

# By the skin of their teeth

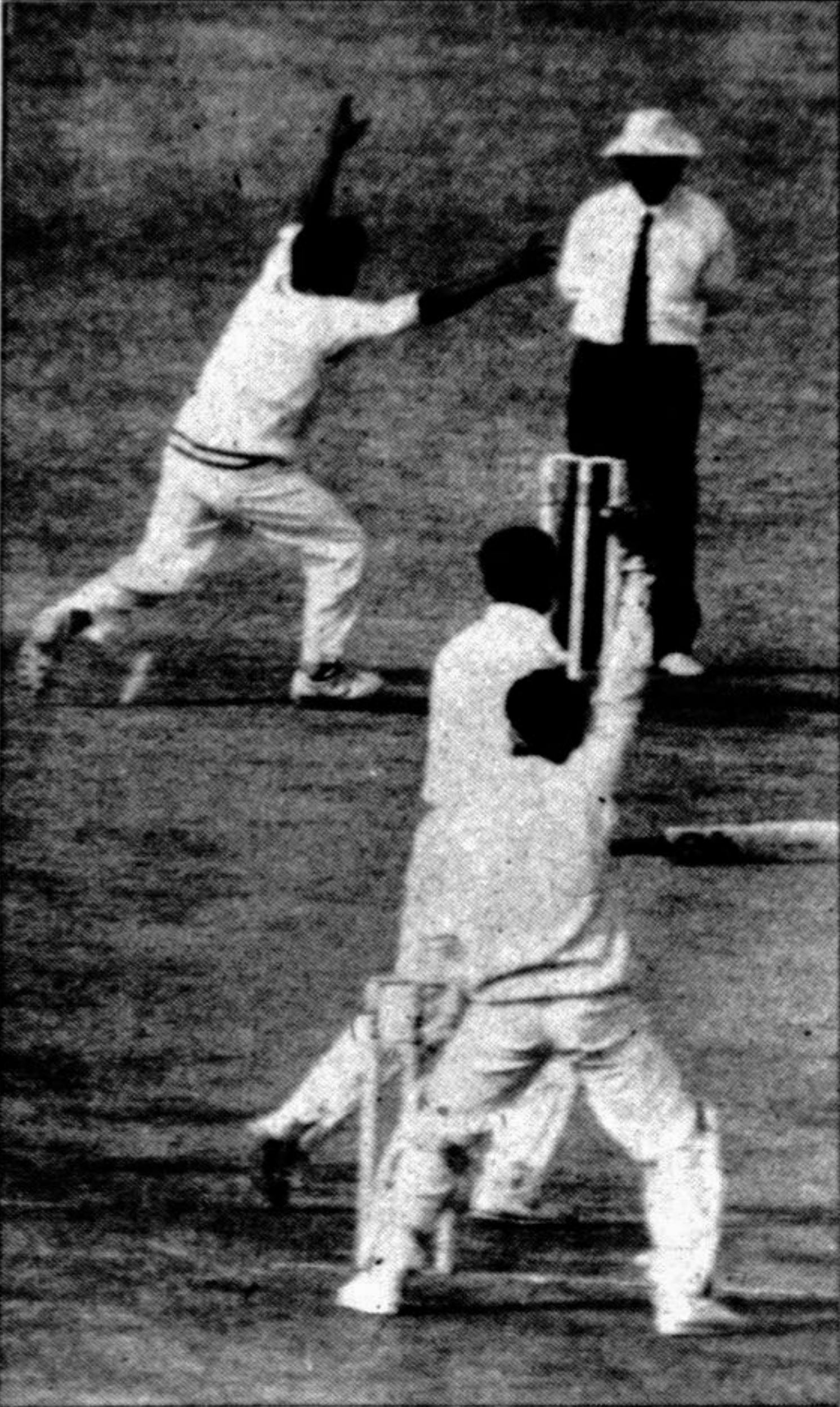
Sports Reporter



Bangladesh national team registered a thrilling two-run victory over Kenya in the second exhibition one-day match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Iftakhar who following his debatable leg before ruling against Otieno declared the batsman out when he seemed to have made his ground well in time.

Ather Ali b Steve Tikolo 1  
Al-Shahriar c Onyango b Tikolo 0  
Aminul Islam c Kenedy b Tikolo 15  
Selim Shahed b Edward Tito 2



Umpire Selim Iftakhar whose finger-happy attitude caused quite a bit of consternation among the visiting Kenyans holds his peace in the face of a raucous appeal by Bangladesh's Rafiq during yesterday's exhibition one-day match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh won the tie by two runs. — Star photo

The two left arm spinners — Rafiq and Enam bowled well to tighten the noose around the Kenyans who by dint of some lusty hitting by Tony Suji and Lamac Onyango made

Kenya opening bowlers Steve Tikolo and Edward Tito ate the heart of the Bangladesh batting with some splendidly sensible and mature bowling sharing evenly the first six wickets.

Bangladesh were reeling at 28 for six in the 13th over when allrounder Enamul Huq and star batsman Minhajul Abedin joined forces to repair the seemingly irreparable loss.

While Minhajul the combative right-hander concentrated in the role of a sheet anchor taking 31 balls to open his account left-handed Enam who rode on his luck well took the fight to the enemy camp.

The pair put 98 runs for the seventh wicket with Enam contributing exactly 50 made from 81 balls with the help of five fours and a couple of lusty sixes and Minhajul making a 108-ball 48 featuring three hits to the fence.

Rafiq threw the bat around for a highly useful 23 off 19 balls only as Bangladesh having come a long way from 28 for six, were all out to the last penultimate ball of the last over.

Kenyans lost wickets regularly in their chase for the victory target of 182 in 50 overs and although Steve Tikolo completed a highly satisfactory day of allround display the contribution from the major batsmen like skipper Maurice Odumbe was at a premium.

Tikolo who earlier had a haul of three for 18 topped over with 38 followed by opener Deepak Chudasama who made 28.

After ensuring day's best individual bowling analysis with three for 13 from the stipulated ten overs Tito tried his best to serve his team's cause with 15 but was defeated in the end by umpire Selim

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Bowling	O	M	R	W
E Tito	10	3	13	3
S Tikolo	10	2	18	3
T Odoyo	10	1	52	0
A Karim	7	1	33	0
L Onyango	3	1	10	0
M Odumbe	9.5	0	42	3

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## JU crush IU

Sports Reporter

Islamic University made their exit from the inter-university cricket championship in the most ignominious way when Jahangirnagar University handed them a massive ten-wicket defeat at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) ground yesterday.

Favourite Jahangirnagar, who had earlier won their tournament opener against hosts BUET, with this win finished on top of Group B and they will meet the runners-up from Group A in one of the two semifinals.

However, in the day's other match, the unfancied Islamic University, who were asked to use the wicket first by the opponent skipper, were bundled out for 37 in 22 overs, so far the lowest total in the six-team meet, in the face of some devastating bowling by Jahangirnagar bowlers.

Salahuddin who had done most of the damage finished with four for only seven runs in his five overs.

He was well assisted by new-ball bowler Al-Amin (Sr) and Tanveer Ahmed who evenly shared four wickets among themselves.

In reply, openers Ataur Rahman (21) and Hasanzaman (14) ensured Jahangirnagar's victory in 9.1 overs putting on 39 runs for the undefeated first wicket.

## Three new caps in SL squad

COLOMBO, Jan 26: Sri Lanka have included three newcomers in their squad of 16 for the forthcoming tour of New Zealand and a limited-overs tournament in Sharjah, reports Reuter.

The new trio are wicket-keeper Chamara Dunsinghe, who replaces out-of-form Pubudu Dasanayake, medium-fast bowler Janaka Gamage, and Jayantha Silva, a left-arm spinner.

The touring team leave on February 20 for New Zealand where their itinerary includes two Tests and three one-day internationals.

They will subsequently fly direct to Sharjah for the four-nation Asia Cup, from April 5-12, which also features India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

## Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Badda Jagorant recorded their seventh win in the Second Division football league with a 4-0 thrashing over Govt Printing Press at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Badda, who are trailing league leaders Police AC by two points, with this victory raised their collection to 24 points from 11 matches.

However, in the one-sided affair, Rashed struck twice while Thomas and substitute Feroj shared the other goals for the winners.

In the other match of the day, Swapan hammered the all-important goal to give Lalimata a 1-0 win over Prantik KC.

## Div III soccer

Sports Reporter

Zillur Rahman struck twice as Motijheel T&T Club went home with a 2-0 victory over Moghbazaar Kisholaya in one of the two Pragati Insurance Third Division football league matches played at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Zillur scored one goal apiece in each half to earn the Motijheel outfit their third win from six matches.

In the other match of the day, Matuall Juba Sangha and Aminbazaar split points in a one-all draw.

Ashrafal gave Matdail a 31st minute lead before Jalil pulled off a late equaliser for Aminbazaar six minutes from the long whistle.

## Annual sports

The annual sports of Dhaka Residential Model College will be held on the college campus here from January 28-31, reports UNB.

The dismissal, with the total on 175, ended a patient innings which lasted more than four and a half hours and included eight fours from 217 deliveries.

Scoreboard on the opening day of the fourth cricket Test between Australia and England at the Adelaide Oval today.

ENGLAND: First innings  
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M Gatting not out 50  
G Thorpe not out 16  
Extras: (w-2, nb-1) 3

Total: (for two wickets) 196  
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FLYING FRENCHMAN: Manchester United's volatile but flamboyant midfielder Eric Cantona launches himself at a spectator Bruce Lee style during United's English Premiership match against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park in London on Jan 25. Cantona was reacting to a taunt on walking back to the dressing after receiving his marching orders. The game ended 1-1. — AFP photo

## Cantona kicks up a dust

LONDON, Jan 26: Eric Cantona kicked his Manchester United career into cold storage, if not permanent oblivion, amid outrageous scenes in the English Premier league match against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Wednesday night, reports Reuter.

England midfielder Paul Ince may also face severe sanctions after he became involved in a mini-riot following the 48th-minute sending off of the French international.

Both men were interviewed by police and will be seen again at a later date.

A 1-1 draw cost the champions the chance to overhaul Blackburn at the top of the table, but the result hardly mattered on a disgraceful night.

Scotland Yard, responsible for policing the London area, reported that at least one supporter had alleged assault.

Cantona's world exploded just after halftime when defender Richard Shaw tackled him from behind. The Frenchman lashed out with his right foot and caught the Palace defender under the nose of referee Alan Wilkie.

As United players surrounded the referee, he pulled out the red card and pointed Cantona, arms outstretched in innocent supplication, to the dressing room.

Then as he made his way angrily to the dressing room, Cantona confronted a taunting fan. Before anyone could restrain him, Cantona jumped over the perimeter fence in a

two-footed lunge. A radio commentator described it as a "kungfu" type kick. An eyewitness said the supporter was struck in the stomach.

Ex-England star Gary Lineker described the incident as the most unbelievable thing he had ever seen in a football match.

"This is inexcusable," he said.

Scotland Yard later released a statement which did not mention Cantona by name.

It said: "A United player was sent off at 20:48. There was a disturbance with some spectators as he left the pitch.

"There were a number of spectators involved in the incident. At least one spectator is alleging assault against a United player. Initial inquiries are under way."

A police spokesman said witness statements were being taken but added that no one had been arrested.

Chief superintendent Terry Collins said: "We've received serious allegations from two fans. They are at South Norwood police station for medical examination, which is the usual procedure in cases of assault."

He said Cantona and Ince would be allowed to go home and would be further interviewed at a later date.

The office added: "We have taken names and addresses from more than two dozen witnesses willing to give statements and they will be taken in the next days."

Inspector Kevin Green, on the steps of the police station, said: "The incident is being in-

vestigated by the police. Mr Cantona has returned to Manchester."

An English Football Association (FA) statement late on Wednesday said: "The FA are appalled by the incident that took place by the side of the pitch at Selhurst Park tonight.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that actions that damage the game are punished severely. The FA will live up to that responsibility."

Palace fans had taunted Cantona as he made his way down the touchline and one appeared to make an obscene gesture.

Ince led the charge of United players in support of Cantona and is alleged to have struck two fans before police and stewards restored order.

Cantona had tea thrown over him as United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel came to escort him to the dressing room.

It is the fifth time the volatile 28-year old Parisian has been sent off for United since his one million pound move from Leeds where he won the first of his three championship medals.

He earned a four-match European ban for calling the referee a cheat at the end of United's Champions Cup exit against Galatasaray in Turkey last season.

He was then handed a five-match ban for being sent off in consecutive matches at Swindon and Arsenal.

He then missed three of this term's early games after a pre-season dismissal against Glasgow Rangers.

## Super Sampras sails on

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: Pete Sampras emotionally and physically drained, continued his rollercoaster ride through the Australian Open Thursday beating Michael Chang in four sets to advance to the final for the second straight year, reports AP.

Sampras, the defending champion, defeated his fellow American 6-7 (6-8) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours, seven minutes.

The other men's semifinal between No 2 seed Andre Agassi and unseeded Aaron Krickstein will be played Friday.

Sampras shed tears for his seriously ill coach Tim Gullikson during his marathon

four-hour quarterfinal win over Jim Courier on Tuesday night. This time, he kept his emotions in check but was stretched by fifth seeded Chang.

"This is the most special to me, because of the circumstances and the fact I was down and out against Magnus Larsson and down and out against (Jim) Courier and fought back I showed more heart than I probably ever had."

Sampras, who has been playing Chang since the pair was eight-year old and now has an 8-6 professional record against him, had been expected to five sets in his two previous matches.

He sealed the match with his willingness to come to the net in yet another test of will and endurance.

Sampras won 64 points at the net to just 15 for Chang. Not even 20 aces by former French Open champion Chang, seven more than Sampras total, could pull it out for him.

Sampras advanced to his seventh Grand Slam title and will be seeking his sixth title on Sunday.

"This court is probably the toughest court for my body," said a visibly tired Sampras. "It's very sticky. There's not a lot of give out there. I've got two days rest, which is good. My body is a bit banged up."

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Mary Pierce scored emphatic victories in women's action to set up a repeat of last year's French Open final.

Sanchez Vicario, top-seeded in a Grand Slam for the first time, overwhelmed unseeded American Marianne Werdel Witmeyer 6-4, 6-1 by hitting the ball consistently hard and deep.

Pierce earlier overcame a

## Time for redemption

WELLINGTON, Jan 26: New Zealand's cricketers will be aiming to stake their claims for Test places when they face the West Indies in the third limited-overs international in Christchurch on Saturday, reports AP.

Stephen Fleming, Matthew Hart and Dion Nash, who were suspended for the three one-day internationals against the tourists for smoking marijuana on the recent tour of South Africa, all will be available for Test selection.

The trio is expected to be named in the team for the first Test against the West Indies in Christchurch from Feb. 3-7.

Their suspensions, along with that of Chris Pringle - who was suspended for his poor test preparation in South Africa - end on Sunday.

The likely return of the trio puts pressure on the members of the limited-overs squad.

"Their time away from cricket is a disadvantage to them but I'm sure they've been working on their game this past week," chairman of selectors Ross Dykes said Thursday.

Possible changes to the team who lost the last two Tests in South Africa could result in a new opening partner for Bryan Young and Nash coming in for Pringle.

The Test team will be announced on Sunday.

"The West Indies already have clinched the first two games of the limited-overs series, while New Zealand have lost their last 12 one-day internationals.

"I think we're gradually improving - but gradual is probably the right word," said New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford.

The West Indies will use Saturday's game to give match practice to Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Junjor Murray, who haven't played in the series so far.

New Zealand Cricket, the sport's domestic governing body, announced Thursday that New Zealand players will be random drug tested this summer but members of touring teams will not.

## Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 26: Sher-e-Bangla Medical College recorded a facile 50-run win over Nabajaganan Club in the First Division cricket league here at the local stadium today.

Battling first, Sher-e-Bangla raised a respectable total of 197 for five in the allotted 40 overs with Riyad notching a sparkling 53.

Shuvra and Imran, who contributed 24 and 23 respectively, were the other notable run-getters for the eventual winners.

Chasing a target of an average of little less than five runs per over, Nabajaganan could muster only 139 for nine when they ran out of overs.

## Wiranata on track

TOKYO, Jan 26: Top-seeded Ardy B Wiranata of Indonesia

trounced Peter Rasmussen of Denmark Thursday in the men's singles second round of the Japan Open, reports AP.

Wiranata, the world's No 1 male badminton player, scored a 15-6, 15-6 victory over Rasmussen. No 30 in the world, in 37 minutes.

In other second-round matches Thursday, second-seeded Alan Budi Kusuma of Indonesia trounced Japan's Hideaki Motoyama 15-1, 15-7.

## A good Day One for Atherton



ADELAIDE, Jan 26: Captain Michael Atherton fully vindicated his choice to bat first by scoring a brilliant 80 as England reached 196 for two Thursday on opening day of the fourth Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval, report agencies.

Atherton was aided by two former skippers Graham Gooch (47) and Mike Gatting (50 not out) as a weakened batting line-up put up brave fight against an Australian attack which looked thin for the first time on a placid pitch.

Gatting, promoted to number three after Graeme Hick was ruled out by a back injury, and Graham Thorpe (16 not out) survived a tricky 15-minute period before the rescheduled close after bad light and rain stopped play for 67 minutes during the final session.

Atherton and Gooch shared a patient opening partnership of 93 — the team's highest first-wicket stand of the series — and the England skipper then added 82 for the second-

wicket with Gatting. Australia, for whom swing bowler Damien Fleming took both wickets, have already retained the Ashes after taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the five-Test series.

Australia appeared fortunate to dismiss Gooch when umpire Peter Parker adjudged the opener had gloved a short-pitched delivery from Fleming to Mark Waugh at second slip.

When he had made 20, the former England captain was bowled off the inside edge by fast bowler Craig McDermott, only to be given a reprieve as umpire Parker called a no-ball.

Gatting capitalised on the escape, hitting seven fours during an innings which spanned 146 minutes and 111 deliveries.

Atherton wasted the opportunity to record his first century on Thursday night.

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