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg, Russia, in July.

The competition will be one of his main motivations for the season, Lewis said, but he refused to concede that his British rival's "time" has come as the world's top sprinter.

"It doesn't work that way," Lewis said. "We don't have this



CARL LEWIS

big lord who picks people's time," that's proven on the track, and in 15 years of running, I've learned it's very easy to talk and more difficult to do it on the track.

"I don't think he had a spectacular year last year," Lewis said of Christie, who came within one-hundredth of a second of Lewis's 100-metre world record of 9.86 seconds in winning the World Championship gold. "And I don't think Linford would have won in the '92 in the Olympics if I hadn't been ill earlier."

Lewis said he and his Santa Monica Track Club teammates, who last month lowered the world 800-metre relay record to 1:18.68, also were hopeful of smashing the 400-metre relay record this year.

"We have three meets set up — Arnsberg, Germany, on May 29, Hengelo (Netherlands) on June 4 and the Goodwill Games — and our goal is to break the record," Lewis said.

The team already has run 37.9 second, this spring, just off the world record of 37.40 shared by two US teams.

Lewis also said he soon would be launching his own brand of shoes after not renewing a contact with a Japanese shoe company.

The shoes, being developed by a US firm, will be marketed by Lewis's company, King Karl, which previously offered only clothing.

France gears up '98 WC plans

PARIS, May 11: FIFA could decide next week to increase the number of finalists in the 1998 World Cup to 32 from the current 24 — and hosts France are expecting world soccer chief Joao Havelange's proposals to be approved, reports Reuter.

"The FIFA executive committee should take a final decision during its meeting next week but we are now working on the basis of 32 teams," Fernand Sastre, joint president of the 1998 World Cup Organising Committee, said on Monday.

Sastre and copresident Michel Platini, captain of France's 1984 European

championship-winning team, said they were drawing up their 1998 plans to cater for a tournament of 32 teams.

"We will have to organise 64 matches over a period of 32 or 33 days," Sastre told a news conference at St Denis, outside Paris, where an 80,000-capacity stadium will be built.

Havelange put forward his proposal to add eight teams to the World Cup tournament at a meeting with the presidents of the five international confederations in Zurich on April 5 at which he won their support for another four-year team as head of world soccer's governing body.

Sastre then told FIFA in Vienna near the end of last month that France could handle a 32-team tournament

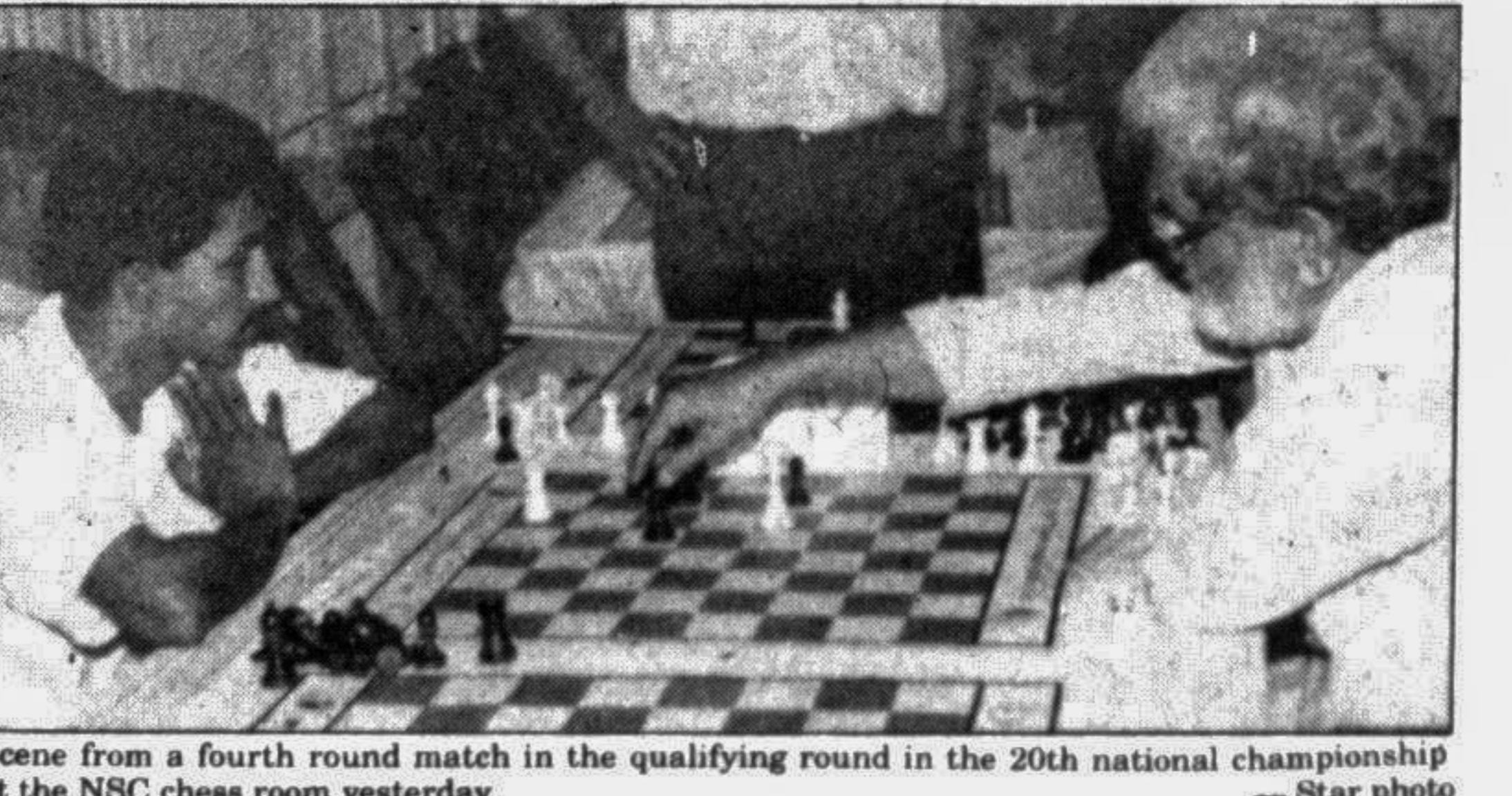
there would be no sporting problems, only some financial questions to be resolved, he said.

He told the St Denis news conference that of 12 cities bidding to be chosen as venues, eight to 10 would be picked.

"The list will be announced officially after the agreement of FIFA and the French government (which would give financial help)," he added.

There would be eight groups of four teams each. Two groups would alternate among three stadiums with each venue holding at least one match involving a seeded team.

Platini said the draw for the qualifying rounds would take place in December 1993.



Scene from a fourth round match in the qualifying round in the 20th national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday. — Star photo