

Top seed out of ITF tennis

Casey Owen of Ireland bowed out from the third leg of the ITF Gold Leaf Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit tennis tournament when unheralded Milligan Luke of England handed the top seed in the meet a shocking 6-3, 6-4 defeat in one of the eight second round matches at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex yesterday.

In another match of the day, second-seeded Van Schepplingen of the Netherlands got tough resistance from his compatriot Belgraver before squeezing into the quarterfinal with a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (3) win.

Bok Martijn, another Dutch in the circuit who had a relatively easier opponent in the like of English player Davidson recorded a 7-6, 7-5 win.

In the other engagements of the day, seventh-seeded Appelqvist Joakin of Sweden sauntered past Baglin Nick of England 6-0, 6-1 while sixth-seeded Wilson Glenn of New Zealand, who conceded the first set to Srichaphan of Thailand finally prevailed over with a 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-2 win.

However, Burner Eric was the only American made it to the last eight when he beat compatriot Lamper George by 7-5, 6-3.

Besides, four doubles quarter final matches were decided on the day.

Malik wields willow well

MIDRAND, South Africa, Dec 1: Salim Malik hit a dashing 135 off 107 balls on Wednesday as Pakistan, warming up for Friday's opening match with Sri Lanka in a four-nation series, drew a one-day match against the Nicky Oppenheimer XI, reports Reuter.

Captain Malik hit 18 fours and two sixes, both off South African Test spinner Clive Eksteen, before retiring after 133 minutes.

Vice-captain Rashid Latif scored 50 not out as Pakistan took advantage of friendly bowling to declare at an impressive 349 for seven in 55 overs.

The home side had no chance of scoring the runs, but Northern Transvaal batsman Mike Rindel, drafted into South Africa's one-day Squad, enjoyed useful practice as he cracked 100 not out from 85 balls, including 14 fours and one six.

Sir Richard Hadlee, who took 431 Test wickets for New Zealand, bowled six overs off a short run, but failed to take a wicket in the Pakistani innings. When he batted, he hit a breezy 27 before falling to a catch in the deep by Aaqib Javed.

When Rindel reached his hundred, the match was called off with seven overs remaining and the Oppenheimer XI on 168 for five wickets.

Atherton optimistic

BOWRAL, Australia: Morale is still high in the England cricket camp despite a 184-run defeat against Australia in the first Test in Brisbane, England captain Mike Atherton said Thursday, reports AP.

The tourists will play the traditional match against a Sir Donald Bradman XI in Bowral, southwest of Sydney, on Friday.

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Skipper Tariqul Islam scored a sparkling half-century as Azad Sporting Club beat Mirpur Nabin Kiria Chakra by 28 runs in one of the three Acme Second Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhanmondi Club ground, Tariqul shared 117 runs with Habibullah for the fifth wicket to guide Azad to a mammoth 241 for five from the stipulated 40 overs.

Tariqul, who set the field afire, hit four sixes and five fours in his unconquered 76 off only 52 balls while Habibullah's quickfire 61 included three over boundaries and four fours.

Chasing a daunting task of scoring over six runs per over, Mirpur Nabin could manage 213 before being all out in 38.3 overs.

Mahbub with 45 was the top scorer for the losers while Rabiul chipped in with a 49-ball 40.

On a placid wicket dominated by the batsmen, Matin of the winners proved his utility claiming three wickets for only 18 runs in his eight-over spell.

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Orient Sporting Club recorded a 59-run win over Nabin Sangha Kiria Chakra.

Electing to bat first after winning the toss, Orient compiled an imposing total of 194 before being bundled out with four balls remaining in the 40-over a-side engagement.

In reply, Nabin Sangha were skittled out for 135 in 37.2 overs with Cezanne and Abid contributing 24 and 26 not out respectively in a poor total.

Brothers bounce back in style

Mohammedans in trouble

Sports Reporter



Bowlers have given Brothers Union a new lease of life.

From the verge of an early ouster from the 15th Damal Summer cricket tournament they came back in the reckoning for a semifinal slot with a 19-run victory over former champions Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

While the Gopibagh team staged a timely fightback to stay in the race for a place among the last four, 13-time finalists Mohammedans began their second round campaign in a dismal fashion as their arch-rivals Abahani and are now left with no choice but to beat Bangladesh Biman, perhaps the most balanced team of the meet, to be in with any chance of averting their earliest exit from the curtain-raiser of the domestic cricket season.

Even if Mohammedans, who suffered the ignominy of being sent packing from the semifinals for the first time in the history of the meet in its previous version — 14th to be precise — win next Saturday's tie against Biman, there is no guarantee that they will be in the last four.

More winning won't do. It has to be big. Then run-rate will come into count because all three teams, hypothetically viewing, will be tied on same number of points with one win apiece.

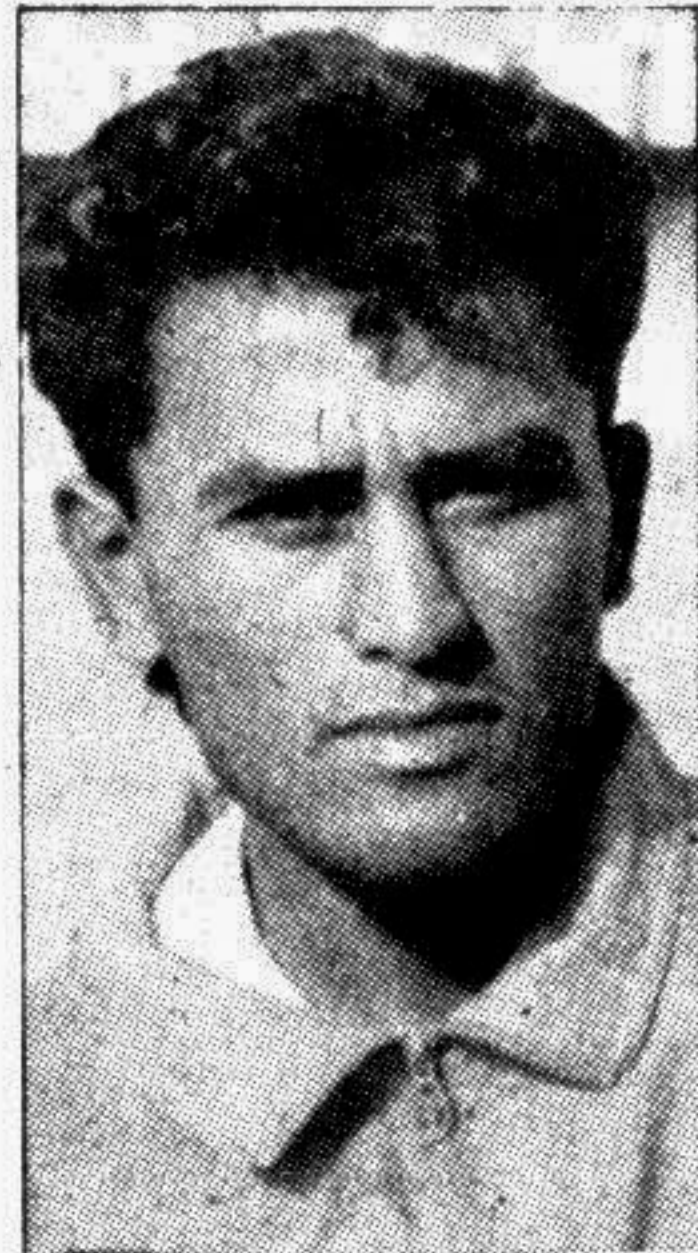
Unlike the other group which comprises champions Abahani, Victoria and GMCC, the equation is quite dicey in Mohammedans' group because Biman have stolen a march on them with a 16-run win against Brothers Union Tuesday.

Sent in to bat Brothers began well yesterday averaging a shade over four runs per over though suffering an early set back as Mohammedans' Pakistani new ball bowler Naveed Bhatti had his compatriot Abid Hanif caught behind for two.

Skipper Al Shahriar Rokon batted positively with Sajid, the other opener giving him good support in sheet-an-

chor's role. Brothers' hopes of raising a healthy total took a nosedive when Mohammedans' left arm paceman Morshed Ali Khan took three wickets in the 21st over with the score stranded for a while on 80.

He induced Sajid to nick one behind for 26, bowled



AAMIR HANIF ... all-round show

Shoeb for nought and then had Naimur Rashid adjudged leg before for a blob to swing the match in Mohammedans' way.

Slow left armer Mustadir then tightened the grip with a couple of quick wickets including that of Pakistani Aamer Hanif who again brought his downfall by trying to cut a ball that went straight and kept low. The older of the two Hanifs who later produced a match-winning spell of medium pace bowling made 23 in quick time.

Rafiq the other left-arm spinner, who returned the best bowling analysis for Mohammedans with two for 20 from nine overs, got into the act and at 103 for seven in almost 30 overs. Brothers seemed to have surrendered the match.

But young Mofiz had other idea. Struck painfully somewhere in the midriff, the young all-rounder responded

manfully slamming Naveed Bhatti for a massive sixer over long on to launch a partnership with fellow paceman Sajal that actually proved Brothers' winning investment, at the day's end.

Together with Sajal, who contributed 21, Mofiz added 61 off 82 balls for the eighth wicket. He remained unbeaten on 37.

While Morshed completed his nine overs for a haul of three for 29, the other seamers were more or less ignored by Mohammedan skipper Aminul Islam who instead of going after the wickets opted to lay a siege with his spinners and wait the batsmen to make the mistakes.

Brothers were all out for 171 in 44.2 overs and Mohammedans were up against it right from the first over as the mettlesome young new-ball bowler Sajal Chowdhury removed openers Sajjad Mansur and Nurul Abedin for 13 only.

Sajal's partner Khairuzaman, who finished with a commendably economical analysis of one for 17 from nine overs, then dealt Mohammedans a body blow by getting rid of Shahed who was muddling the ball beautifully.

Although Indian Test-discard Parveen Amre, who arrived only late Wednesday night, laboured to a 62-ball 27 on a wicket where the ball generally kept low making stroke play extremely difficult, hopes rarified though of a Mohammedan resurgence were blown away by Aamer Hanif who recovered from a traumatic first over replete with illegitimate deliveries to capture three key wickets including that of skipper Amin who made 18.

Bowler Naveed Bhatti and Hasibul Hossain made 23 and 18 respectively but the target of 172 was little too long for the tail and Mohammedans were bowled out for 152 in 42.5 overs.

Hanif's three wickets cost him 27 while Sajal bagged two for 30.

Abahani, who are in a must-win situation for a semifinal place, take on GMCC today at the Dhaka Stadium.

Four-team World Series begins

Aussie-Zimbabwe tie today



PERTH, Dec 1: The first quadrangular World Series gets underway, with mixed feelings amongst players and administrators, when Australia face Zimbabwe on Friday, reports Reuter.

Previously only three teams have contested the series of one-day internationals, with the top two qualifiers taking part in a best-of-three final.

But now, Australian cricket officials have introduced a fourth team, Australia A, alongside the home team, England and Zimbabwe.

The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) have justified the move by claiming it is an ideal opportunity to showcase the growing amount of young cricketers in Australia.

But detractors of the idea have claimed the move could devalue both the domestic Sheffield Shield competition and international honours and also believe it is a way of simply earning extra revenue to counter what the ACB fear may be Zimbabwe's limited drawing power at the turnstiles.

Australian captain Mark Taylor has already expressed his reservations about the presence of Australia A and has suggested the senior side will

be on a hiding to nothing against their junior opponents.

Former Test player David Hookes has also come out against the idea. Speaking in the magazine 'Inside Edge' he said: 'When you play for your country, you wear your cap to play international cricket not to play a second rate team, no matter how good it's going to be.'

New South Wales coach Steve Rixon said the introduction of the concept will do nothing for domestic four-day cricket.

Rather, he believes, the removal of the best young players will further devalue the Sheffield Shield which already takes place in near-empty grounds without many of the top players for most of the season due to international commitments.

But ACB chief executive Graham Halbisch has justified the exercise, saying it will give the youngsters who cannot break into a settled Test side a taste of international cricket.

Many of the A squad have been trained at the Australian cricket academy which was set up seven years ago to improve the skills of the young players who emerged.

'We wanted to give them exposure and we felt that one-

day internationals gave you room to do that,' claimed Halbisch, speaking in 'Australian Cricket'.

One thing the move has ensured is that interest in the competition — and the 'domestic' matches in particular — is high. The Australia versus Australia A clash at the Gabba on January 8 sold out in early October, while sales for the game at the Adelaide Oval on December 11 are also excellent.

Both Zimbabwe and England agreed on the new format, but they are aware of the potential for embarrassment with two former Australian captains, a team coach Greg Chappell and Allan Border believing the tyros have a great chance of making the finals in January.

NBL badminton on

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and title contenders Biman along with Shellac began their National Bank badminton league campaigns with facile victories over their respective opponents on the opening at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.

In the best of five sets both Mohammedans and Biman won their first three singles by straight sets margins against Dhaka Badminton and Sputnik respectively leaving the doubles a mere formalities.

Shellac also claimed victories over Dilkusha by winning the first three singles while the other matches were continuing until filing of this report.

Earlier, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan declared the meet open which resumed after three years in the wilderness for reasons best known to the Bangladesh Badminton Federation.

Orient Bread kabaddi

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mirpur Juba Sangha will be pitted against Anirban Sangsad in the inaugural match of the Orient Bread kabaddi league, beginning at the kabaddi court today.

Sixteen teams split into four groups are taking part in the league with top two teams from each of the groups advancing to the quarterfinals starting from December 17.

Pakistan favourites in

Mandela Trophy

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 1: World Cup holders Pakistan, favourites despite the absence of pace bowler Wasim Akram, open a four-nation one-day series for the Mandela Trophy in Durban on Friday against Sri Lanka, reports Reuter.

Both sides have only recently arrived in South Africa and have had just one warm-up game each. On Wednesday the Pakistanis drew their one-day match against the Nicky Oppenheimer XI with captain Salim Malik scoring a dashing 135.

Pakistan arrive for the competition in good one-day condition. Despite losing a triangular series final to Australia recently, they played some fine cricket with two batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Basit Ali making a real impression.

The Sri Lankans, by contrast, crumbled to a six-wicket defeat at the hands of natal in a 50-over game. Only Aravinda de Silva, who made 63, was in any kind of form and, despite a couple of recent wins over Zimbabwe, the Sri Lankans again look the weakest of the four teams.

The other two sides in the tournament, who do not open their campaign until next week, are the hosts South Africa, and New Zealand.

Boosted by their 137-run win in the first Test this week New Zealand will be confident that they can make the final. Fast bowler Dion Nash is currently out of action with a strained side, but the return of Chris Pringle from injury will strengthen their bowling.

South Africa, meanwhile, may struggle to make the cut. In the recent triangular one-day tournament in Pakistan they lost all six matches and, including a defeat by the Netherlands in the Hague at the end of their tour of England, they have now lost their last 11 one-day internationals.

In front of their home crowds they will be desperate to stop the rot and reproduce the form which took them to the semi-finals of the last World Cup.

Each team plays the others twice before Christmas and the best of three final will be played in January.

Khulna's twin success

Sports Reporter

Khulna completed a delightful double in the Incontrad inter-district volleyball championship clinching both the men's and women's crowns in the finals at the Mirpur indoor stadium yesterday.

In the men's final, the Khulna spikers overcame a first-set deficit to beat Tangail 13-15, 15-6, 15-13, 15-13 while on the women's earned a rather facile 15-13, 15-5, 15-2 win over Narayanganj.

Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, who is also in charge of the Information Ministry, later distributed trophies among the winners.

Barisal soccer

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 1: Sirajuddowla Club earned a convincing 3-1 win over Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmani Stadium here today.

The winners, who were trailing by a lone goal at the breather, hit back with three goals in quick succession in the second half through Liton, Shahed and Parvez to seal the fate of the match.

Earlier, Swapan gave BIWTA the lead with a 28th-minute strike.

Nitaiganj KC will take on Eastern FC at the same venue tomorrow.

Marseille coach gets the boot

MARSEILLE, Dec 1: Marseille trainer Marc Bourrier was sacked on Wednesday following a series of poor results and replaced by Gerard Gili, sources close to the French club said, reports Reuter.

Bourrier, who joined the former European champions 16 months ago, was dismissed following the club's defeat by Second Division Niot in the first round of the French League Cup on Tuesday.

Gili, who trained Marseille from August 1988 to September 1990 was fired nine days ago by Montpellier, currently bottom of the French First Division.

By losing 1-0 at Niot, Marseille, who were relegated over a bribery scandal, lost all hope of playing in Europe next season.

Marseille, knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Swiss side Sion, are second in the Second Division three points behind Tenders Guingamp.

'The trainer is not to blame for the club's poor results,' said Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Incidents in oodles at Nagpur

Sidhu puts India in saddle



NAGPUR, Dec 1: A masterful century by Indian opener Navjot Sidhu on the first day of the second Test against the West Indies on Thursday was overshadowed by crowd violence that caused two West Indies walk-outs, reports AFP.

Sidhu made a superb 107 during a record third-wicket stand of 177 with vice-captain Sachin Tendulkar. India, who decided to bat first on a slow wicket, scored 230 for four by draw of stumps.

Tendulkar, who struck a match-winning 85 in the first Test in Bombay, was unbeaten on 81 and still in contention for his first Test century against West Indies.

But the West Indies twice left the field during the afternoon play after sections of the 15,000-strong crowd threw stones and fruit peel at fielders near the boundary.

The first incident occurred 25 minutes after lunch when Shivnarine Chanderpaul was struck by a stone while chasing the ball near the square leg fence.

West Indian skipper Courtney Walsh spoke to umpires Nigel Plews of England and VK Ramaswamy of India before taking his team off the field.

The West Indians returned to the field 25 minutes later after the organisers rushed in extra security personnel and ringed the outfield with police.

Walsh took his men off again 30 minutes after tea when fruit peel fell near Phil Simmons fielding on the ropes, this time Walsh after walking off, followed by the fielders and batsmen.

Walsh warned that if such incidents were repeated he could be forced to call of the tour.

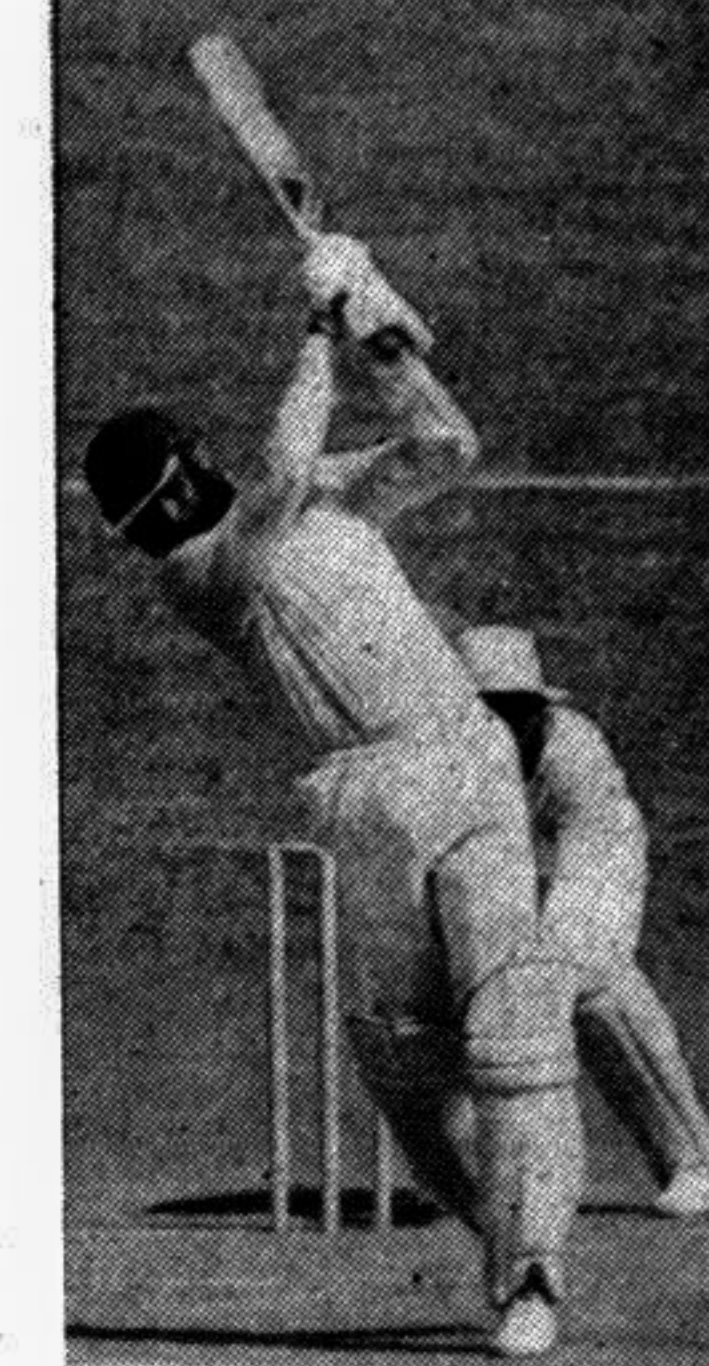
Raman Subba Row, the International Cricket Council (ICC) match referee, ordered

police to be posted every five yards near the fence, facing the crowd.

The second interruption lasted 35 minutes as organisers pleaded with the spectators to show restraint.

An angry Subba Row justified Walsh's decision to walk off.

'This is a deplorable state of affairs,' Row said. 'You can't



SIDHU ... 107 play any sort of cricket, let alone international matches, if the crowd throws things on the field.

'The police protection here has been inadequate. I have asked officials here to bring in security reinforcements, otherwise the match cannot be conducted the way it should be.'

This is not the first time such incidents have taken place on the cricket field. The quicker we put an end to the menace, the better,' Subba Row said.

The incidents came 15 months before India co-host the sixth World Cup with neighbours Pakistan and Sri Lanka in February March 1996.

Sidhu and Tendulkar, who came together at a shaky 49 for two in the morning session, surpassed India's previous best stand for the third-wicket — 159 between Gundappa Viswanath and Mohinder Amarnath at Port of Spain in 1976.

Sidhu and Manoj Prabhakar put on 48 for the first-wicket before Prabhakar drove early at off-spinner Carl Hooper and gave Stuart Williams an easy catch at mid-on.

In Hooper's next over, left hander Vinod Kamble attempted a wild swing before he had opened his account and presented Williams his second catch near the fence.

Sidhu's defiant five-hour stay at the crease ended two overs before the close when he edged an intended drive off Hooper to wicket keeper Junior Murray. Sidhu hit 17 boundaries.

Tendulkar, whose share in the 177-run stand was 80, saw nightwatchman Venkatapathy Raju fall in the day's last over, caught at short leg off Walsh.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the second Test between India and the West Indies here Thursday:

INDIA: First innings				
Prabhakar c Williams b Hooper	19			
Sidhu c Murray b Hooper	107			
Kamble c Williams b Hooper	6			
Tendulkar not out	81			
Raju c Adams b Walsh	2			
Extras: (b-2, lb-8, nb-11)	21			
Total: (four wickets)	230			
Fall of wickets: 1-48; 2-49; 3-226; 4-230				
Bowling: W O M R W				
Walsh	20.2	6	50	1
Benjamin	12	2	59	0
Cummins	12	0	41	0
Hooper	22	6	42	3
Chanderpaul	9	1	28	0

World Cup semifinals today

Shahbaz Pakistan's key



SYDNEY, Dec 1: Pakistan's chances of beating Germany in Friday's World Cup hockey semi-final rest squarely on the fitness of the game's outstanding player, Shahbaz Ahmed, who desperately wants to end his career with the game's big prize, reports Reuter.

While defending champions, the Netherlands, go confidently into the other semifinal against hosts Australia, Pakistan know their victory prospects against the Olympic champions will be dimmed without Shahbaz.

The talented inside forward and captain was on the sidelines with a hamstring injury when Pakistan lost their only game in the qualifying group against England.

Shahbaz, 27, has said he will retire after this eighth World Cup and would love to bow out by leading Pakistan back to the top after many years in relative decline.

Pakistan may have won the World Cup three times — more than any other nation — but their last major success was 10 years ago at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Shahbaz missed the England game and Wednesday's final qualifying match against Belarus and his team has sorely missed his leadership and skill.

Pakistan officials say Shahbaz will play in the semi-finals even if he is only 70 per cent fit but on Wednesday night he was still in some pain.

Even with Shahbaz, Pakistan are likely to find Germany tough opponents.

The sides have met eight times already the year and Pakistan have managed only

one win and that came the day after Germany had beaten them 7-0 during a five-Test series in Germany.

But Pakistan have invariably won their big World Cup matches against the Germans, semifinals in 1975 and 1978 and the final in 1982.

The Germans have in Paul Lisseck probably the most successful coach in the world, with a string of gold medals at senior and junior levels.

Their corner drills are feared by everyone and they have match-winning strikers in the tournament's top scorer, Taco van den Honert and Floris-Jan Bovelander.

They go into their semi-final unbeaten in 26 matches. But the one team that always gave them a difficult time are Australia who have not lost to them in their last eight encounters since Australia beat them 3-2 in the Olympic semifinals. All those matches have been close but Australia have won four of them.

Australia have found scoring goals difficult at this World Cup and will not be able to call on inside-left David Wansbrough who has been suspended for the second time in the tournament after receiving three yellow cards (temporary suspensions).

ROLL OF HONOUR

SHAHBAZ AHMED

But he has a much longer record with the national squad since Germany's Olympic gold two years ago and says he is building a team for the next Olympics.

While they have struggled in the pool matches Lissek believes they will be a more formidable opponent now they have made the semifinals.

They have reverted to the German club system of man-to-man marking, happy that the weather has not been too hot to sustain such a demand.