

Pakistan A to take part in SAARC cricket

Pakistan's national 'A' cricket team is expected to arrive here on December 17 to take part in the SAARC cricket tournament...

The four-nation tournament is scheduled to begin in Dhaka on December 21.

BCCP member Arif Ali Khan Abbasi told BSS in Islamabad that Pakistan will take part in the tournament and will send a national 'A' team to Dhaka as the Test squad is abroad.

India and Sri Lanka have also confirmed their participation in the tournament, sources of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board said yesterday.

BCCB sources said, 'We are going ahead and preparations are also going on.'

India to play festival cricket in Trinidad

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Nov 29: An Indian cricket team will play three one-day matches against the West Indies in Trinidad next May as part of celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians here...

The matches will be played on May 4, 6 and 7. Steve Camacho, chief executive officer of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control, said in a statement.

Former Indian batting star Sunil Gavaskar, who holds the record for the highest number of Test centuries, as well as Vijay Hazare, captain of the first Indian team to tour the Caribbean, were reported among the invitees.

West Indies players are currently on a three-Test series in the Indian sub-continent. They were defeated by 96 runs in the first Test played in Bombay.

The first shipload of indentured labourers from India arrived in Trinidad aboard the Patel Rozack on May 30, 1845, consigned to work on British-owned sugar estates.

Over a period of 72 years, some 144,000 landed in Port of Spain. Indenture was discontinued in 1917.

The Trinidad and Tobago government headed by Prime Minister Patrick Manning and private organisations are drawing up plans to commemorate the historic event.

Jansher set to become a millionaire

DOHA, Nov 29: Jansher Khan, the world squash champion, is set to become a millionaire this season — without having to lift a racket.

The 25-year-old Pakistani star, who has won six world titles, has already passed the 800,000 dollars mark in sponsorship agreements with European, American and Pakistani companies.

'Negotiations are going on with a number of large Japanese institutions,' said Munir Akbar Baloch, one of Khan's advisers.

'If agreements are signed, then Jansher's income would be enhanced from 800,000 to a million dollars,' Baloch told reporters Tuesday.

On Monday, Khan said he would boycott all tournaments in his native Pakistan as well as the world team championships after a row with his main sponsor, Pakistan International Airlines.

Khan is in Doha to defend his Qatar international title, which he has won for the past two years. On Monday he defeated Welshman Adrian Davies to reach the second round but world No. 2 Peter Marshall suffered a shock defeat at the hands of fellow Englishman Simon Parke.

Khan will meet Egypt's Amir Wagh in the next round of the 96,000 dollars tournament. Wagh knocked out Pakistan's Zarak Khan on Monday.

In two late matches on Monday night, Stephen Meads defeated Paul Gregory 9-15, 15-13, 15-11, 15-10 while the world No. 12 Daniel Meddings had to come from two games down against Angus Kirkland to win 9-15, 14-15, 15-12, 15-9, 15-9.

Schmeichel sidelined

MANCHESTER, Nov 29: Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's back injury will keep him out of action for another month to six weeks, the team said Monday, reports AP.

The Danish international's injury, suffered during United's 3-0 home victory over Crystal Palace nine days ago, has turned out to be more serious than first thought.

Schmeichel, 31, has torn muscles around his spinal discs and will not play until he is fully recovered, team officials said.



Victorious Bangladesh Biman cricketers walk back to the dressing room after winning their 15th Damal Summer second round opener against Brothers Union by 17 runs at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Brothers bungle badly

Rank bad batting robbed Brothers Union of a probable win. In the second round opener of the two almost evenly balanced teams in the 15th Damal Summer cricket at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday — former champions Bangladesh Biman and Brothers Union — the latter, chasing 173 for a win, were sitting pretty at 117 for two in the 29th over.

Suddenly the sky changed and in an inexplicable batting collapse the Gopibagh side lost seven wickets for 39 runs and were all out for 156 in 42.1 overs.

Brothers were given an excellent start in their quest for a victory target, hardly deserving to be called challenging particularly after unfancied Victoria's triumph under similar circumstances over champions Abahani only the previous day.

Although young Sajid's assay of 28 from 75 balls can hardly be called a one day innings, he along with his partner, the younger of the two Hanifs from Pakistan, raised 74 from 18 overs.

Abed Hanif, who dealt a few powerful blows in his 33 off 56 balls, was the first to go, taken behind by Baruah off Shamsul Huda.

The slow left-arm-er was again in action with the score on 89 when he bowled Sajid to pave the way for a brisk partnership between skipper Al Shahrir Rokon and Brothers' best bet, the redoubtable Aamer Hanif.

Young Rokon raced to 20 off only 16 balls but paid dearly for his restlessness offering a tame catch to Enamul at cover off Ziaur Rashid, who went on to claim the costliest wicket of the afternoon.

The off spinner, however,

Sports Reporter

owed his second wicket to Aamer Hanif, who was castled in an injudicious and overconfident attempt to cut a straightish ball from Zia which kept low.

After Aamer left for an 18-ball 17 with the total on 118 in 29.2 overs, the rot got to Brothers Union, who suffered three run outs in quick succession.

And although Mafiz and Sajal hung out there for some time, the cumulative pressure mounted by the experienced Biman bowlers and fielders was enough to water down the youthful resistance in time.

Huda was the pick of the Biman bowlers with a bag of two for 28.

There were two wickets apiece for skipper Enam and Zia.

Earlier young new ball bowler Sajal bowled splendidly to capture four for 20 from his nine overs as Biman sent in to bat first, recovered from early setbacks to collect 172 from their quota of 45 overs.

Opener Jahangir Alam, who had earlier slammed three half centuries, was Biman's top scorer with 43, made from 75 balls including five hits to the fence.

However, the crucial contributions came from the Indian duo — Bhasker Pillai and Sanjeev-Sharma who made 30 each.

Pillai played 36 balls while Sharma, who hit the lone sixer of the match, needed 40 balls before being well caught by Sajid in the deep off Sajal.

Aamer Hanif gave Sajal good support taking two for 43.

SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Runs/Wickets. Bangladesh Biman: Jahangir Alam b Aamer Khan 43, Ziaur Rashid lbw b Sajal Chowdhury 02, Habibul Bashar A Islam b...

Sports Reporter

Table with 4 columns: Player Name, O, M, R, W. Sajal Chowdhury 0, Ahmed Fataz b Mafizur Rahman 23, Bhaskar Pillai lbw b Aamer Hanif 30, Sanjeev Sharma c Sajid Hassan b Sajal Chowdhury 30, Enamul Haq c Shafulah b Al Shahrir 0, Jahangir Talukder not out 10, Debasish Baruah run out 2, Golam Nowsher b Sajal Chowdhury 5, Shamsul Huda not out 1, Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-7, w-13) 26, Total: (for nine wkts in 45 overs) 172, Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-9; 3-79; 4-85; 5-145; 6-146; 7-152; 8-154; 9-162.

Brothers Union

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Runs/Wickets. Sajid Hassan b Shamsul Huda 28, Aamer Hanif c Debasish b Shamsul Huda 33, Al Shahrir c Enamul Haq b Ziaur Rashid 20, Aamer Hanif b Ziaur Rashid 17, Swab Hasan lbw b Enamul Haq 0, Sohail Islam run out 11, Mafizur Rahman run out 15, Sajal Chowdhury run out 7, Al Islam b Sanjeev Sharma 0, Khairuzaman c & b Enamul Haq 0, Shafulah Khan not out 0, Extras: (b-1, lb-8, nb-9, w-7) 25, Total: (for all in 42.1 overs) 156, Fall of wickets: 1-74; 2-89; 3-117; 4-118; 5-120; 6-135; 7-152; 8-156; 9-156; 10-156.

TODAY'S MATCH

GMCC vs Victoria SC (Dhaka Stadium)

Kiwis win Johannesburg Test by 137 runs

Doull, Hart humiliate SA

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 29: New Zealand bowlers Simon Doull and Matthew Hart skittled out South Africa's batsmen on the final day of the first Test here Tuesday to earn a 137-run victory, reports AP.

South Africa fancied their chances after reaching 128 runs for two wickets by Monday's close, needing another 199 to clinch what would have been an historic victory.

But when Doull trapped Brian McMillan leg before wicket in the third over on Tuesday before the all-rounder had added to his overnight score of 42, it started a collapse that saw the home team dismissed for 189.

Doull also accounted for Daryll Cullinan, brilliantly caught by Martin Crowe, and Jonny Rhodes, leg before for a first-ball duck on a pitch that was beginning to break up.

The Kiwi seamer also caught Richard Snell off Hart, and his four wickets for 33 runs earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Left-arm spinner Hart must have been in the running for the award after he took five South African second innings wickets for 77 runs, including the last four to fall.

Hart took a diving catch off his bowling to dismiss South Africa's first innings batting hero Dave Richardson for six and also sent Clive Eksteen and Craig Matthews packing.

But it was Richard de Groen who snuffed out the last South African resistance when he had skipper Hansie Cronje caught behind by Adam Parore for 62.

Kiwi skipper Ken Rutherford said he was well satisfied with his team's performance but he expected stronger resistance from South Africa.

Cronje, in his debut as Test

captain, said it would take 'courage and determination' to come back against New Zealand in three-test series. The next Test is in Durban on December 26.

'We have got to jack up our batting,' said Cronje, who lost his debut Test as captain after replacing Kepler Wessels. 'We didn't bat at all well. And I also feel our bowling lacked discipline during New Zealand's first innings.'

The New Zealand tour includes two more Tests and both sides' participation in a four-nation tournament of one-day matches beginning next week that includes Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SCOREBOARD

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Runs/Wickets. Final scorecard for the first Test between South Africa and New Zealand, which ended Tuesday at Wanderers with New Zealand winning by 137 runs.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 411

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 279, Second innings 194. SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (128/2 overnight) A Hudson lbw b Doull 2, G Kirsten lbw b Hart 33, B McMillan lbw b Doull 42, H Cronje c Parore b De Groen 62, D Cullinan c Crowe b Doull 12, J Rhodes lbw b Doull 0, D Richardson c and b Hart 6, R Snell c Doull b Hart 1, C Matthews b Hart 6, C Eksteen b Hart 0, F de Villiers not out 1, Extras: (17 b, 6lb, 1w) 24, Total: (for 78.4 overs) 189, Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-70; 3-130; 4-150; 5-150; 6-167; 7-176; 8-180; 9-184.

Bowling: O M R W. Nash 8 2 17 0, Doull 15 5 33 4, Hart 32.4 7 77 5, De Groen 12 3 21 1, Thomson 11 6 18 0. Result: New Zealand won by 137 runs. Man-of-the-match: Simon Doull (New Zealand).

Div Two cricket begins today

The Acme Second Division cricket league featuring 32 teams, split into four groups begins at different city venues from today.

Two 40-overs-a-side matches will be held on the inaugural day with Kathalagan Green taking on Lalbagh at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium and Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha meeting Young Pegasus B at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

Twelve teams — three top finishers from each group — will again be divided into two groups in the super league and two each from these groups will fight it out in the semi-finals.

At the other end, the four bottomers from the preliminary round will take on each other and the last two finishers of the quartet will be relegated.

GROUPINGS

Group A: Kathalagan Green CC, Mirpur AKC, Uttara SC, East and Club, Rupali Bank, Basabo Tarun Sangha, Azad SC and Lalbagh Anwar Club.

Group B: Dhanmondi Progoti Sangha, Shantinagar A, Nirman Eleven, Azad Boys Club, Lalbagh Union, Evergreen CC, Rayer Bazar Club and Young Pegasus B.

Group C: Amarjyoti Club, PWD SC, Young Pegasus A, Shantinagar B, Millbarrack CC, Western SC, Spread Eagles and Kakrail Boys Club.

Group D: Orient SC, DOHS, Gandaria Cricketers, Rainbow SC, Bangladesh Boys, Khe-labin SKS, Cantonian SC and Nabin Sangha.

At last a win for Zimbabwe

BUSSELTON, Australia, Nov 29: Andy Flower top-scored with 88 runs Tuesday as Zimbabwe scored a 152-run victory over a Western Australian Country Districts XI in a limited-overs cricket match at Busseton, reports AP.

Zimbabwe made 269 for seven in its allocated 50 overs and then dismissed the Country selection for 117 in 46.4 overs.

Flower and No. 3 batsman Alistair Campbell (65) shared a third-wicket stand of 122 but star batsman Dave Houghton, playing his first match on tour after breaking his hand during the team's first training session, was out for a duck.

Houghton now has only Wednesday's day-night limited-overs fixture against Western Australia in Perth to prepare for the World Series limited-overs tournament which starts on Friday night.

Zimbabwe 269-7 (Andy Flower 88, Alistair Campbell (65) def. Western Australian Country Districts XI 117 by 152 runs.

FA allows Grobbelaar extra time

LONDON, Nov 29: Bruce Grobbelaar has been granted extra time by the English Football Association to prepare his defence against charges that he took bribes to fix matches, reports AP.

The Southampton and Liverpool goalkeeper originally faced a 14-day deadline to respond after the FA brought the charges. The deadline expired Monday, but last week Grobbelaar's lawyers complained that the police had ordered the FA to withhold evidence needed to prepare a defence.

The police later agreed that the FA could release the evidence, and the FA said Monday the deadline would be extended by at least another week.

'We are in constant touch with Mr Grobbelaar and his advisers,' FA spokesman Mike Parry said. 'Both sides agreed an extension is desirable in this case, partly because of the complexity of gathering material.'

Australia go one up in Ashes series Warne weaves magic again

BRISBANE, Nov 29: Spinner Shane Warne took eight wickets to record his best haul in Test cricket and steer Australia to a crushing victory over England in the first Ashes Test today, reports Reuter.

Warne's stunning display of leg-spin bowling helped rout the tourists in their second innings on the fifth and final

and bounce back on to the back of his bat. Wicketkeeper Ian Healy reacted sharply to take the catch in front of the stumps.

Fast bowler Craig McDermott chipped in with the wickets of veteran Mike Gatting and wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes, before Warne wrapped up the innings with four more wickets.

England's last hope of salvation disappeared when Warne

the first innings and nobody batted an eyelid because he set such a high standard,' he said.

But Shane's class bowler of both sides and it's nice to have him playing for us.

England captain Michael Atherton, who described the defeat as 'devastating,' agreed with Taylor on Warne's value.

'Shane Warne was the best bowler in their side. He's a class performer.'

Warne, who took 34 wickets in England's home defeat last year, said: 'I bowled better as the match went on and it happened to be my day.'

Craig McDermott and Tim May bowled well and when that happens it creates pressure and that can create wickets.'

'It's up to me to make the batsman do what I want,' added Warne, who will return to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, his home ground, for the second Test starting on December 24.

SCOREBOARD: Scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the first Test between Australia and England at the Gabba today. AUSTRALIA: First innings 426 (M Slater 176, M Waugh 140, M Taylor 59; D Gough 4-107).

ENGLAND: First innings 167 (M Atherton 54; C McDermott 6-53). AUSTRALIA: Second innings 248 for eight declared (M Taylor 58; P Tufnell 4 for 79).

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 211-2) M Atherton lbw Warne 23, A Stewart b Warne 33, G Hick c Healy b Warne 80, G Thorpe b Warne 67, G Gooch c Healy b Warne 56, M Gatting c Healy 2, B McDermott 13, S Rhodes c Healy 2, P DeFreitas b Warne 11, D Gough c M Waugh b Warne 10, M McCague lbw Warne 0, P Tufnell not out 2, Extras: (b-9, lb-5, nb-12) 26, Total: 323.

Fall of wickets: 1-50; 2-59; 3-219; 4-220; 5-250; 6-280; 7-309; 8-310; 9-310.

Bowling: O M R W. McDermott 23 4 90 2, McGrath 19 4 61 0, Warne 50.2 22 71 8, May 35 16 59 0, M Waugh 7 1 17 0, Bevan 3 0 11 0. Result: Australia won by 184 runs.

Second Test: December 24-29, Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Botafogo Rio's last hope

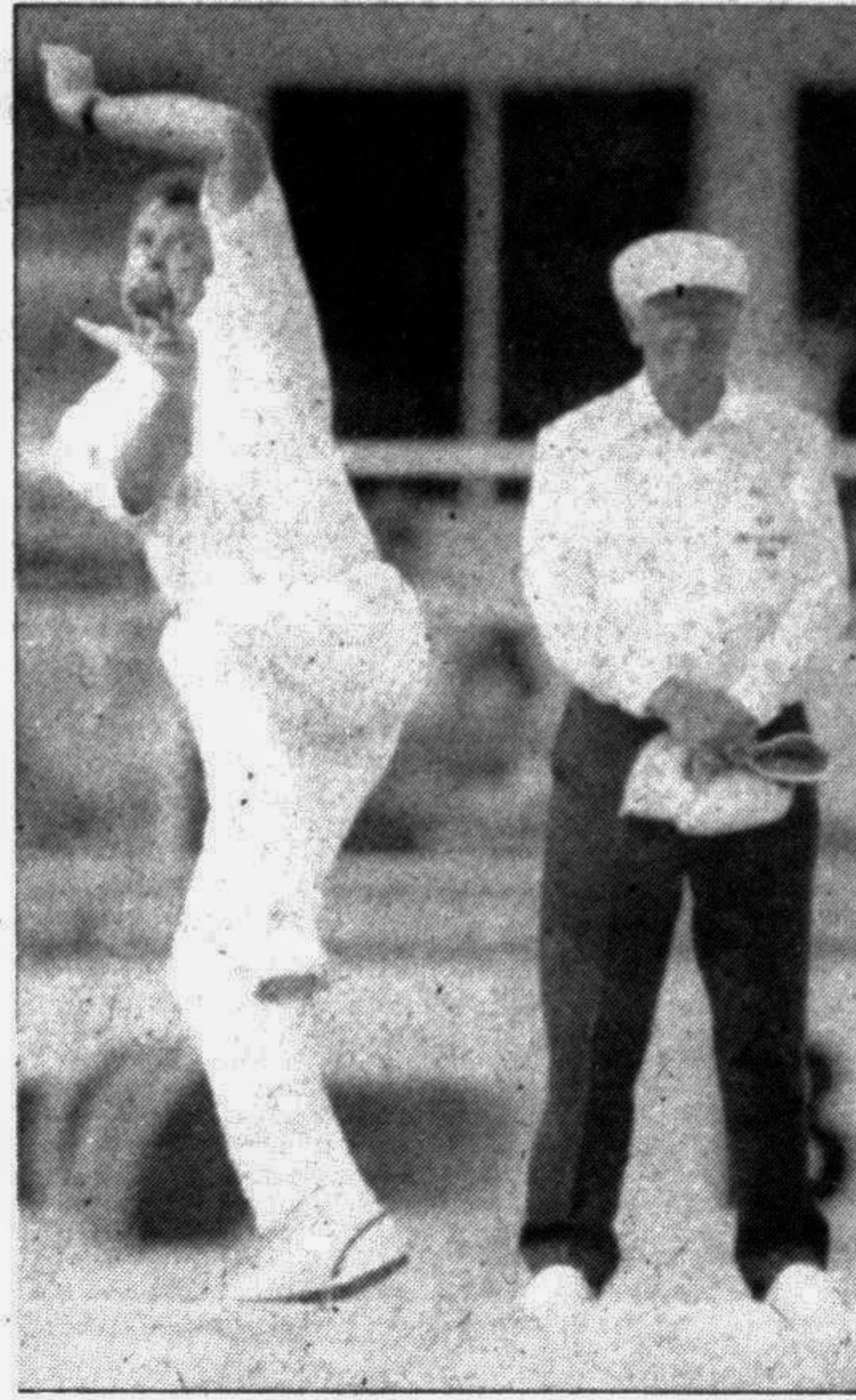
RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 29: Botafogo has become Rio's last hope to place a home team in the quarterfinals of Brazil's First division soccer championship, reports AP.

Botafogo needs only a tie against Gremio on Tuesday to advance to the next round. A loss would leave the berth to Santos — unthinkable for Rio fans — and would leave this city without a representative in the tournament.

The dismal campaigns of traditional powerhouses Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco have left Botafogo as the unlikely standard-bearer of the city where Brazilian soccer was born a century ago.

Coach Renato Traindade has assembled a solid but feeble cast of supporters for veteran forwards Mauricinho and Tulio, who leads the league scoring race along with Amoroso of Guarani with 19 goals each.

Botafogo and Santos have 11 points in the return leg of the tournament's second round. One more point would qualify Botafogo as the winner of Group F. Santos played their final game Sunday, beating Guarani 3-0.



An airborne Craig McDermott (L) is watched by umpire Mitchley on the final day of the first Test against England at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday. Australia, courtesy of leggie Shane Warne with career best figures of eight for 71, comfortably won the Test by 184 runs. — AFP photo

day at the Gabba to give Australia victory by 184 runs. Chasing a massive 508, England's resistance ended 20 minutes before tea when Warne removed tailender Darren Gough with the total on 323.

Warne, who tormented the tourists during Australia's 4-1 series win in England last year, ended with figures of eight for 71 from a marathon spell of 50.2 overs.

His brilliant bowling gave Mark Taylor his first Test victory as captain after the recent 1-0 series loss in Pakistan, his debut as skipper after Allan Border's retirement.

Resuming on 211 for two, the tourists lost their last eight wickets for the addition of only 112 runs to trail 1-0 in the five-Test Ashes series against the old enemy.

Warne, who removed openers Alec Stewart and captain Mike Atherton on Monday, struck twice during the first hour of play today to swing the match decisively in Australia's favour.

In successive overs, the blond-haired bowler removed Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick, ending the pair's resolute third wicket partnership of 160 runs.

From that moment, it looked increasingly unlikely England would be able to bat out the remainder of the day to save the Test.

Thorpe was bowled with his score on 67 and was quickly followed back to the pavilion by Hick.

The England number three batsman padded up to Warne only to watch helplessly as the ball deflected on to his arm

dismissed former captain Graham Gooch for 56 after lunch. Warne's performance eclipsed his previous tally of seven for 52 against the West Indies in December 1992.

England effectively lost the

match when they were dismissed for 167 in their first innings in reply to Australia's 426. The home side declined to enforce the follow-on, batting again to set England what proved to be an unreachable target.

Taylor was full of praise for his matchwinner, 'Shane is a bit of a wizard,' he told reporters. 'He got three wickets in

SHANE WARNE ... 8 for 71

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S Waugh to miss World Series

BRISBANE, Nov 29: Australia have rested Test all-rounder Steve Waugh for the four-nation World Series limited-overs tournament because of a shoulder injury which has restricted his ability to bowl, reports Reuter.

Selectors, who announced the squad on Monday, also overlooked the claims of batsman Dean Jones who recently announced he had come out of international retirement and would be available.

The tournament also involves England, Zimbabwe and an Australian 'A' side. Waugh, who played in the first Test against England at the Gabba as a specialist batsman, damaged his shoulder during the tour of Pakistan.

Chairman of selectors Lawrie Sawle said Waugh's bowling difficulty caused problems with the balance of the Australian team.

'This stresses the importance of Steve to the team as

an all-rounder,' added Sawle, who has called up Queensland captain and all-rounder Stuart Law.

HUGHES RECALLED: Meanwhile, burly Australian fast bowler Merv Hughes earned a recall to international cricket on Tuesday but flamboyant batsman Dean Jones missed out despite heading the domestic batting averages.

Hughes, 33, was selected for Australia's second-string limited overs team for the quadrangular World Series tournament.

Jones, also 33, was ignored one week after making himself available for selection following a brief retirement from international cricket.

He had earlier offered to return but on condition that he was appointed captain of the Australia 'A' side. However, selectors instead turned to fringe Test batsman Damien Martyn to lead the side against England, Zimbabwe and Mark Taylor's first



Speakers at a press briefing convened at the BCCB conference room on the eve of the Acme Second Division cricket league which begins today at different city venues. — Star photo