

Sport

Reefat still atop, alone

Sports Reporter International Master Reefat bin Sattar maintained his solo lead in the eleventh QM Hossain International Masters chess tournament when he recorded his fourth successive win defeating compatriot Kalimullah Khan in the fourth round at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Muktis end in a whimper

Sports Reporter An 86th minute equaliser by Kukti Jodha's Rakib thwarted Arambagh's second giant-killing bid of the season but in the long run it might have served the cause of Mohammedans more than the Federation Cup winners, who escaped their fourth league defeat by the skin of their teeth in a vital Star Premier match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league encounter between Mukti Jodha Sangsad and Arambagh at the flood-lit Dhaka Stadium. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. — Star photo

with Arambagh forcing ahead in a fascinating spell of inspired football. Bangladesh International Rumi Rizvi Karim broke the evening's duck when he found the net with a neat grounder after Barun had set him up with a lovely square.

The setback immediately set up Arambagh's birse but the unfancied resurgents had to wait until the 52nd minute for the deserved equaliser. Tushar did a captain's job as the Arambagh medio banged home a rebound running loose from an inadequate list by Mukti custodian Arun.

Arambagh nearly set the stage for a double celebration in a minute as Anwar, despite having Arun at his mercy, feebly shot into the lap of an anxious Mukti goalie. Ten minutes after the equaliser Arambagh went ahead when Tushar freed defender Sunny who cut in from the left to beat a wretched Mohsin, the former number one national goalie who just came in the Arun, at the near post.

Arambagh dearly paid for a series of misses to undo a chance there for taking to complete a memorable night when Mukti Jodha's Rakib saved the blushes for his vaunted teammates with the equaliser four minutes from time when he nodded home a flag kick by left back Masud Rana.

Muktijodha completed their rather anticlimatic league campaign with 25 points from 18 matches while Arambagh ended a remarkable season with 17 points also from 18 outings.

BOYS FIND FEET In the day's first match, also a Premier tie, played earlier at the same venue babes Bangladesh Boys registered a vital 2-0 win against an already demoted PWD. Boys, who upped their tally to 12 from 18 matches, will now await the outcome of Brothers-Fakirerpool match.

Should Fakirerpool lose the match which they are likely to do given Brothers' theoretical strength, babes Boys are well and truly out of the relegation danger. In the case of a draw Boys will have to fight it out in a play-off in a yet undecided date.

TODAY'S MATCHES Agrani Bank vs Wari Club 4-30 (Dhaka Stadium) Brothers Union vs Fakirerpool 6-30 (Dhaka Stadium)

Div II hockey

Sports Reporter Victoria Sporting Club and Raktim Sangha won their respective Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey super league engagements at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. In the first match of the day, Victoria earned their second win when they beat Mukti Bhangha 3-2.

JFA asks Kamo to replace Falcao TOKYO, Oct 22: Japan's Football Association has asked Yokohama Flügels manager Shu Kamo to head the national team replacing Brazilian manager Paulo Roberto Falcao.

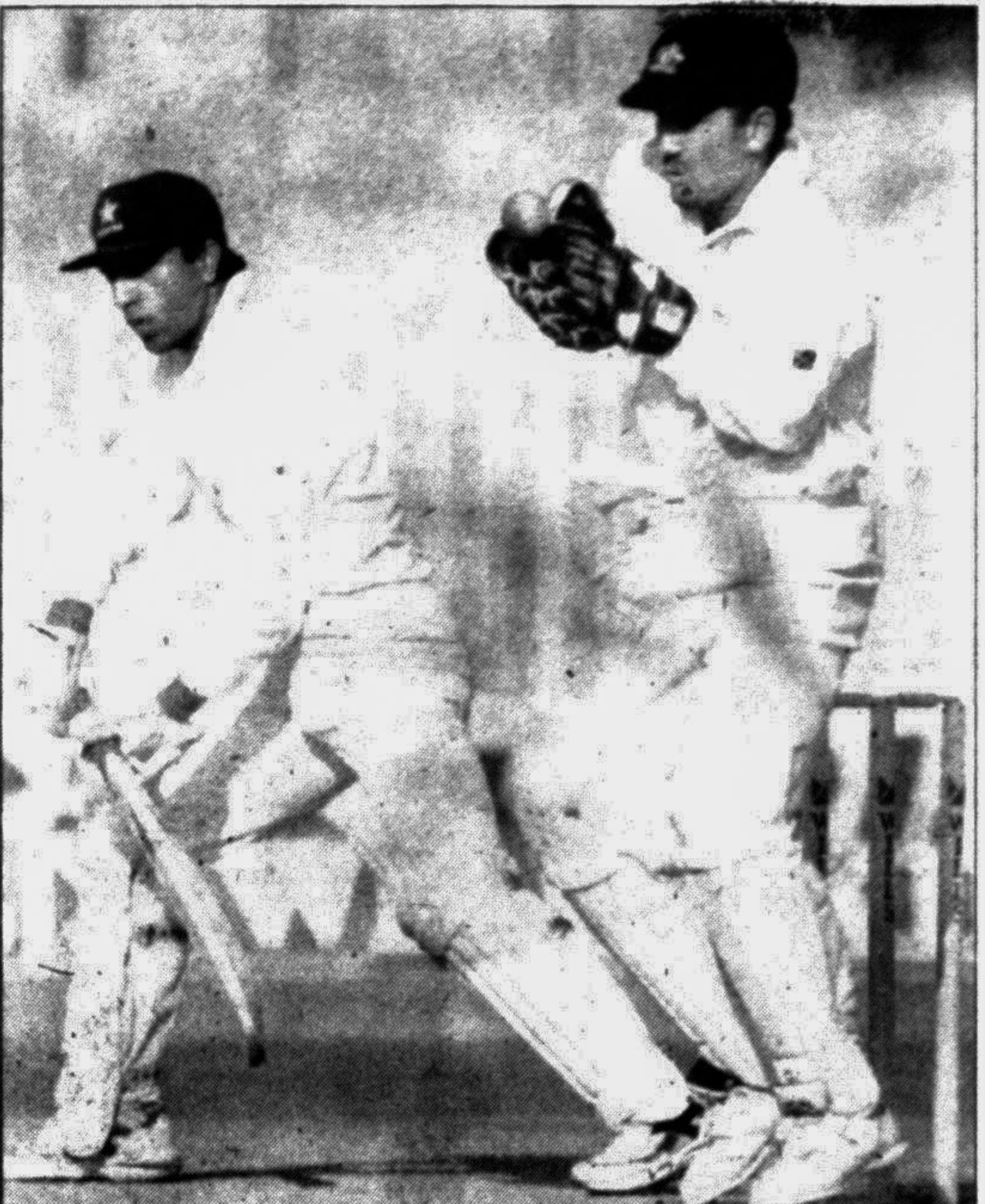
Japan's two most recent national team coaches came from overseas — Marius Hans Ooft from the Netherlands and Falcao — and Kawabuchi indicated there may have been a communications gap between them and the players. Kawabuchi, who is also chairman of the professional J-League, said they now wanted a Japanese to lead the national team.

Japan failed to reach the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States under Ooft's management and also lost to South Korea in the quarterfinals at the recent Hiroshima Asian Games.

Maldini sidelined MILAN, Italy, Oct 22: AC Milan's Paolo Maldini will be sidelined for up to three weeks after breaking his nose during the Champions' League match against AEK Athens on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Maldini went off 14 minutes into the 0-0 draw after AEK's Harris Koptisis accidentally elbowed him in the face. A mainstay of the Milan and Italy defence, Maldini's absence means more woes for coach Fabio Capello and the struggling club. Maldini will miss Sunday's league game against Sampdoria and is almost certain to be ruled out of the European Champions' vital return tie against AEK on November 2.

Milan are bottom of Group D in the Champions' League with only one point to their name. They were beaten 2-0 by Ajax Amsterdam in their first match and then had two points deducted because of crowd trouble during their 3-0 win over Austria Salzburg.



Justin Langer, who had to don the gloves following a finger injury to regular Aussie stumper Healy, muffs up a simple chance to catch opener Saeed Anwar, who engineered a massive and remarkable Pakistan victory in the Wills three-nation tournament yesterday at Rawalpindi. — AFP photo

Run avalanche at Rawalpindi

Pakistan thrash Aussies

RAWALPINDI, Oct 22: Pakistan cruised to a nine-wicket win over Australia on Saturday, thanks to a superb century from opener Saeed Anwar and a powerful 91 from Inzamam-ul-Haq, reports Reuter. Chasing a respectable Australian total of 250 for six in the second round of the triangular one-day series, the pair made good use of the docile pitch with an unbroken 160-run stand in just 25 overs. It is a new second wicket stand, eclipsing the 115 in Sharjah, UAE, in 1986.

Anwar, named man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 104, had already put on 91 in less than 13 overs in a blazing opening stand with left-hander Aamir Sohail. Sohail made 45 off 37 balls with one six and seven boundaries. Inzamam struck out freely to maintain the run-rate with Anwar, who breezed to his half century in just 54 deliveries, flicking eight fours and belting fast bowler Glenn McGrath for a six.

His seventh one-day century — equalling the record tally of Zaheer Abbas and Javed Miandad — came off 112 balls and included 13 fours, as well as the six. It was his 65 match. Inzamam's power-packed strokeplay took him to an undefeated 91, plundered from 80 balls his third half century in four matches of the triangular series. He hit 11 fours and three sixes, two off off-spinner Tim May and one off leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Anwar made full use of a dropped catch on 80 and at the end was unbeaten on 104. He hit the winning run. Mark Waugh earlier rattled up his fourth one-day century in 82 games, 121 not out, the highest score of the series. He hit nine boundaries and added 64 with left-handed Justin Langer in a stabilising third wicket stand and another 66 with Michael Bevan.

Waugh, who came in after Michael Slater's early dismissal with only 14 on the board, quickly added 50 off 58 balls, replaced David Boon. He was batting confidently until fast bowler Wasim Akram struck in his second spell.

With Australia somewhat uneasily placed on 140 for four in the 32nd over, Waugh, joined by Michael Bevan (22) added 66 runs for the fifth wicket in 12 overs. Australia play South Africa at Peshawar on Monday in the next match of the series.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the one-day cricket international between Pakistan and Australia. Pakistan: Saeed Anwar 104, Inzamam-ul-Haq 91, Aamir Sohail 45, Waqar Younis 10, Wasim Akram 10, Salim Malik 5. Australia: Glenn McGrath 8, Michael Bevan 6, Mark Waugh 5, Steve Waugh 2, Shane Warne 9.

Man-of-the-match: Saeed Anwar. Umpires: Siddique Khan and Salim Badr. STANDINGS Standings in the triangular limited-overs cricket series after Saturday's second round match between Australia and Pakistan (tabulate under played, won, lost, points): Pakistan 4 3 1 6, Australia 4 3 1 6, South Africa 4 0 4 0.

Result: Pakistan won by nine wickets. Man-of-the-match: Saeed Anwar. Umpires: Siddique Khan and Salim Badr. STANDINGS Standings in the triangular limited-overs cricket series after Saturday's second round match between Australia and Pakistan (tabulate under played, won, lost, points): Pakistan 4 3 1 6, Australia 4 3 1 6, South Africa 4 0 4 0.

REB football

The Rajshahi Division Palli Bidyut Samity clinched the title of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) football tournament beating the Khulna Division Palli Bidyut Samity 2-1 in the final at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday, reports Reuter.

Boskov, new Napoli coach

NAPLES, Italy, Oct 22: Experienced Serbian coach Vukobratovic took over at Italian First Division club Napoli on Friday after the club unanimously sacked his predecessor Vincenzo Guerini, reports Reuter.

Lankans collapse to 96 for six at Bulawayo

Hosts hold upper hand

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Oct 22: Sri Lanka, under pressure to make 262 to avoid the follow on, collapsed to 96 for six at stumps on the third day of the second Test against Zimbabwe on Saturday, report agencies. Left-handed opener Asanka Gurusinha provided the main batting resistance with an unbeaten 34. The buoyant Zimbabweans earlier declared their first innings on 462 for nine wickets after batting for a little less than an hour when play resumed at the Queens Club in the western provincial capital of Bulawayo.

Zimbabwe's Heath Streak claimed three wickets for 23 runs and fellow bowler Malcolm Jarvis also showed form, taking three Sri Lankan wickets for 18 runs. Play was interrupted for 90 minutes in the afternoon by bad light under heavily overcast skies. Zimbabwe, playing their ninth Test since being accorded Test status in 1992, are seeking their first Test victory. The first match of the three-Test series against Sri Lanka was declared a draw in Harare when rain washed out the last day of play with Zimbabwe on 319 for eight, trailing the visitors' first innings total of 383 all out.

Dubbed 'the basement battle', the series is between the two sides occupying the bottom slots of the nine-nation Test cricket table. Sri Lanka have won only four of the 51 Tests they have played since 1981. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the third day. Founding ceremony held Sports Reporter The third founding anniversary of the Kuokushinkaikan Karate Bangladesh, a sororate of the International Karate Organisation, was observed in a festive manner at the National Sports Council conference room yesterday. Jute Minister Hannan Shah was the chief guest on the occasion.

A real wrestler

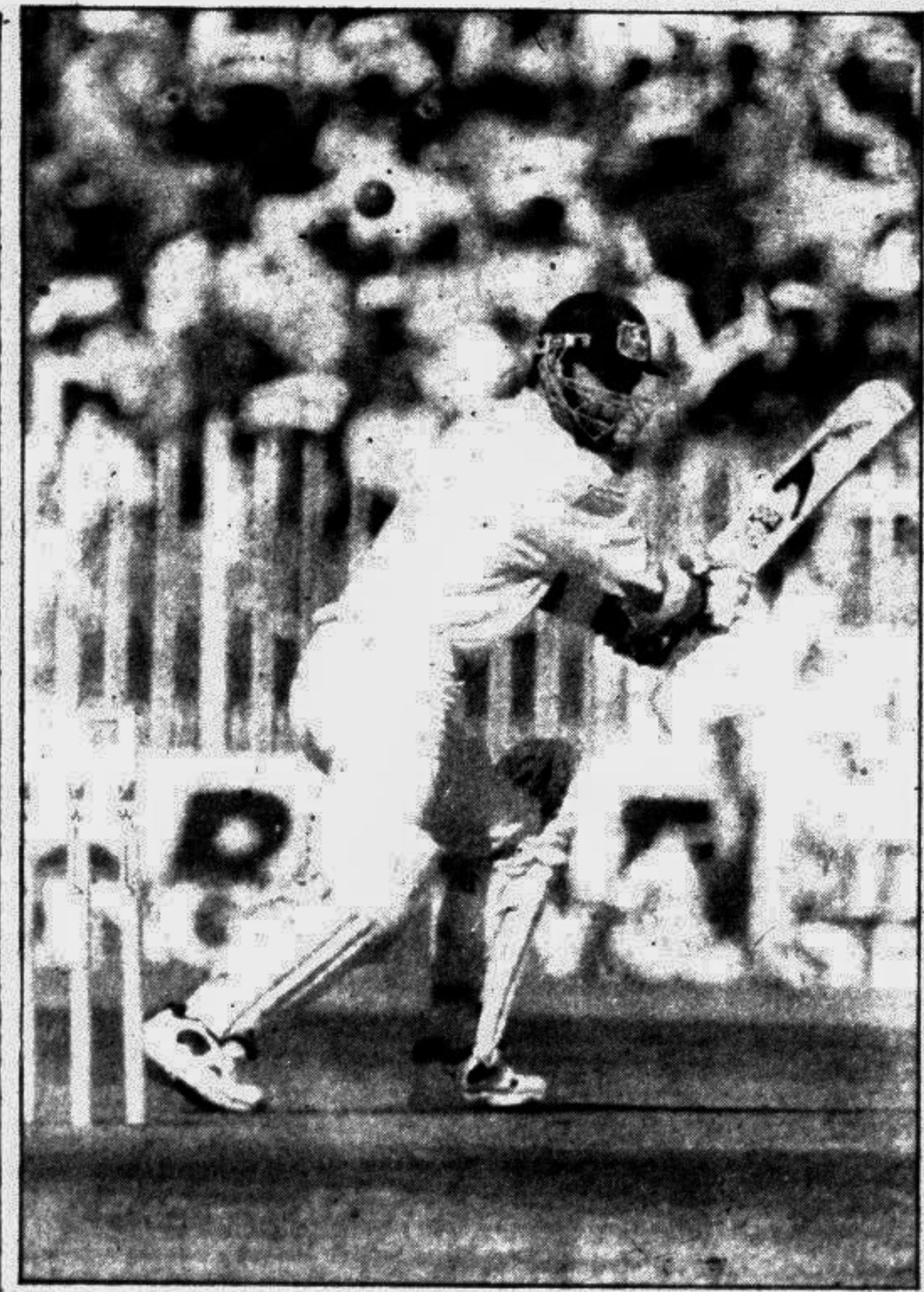
SEOUL, Oct 22: A South Korean wrestler won a gold medal at the Asian Games with a cancerous tumour bigger than a baseball in his stomach, hospital officials said today, reports Reuter. Song Sung-Il, 25, took gold in the Greco-Roman mid-heavyweight category by beating Kazakhstan's Vitali Leikine on October 5 at the Hiroshima Games. But back home in Seoul, Song underwent a 5 1/2-hour operation on Wednesday to remove the tumour, the officials said. Song had to fight with pain in his stomach as well as strong challengers at the Games, his coach said. He could not even take pills to kill the pain because of dope tests. South Korea's Joongang Ilbo newspaper quoted surgeon Lee Byung-Boong as saying: 'A tumour the size of your two fists put together was removed.

Atlanta Host

ATLANTA, Georgia, Oct 22: Atlanta residents are being asked to house relatives of athletes in their spare rooms in anticipation of a shortage of hotel space during the 1996 Olympic Games, reports AFP. Atlanta Host, a group that represents 28 Christian denominations, is working with Games sponsor AT and T to set up a bed-and-breakfast network for families of up to 10,500 competitors. Most of Atlanta's hotel space during the Games will be used to house Olympic officials, media and spectators. 'I don't think we could pull this programme off in a large number of cities in the country, but Atlanta has ingrained southern hospitality,' said Bill Blair of AT and T. 'It's a way or people to get much closer to the Games and feel like they are more involved. Residents who participate in the programme will be asked to provide free lodging and breakfast for up to eight days.

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Mark Waugh, one of the best willow wielders in the game, currently enjoys a slice of lady luck as a scorching delivery from Pakistani speedster Waqar Younis cannons to the fence after grazing his unintended bat. Waugh went on to score an unbeaten 121 in an Aussie total of 250 for six in a Wills triangular one day series match played at Rawalpindi yesterday. The hosts made a nonsense of a seemingly good total by racing to nine-wicket win with 11 overs to spare. — AFP photo

'War of words' toned down

PERTH, Australia, Oct 22: England cricket manager Keith Fletcher has played down the significance of the 'war of words' which has developed since the team arrived in Australia, reports Reuter. And he even feels it could help to keep England focused on their goal of regaining the Ashes. When the team touched down in Perth on Wednesday, captain Michael Atherton was confronted with questions about remarks he was alleged to have made last December when he was apparently critical of sledging by Australian all-rounder Steve Waugh during the 1993 series.

was quoted by Australian journalists as suggesting the home side's batsmen were scared of quick bowling. The net result of the stories which followed could be to create enmity between the two sides when the series starts in Brisbane on November 25. But Fletcher played down those suggestions after practice today when he said: 'I don't think there's much heat in the situation and what's been said isn't that much of a problem, to me. 'A few things have been written, but you will always get that, and I'm not worried. I think it's a bit petty really. 'I don't think it's putting Mike Atherton under any more pressure, because as captain of England you are always under pressure,' he said. And Fletcher preferred to look on the positive side when he said: 'We're keen to stay single-minded, and the stuff flying around could serve a purpose because it should focus our minds on the job in hand even more. If it does that then that's good. Darren Gough and Devon Malcolm worked up impressive pace during England's morning work out at the WACA ground. The players have been given the day-off on Sunday and will then play a practice match at the nearby Melvista oval on Monday before the tour opener against the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill on Tuesday. All the squad are fit, although seamer Joey Benjamin has been hampered by a slight groin strain.

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