



OLD IS GOLD: Army's veteran sprinter Golam Ambia races to the gold in men's 100m dash with a timing of 10.89 seconds ahead of BJMC's star sprinter Bimal Tarafdar. Bimal the fastest man of South Asia clocked 10.91 to settle for the silver on the first day of the two-day Power Summer Athletics which began at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Ambia, Feroza retain crowns

Sports Reporter

Veteran serviceman Golam Ambia held the youthful challenge of South East Asia's fastest man at bay to retain his throne in the domestic circuit on the opening day of the 12th Power Summer Athletics which got underway at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The sprint stalwart of Bangladesh Army clocked 10.89 seconds to pip Bimal Chandra Tarafdar, the sensation of the Sixth SAF Games to the post to claim the gold medal in men's 100m dash.

Bimal of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) who became the toast of country's sports lovers with a brilliant dash to set a new SAF record last December, came second in photo finish with a timing of 10.91 seconds.

Emdadul Huq Ranju of Customs topped the bronze medal with 10.95 seconds.

Tradition was a battle against novelty in women's scenario too.

Feroza Khatun of Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporation (BJMC) retained her mantle as the fastest woman of the country winning the 100 gold for her 12.62 seconds effort.

Rehana Parveen of Customs bagged the silver with a timing of 12.80 seconds.

Nitufar Yasmin (BTMC) finished third for her timing of 12.98 seconds.

Feroza completed a day of resounding success when she took the gold in women's 100m hurdles. She took 16.38 seconds.

Rita Barooah of Customs bagged the silver clocking 19.55 seconds.

Rimi of BTMC pocketed the bronze timing 19.99 seconds.

Fifteen events were settled on the opening day of the two-day meet and BJMC led the table with a haul of 13 medals including six golds.

They were closely followed by Bangladesh Army who bagged ten medals four of them being golds.

Navy took two golds to stay in the third position with a haul of three medals.

Stewart upsets Chinese plans

ROME, Sept 2: Zimbabwe's Even Stewart upset the favoured Chinese diver to win his country's first ever gold medal at the World Swimming Championships Friday, reports AP.

American diver Brian Earley took the bronze.

In a contest played under gray skies and in showery weather, China's Lan Wei needed only a modest final dive to collect an expected victory in the first final of the championships, the men's 1-meter springboard. But, he scored only 6s and 6.5s for a backward 2 1/2 somersault.

Stewart, by contrast, produced the best dive of the tournament only a minute earlier in the sixth and final round of dives. His inward 2 1/2 somersault, the toughest dive of the competition, earned him 76.50 points, including an 8.00.

Popov's anguish

ROME, Sept 2: No one in the world swims 100 metres nearly as fast as Russia's Alexander Popov, and he's disappointed.

Popov, in Rome for the World Swimming Championships, fears the lack of competition hurts his chances for lowering his world record of 48.21 seconds, reports AP.

"There are many great swimmers, but they're still about a second behind me," the 23-year-old freestyler said Friday.

And Popov, who races the 100 freestyle here Wednesday, said he needs tight competition to be able to improve his results.

Four-nation World Series begins tomorrow

Pakistan ready to roll



COLOMBO, Sept 2: World Champions Pakistan are confident of adding another trophy to their crowded cupboard when the four-nation World Series tournament starts here Sunday, reports AFP.

The Pakistanis have not lost a limited-overs competition since lifting the World Cup in 1992, are in no mood to start now.

"We want to win everything," team manager Intikhab Alam said today as his team prepared to face India, Australia and hosts Sri Lanka in the two-week event.

"We are rated the best team in one-day cricket. We do not want to let that reputation slip," said Intikhab, a former Pakistani Test captain.

Led by the fiery pace duo of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, and backed by a solid batting line-up, Pakistan have enjoyed an unprecedented run in the last two seasons.

They have scalped New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in one-to-one series, besides winning limited overs tournament in Sharjah.

Pakistan start the World Series with the advantage of spending the last two months in Sri Lanka, where they thrashed the home side 4-1 in the one-day series and went on the win both Test matches in under four days.

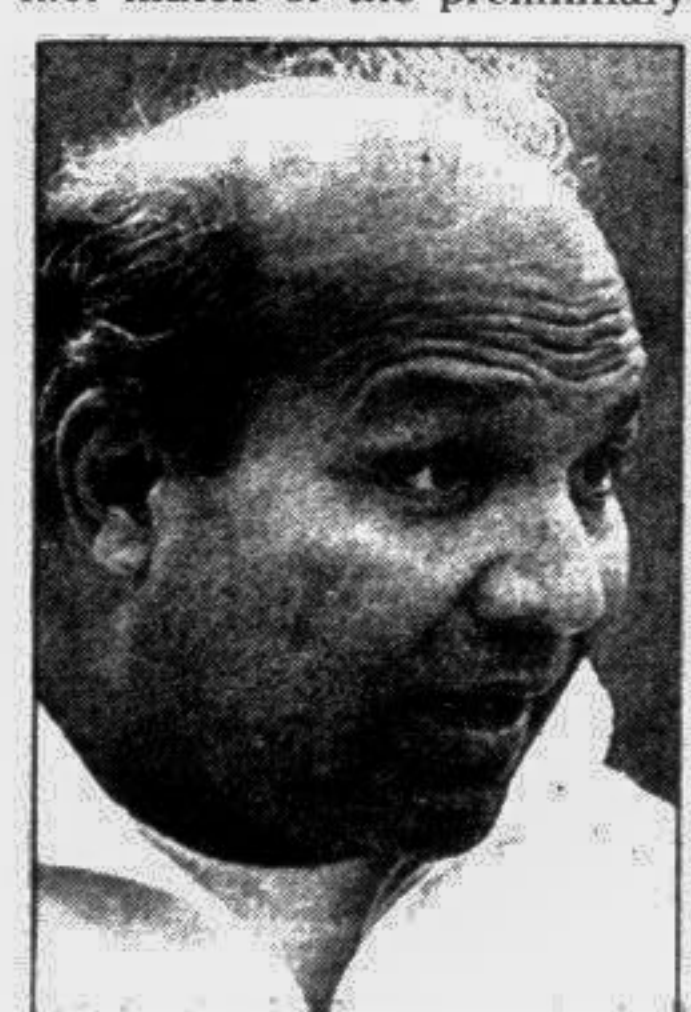
Intikhab agreed Pakistan were overwhelming favourites to win the tournament, but warned his team against being complacent.

"One-day cricket is very unpredictable. Everything depends on how a team plays on a particular day," he said. "Besides, the other teams will put their best foot forward against us."

Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, still ranked by his team's humiliating defeat against Pakistan in the Australasia Cup final at Sharjah in April, is thirsty for revenge.

"We can win the tournament if we play to our potential, but winning against Pakistan is our top priority," the stylish middle-order batsman said.

India and Pakistan will clash on September 15 in the last match of the preliminary



INTIKHAB ALAM

league where each team plays the other once. The top two teams in the league will contest the final on September 17.

India kick off Sri Lanka's biggest cricket event with a day-night match against the home team at the Premadasa Stadium, the venue of four matches including the final.

Australia, who are scheduled to tour Pakistan after the tournament, will assess the potential of their new-look team under Mark Taylor, the successor to the retired Allan Border.

The Australians have included three spinners.

Including the celebrated Shane Warne, in their 15-member squad, hoping to exploit the turning wickets in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN: Salim Malik (capt), Saeed Anwar, Aamer Sohail, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Basit Ali, Asif Mujtaba, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif (wicket-keeper), Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Rameez Raja, Ashfaq Ahmed, Akram Raza, Zahid Fazal, Kabir Khan.

INDIA: Mohammad Azharuddin (Capt), Navjot Singh, Sachin Tendulkar, Manoj Prabhakar, Ajay Jadeja, Vinod Kambli, Atul Badade, Kapil Dev, Nayan Mongia (wicket-keeper), Javagal Srinath, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Venkatesh Prasad, Venkatapathy Raju, Prashant Vaidya.

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (Capt), David Boon, Michael Bevan, Mark Waugh, Michael Slater, Steve Waugh, Justin Langer, Ian Healy (wicket-keeper), Craig McDermott, Jo Angel, Damien Fleming, Glen McGrath, Shane Warne, Tim May, Gavin Robertson.

SRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (Capt), Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Sanath Jayasuriya, Dulip Samarawera, Sanjeev Ranatunga, Hashan Tillekaratne, Upul Chandana, Rubudun Dassanayake (wicket-keeper), Ruwan Kalpage, Kumar Dharmasena, Chanda Vass, Pramodya Wickramasinghe, Muttiah Muralidharan, Ravindra Pushpakurama.

FIXTURES

Sept 4: India v. Sri Lanka
Sept 7: Pakistan v. Australia
Sept 9: India v. Australia
Sept 11: Pakistan v. Sri Lanka
Sept 13: Australia v. Sri Lanka
Sept 15: India v. Pakistan
Sept 17: Final.

Agassi fends Forget off



NEW YORK, Sept 2: Andre Agassi survived a scare from Frenchman Guy Forget before rolling to a 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2 victory at the US Open tennis championships early today, reports Reuter.

Agassi, 24, struggling to get his game back after a rocky year, was up 5-2 in the third set before his powerful groundstrokes and quick returns sputtered, allowing Forget back into the match.

Serving for the match at 5-3, Agassi dropped his serve and let Forget off the hook again when he sent a backhand wide. Forget held serve to even the set at 5-5.

Agassi jumped to a 2-0 lead in the tiebreak but lost four consecutive points and Forget, 29, won it 7-5 with a backhand return winner.

Finally, Agassi regained control of the match by taking a 3-1 lead in the final set and reached the third round when Forget missed the return on the first match point, ending the nearly three-hour-long Stadium Court match.

Forget, who is still trying to get his game back on track after knee surgery last September, fired 17 aces past Agassi, the 1992 Wimbledon champion who has been beset by injuries, including a wrist that required surgery.

In the featured women's match of Thursday night, Mary Pierce of France fought off a determined Katarina Stutenikova of Slovakia to advance to the third round with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 victory.

Pierce, the French Open runner up, had a 5-2 lead in the third set, but Stutenikova, 103rd in the world, came back to make it 5-4. Pierce, who said a stomach ache bothered her in the match, rebounded to put down the uprising with a two-fisted backhand winner

down the line.

In Thursday's daymatches, defending champion Steffi Graf, hunting for a fourth Open title, romped past Sandra Cacic of the US 6-0, 6-2 in just 55 minutes to reach the third round of this two-week tournament.

Graf showed no signs of her recent back woes, complaining on Thursday only of not being challenged enough by Cacic.

"I think I would have preferred to play a little bit tougher match today. I want to be pushed more than that," said Graf, who didn't face a single break point and who has lost just five games in two matches.

But Ivan Lendl, battleworn at 34, was forced to quit because of an aching back against German Bernd Karbacher. Lendl, a three-time Open champion who also was forced out with an injury last year, was leading two sets when he quit.

Sergi Bruguera of Spain, a two-time French Open winner, reached the third round with a 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 victory over 107th-ranked Russian Andrei Olhovskiy.

"I know I can beat a lot of players here. It doesn't really surprise me that I won one or two matches," Bruguera said.

Ninth-seeded American Todd Martin advanced with a 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Russian Andrei Chesnokov, and 15th-seed Marc Rosset of Switzerland made it to the third round by beating Sweden's Nicklas Kulti 6-4, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2.

The 48th-ranked Richey Reneberg, who eliminated Boris Becker in the first round, beat Spain's Jordi Burillo 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 and 68th-ranked German Markus Zoccke, Ivanisevic's conqueror, beat Robbie Weiss of the US 6-1, 7-5, 6-2.

Sixth seed Lindsay Davenport, the highest-ranked American in the women's draw, easily eliminated Pam Shriver 6-1, 6-2.

American 10th seed Zina Garrison Jackson, in her 15th consecutive US Open, beat Argentine newcomer Paola Suarez 6-4, 6-3.

Mark Ramprakash, Dominic

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Impressive win for Muktijoddha

Sports Reporter

Muktijoddha Krira Chakra Sangsad completed their first phase engagements of the Star Premier Division football league in an emphatic style when they blanked Arambagh Krira Sangstha 3-0 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The fledgling title aspirants with a bevy of national booters in their ranks led the first half by a solitary goal.

Saiful Bari Titu gave Muktijoddha an early lead when he found the net with a free-kick taken from outside the box in the seventh minute.

Lanky striker strengthened Muktijoddha's grip on the match with a 59th minute strike when he controlled a cross from right winger Mamun and blasted the net as the Arambagh defenders reacted awfully slowly to the situation.

Mizan, who perhaps has been enjoying the best season of his career this year, took his personal tally in the Premier league to five, four minutes before the final whistle.

He duly beat the helpless Arambagh custodian Bijon after being provided with a neat square pass from Rumi Rizvi Karim, the prized medio of the new force in the local circuit returning to the ground after a longish lay-off due to injury.

With this win Muktijoddha held their second position in the points table after Abahani with 13 points from nine engagements.

Victoria edged past babes Muslim Institute by a solitary goal in a Star First Division match played earlier at the same venue.

Amin Khan scored the match decider in the 28th minute.

Rain the spoiler

SCARBOROUGH, England, Sept 2: The second day of South Africa's three-day tour match against the President's World XI was abandoned because of rain here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The tourists were 230-3 in their first innings before the wet weather arrived to also wipe out the final session of Wednesday's opening day.

Brett Martin in HK Open qtrs

HONG KONG, Sept 2: Defending champion Brett Martin moved closer to a final against Pakistan's Jansher Khan in the Hong Kong Open squash with a 15-9, 17-15, 15-4 second round victory over fellow Australian Anthony Hill on Thursday, reports Reuter.

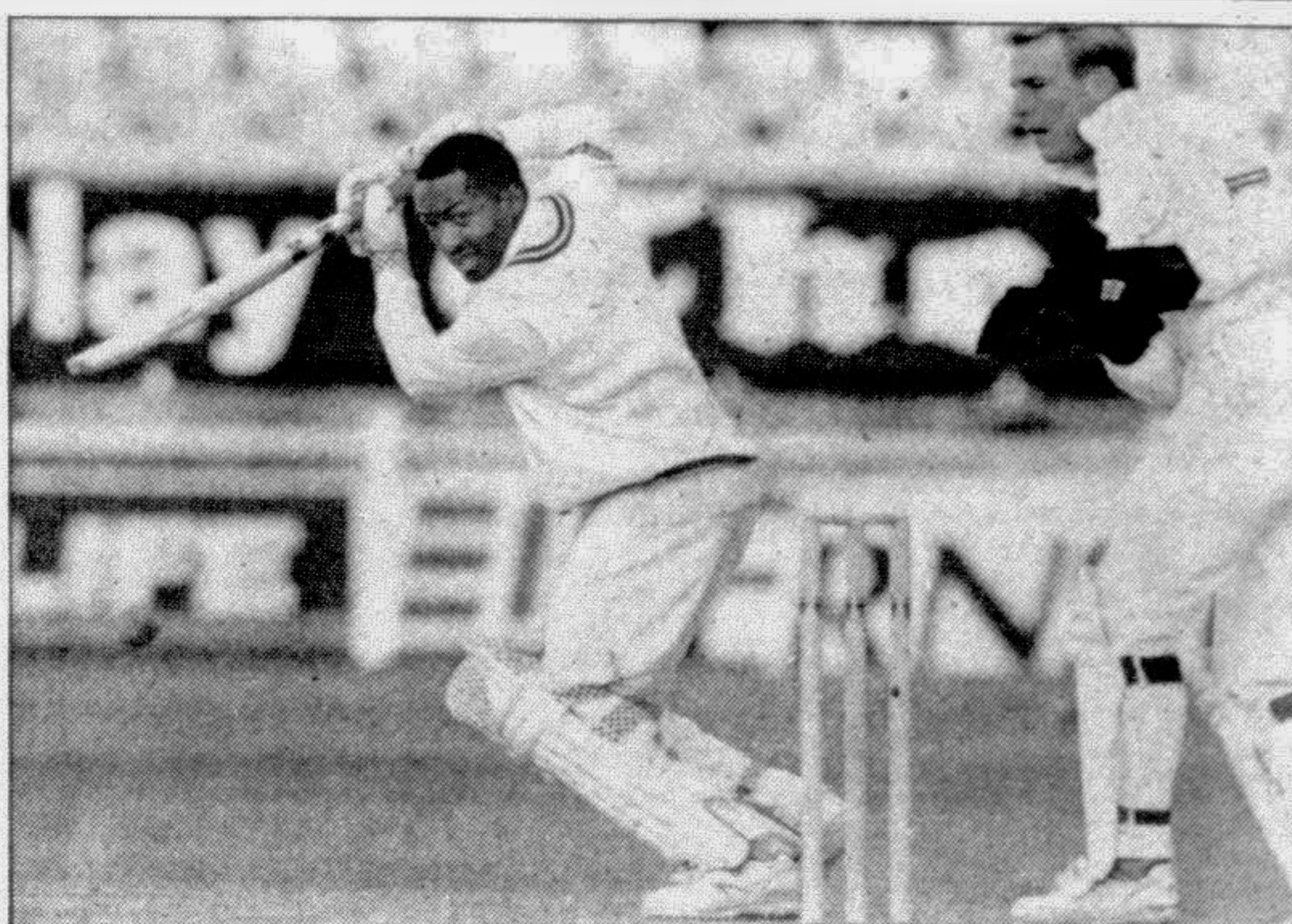
Martin, seeded second behind world number one Jansher, was always in control in a fast and furious match that lasted just 24 minutes.

Only in the second games did Hill put up any resistance as he saved a game point, then stood at 15-15 before Martin edged through.

But the effort took its toll and Martin raced through the Third Game in five minutes.

Martin will next meet Scotland's Peter Nicol in the Quarter-finals today.

Twice this year world number seven Nicol has beaten him, and he looked in good form on Thursday as he beat New Zealand's Glen Wilson 15-11, 15-9, 15-5 in 34 minutes.



RECORDS REIM-KENNAR: West Indian Brian Lara, currently the best batsman in the game by the sheer weight of statistics alone, plays with the spin a delivery from Hampshire's office Shaun Udal on his way to the ninth ton for Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Thursday. Lara touches twin peaks in a day equalling Kallicharran's feat of nine tons in a season and in the process became the first player to score 2000 runs this year.

Lara's twin triumph in a day



LONDON, Sept 2: Brian Lara became the first batsman to pass 2,000 championship runs this season on Thursday and in the process helped Warwickshire move closer to their first county title in 22 years, reports Reuter.

His brilliant 191, in a total of 483 for six against Hampshire at Edgbaston, gave Warwickshire maximum bonus points and a lead of 205 at the close of the second day.

Lara also equalled fellow West Indian Alvin Kallicharran's Warwickshire record of nine centuries in a season as he and Roger Twose put on 295 together for the second wicket.

Rain threatened to put a dampener on the title march, but after a blank morning, the weather smiled on their rapid progress from the overnight 210 for one.

Lara added 102 to finish with 23 fours and a six from only 222 balls and Twose made 137 with 21 boundaries in nearly five hours.

Both batsmen were eventually dismissed by off-spinner Shaun Udal, but at a high cost of 131 runs from his 26 overs.

Twose was drawn forward for a stumping by Adrian Aymes and Lara fell to a brilliant catch by Robin Smith at mid-wicket.

Nearest challengers Leicestershire were hit by the weather for the second successive day against Gloucestershire at Bristol where rain has washed out 178 overs of the match so far.

Leicestershire finished on 167 for three, 183 runs behind Gloucestershire who closed their first innings on 350 for four when play finally started in mid-afternoon.

Paceman Courtney Walsh rocked Leicestershire with two wickets in his first seven balls to dismiss West Indian teammate Phil Simmons and Nigel Briers but James Whitaker and Tim Boon forged

a vital 81-run third wicket stand.

Whitaker reached his half century off just 65 balls and finished unbeaten on 81 after hammering two sixes and nine fours.

After Boon fell for 31, Whitaker teamed up with Vince Wells to put on a further 71 in 14 overs to carry Leicestershire to the close without further loss.

Paceman Chris Lewis made a last-ditch bid to book an Ashes tour place with a lively three-wicket haul to help third-placed Nottinghamshire enforce the follow-on in their match against Glamorgan at Watchap.

Lewis claimed three for 75 from two lengthy spells to inflict most of the early damage as Glamorgan were sent tumbling to 221 all out in reply to Nottinghamshire's first innings 476 for six declared.

Following on 255 runs behind, Glamorgan finished on 29 without loss second time round.

Fraser ignored, Gatting in



LONDON, Sept 2: Paceman Angus Fraser has been surprisingly omitted from the England cricket squad to tour Australia, reports Reuter.

The selections have chosen Kent paceman Martin McCague and Surrey's 33-year-old seamer Joey Benjamin ahead of the popular Fraser, it was announced today.

Chairman Ray Illingworth's panel, who met in Manchester on Thursday night, have also gambled on the fitness of Yorkshire all-rounder Craig White, who is named in a party of 16 despite still recovering from a double stress fracture of the left leg.

As expected, England have teamed up veteran batsmen Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting for the arduous four-month campaign to regain the Ashes which begins on October 18.

Lancashire's John Crawley has held on to a batting place despite making just 59 runs from five innings in his debut series against South Africa during the last two months.

Mark Ramprakash, Dominic

Cork Mark Hott and Ian Salisbury go to India with the England A team in January and February as compensation for missing out on the senior trip.

An oddity about the 32 names announced for the two tours is that they contain only one player from team of the season Warwickshire.

Wicketkeeper Keith Piper, included in the 16-man A team squad, is the only player selected from the county still on course for an unprecedented Grand Slam of four domestic titles.

But the main talking point is the absence of Fraser and the decision to go instead for Benjamin and McCague.

McCague Northern, Ireland-born and Western Australia raised, has earned an England recall by a burst of spectacular form during the last couple of months.

Benjamin has been chosen on the strength of his consistent country strike rate and a debut four for 42 against South Africa at the Oval a fortnight ago.

Fraser was dropped for the Oval after playing in the previous five Tests of the summer. He had taken just 14 wickets

against New Zealand and South Africa, and his bowling had become laboured and short of snaf.

Yet only in April the big Middlesex seamer was helping England win the Barbados Test against the West Indies with a career-best eight for 75.

Fraser made a triumphant return to Test cricket last August, following a two-and-a-half year absence with a chronic hip injury picking up match figures of eight for 131 against Australia at the Oval.

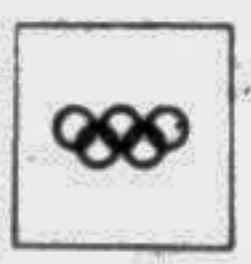
Prior to that injury Fraser's best Test display was also against the Aussies when he took six for 82 on the 1990-91 Ashes tour.

McCague's recall gives England even more firepower to add to the pace of Devon Malcolm and Darren Gough.

White, too, will be distinctly sharp on Australian pictures. As both he and McCague were brought up in Australia they will not be needing any added incentive to succeed.

McCague, when chosen for England last summer, was memorably described in an Australian newspaper as "the rat who has joined the sinking ship."

Evoking images of Arcadia



PARIS, Sept 2: Jacques Cousteau says he longs for the days when athletes competed for the sake of participation and perfection instead of cheating with drugs and money for stardom, reports AP.

"At the sight of a masterly pole vault or at the finish line of a 400-metre dash ... I shake with pride to belong to the human species," the 84-year-old marine explorer told the International Olympic Committee Friday.

"But today, the Olympic adventure is immersed in multiple, petty problems that must not mask its deep significance," he said at the 12th IOC Congress. "The gods of the stadium are confronted with training that is more and more severe, with the temptation to use drugs, with television and media of all types, with the powers of money, with parasites that surround them, and with the adulation of crowds. Their only protection from so much aggression remains, for most, the love of their sport."

Speaking on the final working day of the first IOC Congress since 1981, Cousteau continued criticism of money and commercialisation corrupting the ideals of sports.

"We live in a market economy where everything is for sale — champions, even teams, just like consciences," he said.

"Is the adulation of crowds not enough of a stimulant, as it seems to have been in ancient times? Why, in modern days, did it have to be replaced by an eternal spirit of competition, with its cohort of conflicts, irritation and violence?"

The Olympics nevertheless provide the opportunity for the world's youth to strive for better personal performances, he said.

"Swarms of young people, thinks to the Games, lead a healthier, more ardent life," Cousteau said. "Some will be disappointed, others proud. All will have participated, many will feel compelled to do better, in all fields."

The IOC on Thursday defended aggressive commercialisation as necessary to spread Olympic values.

"We seek out sponsorship and commercialization. It is essential to an international sports program," said Dick Pound, an influential IOC member who chairs the IOC's New Sources of Financing Committee. "We believe we need in the Olympic Movement the autonomy that comes from financial independence."

Pound spoke after a keynote speech by French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie who criticised the money-driven performances by today's athletes.

In order to win at the costs — which is the condition of media coverage and therefore financing — any means will do both for sportsmen and the groups which back them," Alliot-Marie said.

The IOC already has limitations on commercialisation, such as banning stadium advertising and ads on athletes' bids, Pound said.

"There's a lot of promotion going on around the Games, and we like that. There's no way we could promote the values of the Games on our own resources."

Sponsorship, however, is slipping, mostly because of the global saving economy, said Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation.

IOC plans a standardised doping code

PARIS, Sept 2: International Olympic Committee attempts to impose a standardised doping code could well be restricted to Olympic competitions only following football's decision to go their own way, reports AFP.

International Football Federation secretary Sepp Blatter said FIFA would follow IOC rules for the Olympic tournament and qualifying matches but would stick to their own rules in every other competition.