

# No change at top of table

On completion of the eleventh round matches of the 11th Dr Qazi Mottahar Hossain International Masters' chess championship yesterday, the scenario at the top of the points table remained similar to that of the day before with V Sharavanan of India leading reigning champion Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and Bangladeshi IM Reefat bin Sattar by half a point.

The relative rookie amidst a number of higher-rated cerebral warriors, Sharavanan capitalised on local Abdullah al-Rakib's time trouble en route to his eighth point of the meet. Rakib, maneuvering his white pieces in the line of Tromposky system, found himself pressed for time and made a number of indiscreet moves to let his Indian opponent have total control before resigning on the 27th move.

## Rangpur eves in h'ball final

Rangpur District Sports Association stormed into the final of the national women's under-19 handball championship, winning both of their second round matches at the National Women's complex yesterday.

In the four-team fray, Rangpur, who beat Mymensingh on Saturday, earned two facile victories over Jessore (20-6) and Dhaka (18-6) to finish at the top of the table with an all-win record.

Rangpur will meet the winners of Dhaka and Jessore play-off in the final today, the concluding day of the four-day meet.

## Reception

The Bangladesh Amateur Kabaddi Federation yesterday accorded a reception to the kabaddi team which won a silver medal in the recently concluded 12th Asian Games held in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, reports UNB.

M Azizul Hoq, president of the federation and Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports was present as chief guest.

# Becker back with a cracker

STOCKHOLM, Oct 30: Boris Becker confirmed his return to world-beating from on Saturday when he dismissed top ranked Pete Sampras 6-4, 6-4 to set up a final with Goran Ivanisevic in the Stockholm Open, reports Reuters.

Ivanisevic overpowered promising Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-5, 6-4 to reach his third consecutive final in Stockholm.

If Becker can beat the second-seeded Croat in today's final he will have upset the world's top three players in as many days. He beat third-seeded title holder Michael Stich in Friday's quarter-final.

The 26-year-old German made what he himself called "impossible" shots against Sampras.

He made the American look slow and nervous as he pumped out backhand returns and passing shots with such consistency he broke his opponent in four of his 10 service games.

Sampras, playing his first tour event since the US Open, said Becker came up with "some of the most unbelievable passing shots I've ever seen going by me" on the fast Supreme Court.

"I felt if I kept the ball low I would be tough to pass, but obviously he proved me wrong. He was awesome," the quiet American said.

## Incorrigible papa Pierce

BOCA RATON, Florida, Oct 30: Mary Pierce's controversial father, banned from all WTA events for past disturbances, watched from the stands as his daughter played here Saturday at the Chris Evert Pro-Celebrity Classic, reports AFP.

Jim Pierce purchased a ticket and waited in vain by a players' walkway at the Boca Raton resort and club in hopes of speaking with his daughter, whom he once coached.

"I don't want to put any pressure on Mary," he said. "I have no problems with Mary. It's her mother who got the restraining order."

Pierce was banned from WTA events in May 1993 when he was escorted out of the Roland Garros stadium for disruptive behaviour during the French Open.

His 19-year-old daughter, currently ranked sixth in the world, was a French Open finalist this year, but withdrew from Wimbledon at the eleventh hour under intense media pressure after a tabloid newspaper threatened to disguise and smuggle her father into the All-England Club.

She completed a second exhibition set after being told of her father's presence, then signed some autographs before being taken off the tournament grounds through a back exit without comment.

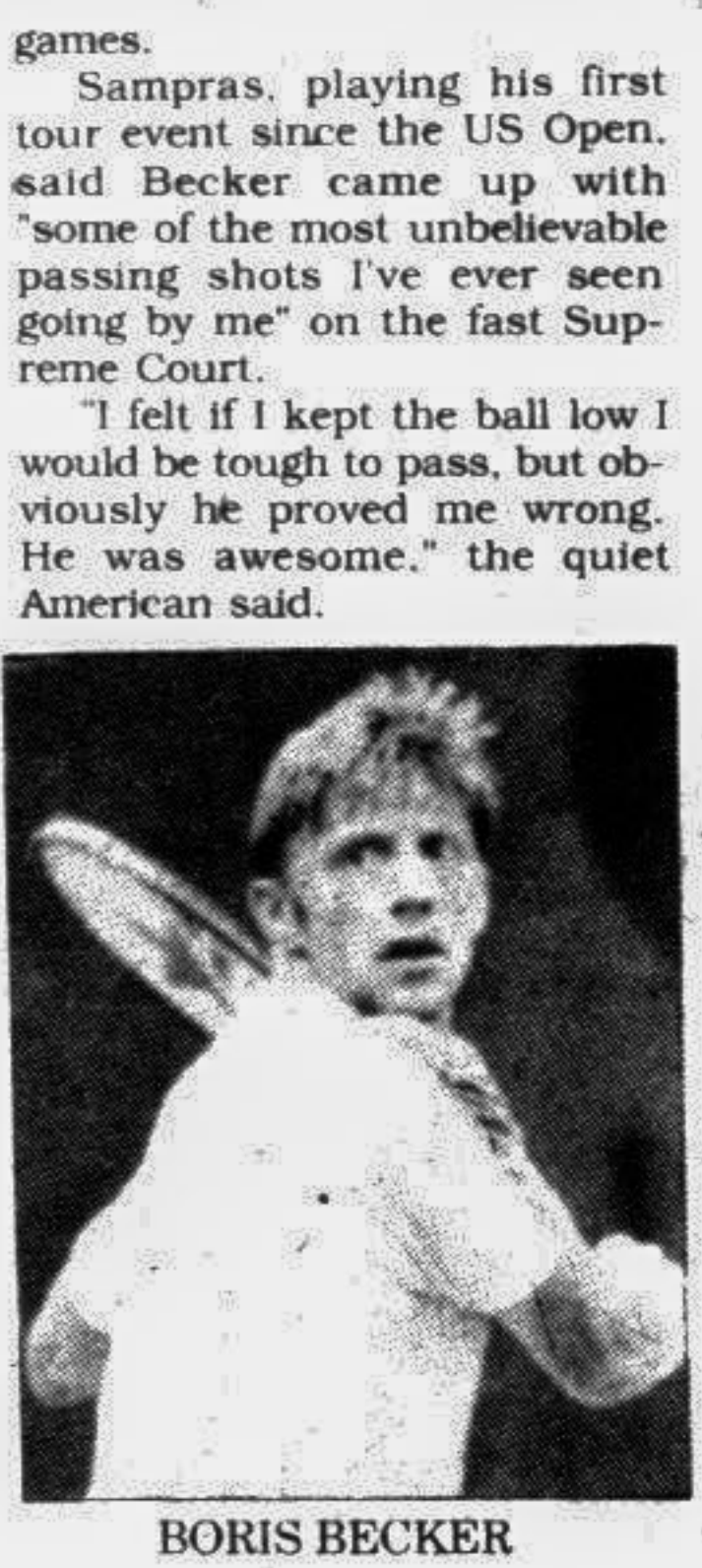
The win brightens Sharavanan's chances of winning an IM norm. With two games in hand, the young Indian now needs only a point to earn his first IM norm.

Holder Lodhi, playing with black pieces, engineered an effective scheme against local Maruf Ahmed, who opened the match with the queen's pawn, and prevailed after 43 moves.

Lodhi's co-sharer of the second slot, Reefat, who had reigned at the top for the first six rounds before Sharavanan displaced him by virtue of playing one game more, beat Indian IM Shekhar Chandra Sahu in 58 moves. Reefat, who takes on another Indian IM Lanka Ravi in a deferred eighth round encounter tomorrow, employed his white pieces effectively against Sahu's Sicilian Defence and won resignation with the Indian's hopes of



Bangladeshi IM Reefat Bin Sattar broods over his next move during a eleventh round encounter of the QM International Masters' chess tournament at the conference room of the NSC yesterday.



BORIS BECKER

Clearly close to the form which earned him the world rankings' top spot in 1991, the German said his motivation stemmed from a new attitude to the sport since his marriage less than a year ago and the birth of his son.

"That has allowed me to have maybe another couple of years at the top. If I was still single I wouldn't be as good anymore. I probably wouldn't even be playing at all," he said.

Becker is now sixth in the world and could move into the top five with a win today.

Ivanisevic, who survived a fierce battle with American Andre Agassi on Friday, had more of a routine victory over 20-year-old Kafelnikov.

The Russian, with a seem-

## Novotna beats cold, Majoli

ESSEN, Germany, Oct 30: Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic didn't let a cold get her down Sunday, rolling over Croatia's Iva Majoli 6-2, 6-4 for the title at the dlr 400,000 Nokia Grand Prix tennis tournament, reports AP.

The world's No 4 player walked away with the victory after her second match point, driving the ball off to the left and out of the reach of 17-year-old Majoli.

Novotna, 26, is having a good year. She also won at Brighton and Leipzig.

forcing a draw nowhere near sight.

However, Kalimullah Khan of Bangladesh stole the show with a sensational victory against theoretically superior Indian IM Ravi Gopal Hegde. Khan had the Indian player cornered after 40 moves in a game opened in the line of Reti opening.

In a battle of the bottomers, FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman, meanwhile, benefited from the Reti opening against compatriot Nahid Miyazid and triumphed in 40 moves.

When this report was filed last night, the crucial tie between IMs Ziaur Rahman of Bangladesh and Lanka Ravi of India was in progress. The other match of the same status was between lesser stars Taiyebur Rahman and Hasibul Hassan.



Golfer Hla Han of Myanmar poses with the trophy after winning the Epson Singapore Open in Singapore yesterday. Hla Han, 33, pocketed 98,000 US dollars in prize money.

ingly home-made tennis style, had upset fourth-seed Sergi Bruguera and fifth-seed Stefan Edberg in previous rounds.

But Ivanisevic ended his run, with the help of blistering serves which included 20 aces.

The Croat has served 978 aces this year and is aiming to beat Sampras' record of 1001 aces in a season.

"If I never win a Grand Slam, at least people will remember me for something," Ivanisevic said.

Becker has won six of his 10 previous games against Ivanisevic, but the Croat won their last encounter in the semifinal at Wimbledon this year.

"We always have good matches. Boris is not only a great player, he's also unbelievably competitive," Ivanisevic said.

Becker is playing for his fourth title in Stockholm, adding to victories in 1988, 1990 and 1991.

His final opponent won here in 1992 and was losing finalist to Stich last year.



Golfer Hla Han of Myanmar poses with the trophy after winning the Epson Singapore Open in Singapore yesterday. Hla Han, 33, pocketed 98,000 US dollars in prize money.

# Victoria, Div II hockey champs

Sports Reporter  
Victoria Sporting Club clinched the Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey league title with one match remaining as their nearest rivals Tejgaon Agragami suffered a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Mukta Bhangana in one of the two super league matches billed for the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The Tejgaon outfit, which needed a win to keep the championship race alive, were doomed by a 63rd minute strike from Mukta Bhangana's Abul Kalam.

Yesterday's defeat of Tejgaon means even if Victoria lose their last robin league match against Raktim Sangha today, they will still be at an unassailable position with 15 points.

In the other match of the day, Aziz notched a hat-trick to guide Barnak Samaj to an emphatic 4-1 victory over Cantonian SC.

## Div II b'ball

Sports Reporter  
Hawks and Bakshibazaar won their respective Mohsin Cup Second Division basketball league matches at the NSC wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, Hawks earned a convincing 86-50 point win over Young Angels Club. The winners led the first half 45-27.

Liton with 24 points was the top marksman for Hawks followed by teammate Valentine who caged 20 points while Fahim notched up highest 15 points for the losers.

In the day's second match, Bakshibazaar beat Old Fouljans Association (OFA) 67-49 with Maqsood scoring highest 22 points for the winners.

It was Bakshibazaar's first win after a shocking narrow defeat at the hands of Kurmitola Young Stars in their league opener.

## Noah to captain French Davis Cup squad

PARIS, Oct 30: Yannick Noah, who guided France to a Davis Cup victory in 1991, will return as captain of the French team, the French Federation announced Sunday, reports AP.

Noah was the French Open champion in 1983 but retired from competitive tennis in 1990 to pursue a recording career. He was once ranked as high as No. 3 in the world.

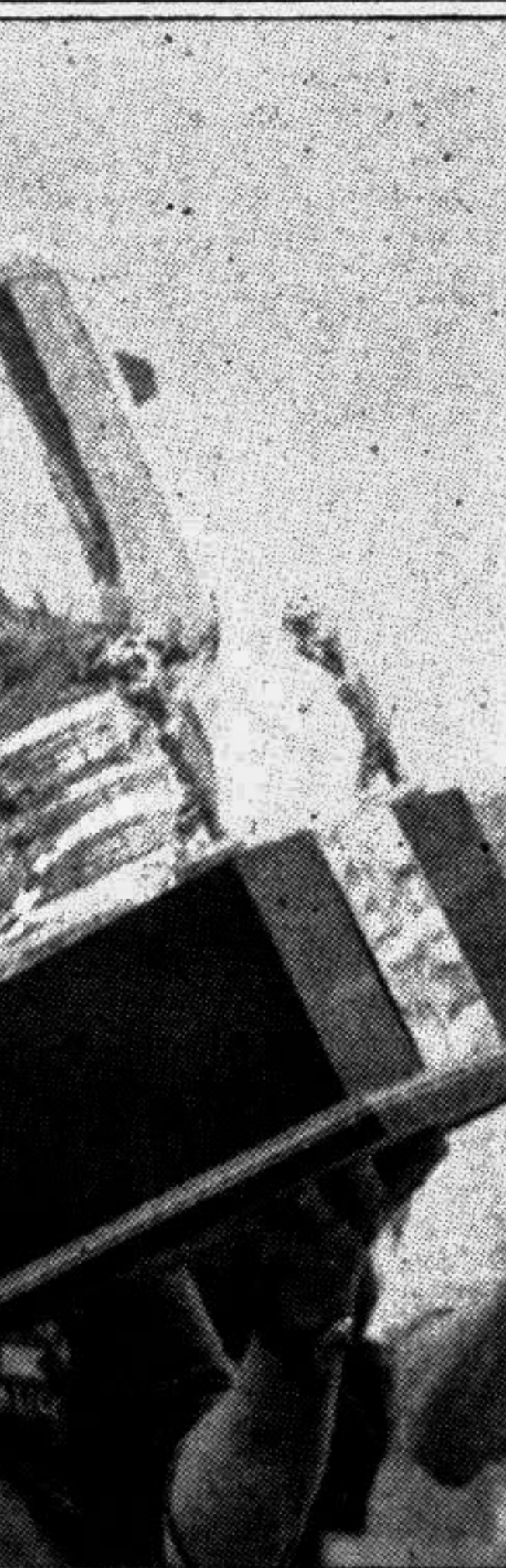
In 1991 he took over as Davis Cup captain and used his charisma and coaching to bring France into the final against the United States. In Lyon, Guy Forget and Henri Leconte combined to upset the American squad led by Pete Sampras.

Noah quit the following year after a quarterfinal loss to Switzerland as his team could not recapture the spark that inspired it the previous year.

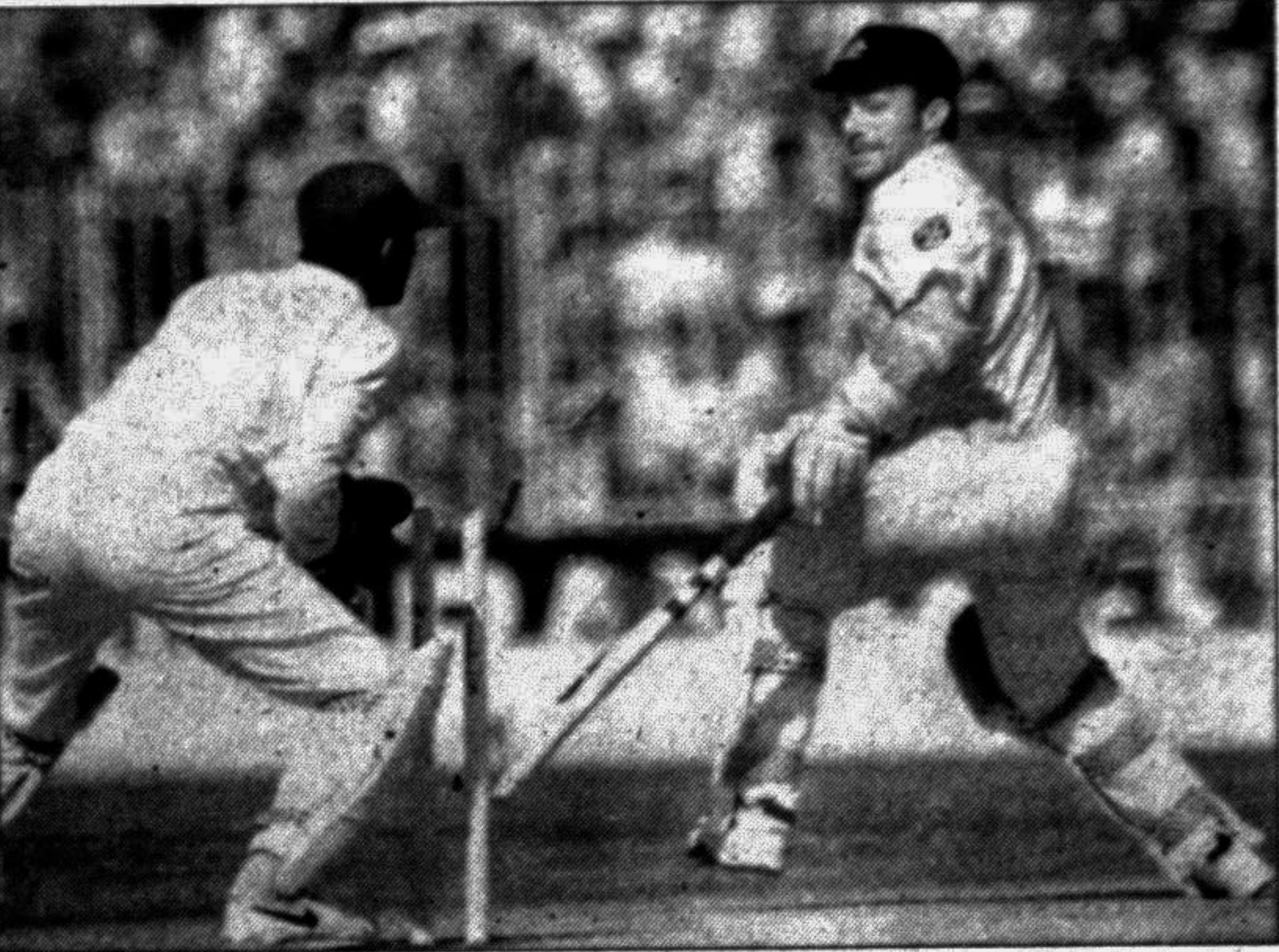
Noah's return comes during a bit of a slide in French tennis with no player ranked currently in the top 30.

The dreadlock-maned Noah, now 34, was the top French player during the 1980s, captivating the crowds with his athletics as well as his antics.

Aside from his victory at Roland Garros in 1983, which made him one of the most popular athletes ever in France, he failed to get past a quarterfinal of any other Grand Slam event.



Golfer Hla Han of Myanmar poses with the trophy after winning the Epson Singapore Open in Singapore yesterday. Hla Han, 33, pocketed 98,000 US dollars in prize money.



Australian opening batsman Michael Slater who in tandem with skipper Mark Taylor torn apart the Pakistani attack in a blazing partnership to lay the foundation for visitors' eventual 64 run win in the Wills triangular one-day series final yesterday at Lahore, looks back to find Latif stumping him off Malik.

## Australia win Wills three-nation tournament

# McGrath mauls Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan, Oct 30: Medium pacer Glenn McGrath ripped through Pakistan's innings as Australia Sunday won the triangular series here by 64 runs, reports AFP.

McGrath, in his career best in a one-day game, captured five for 52 and won the 1,000 dollars man-of-the-match award.

Captain Mark Taylor bagged 16,000 dollars for Australia while Salim Malik of runners-up Pakistan took home 8,000 dollars. The third participant South Africa ended their tour losing all their league matches.

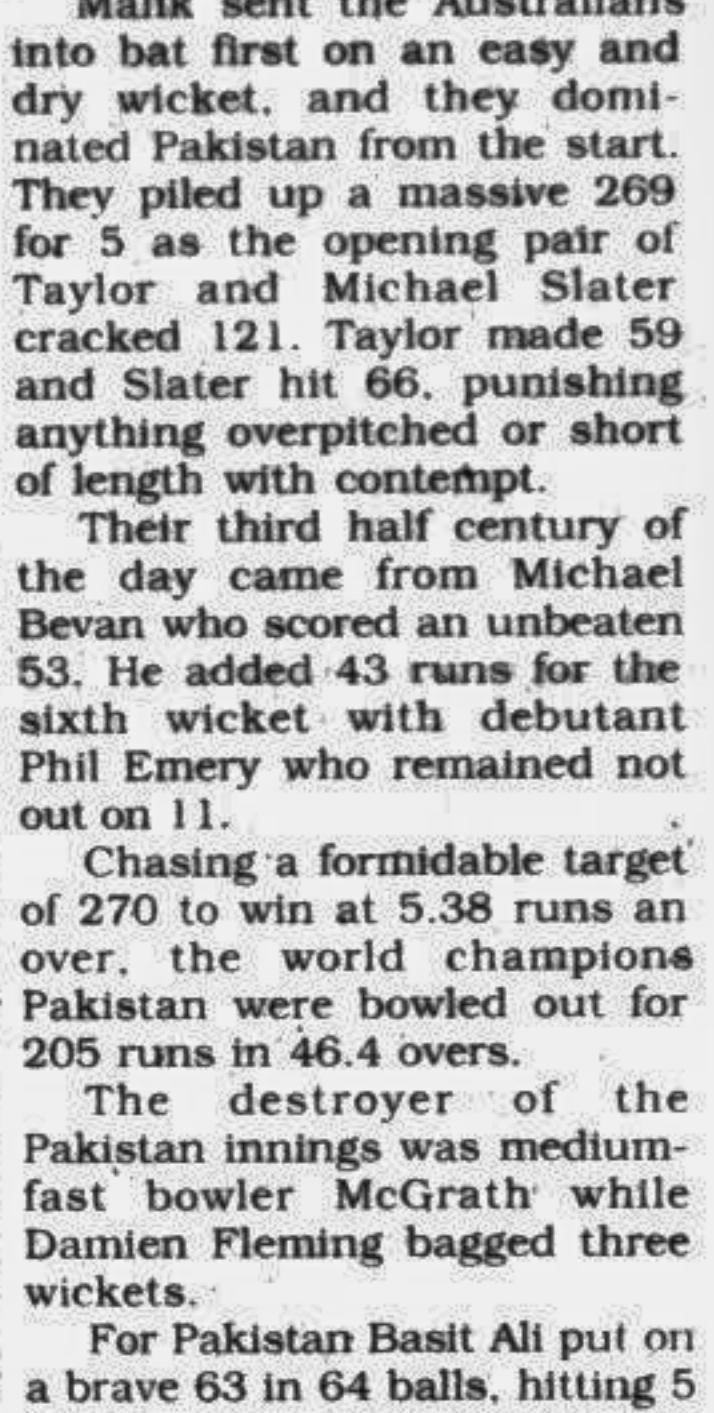
Malik sent the Australians into bat first on an easy and dry wicket, and they dominated Pakistan from the start. They piled up a massive 269 for 5 as the opening pair of Taylor and Michael Slater cracked 121. Taylor made 59 and Slater hit 66, punishing anything overpitched or short of length with contempt.

Their third half century of the day came from Michael Bevan who scored an unbeaten 53. He added 43 runs for the sixth wicket with debutant Phil Emery who remained not out on 11.

Chasing a formidable target of 270 to win at 5.38 runs an over, the world champions Pakistan were bowled out for 205 runs in 46.4 overs.

The destroyer of the Pakistan innings was medium-fast bowler McGrath while Damien Fleming bagged three wickets.

For Pakistan Basit Ali put on a brave 63 in 64 balls, hitting 5 fours and two sixes off McGrath and Mark Waugh.



GLEN MCGRATH ... m-o-m

## Prabhakar's gritty ton goes in vain Windies exact revenge

KANPUR, India, Oct 30: An unbeaten century by opener Manoj Prabhakar failed to save India from a 46-run defeat by West Indies in their triangular one-day series match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was West Indies' first win of the tournament. They lost to India in their opening match and their second against New Zealand was abandoned because of rain.

India, chasing a victory target of 258 in 50 overs, were always struggling to achieve the required run rate in the face of tight bowling by Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin and Andrew Cummins. They finished on 211 for five.

The bowlers were supported by some brilliant fielding, three of the five wickets falling to run outs from direct throws.

Prabhakar's 102 came off 154 balls but no other batsman played an adequate supporting role.

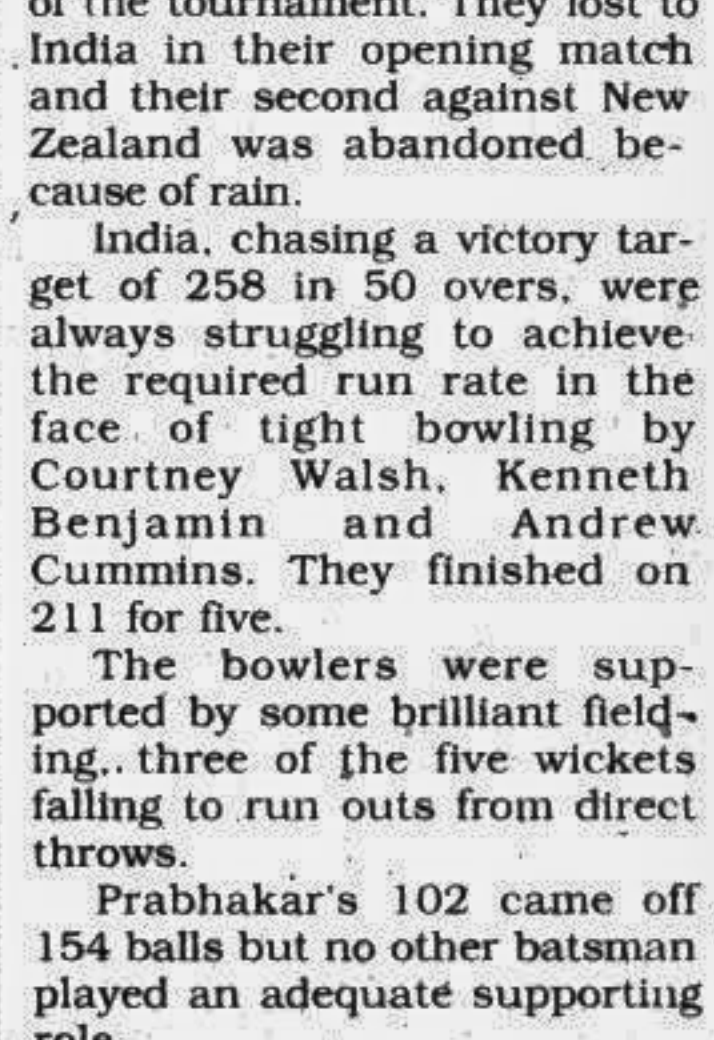
Sachin Tendulkar was the next highest scorer with 34, including seven boundaries.

Earlier, Phil Simmons and Stuart Williams gave West Indies a flying start to their innings with an opening stand of 115 to help their side to an impressive 257 for six.

The powerful Simmons, dropped twice by Vinod Kambli, scored 65 from 98 balls including two sixes, while Williams gave solid support with 45 from 86 deliveries.

Keith Arthurton kept up the momentum with 72 from 82 balls, including four boundaries and a six off medium-pace Prabhakar who conceded 50 runs from six wicketless overs.

Ronald Holder, who came in to the side in place of the suspended Brian Lara, justified his selection with 32 from 49



KEITH ARTHURTON ... m-o-m

balls.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the triangular series one-day match between India and the West Indies here today:

**WEST INDIES:**  
Simmons c Srinath b Tendulkar 65  
Williams c b Tendulkar 47  
Hooper lbw b Raju 1

India from a 46-run defeat by West Indies in their triangular one-day series match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was West Indies' first win of the tournament. They lost to India in their opening match and their second against New Zealand was abandoned because of rain.

India, chasing a victory target of 258 in 50 overs, were always struggling to achieve the required run rate in the face of tight bowling by Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin and Andrew Cummins. They finished on 211 for five.

The bowlers were supported by some brilliant fielding, three of the five wickets falling to run outs from direct throws.

Prabhakar's 102 came off 154 balls but no other batsman played an adequate supporting role.

Sachin Tendulkar was the next highest scorer with 34, including seven boundaries.

Earlier, Phil Simmons and Stuart Williams gave West Indies a flying start to their innings with an opening stand of 115 to help their side to an impressive 257 for six.

The powerful Simmons, dropped twice by Vinod Kambli, scored 65 from 98 balls including two sixes, while Williams gave solid support with 45 from 86 deliveries.

Keith Arthurton kept up the momentum with 72 from 82 balls, including four boundaries and a six off medium-pace Prabhakar who conceded 50 runs from six wicketless overs.

Ronald Holder, who came in to the side in place of the suspended Brian Lara, justified his selection with 32 from 49

Malik made 35 and Akram 26. Rashid Latif, who earlier in the day injured his left thumb while keeping wicket, made 27 for the last wicket with Aaqib Javed but it was all in a lost cause.

Malik also completed his 5,000 runs in one dayers to become the second Pakistani to reach the figure after Javed Miandad.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the final of the one-day triangular tournament between Pakistan and Australia today:

**AUSTRALIA:**  
M Taylor c and b Salim Malik 56



GLEN MCGRATH ... m-o-m

## Prabhakar's gritty ton goes in vain Windies exact revenge

KANPUR, India, Oct 30: An unbeaten century by opener Manoj Prabhakar failed to save India from a 46-run defeat by West Indies in their triangular one-day series match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was West Indies' first win of the tournament. They lost to India in their opening match and their second against New Zealand was abandoned because of rain.

India, chasing a victory target of 258 in 50 overs, were always struggling to achieve the required run rate in the face of tight bowling by Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin and Andrew Cummins. They finished on 211 for five.

The bowlers were supported by some brilliant fielding, three of the five wickets falling to run outs from direct throws.

Prabhakar's 102 came off 154 balls but no other batsman played an adequate supporting role.

Sachin Tendulkar was the next highest scorer with 34, including seven boundaries.

Earlier, Phil Simmons and Stuart Williams gave West Indies a flying start to their innings with an opening stand of 115 to help their side to an impressive 257 for six.

The powerful Simmons, dropped twice by Vinod Kambli, scored 65 from 98 balls including two sixes, while Williams gave solid support with 45 from 86 deliveries.

Keith Arthurton kept up the momentum with 72 from 82 balls, including four boundaries and a six off medium-pace Prabhakar who conceded 50 runs from six wicketless overs.

Ronald Holder, who came in to the side in place of the suspended Brian Lara, justified his selection with 32 from 49



KEITH ARTHURTON ... m-o-m

balls.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the triangular series one-day match between India and the West Indies here today:

**WEST INDIES:**  
Simmons c Srinath b Tendulkar 65  
Williams c b Tendulkar 47  
Hooper lbw b Raju 1

India from a 46-run defeat by West Indies in their triangular one-day series match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was West Indies' first win of the tournament. They lost to India in their opening match and their second against New Zealand was abandoned because of rain.

India, chasing a victory target of 258 in 50 overs, were always struggling to achieve the required run rate in the face of tight bowling by Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin and Andrew Cummins. They finished on 211 for five.

The bowlers were supported by some brilliant fielding, three of the five wickets falling to run outs from direct throws.

Prabhakar's 102 came off 154 balls but no other batsman played an adequate supporting role.

Sachin Tendulkar was the next highest scorer with 34, including seven boundaries.

Earlier, Phil Simmons and Stuart Williams gave West Indies a flying start to their innings with an opening stand of 115 to help their side to an impressive 257 for six.

The powerful Simmons, dropped twice by Vinod Kambli, scored 65 from 98 balls including two sixes, while Williams gave solid support with 45 from 86 deliveries.

Keith Arthurton kept up the momentum with 72 from 82 balls, including four boundaries and a six off medium-pace Prabhakar who conceded 50 runs from six wicketless overs.

Ronald Holder, who came in to the side in place of the suspended Brian Lara, justified his selection with 32 from 49

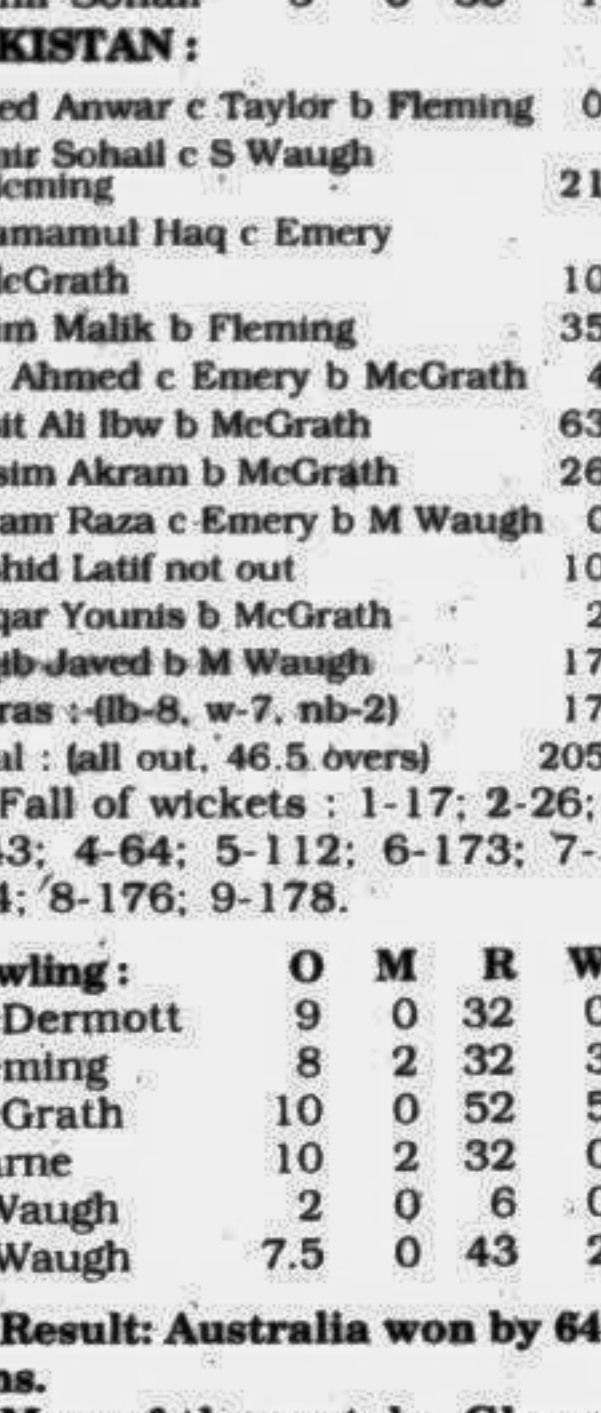
M Slater at Rashid Latif b Salim Malik 66  
M Waugh b Salim Malik 38  
D Boon c Salim Malik b Waqar Younis 21  
S Waugh b Aamir Sohail 1  
M Bevan not out 53  
P Emery not out 11  
Extras: (b-1, lb-16, nb-2, w-4) 23  
Total: (for 5 wickets, 50 overs) 269  
Fall of wickets: 1-121; 2-146; 3-188; 4-191; 5-226.  
Did not bat: S Warner, C McDermott, D Fleming, G McGrath

**Bowling:**  
Wasim Akram 10 1 63 0  
Aaqib Javed 7 0 30 0  
Waqar Younis 8 0 48 1  
Akram Raza 10 0 45 0  
Salim Malik 10 0 31 3  
Aamir Sohail 5 0 35 1

**PAKISTAN:**  
Saeed Anwar c Taylor b Fleming 0  
Aamir Sohail c S Waugh o Fleming 21  
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Emery b McGrath 10  
Salim Malik b Fleming 35  
Ijaz Ahmed c Emery b McGrath 4  
Basit Ali lbw b McGrath 63  
Wasim Akram b McGrath 26  
Akram Raza c Emery b M Waugh 0  
Rashid Latif not out 10  
Waqar Younis b McGrath 12  
Aaqib Javed b M Waugh 17  
Extras: (lb-8, w-7, nb-2) 17  
Total: (all out, 46.5 overs) 205  
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-26; 3-43; 4-64; 5-112; 6-173; 7-174; 8-176; 9-178.

**Bowling:**  
McDermott 9 0 32 0  
Fleming 8 2 32 3  
McGrath 10 0 52 5  
Warne 10 2 32 0  
S Waugh 2 0 6 0  
M Waugh 7.5 0 43 2

**Result: Australia won by 64 runs.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Glenn McGrath (Australia).**



GLEN MCGRATH ... m-o-m

## Prabhakar's gritty ton goes in vain Windies exact revenge

KANPUR, India, Oct 30: An unbeaten century by opener Manoj Prabhakar failed to save India from a 46-run defeat by West Indies in their triangular one-day series match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was West Indies' first win of the tournament. They lost to India in their opening match and their second against New Zealand was abandoned because of rain.

India, chasing a victory target of 258 in 50 overs, were always struggling to achieve the required run rate in the face of tight bowling by Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin and Andrew Cummins. They finished on 211 for five.

The bowlers were supported by some brilliant fielding, three of the five wickets falling to run outs from direct throws.

Prabhakar's 102 came off 154 balls but no other batsman played an adequate supporting role.

Sachin Tendulkar was the next highest scorer with 34, including seven boundaries.

Earlier, Phil Simmons and Stuart Williams gave West Indies a flying start to their innings with an opening stand of 115 to help their side to an impressive 257 for six.

The powerful Simmons, dropped twice by Vinod Kambli, scored 65 from 98 balls including two sixes, while Williams gave solid support with 45 from 86 deliveries.

Keith Arthurton kept up the momentum with 72 from 82 balls, including four boundaries and a six off medium-pace Prabhakar who conceded 50 runs from six wicketless overs.

Ronald Holder, who came in to the side in place of the suspended Brian Lara, justified his selection with 32 from 49



KEITH ARTHURTON ... m-o-m

balls.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the triangular series one-day match between India and the West Indies here today:

**WEST INDIES:**  
Simmons c Srinath b Tendulkar 65  
Williams c b Tendulkar 47  
Hooper lbw b Raju 1

India from a 46-run defeat by West Indies in their triangular one-day series match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

It was West Indies' first win of the tournament. They lost to India in their opening match and their second against New Zealand was abandoned because of rain.

India, chasing a victory target of 258 in 50 overs, were always struggling to achieve the required run rate in the face of tight bowling by Courtney Walsh, Kenneth Benjamin and Andrew Cummins. They finished on 211 for five.

The bowlers were supported by some brilliant fielding, three of the five wickets falling to run outs from direct throws.

Prabhakar's 102 came off 154 balls but no other batsman played an adequate supporting role.

Sachin Tendulkar was the next highest scorer with 34, including seven boundaries.

Earlier, Phil Simmons and Stuart Williams gave West Indies a flying start to their innings with an opening stand of 115 to help their side to an impressive 257 for six.

The powerful Simmons, dropped twice by Vinod Kambli, scored 65 from 98 balls including two sixes, while Williams gave solid support with 45 from 86 deliveries.

Keith Arthurton kept up the momentum with 72 from 82 balls, including four boundaries and a six off medium-pace Prabhakar who conceded 50 runs from six wicketless overs.

Ronald Holder, who came in to the side in place of the suspended Brian Lara, justified his selection with 32 from 49

# Lanka-Zimbabwe 3rd Test set for another draw

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Oct 30: Bad light intervened Sunday to ensure that the third Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka would probably end in a draw, reports AP.

With Sri Lanka on 20 for one wicket in their second innings, 47 ahead of Zimbabwe, play was called off just over an hour before the scheduled close. One day of the play remains.

Zimbabwe's innings was notable for 142 from David Howarth, who helped his side total 375 all out.

The outstanding performance from Sri Lanka was a career best seven wickets for 116 runs by seamer Ravindra Pushpakumara. At one stage he took two wickets in successive balls.

One of his wickets was due to a brilliant one-handed diving catch by Roshan Mahanama at third man to dismiss Wayne James.

The umpire's decision to call off play, after an earlier stoppage because of bad light, drew protests from the crowd and criticism from match referee Peter van der Merwe of South Africa.

He said conditions were definitely good enough to play but he was powerless to reverse the decision.

Sri Lanka lost an early wicket in their second innings when opener Mahanama was out leg before wicket without scoring.

He has been one of the major disappointments on the tour, having failed to top 50 in any innings. In the continuing overcast conditions, the ball has been moving unpredictably through the air.

The first two matches were drawn in the three-Test "basement battle" series between the two bottom teams of the nine-nation Test table. Three one-day games remain.

## Sino runners complete double

BEIJING, Oct 30: Chinese runners won both the men's and women's events in the 14th Beijing Marathon today despite having competed in the Hiroshima Asian Games this month, reports Reuters.

Hu Gangjun won the men's event for the second successive year in a time of two hours, 10 minutes and 56 seconds.

Second was event record-holder Abebe Meconen, of Ethiopia, in 2:11:33, who led the race until the 35-km (22-mile) mark, and third was Mohamed Nazipov, of Russia, in 2:11:35.

Hu's time was one second better than his winning time a year ago.

"I am happy with the time," he told reporters. Hu finished fourth in the Asian Games marathon.

"For two months before the Asian Games, I did not train too hard in order to conserve my energy for these two events, he said.

Asked how China's male runners could match the record-breaking achievements of their female compatriots, Hu said they must learn from the methods of top trainer Ma Junren.

"We must learn to suffer and bear hardship. I am confident China's male runners will become best in the world," Hu said.

The winner of the women's marathon was Wang Junxia, one of the athletes trained by Ma. She told reporters she was content with the result given the race followed the Hiroshima event so soon.

Hu's time was three minutes and 21 seconds slower than the record set by Meconen in the event in 1988.

Officials said this was due to a relatively warm temperature of 16 degrees centigrade (60 Fahrenheit) conditions were otherwise perfect with almost no wind under a cloudless sky.

The runners set out from the Workers Stadium in north-east Beijing for the circuit round the centre of the city.

Over 300 runners from 10 countries and regions took part in the race, but Japanese runners, who have traditionally done well in this event, were absent.

## Sairung retains WBF crown

BANGKOK, Oct 30: Sairung Suwannasilpa of Thailand stopped Andres Tavaraz of the Dominican Republic in the third round Sunday, keeping his World Boxing Federation junior flyweight championship, reports AP.

The 19-year-old Sairung, in the first defence of the title he won from Indonesia's Azadin Anhar, knocked the 26-year-old Tavaraz to the canvas with a left hook to the head.

Tavaraz stumbled to his feet, rested on the ropes and waved away the referee, who encouraged him to fight one.

Tavaraz had been ranked third by the WBF and also had a top ten rating the World Boxing Organisation.