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Scene from the fifth round of the qualifying meet for the 20th national championship at the NSC chess room yesterday.

— Star photo

## ACB's salve for Border



SYDNEY, May 12: Allan Border was offered one of the country's top cricket coaching jobs today less than 24 hours after announcing his retirement from international cricket with a bitter attack on the game's hierarchy, report agencies.

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chairman Alan Crompton said an earlier job offer still stood despite Border's broadside on Wednesday.

Border, 38, Australian captain for the last 10 years and the international game's most prolific run scorer, accused the ACB of failing to treat him with respect over their handling of his retirement announcement.

"I thought I deserved better," Border told Channel Seven in Brisbane on Tuesday. "It's very disappointing."

"As far as the job goes, may be it might be questioned but if it is... had luck," Border added, referring to the long-standing offer to work in a coaching and advisory position for the ACB on his retirement.

But Crompton said he did not believe Border had affected his standing with the ACB and hoped he would accept the job.

"My experience of life is that apparent crises of today are the forgotten issues of tomorrow," Crompton said.

"I can see no reason why anything that's happened will alter anything at all in the future, and particularly the excellent communication with Allan we've always had in the past."

Border, meanwhile, told a press conference in Brisbane that he planned to continue playing Sheffield Shield cricket for the Queensland state team next season — but not as captain.

"I've had enough of being captain. It's a tough job," he said. Queensland never have won the Sheffield Shield despite trying for the past 62 years.

Crompton refused to respond to Border's criticism of the ACB and Border played down the conflict at his press conference.

"It's just been a breakdown in communications. I've accepted the Cricket Board's explanation," he said.

Crompton said Border had made a huge impact since succeeding Kim Hughes as skipper in 1984.

"Allan border is, of course, a great Australian who has made a magnificent contribution to Australian cricket," he said.

## Inter Milan win UEFA Cup



MILAN, May 12: A lone goal by Dutchman Wim Jonk sealed Internazionale Milan's success in four seasons with a 1-0 win over Salzburg in the second leg of the final on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Inter's 2-0 aggregate victory, following a 1-0 win in the first leg in Austria, helped them forget a disastrous domestic season in which they came close to relegation.

Both teams could have scored on numerous occasions in an action-packed encounter as the dogged Austrians battled to break through Inter's defence and the Italians led countless charges into their opponents' half.

But it was not until the 62nd minute that a sharp shot from Jonk sent Inter clear, and their fans in an 80,000 crowd packed inside the cavernous San Siro Stadium into delirium.

Salzburg, only the third Austrian team to reach a European club final, struggled in the first half as Inter swarmed through their defence without ever managing to capitalise on their numerous chances.

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp squandered the best opportunities, twice finding himself clear in the area only to meet his match in the shape of Salzburg goalkeeper Otto Konrad, who managed to block both blows.

Uruguayan striker Ruben Sosa also created a fine chance for himself from a dreadful defensive error, forcing space in the area, but then slipping the ball past the left hand post.

The Austrians suddenly found their form in the second half, tearing holes through a sleepy Inter defence only to be constantly denied by an inspired performance from goalkeeper Walter Zenga.

Salzburg's Brazilian striker Marquino led a counter-attack in the 51st minute, but his powerful shot from outside the area was just palmed clear by the diving Zenga.

Seconds later the unlucky Marquino delivered another thudding long-distance strike, only to see the ball brush Zenga's fingers and rebound off a post, onto the other and out of the goalmouth.

Stung into life, Inter finally

discovered their scoring touch, a pass from Sosa finding Jonk unmarked and allowing the Dutchman to score from a tight position on the left post.

The only bad news for Inter came with an injury to forward David Fontolan, who had to be taken from the field on a stretcher after a bruising tackle in the 67th minute.

Italy's World Cup squad is named on Thursday with Fontolan on the shortlist of hopefuls.

The victory was an enormous relief for Inter, booking the rich Italian club a place in European competition next

"I prayed a lot and God was listening," Inter's delighted president Ernesto Pellegrini said after the game.

Pellegrini also thanked veteran former Italy international Zenga. "He was the best player on the field."

Inter coach Giampiero Marini was Magnanimous in victory. "Salzburg were the strongest side we've faced in the UEFA cup," he said. "But I believe we deserved to win."

Spinner Anwar's haul of five wickets paved the way for Raktim Sangha's 40-run win over Sachetan Goshthi.

Scores: Raktim 155 all out in 32.4 overs. Komol 40. Sajal 4/32, Swapan 3/28.

Sachetan all out for 112 in 32.4 overs. Pradeep 35 and Swapan 21. Anwar 5/16.

Habu Smriti Sangsas cantered past Rainbow cricketers by six wickets in another match, played on the adjacent western strip of the DCS.

Rainbow all out for 83 in 26.3 overs. Mamun 4/9. Habu Sangsas 85 for four in 17.4 overs. Shanto 37 n.o.

Truant booters

### BFF only sorry

Sports Reporter

The voluntary venture of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) to drive away the looming clouds on this year's Dhaka Metropolis Football Association (DMFA) Cup apparently fizzled into nothingness yesterday.

Abahani Krira Chakra, who had earlier decided to boycott the curtain-raiser for this year's domestic football season on grounds of inconsistency on the part of the organisers DMFA did not alter their stance till last night. One of the top clubs Abahani pulled out of the tournament after playing one match when the organisers not before a melodramatic conflict with Mohammadians, the other heavyweights of local football, changed the scheduled and all hell broke loose.

Reigning champions Mohammadians had earlier been agitating for a deferment of the meet alluding to inadequate prep time.

The eventual change in the dates prompted Abahani to offer their turn of resistance and the deadlock was well and truly underway leading to an abrupt suspension of the meet.

The cherished breakthrough looked quite remote till yesterday as the two meetings — one of the DMFA and the other more informal BFF sponsored one at the house of BFF president and Communications Minister Oli Ahmed ended with the latter only expressing its concern in a press release.

The DMFA will hold another round of meeting today and sources say this parley could prove decisive towards unravelling the mystified and threatened future of the third DMFA Cup.

"That win, and the ticker-tape parade back home, are among my greatest memories," he said.

Crompton said the board would meet to discuss the ramifications of Border's resignation in the near future and the matter of his coaching and advisory position would be one of the topics covered.

The Australian touring team to Sri Lanka and Pakistan will not now be announced until next week and the Australians will have to find a replacement captain.

Vice-captain Mark Taylor, veteran batsman David Boon, Steve Waugh and Ian Healy are among those in contention.

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In parliament, both Prime Minister Paul Keating and opposition leader John Hewson paid tribute to Border's leadership qualities.

Border, meanwhile, said one of the major disappointments of his 10-year captaincy was his failure to defeat the West Indies in a Test series, while the highlight was Australia's Ashes win against England in 1989.

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