

Smooth flight for Biman

Opener Jahangir Alam struck his second successive half century as Bangladesh Biman scored a convincing 51-run win over Agrani Bank in the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Jahangir, the national opener who scored an unbeaten 68 in the previous match against Combined Nirman School Eleven, contributed a polished 69 in Biman's imposing total of 216 for six wickets in the allotted 45 overs.

After his opening partner Ziaur Rashid (9) departed cheaply with the scoreboard reading 33 in 10.4 overs, Jahangir formed the backbone of Biman's huge total sharing 110 runs for the second wicket with Habibul Bashar who scored a gritty 48 off 66 balls.

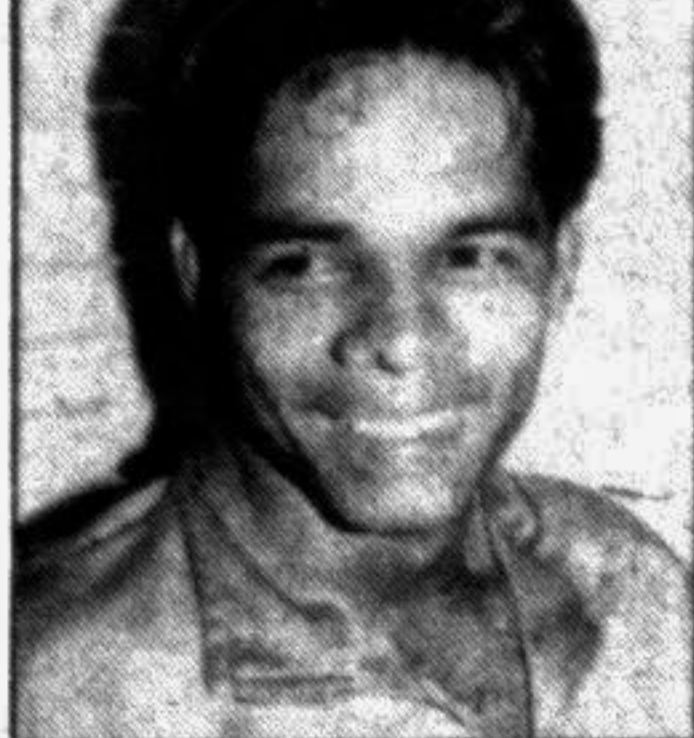
Jahangir's 102-ball stay at the wicket was penetrated by seven hits to the fence and finally came to an end when he went for a cheeky single.

Habibul Bashar, who also shone with the cherry claiming three wickets, hit three boundaries in his knock.

Sports Reporter

Bhashkar Pillai, the Indian middle-order bat who came at number four, took the score past 200 with a quickfire 37 off 39 balls which included one huge sixer and a four.

The useful batsman who served the airline outfit along



JAHANGIR ALAM ... 69

with his more illustrious compatriot Sanjeev Sharma last year, fell a victim to Morshed Alam Sentu.

Skipper Enamul Haq Moni (16) departed to Morshed's next delivery. The Bank bowler finished with two for 39.

Agrani Bank never appeared capable of overhauling the

Biman total and could muster 165 runs for the loss of six wickets when overs ran out on them.

The Bank total was built on four 20-plus scores from the top order.

Openers Tawfiq (25) and Anwar (33) contributed 61 runs for the first wicket before Sumon removed both the batsmen in quick succession.

Skipper Gaurul Huda, who scored a plucky 33 off 47 balls and was there till the end, didn't get any support at the other end once Atiquzzaman (25) was sent back to the pavilion by the Biman captain.

Enamul Haq, who evenly shared six Agrani Bank wickets with Habibul Bashar, gave away only 21 runs in his nine-over spell while Habibul Bashar was a little expensive, spending 36 runs in his six overs.

Biman, joint-holders of the Navana Premier cricket title, will play their last Group E match against Gulshan Youth on November 24.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Gulshan Youth vs Combined Nirman School Eleven (DCS), GMCC vs Kalabagan KC (Mirpur Pallabi ground)

BU stay atop

Sports Reporter

After a shock defeat at the hands of Mashgul Mehfil Club the day before, title contenders Bangladesh Biman regained winning touch yesterday when the airlines team outplayed Leoline Chess Club 3.5-0.5 in the 11th round of the First Division chess league at the National Sports Council.

However, the win didn't quite make up for Friday's disaster as Biman still trail Brothers Union by two and a half points at the top of the table. The defending champions recorded a similar margin victory over Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) to raise their haul to 34 points.

With Grandmaster Niaz Murshid back in action after a day's break and Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi and V Sharavanan joining the Bangladeshi top-rated player in the winning march, the Gopibagh equipe lost half a point when Abdullah al-Raqib drew with Abul Kashem Bhuiyan.

For Biman, newly-crowned Dr Qazi Motahar Hossain IM's meet champion Rezaul Karim, his coval arch-rival IM Ziaur Rahman and Rezaul Haque deposited one point each while the half point came from Taneema Parveen.

Although the scenario at the very top remained unchanged, Bangladesh brought about a change when the services team overtook BTMC with a 4-0 win over Noor-e-Alam Khan Daba Sangsad. Ansars now hold the third slot with 28.5 points two and a half points ahead of BTMC.

There was, however, no change in luck for Bobby Fischer Chess Club, who left a spot in Brothers' record with a stunning 2.5-1.5 victory. The team named after world chess's enfant terrible American former world champion posted a 2.5-1.5 triumph over Farashganj Sporting Club to stay in the now familiar fifth position.

Sharing the place with Bobby Fischer Club were Mashgul, 2.5-1.5 winners over Protibha Daba Goshthi.

Other winners of the day included the Dhaka University team and Konika Sanskritik Sangha, both 4-0 victors over Sonali Bank and Parijat Chess Club respectively.

The other scheduled match between Genius Chess Club and Mahakhali Prodig Sangha split points.

Papin injured

MUNICH, Nov 19: Bayern Munich's French striker Jean-Pierre Papin was hit by new injury agony here on Friday when he broke a bone in his left hand in training, reports AFP.

The injury, which has already been operated on, will keep him out of Saturday's Bundesliga match with Karlsruhe.

The former AC Milan player returned to action last week as a substitute after a prolonged knee injury to score his first goal of the season for his new club against Schalke 04.

His knee problem had kept him sidelined since the end of September.

Argentina lose again

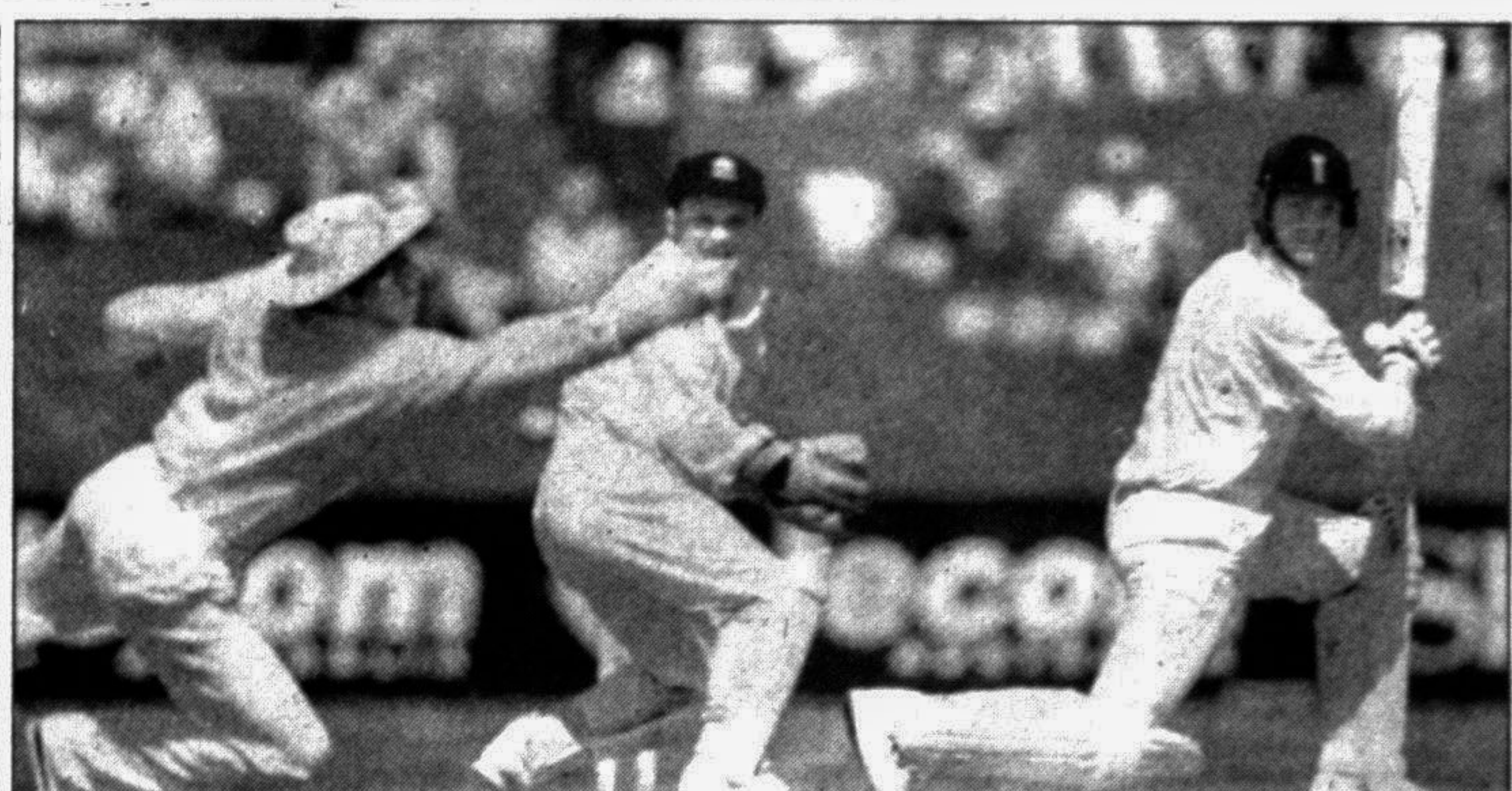
AUCKLAND, Nov 19: Argentina lost the second men's hockey Test against New Zealand and the three-match series here Saturday, reports AFP.

Argentina went down 4-1 after losing the first Test on Thursday 3-1.

The halftime score in Saturday's game was 1-1. Argentina opened the scoring in the match Saturday when Fernando Falchetto struck a goal in the fifth minute.

New Zealand equalised in the seventh when forward Greg Russ put the ball in the net from a cross.

In the second half Greg Russ scored again and his brother, midfielder Craig Russ, scored twice from penalty corners.



England's John Crawley has a narrow squeak as Damien Martyn fails to snap a snick during the four-day match between the visitors and an Australian XI at the Bellerive Oval yesterday.

Fletcher disappointed with his men

Aussie XI reign at Hobart



HOBART, Nov 19: England coach Keith Fletcher criticised his cricketers as "pathetic" Saturday

after they collapsed on the second day of a four-day match against an Australian XI at Bellerive Oval, reports AP.

Less than a week before the start of the Ashes series in Brisbane, Mike Atherton's side took a step reminiscent of the last three series in which England have been beaten 4-0, 3-0 and 4-1.

Not one of the first six batsmen in the order lasted two hours in the middle as England finished the day facing the prospect of being forced to follow-on.

At the close, England were 200-9 in reply to the Australian XI's tally of 386-7 declared and should have been all out but for a last-ball dropped catch by Australian wicket-keeper Mark Atkinson.

Former captain Graham Gooch made an even 50 but the steady procession of batsmen to and from the pavilion prompted Fletcher to give the side a dressing down after play.

"I'm very concerned with how we are playing because, apart from the first two hours yesterday, we have been totally outplayed," Fletcher said. "If we play like that, we are struggling for this series."

"We were bloody pathetic and it's no good saying any different."

Wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes finished the day on 41, paired with last man Phil Tufnell on nought, but the tourists were dominated in every aspect of the day's play.

Jo Angel and Paul Reffel grabbed three and two wickets respectively while Merv Hughes' haul of 3-46 from 15 overs should have included the wicket of Tufnell from the last ball of the day.

Only Graeme Hick was missing from the likely top six for the first Test beginning next Friday and Fletcher saw red as the wickets tumbled.

Atherton (2) and Alec Stewart (27) both fell before lunch while Graham Thorpe (19), Gooch (50) and John Crawley (14) made starts without progressing further during the middle session.

Gooch's half-century contained six boundaries and one six but the former captain ended a bright innings with probably the worst shot played all day.

The veteran 41-year-old swung across the line at Reffel and lost his middle stump as he tried to hit the ball through mid-wicket.

Atherton tried to blast a drive through cover and was brilliantly caught low to his left by Reffel at third slip, leaving England 18-1.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps Saturday, second day of the four-day cricket match between England and an Australian XI at Bellerive Oval:

AUSTRALIAN XI: 1st Innings
Hayden c White b McCague 8
Blewett b McCague 53
Langer c Rhodes b White 10
Martyn b Tufnell 103
Ponting c Rhodes b McCague 71
Law c McCague b Gough 68
Atkinson not out 51
Robertson c Rhodes b Benjamin 18
Extras 3
Total (for seven wicket dec) 385
Fall of wickets: 9, 40, 99, 231, 267, 346, 385

Bowling: O M R W
Gough 23 2 101 1
McCague 24 1 115 3
Benjamin 15.5 2 50 1
White 18 3 56 1
Tufnell 23 3 62 1
Batting time: 417 minutes.
Overs: 103.5

ENGLAND: 1st Innings
Atherton c Reffel b Hughes 2
Stewart c Langer b Reffel 27
Thorpe b Angel 19
Gooch b Reffel 50
Crawley st Atkinson b Robertson 14
White lbw b Angel 18
Rhodes not out 41
Gooch c Blewett b Angel 4
McCague c Atkinson b Hughes 16
Benjamin lbw b Hughes 1
Tufnell not out 0
Extras 8
Total (for nine wickets) 200
Fall of wickets: 18, 36, 92, 117, 152, 156, 194, 200.

Bowling: O M R W
Hughes 15 4 46 3
Reffel 16 7 37 2
Robertson 26 7 72 1
Angel 12 2 36 3
Blewett 4 2 3 0
Batting time: 297 minutes.
Overs: 73.

Barisal soccer

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 19: Brothers Union recorded an impressive 4-2 win over Manju Smriti Sangha in the Emma Overseas First Division football league at a local stadium here today.

Arif, Shamim, Munir and Nasir notched one goal apiece for the winners while Kamal and David netted once each for the losers.

Ruptali Protik Sangha will take on Water Development Board (WDB) at the same venue tomorrow (Sunday).

Scandal-prone French soccer

From Staff Correspondent

PARIS, Nov 19: France was rocked by a new football scandal here on Friday when Francis Borelli, president of First Division side Cannes, was accused of financial fraud, reports AFP.

The charges date back to when Borelli was president of reigning champions Paris Saint Germain, a post he took up in 1978 and which he held during the glory years that saw the club win the French Cup in 1982 and 1983 and lift their first league title in 1986.

Borelli became president at Cannes in 1992.

Last season Olympique Marseille, the 1993 European champions, were relegated to the Second Division and stripped of their 1992/93 French title following a match-rigging scandal.

That affair all but destroyed Marseille as all of the club's top stars, including Croatian Alen Boksic and German Rudi Voller, were sold to meet rising bills.

Accidental

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 19: One man was accidentally shot dead on a Rio de Janeiro bus by soccer fans who were aiming at a group of rival supporters, police said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Roberto Perez da Silva, 40, was on a bus carrying a group of Fluminense fans from their team's Brazilian championship match with Flamengo at the Maracana Stadium on Wednesday night.

A car carrying a group of supporters of Botafogo, another Rio Club, overtook the Fluminense bus on a flyover and several shots were fired, police said.

One shot hit Da Silva in the head, killing him instantly. Witnesses said Da Silva had got on the bus before it passed the Maracana and was nothing to do with the Fluminense fans.

Two Fluminense fans in the bus were also injured by the shots. Nobody has been charged so far.

The Fluminense supporters had been celebrating their team's 3-0 win and had spent most of the journey insulting passers-by, witnesses said. Shortly before the shooting, they insulted a group of Botafogo fans.

Brazilian soccer has been hit by a wave of violence recently. Last month, a Palmeiras fan was killed in front of the Maracana Stadium by a shot fired from a passing car. Another fan died from injuries sustained during a riot in Campinas between fans of Guarani and Corinthians.

Moorer's manager denies it

DETROIT, Nov 19: Michael Moorers' manager said on Thursday that the former heavyweight champion has not retired, reports Reuter.

Moorer, who lost his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles to George Foreman on November 5, in Las Vegas, said he was retiring, the Detroit News reported on Thursday.

Moorer said he wanted to pursue career in law enforcement.

But Moorer's manager, John Davimos, told ESPN Radio Thursday night that Moorer spike out of frustration stemming from a difficult divorce and that he will fight again.

Korea critical of Japan

SEOUL, Nov 19: The Korean Football Association (KFA) called on Friday for Asian soccer chiefs to

censure Japan for submitting a second strong side to a top-ranking regional competition, reports Reuter.

KFA general-secretary Kim Jung-Nam said he would complain to the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) about the omission of star players from J-League Yomiuri Verdy's team to the East Asian quarterfinals of the Asian Club Championships.

This matter concerns the future of the AFC and Asian football," Kim said.

Yomiuri Verdy have named a reserve squad, without stars Tsuyoshi Kitazawa, Ruy Ramos and Japanese captain Tetsuji Hashiratani, for the championship quarterfinals that kick off in the South Korean city of Changwon this weekend.

Baggio joins Sacchi-bashing

TURIN, Italy, Nov 19: Roberto Baggio on Friday joined a chorus of criticism of Italy's embattled coach Arrigo Sacchi, suggesting Bayern Munich's Giovanni Trapattoni as a possible successor, reports Reuter.

Trapattoni? He could be just the man to guide the national team if a change should come about," said Baggio, last season's European footballer-of-the-year.

Sacchi, whose tinkering with line-ups and tactics has made him a target of criticism, on Thursday rejected calls for his resignation following the World Cup finalists' shock 2-1 defeat by Croatia in a European Championship qualifier.

"Perhaps Sacchi never managed to put into practice what he preaches — a spectacular style of soccer people want," Baggio said.

"It's undeniable that he play one way for our clubs and in an entirely different way for the national side."

"It's only natural that he be accused when things do not go well," added Baggio, who played under Trapattoni when he was Juventus coach.

One of Europe's most successful trainers, Trapattoni was quoted by newspapers on Friday as saying he was available to coach Italy.

"The Italian federation has my phone number," he told Corriere dello Sport.

In a survey published on Friday in Gazzetta dello Sport, Trapattoni was readers' first choice as Sacchi's successor.

Trapattoni won six Italian league titles with Juventus and one with Internazionale in the 1988-89 season. He also led Inter to their UEFA Cup triumph in 1991.

But he has struggled this season his first outside Italy. Champions Bayern are seventh in the German First Division, six points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund.

Van Himst, not so popular in Belgium

BRUSSELS, Nov 19: Most Belgians want Pual van Himst to quit as Belgium coach following his team's disappointing 1-1 home draw against Macedonia on Wednesday, a newspaper survey published on Friday said, reports Reuter.

Asked whether Van Himst should stay on, 60.3 per cent of 1,010 men polled said no, the survey published by La Dernière Heure said. Only 34 per cent said yes.

Magnificent Mutlu on record-breaking spree

ISTANBUL, Nov 19: Turkey's Halil Mutlu broke seven world records on his way to

topping Olympic champion and title holder Ivan Ivanov in a thrilling finale to the 54 kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships on Friday, reports Reuter.

In front of a rapturous home crowd, Mutlu broke the Bulgarian's 277.5 kg combined record set at last year's World Championships in Melbourne, three times with 282.5, 287.5 and finally 290 kgs.

He jumped with delight after inflicting on four times world champion Ivanov his first ever defeat in the World Championships and finally stepping out of the shadow of his renowned compatriot Naim Suleymanoglu — the 64 kg "Pocket Hercules".

Mutlu began by breaking Bulgarian Sevdalin Mintchev's 125 kg world snatch record, set at the European Championships in Poland in May, twice with 127.5 and 130 kgs.

He went on to lift 158 and then 160 in the jerk to break the world standard of 157.5 set by the sport's world governing body IWF after the weight categories were changed in 1993 to clear out old records supposedly set under the influence of doping.

Mutlu's victory gave a huge boost to Turkey's campaign, on home ground for the first time, to prove just how far they have progressed in weightlifting since the mid-1980s. The first women's event.

Palacio pleads not guilty

MIAMI, Nov 19: Former featherweight champion Ruben Palacio of Colombia entered an innocent plea to heroin charges Thursday through his attorney, reports AP.

Palacio was arrested Nov 6 at Miami International Airport with 5.33 pounds (2.41 kilograms) of heroin hidden in the lining of his coat and his undershorts, authorities charged.

the 46 kg competition, also saw a world record tumble with teenager Yun Yanhong's 80.5 kg in the snatch.

Yun, who won her category, broke compatriot Guan Hong's record of 80 kg, set at the Asian Games in October. But Guan's jerk and combined records remained intact.

Indian Nameir Kunjarani was second with 72.5 in the snatch and 95 in the jerk. Third was Huey-Woan Tsai of Taiwan.

Yun was the first of many expected winners for China in the women's competition even though they have entered only six out of nine events and fielded a young, second-string team.

Quin Guang Jian, deputy head of China's Weightlifting Federation, said the Chinese, holders of all combined women's world records, would not be as dominant as usual.

None of the women who set world records at the Asian Games in Hiroshima have entered.



Dutch skipper Marc Delissen (R) dribbles past the Malaysian defence in a hockey friendly in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The Netherlands won 3-0.

Shahbaz quashes concerns

SYDNEY, Nov 19: Pakistan's World Cup hockey hopes were significantly boosted here Friday when

captain Shahbaz Ahmed declared himself fit for Wednesday's opening match against Argentina, reports AFP.

Pakistan's most experienced player had his first work-out Friday since stretching a calf muscle in last week's 4-1 win over New Zealand in Wellington.

The concerns in the Pakistan camp were quashed when the 28-year-old said he would be fully fit early next week, following intensive physiotherapy in the last few days.

Shahbaz said he was "60-70 per cent" recovered and had no doubts he would survive the rigours of a long, intensive tournament.

"I never really considered that I wouldn't make this World Cup and I know the team feels better when I'm playing," the veteran of 126 internationals said.

Pakistan played three

Shahbaz quashes concerns

games in New Zealand last week, winning 1-0 and 4-1, and drawing the final game against the Kiwis 2-2.

"Those three matches have really helped with our build-up, and I think we have good stamina, which is needed for a World Cup," he said.

A World Cup winner in 1971, 1978 and 1982, Pakistan is the world's most successful hockey nation. However, it will need to be at its best to stake a claim for the '94 cup.

Shahbaz believes that Germany's form makes it favourite, followed by the Netherlands, Australia and Pakistan.

A World Cup victory for the Pakistan captain would make up for the heartbreak of losing 3-1 at home to the Netherlands in the Lahore final four years ago, before 60,000 fans.

He also played in the 1986 World Cup, when Pakistan struggled.

Pakistan have enjoyed a fine 1994, winning the Champions Trophy tournament before reaching the Asian Games' semifinal two months ago. They lost to Korea on a penalty shoot-out after a 2-2 draw.

MURRAY PLEASED

Meanwhile, Australian coach Frank Murray said he was pleased with all aspects of his team's World Cup preparations after a 2-0 win over India here today.

Australia is top seed for the 12-nation tournament, starting at the Sydney Olympic 2000 venue on Wednesday. The match against India was the hosts' only chance for practice.

Two penalty corner goals in

Shahbaz quashes concerns

four minutes late in the second half — from Greg Corbett and Mark Hager — gave the Australian men a deserved victory over an Indian team that looked much tougher than the outfit thrashed 4-0 in a five-test series in Australia in May.

All 16 players were given a run after weeks of intensive training for hockey's biggest event outside the Olympics.

"I was very pleased," said Murray. "It was a fast game which was exactly what we wanted."

"The score didn't really matter because we wanted to get used to the surface, which is a bit bouncier and softer than we're used to."

"If your passing is a bit off it takes you longer to settle down and get into your stride."

Murray said he was particularly pleased with halfback Paul Gaudoin, at 19 the youngest member of the Australian team.

Gaudoin tore a hamstring in Argentina last month and his preparations have been sharply curtailed.

Earlier today a makeshift New South Wales side beat World Cup minnows Belarus 2-0 and South Africa had an easy 4-0 win over a local club side.

Australia, Pakistan, Germany and the Netherlands are expected to meet in the World Cup semifinals.

Belgium, England, Korea, South Africa, India, Belarus, Spain and Argentina make up the remaining teams.

The final will be played on December 4, with pool matches from November 23-30.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Nov 19: League champions Abahani Krira Chakra registered a two-goal victory over runners-up Mohammedan Sporting Club in the concluding match of CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Tipu scored both the goals for the winners.

Abahani completed the league collecting 27 points from 18 matches while Mohammedans got 23 points from the same number of encounters.