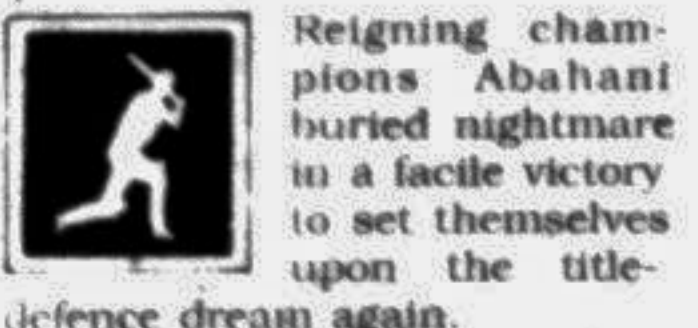


Mohammedans meet Biman today for fourth slot

Champions make it to semis



Reigning champions Abahani buried nightmare in a facile victory to set themselves upon the title-defence dream again.

After a shock defeat to Victoria in their second round opener of the 15th Damal Summer cricket championship, they enjoyed a cake-walk against Greater My-mensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

GMCC succumbed to Abahani's reinforced attack and were all out for 83 in 39.5 overs with just three batsmen, led by Akbar Baig, the top scorer with 22, reaching double figures.

While the key bowlers kept the tabs on the GMCC batsmen, second string arm wheelers like Minhazul Abedin reaped rich picking three for a ridiculously low expenditure of five runs.

However, Zakir Hassan, Abahani's new ball bowler, made early inroads with two scalps for 17.

Abahani's two Pakistanis, who made their debuts in Dhaka cricket, had eleven overs between themselves with Iqbal Sikander, one of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad, conceding just six runs from seven overs of spot-on leg spin.

Khaled Masud fell leg before to Mizanur Rahman with the score on five after the wicket-keeper came out to open the Abahani innings along with veteran skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain.

Although Ashraf's waning reflexes and laden feet made him look like a hen on a hot girdle, Manzoor Akhtar, who came at number three, played some authoritative strokes to bring up the victory in 22.4 overs.

The win leaves Abahani runners up in the three team group after Victoria, who await the runners up from the other group as the champions with an unblemished record from two matches.

Meanwhile, two former champions Mohammedans and Bangladesh Biman met today at the Dhaka Stadium to determine the fourth and last

Sports Reporter

semifinalists of the tourney.

Brothers Union have already confirmed a place among the last four from this group.

SCOREBOARD

GMCC

Koddikura c Saiful b Zakir 16

Javed Omar c Ashraf b Zakir 0

Akbar Baig run out 22

Mahbubur Rahman c and b Raqib 0

Sarwar Hossain run out 4

R Hassan c Zakir b Jahangir 14

Mizanur Rahman run out 3

Anisur Rahman c Iqbal Sikander b Minhaz 1

Sharfuddinul not out 2

Shariful Haq c Akram Khan b Minhaz 0

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-1, w-6) 13

Total: (in 39.5 overs) 83

Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-33; 3-36; 4-50; 5-50; 6-69; 7-74; 8-80; 9-83.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Saiful	5	2	7	0
Zakir	7	0	17	2
R Hassan	4	0	14	1
Jahangir	9	2	14	1
Iqbal Sikander	7	3	6	0
Manzoor Akhtar	4	0	14	0
Minhaz	3.5	2	5	3

ABAHANI

Ashraf not out 21

Khaled Masud lbw 4

Mizanur Rahman 46

Manzoor Akhtar c Sharfuddinul b Anis 8

Naimur Rahman not out 6

Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-3) 6

Total: (for two wickets in 22.4 overs) 85

Fall of wickets: 1-5: 2-69

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Anisur Rahman	7	2.4	1	1
Mizanur Rahman	5.4	1	19	1
Sharfuddinul	6	0	18	0
Shariful Haq	4	0	21	0



Abahani skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain (L) and Naimur Rahman (R) celebrate after completing an eight-wicket demolition of GMCC at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The win sent holders Abahani to the semis of the 15th Damal Summer cricket tourney. — Star photo

Forgetful Viv

LONDON, Dec 2: Viv Richards, a cricket-playing idol to thousands of Caribbean youngsters, was caught out on Thursday when he forgot an appointment to collect an honour from Prince Charles, the Daily Telegraph reported today, reports Reuter.

It said Richards, a former captain of the West Indies Test team, was due at Buckingham Palace on Thursday to be invested with the Order of the British Empire, a ceremonial honour.

Instead, the 42-year-old was in his native Antigua.

The newspaper quoted a palace official as saying: "I am sure we will be able to accommodate Mr Richards at another time."

Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Facile win was the order of the day in the Acme Second Division cricket league matches played at different city venues yesterday.

T Hossain's allround success paved the way for Uttara Sporting Club's 74 run win over Bashabo Tarun Sangha at the Dhanmendi Cricket Stadium.

He made a topscore of 51 as Uttara batted first to collect 182 for eight from their stipulated quota of 40 overs.

Tallender Farhan Bakht with an unbeaten 37 and Nadim with 34 were the other major rungetters.

M Rahman Ferdous and Walur Rahman picked up two wickets apiece among the Bashabo bowlers.

A lately employed T Hossain captured three wickets for 18 runs as Bashabo chasing 103 for a win were all out for 108 in 38.2 overs.

M Rahman Mamun and Monirul Alam with 25 and 20 featured somewhat prominently in the run-starved Bashabo innings.

Taufeeq took five wickets for nine runs as Cantonian were bundled out for 56 to accept a massive 149 run defeat in their encounter with DOHS at Mirpur Outer Stadium.

In the morning, DOHS rattled up a bigish total of 19 largely due to an 84-ball 60 from Motiur Rahman.

Opener Mashitir Rahman made 33 while lower order batsman contributed 29.

Salim Mahmud was Cantonian's most successful bowler with a haul of four for 33.

After a reasonably good start stretching into the seventh over, Cantonian lost way quite inexplicably and Taufeeq, brought into the attack, at the fall of the innings, had a real feast accounting the last five batsmen for nine runs from five overs.

Anwar Hossain was the only Cantonian batsman to make it to the double figures with 11.

Shawkat Hossain wrote Western Cricket Club's victory script at the Dhanmendi Club Ground.

He took four for 19 from a ceiling of eight overs as Young Pegasus 'A' sent in to bat first, were all out for 100 in 32.1 overs.

Wicketkeeper Azad was the topscorer with 21, followed by bowler Minhaz who made 19.

Western knocked up 101 for four to canter to a six-wicket victory in 24.3 overs.

Salem with 33 and S S Banik with 29 were the main rungetters.



TOO OPTIMISTIC?: From the look of these fans it seems the cup is already theirs. Pakistan defeated Germany 6-4 on penalties in their World Cup hockey semifinal yesterday. The score in scheduled time was one-all. The winners will now take on defending champions, the Netherlands, in the final on Dec 4. — AFP photo

Dutch, Pakistan in World Cup final

History comes alive again



SYDNEY, Dec 2: Floris Jan Bovelander scored twice from first-half penalty corners to guide defending champions Netherlands to a 3-1 victory over Australia Friday and a place in the final of the World Cup field hockey tournament, reports AP.

The Dutch will face Pakistan in Sunday's championship game — a repeat of the 1990 final. Pakistan defeated Olympic champions Germany 5-3 in a penalty stroke shootout after the teams had drawn 1-1.

Bovelander fired the ball home in the fifth and 20th minutes and Jacques Brinkman added a stylish third goal with 3:50 remaining.

Top seeds Australia got their only goal from 19-year-old substitute Paul Gaudoin following a cleverly worked penalty corner 12 minutes into the second half. It was Gaudoin's first international goal.

Kamran Ashraf scored from close range to put Pakistan ahead after 18 minutes in the second semifinal, but Sven Meinhardt equalized three minutes later from a penalty corner.

Pakistan converted all five of their penalty strokes, while goalkeeper Mansoor Ahmed made a dramatic diving save to stop Germany's third stroke — from captain Christian Blunck.

Mansoor also saved a penalty stroke from Blunck in the Champions Trophy final in Lahore in March, a game Pakistan won 7-6 on penalties, after a 2-2 draw.

"That time I lived to my right," Mansoor said. "This time I just made up my mind and decided to dive left."

Bovelander took his tally for the tournament to five goals and also had a third penalty corner strike controversially disallowed in the second half against Australia after it was ruled the ball had not struck the backboard.

The Dutch, who advanced through the preliminary round undefeated, dominated the semifinal for long periods and did not allow the Australian forwards room in which

to be creative. Erik Jazet was outstanding in defence, while captain Marc Delissen was a dynamo in midfield.

The Dutch now are unbeaten in their last 27 internationals.

They sealed their victory with a brilliant flowing attack. Teun De Noijter and Taco van den Honert set up Brinkman with some slick stickwork and the inside forward finished



BOVELANDER

'Shahbaz is not 100 per cent fit, but it was important to the morale of the team that he played,' said team manager Abdul Rashid.

German coach Paul Lissek felt his team was unlucky.

"The chances were there but we did not take them," he said. "We played our best match of the tournament today — and lost."

The worst miss came two minutes from the end of the game when Andreas Becker was off target with the goal at his mercy.

England and India won consolation play-off games earlier Friday that assured them of top six finishes and places in the 1998 World Cup in the Netherlands and next year's Champions' Trophy tournament in Berlin.

India squandered a 2-0 first-half lead and were held to a 2-2 draw by Argentina before winning 4-1 on penalty strokes.

Goalkeeper Anjaparavanda Subbiah was the hero for India, making reflex saves to stop shots from Fernando Falchetti and Fernando Morete.

He was chaired from the field by his delighted teammates.

"It is immaterial to us who finishes fifth or sixth," said Indian coach Cedric D'Souza. "What was important was that we finished in the top six. This was the most important match for us."

Dhanraj Pillay and captain Jude Felix scored the goals for India, while Ferrara and Carlos Retequi replied for Argentina from penalty corners.

Penalty corner conversions by Rob Crutchley in the 13th and 20th minutes gave England a 2-0 halftime lead against South Korea.

Jeon Jong-Ha replied with a neat penalty corner variation six minutes after the break, but Russell Garcia converted a penalty stroke eight minutes from fulltime to seal the 3-1 triumph.

Consolation play-offs are scheduled Saturday with the final and bronze medal game to be played Sunday afternoon.

Berlin to host '95 Champions' Trophy hockey

SYDNEY, Dec 2: The 1995 Champions' Trophy field hockey tournament will be staged in Berlin in September, the sport's governing body the Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH) announced Friday, reports AP.

The tournament will be held from Sept 23 through Oct 1, the FIH said in a statement.

The organisation also announced that the 1996 Champions' Trophy in Madras, India, would be switched from March to December to prevent a congestion of fixtures.

Berlin replaces Milton Keynes, England, as the 1995 venue. Delays in the construction of the proposed hockey stadium at Milton Keynes forced England to forfeit the annual event.

Olympic champions Germany, trophy holders Pakistan, the Netherlands and Australia were assured of places in the Champions' Trophy, along with England and India, who sealed places with top six finishes at the World Cup in Sydney.

NBL badminton

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Biman registered their second successive victory in the National Bank Limited First Division badminton league when the airlines team trounced Dilkusha Sporting Club 5-0 at the National Sports Council wooden-floor gymnasium yesterday.

Surjo Tarun also had an easy ride against Dhaka Badminton and came out 5-0 winners.

The other match of the day between Sheltech and Sputnik was in progress with the former leading 2-0.

Ctg football

CHITTAGONG, Dec 2: The Metropolitan Ispahanai Pioneer football league began at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

The inaugural match of the league between Nabazatrik and Mukhtisena ended in a goalless draw.

A total of fifty-six teams will participate in the league being held under the auspices of the Chittagong Metropolitan Sports Association.

Meanwhile, the Mayor Gold Cup football competition, under the auspices of the Chattagram Zilla Kira Parishad (CZKP) gets underway from December 18 at the Chittagong Stadium.

N'ganj soccer

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 2: Nitaiganj Kira Chakra and Eastern Club split points in a one-all draw in the Hanjin Shipping First Division football league at the Osmari Stadium today.

Abul Kalam put Eastern into the lead in the 14th minute of the first half while Robi neutralised the lead 11 minutes later.

No match will played tomorrow.

Kiwis make history

SOWETO, Dec 2: New Zealand became the first international cricket side to play in Soweto on Thursday, the day of the official opening of the township's new oval, reports Reuter.

Unveiling a plaque to commemorate the opening, Sports Minister Steve Tshwete praised the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) but criticised some other administrators for failing to make progress in developing their sports.

"There is something wrong with administrators... trapped in the twilight of the past," he said. "They want to arrest the wagon and we must exert pressure on them... to make them concede the fact that the South Africa of today is not the South Africa of prior to 1990."

On the field New Zealand were treated to a gentle workout in a low-key game as they beat a Transvaal Invitation XI by nine runs. There was some concern over left-arm spinner Matthew Hart who was sent for X-rays after he dislocated the middle finger of his right hand while fielding off his own bowling.

Opening batsman Blair Hartland top-scored with 81 from 99 balls, which included seven fours and one six as New Zealand reached 252 for six wickets.

Bryan Young hit a rapid 54 before retiring with the score on 123 and Martin Crowe struck four fours and two sixes in a brisk 50 not out from just 38 balls.

Skipper Mark Rushmere (80) and Stephen Jack (54) produced a rapid start for the invitation side, adding 102 for the first-wicket. They could not keep up the pace and fell nine runs short at the end of their 50 overs.

Stuttering start for Aussies



PERTH, Dec 2: Australia opened the World Series one-day cricket campaign in unimpressive fashion Friday with a two-wicket victory over Zimbabwe at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Chasing 166-9 to win, Australia limped home after 47.2 overs, losing way in the closing overs with part-time Zimbabwean spinner Grant Flower picking up three wickets to ensure a tight finish.

Mark Waugh, who strained a groin muscle while bowling his first, and only over in the Zimbabwe innings, came in at No. 9 with Michael Slater as a runner and scored an unbeaten six.

Mark Taylor and Slater got the home side off to an ideal start with an opening partnership of 69 at more than four runs an over.

But when the openers departed in the 15th and 16th overs, Zimbabwe tightened the screws to prolong what always seemed like inevitable.

Taylor was not happy with Australia's display.

"It was a very scrappy performance from both sides," he said. "There was nothing wrong with the pitch. At one stage I thought it looked like a 230-run wicket."

"We lost our way with a lack of urgency and some silly shots," Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower said his side was inconsistent.

"Our guys bowled well but our batting was not up to scratch and we lost too many wickets in the middle stages after setting up a good platform," said.

Flower said Australia had not seen the best of his side in the opening contest.

"I honestly believe we can get up around the 250 mark against any side in the competition. We have the talent to do that, we just need a few of us to get going together."

Zimbabwe's next match is against the Australia A side at

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening World Series limited-overs cricket match between Australia and Zimbabwe at the WACA Ground on Friday:

ZIMBABWE:

Andy Flower c Warner b Fleming 29

Grant Flower b McGrath 20

Alistair Campbell hit wicket b Warner 22

David Houghton run out 13

Martin Dekker lbw McGrath 16

Wayne James run out 8

Gary Martin b Law 16

Paul Strang not out 17

Eddo Brandes c Healy b McDermott 5

Heath Streak c Fleming b Warner 7

David Brain not out 12

Extras: 12

Total: (for nine wickets) 166

Fall of wickets: 49, 56, 83, 88, 109, 117, 144, 151, 164.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Craig McDermott	10	0	32	1
Damien Fleming	10	0	45	1
McGrath	10	1	23	2
Mark Waugh	1	0	3	0

Stuart Law 9 0 27 1

Shane Warner 10 1 27 2

AUSTRALIA:

Michael Slater c A Flower b Streak 18

Mark Taylor c G Flower b Brandes 45

David Boon c Houghton b Strang 8

Michael Bevan c James b Streak 30

Stuart Law c Houghton b Martin 7

Ian Healy c Campbell b G Flower 40

Shane Warner c and b G Flower 5

Craig McDermott c Dekker b G Flower 0

Flower 0

Mark Waugh not out 6

Damien Fleming not out 0

Extras: 8

Total: (for eight wickets) 167

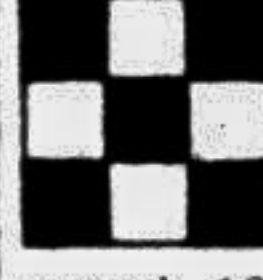
Fall of wickets: 69, 69, 96, 156, 161, 161, 164.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
David Brain	8.2	2	39	0
Heath Streak	10	1	31	2
Eddo Brandes	10	1	29	1
Paul Strang	10	1	30	1
Gary Martin	5	0	17	1
Grant Flower	4	0	15	3

Result: Australia won by two wickets.

31st Olympiad opens



MOSCOW, Dec 2: The 31st Chess Olympiad began in Moscow's Cosmos Hotel on Thursday with a record 122 national sides competing in the men's event and 78 countries in the separate women's section, reports AP.

Each men's team has four players and each women's team three.

The Olympiad was originally to be held in Thessalonika, Greece, but the event was cancelled because of financial difficulties.

The World Chess Federation was then helped by world chess champion Garry Kasparov, who rallied financial support to hold the event in Moscow.

The backing came even though last year he had set up an entirely new organisation, the Professional Chess Association, with Britain's Nigel Short.

Kasparov also heads the Russian team, which is favoured to win followed closely by the English national side which boasts Nigel Short. Kasparov's last challenger for the world title, on board one.

Kasparov, however, was rested for the first of the 14 games and will only play when the Russian side begins to face the strongest opposition. The Russians dropped half a point when Yevgeny Bareev was held to a surprising draw.

Notable absentees from the Olympiad include Anatoly Karpov, the current FIDE world

champion, Gata Kamsky of the United States and Viswanathan Anand of India.

Kamsky and Anand declined invitations as they are currently preparing for the final elimination of the PCA World Championship Cycle for the right to meet Kasparov. That event will be held in Las Palmas in April. Karpov, however, would not play below Kasparov on the Russian side and also does not participate.

In the women's section, the favourites are the Hungarians, who boast two of the three Polgar sisters, Zsuzsa and Sofia. The third sister, Judit, is representing Hungary in the men's event as she is currently the top player in Hungary.

Results of first round after six hours of play:

Men

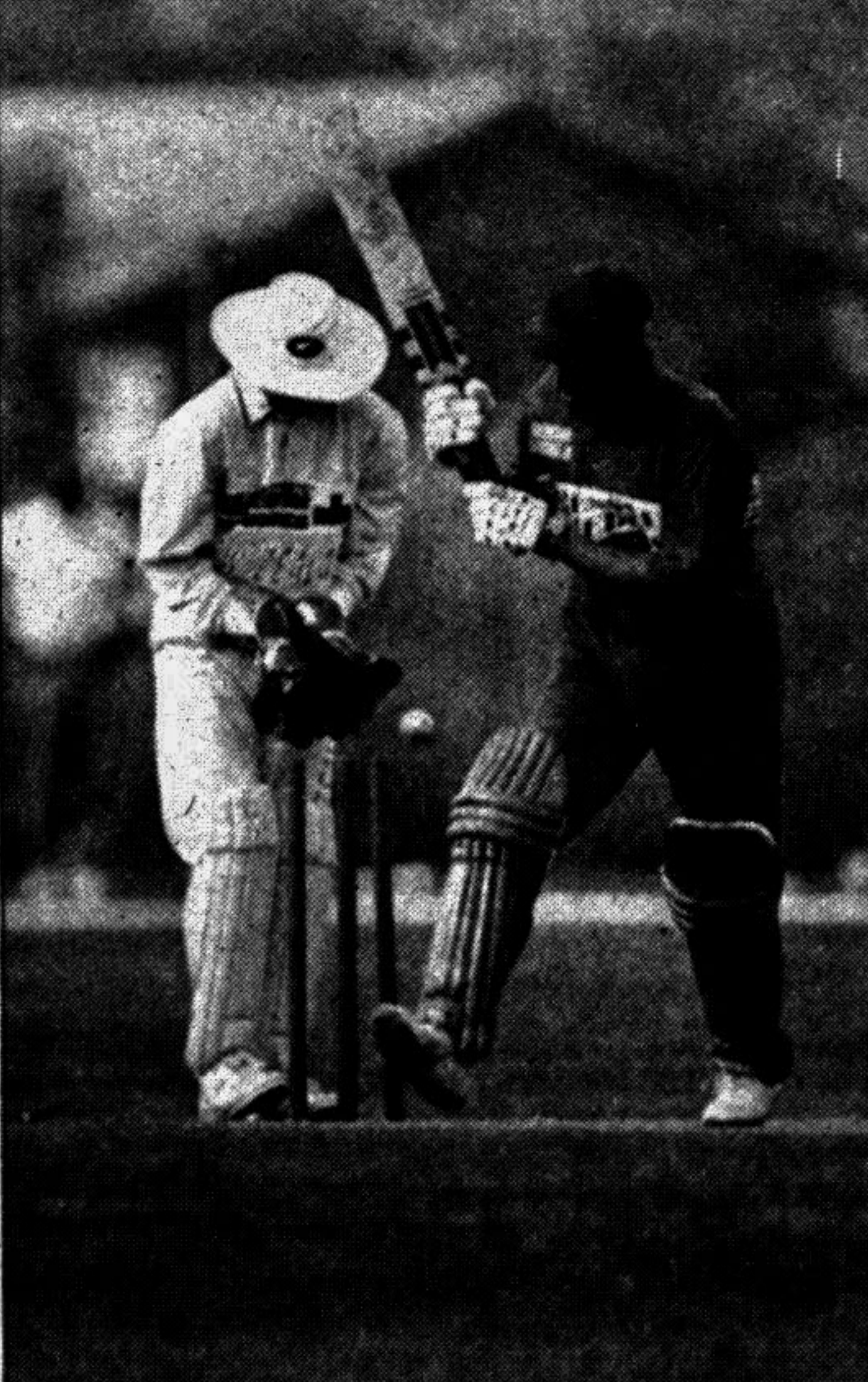
Russia-Singapore	3.5-0.5
Vietnam-Ukraine	2-2
England-Mongolia	3-0 (1 to finish)
United States-South Africa	3.5-0.5
Holland-Tajikistan	3-0 (1 to finish)

Women

Hungary-France	3-0
China-Vietnam	3-0
Australia-Georgia	0-3

Army athletics from today

The annual athletics championship of the Bangladesh Army will start at the Bangladesh Army Stadium at Banani today, reports BSS.



TIMBER: N Bothas of Transvaal President's XI is bowled during the match against New Zealand, Thursday at Sweto. The Kiwis won the first-ever international match played in this South African township. — AFP photo

John Crawley carves an England victory



BOWRAL, Australia, Dec 2: Test reject John Crawley scored a fiery unbeaten 91 Friday to spearhead England to a four-wicket win over a Sir Donald Bradman XI in a limited-overs cricket match at Bowral, southwest of Sydney, reports AP.

Three days after England's crushing 184-run defeat in the first Ashes Test, Crawley lifted the gloom with an unbeaten 91 as the tourists squeezed home with seven balls to spare.

The 23-year-old Lancashire batsman, who failed to make the Test team in Brisbane, hammered a reminder to his captain Mike Atherton during an innings lasting 103 balls and including a six and eight fours.

Crawley and fast bowler Darren Gough, who made 24 not out, steered the tourists past the home side's 205 for four from their fifty overs.

"John showed a lot of character and it was exactly the type of response you look for from a player who has been left out of a Test team — he played exceptionally well," Atherton told reporters afterwards.

Crawley described the innings as his best performance on tour to date. "I altered a few things, relaxed my hands and was less tense at the crease and it came off," he said.

Crawley was joined by Gough with England languishing at 136 for six in the 40th over, chasing the home side's

205 for four and seemingly set for an especially humiliating defeat.

But the pair added 72 in only 57 balls to guide the tourists to a win they scarcely deserved. The Bradman XI, although led by former Australian captain Allan Border, was largely made up of young hopefuls.

After an opening partnership between Atherton and Alec Stewart worth 45 England badly lost their way.

Graeme Hick fell for four, Craig White got just five and Stewart fell for 25 as England slipped to 76 for four.

For the Bradman XI, Neil Maxwell had the best bowling figures of two for 26 from 9.5 overs.

Opener Jason Arnerberger had ensured England would face a difficult chase when he top-scored for the home side with 79 against an ineffective attack.

Arnerberger, a 23-year-old product of the Australian Cricket Academy, found good support from his opening partner Jamie Cox, who made 42. Shane Lee hit a lusty 27 in 17 balls including two sixes.

Arnerberger and Cox shared a century opening stand, the highlight of which was a big six from Cox off the bowling of spinner Shaun Udell.

England next face the Australian Capital Territory in Canberra on Sunday.

Scores: Sir Donald Bradman XI 205-4 (Jason Arnerberger 79). England 208-6 (John Crawley 91 not out). England won by four wickets.