

Pakistan crush President's XI

HARARE, Jan 29: Pakistan beat the Zimbabwe President's XI by seven wickets on the third and final day of their match at the Harare South Country Club today, reports Reuter.

DU in final

Dhaka University moved into the final of the inter-university cricket championship beating Jahangirnagar by eight wickets in the second semi-final at the BUET ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Yamaha cricket

Dhaka Wanderers Club recorded a facile 31-run over Dharmondi Club in a low-scoring Yamaha First Division cricket league match played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Sent in to bat first, opener Nuruzzaman scored a sedate match-winning half century as Wanderers reached a fighting 147 before being all out in 43.2 overs in the 45-overs-a-side engagement.

Nuruzzaman hit three fours and two huge sixes in his plucky innings of 131 balls while Sagir Abbas, the Pakistani middle-order bat and Golam Faruque with 27 and 17 runs respectively were the other notable run-getters for the eventual winners.

Shubho, who ripped through the Wanderers batting, was the most successful Dharmondi bowler with a haul of four for 29 in his quota of nine overs while Akbar Baig took two for 42.

Nirman cricket

Motijheel Govt High School defeated Narinda Govt High School by 40 runs in the 13th Nirman Schools cricket tournament on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Winning the toss, Motijheel batted first and were all out for 137 runs in 33.3 overs.

In reply, Narinda were skittled out for 90 in 22.5 overs. Prasad, 22, Ujjal 15 and Golam Hasib 12 were the only double-digit scorers for the losers.

Troublesome trio recalled

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Jan 29: Three players suspended for drug use on the recent cricket tour of South Africa, have been recalled to the New Zealand Test team to play the West Indies in Christchurch, reports AP.



The 16-member Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) team, which arrived in the capital yesterday to play a number of exhibition matches against local selections. The South Indian cricketers went straight to Comilla from the airport to prepare for today's limited over match against Bangladesh A.

Bangladeshi colts canter

Zakaria Imtiaz and Ajar Rahman shared 97 runs for the fourth wicket to help the Bangladesh U-19 squad carve a convincing five-wicket win over the visiting Hong Kong national team at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a modest target of 140 runs for an outright victory in the allotted 50 overs, the middle-order due set the hosts comfortably on course after Bangladesh lost their first three wickets for only 37 runs in 13.4 overs.

Zakaria and Ajar, who had earlier put on a match-winning century partnership in their first match against the ICC Trophy runners-up Kenyan national team on January 23, steered the home side to 134 in 33.5 overs before Zakaria departed for a sparkling 52.

Yesterday's performance following a well-made 65 against Kenya in the previous match earned the burly right-handed batsman the man-of-the-match award for the second successive occasion.

While Zakaria played a relatively aggressive role, Ajar, who celebrated selection for the squad with a half-century, took a rather cautious approach.

The promising batsman, who plays for Gulshan Youth in the Navana Premier Division cricket league, stayed at the wicket till the end of the winner's successful chase. In fact, Ajar posted the winning runs with a well-executed four to crown a superb day of cricket.

At the end of the match, the upcoming right-hander was two short of what could have been his second successive half-century.

The colts, however, got off to a rather shaky start losing both their openers Sajid Hasan (10) and Sajjad Ahmed Manur (9), one of the two changes in the team, with the scoreboard reading only 29.

caught at first slip, and economical off spinner Paul Wiseman took two wickets in three overs to have the tourists in some trouble at 179 for six.

Wiseman induced Keith Arthurton into a false shot, for the second time, and he was caught by Ken Rutherford at extra cover for a fast 20. Earlier, Arthurton was dropped off Wiseman by James Allan at point from a similar leading edge.

The hosts' misery compounded when Mibrab Hossain (10), the most consistent batsman among the promising lot, returned to the pavilion with the addition of only eight runs to the total.

Earlier, the visiting Hong Kong squad playing their first match of the week-long tour, decided to make the first use of the strip after winning the toss in the morning.

However, the visitors' plans backfired as they could muster only 139 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 50 overs in the face of a devastating spell of medium pace bowling from Hasibul Hossain and Raimur Rashid, who was tried for the first time yesterday.

Hasibul, the striking partner of Sajal Chowdhury, who removed both the openers before they could reach double figures, finished with three for 24 in his quota of 10 overs.

Raimur gave Hasibul good support returning with excellent analysis of 10-3-19-2 while skipper Naimur Rahman, who also claimed two wickets with his off-spin, was the most expensive bowler giving away 32 runs in his eight overs.

Only Rahul Sharma played with some sort of ease against the rampant Bangladesh bowlers and remained unbeaten on 65, the highest individual score of the match.

Foster and Adrian, the most successful Hong Kong bowler with three for 20, were the other double-digit scorers for the eventual losers with 10 and 12 respectively.

Three matches of the two-week exhibition package are billed for today at different venues across the country. While the youngsters stay back in Sylhet to host the Kenyan national team, who recorded their first win of the tour after three successive losses on Saturday against Bangladesh A, the seniors take on the national selection from Hong Kong at the Dhaka Stadium.

The other match of the day pits Bangladesh A against the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), who arrived yesterday, at Comilla.

Scoreboard in the limited over exhibition cricket match between Hong Kong and the Bangladesh Under 19 team at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday:

Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), who arrived yesterday, at Comilla.

SCOREBOARD table with columns for team, batsman, runs, and bowler.

Table with columns O, M, R, W for bowling statistics.

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Gooch announces retirement

ADELAIDE, Jan 29: Veteran England batsman Graham Gooch announced his retirement from Test cricket on Sunday and became the third highest run-scorer in Test history, reports Reuter.

Gooch, who made his announcement in an English Sunday newspaper said he would carry on playing for Essex in the county championship next season.

Gooch, 41, scored 34 runs in England's second innings in the fourth Test against Australia to overhaul Pakistan's Javed Miandad's total of 8,832 runs in the record books.

The former England captain said he would retire from Test cricket at the end of the current Ashes tour to Australia.

"I would like to be number one (run scorer) but that is not possible," Gooch told reporters at the Adelaide Oval.

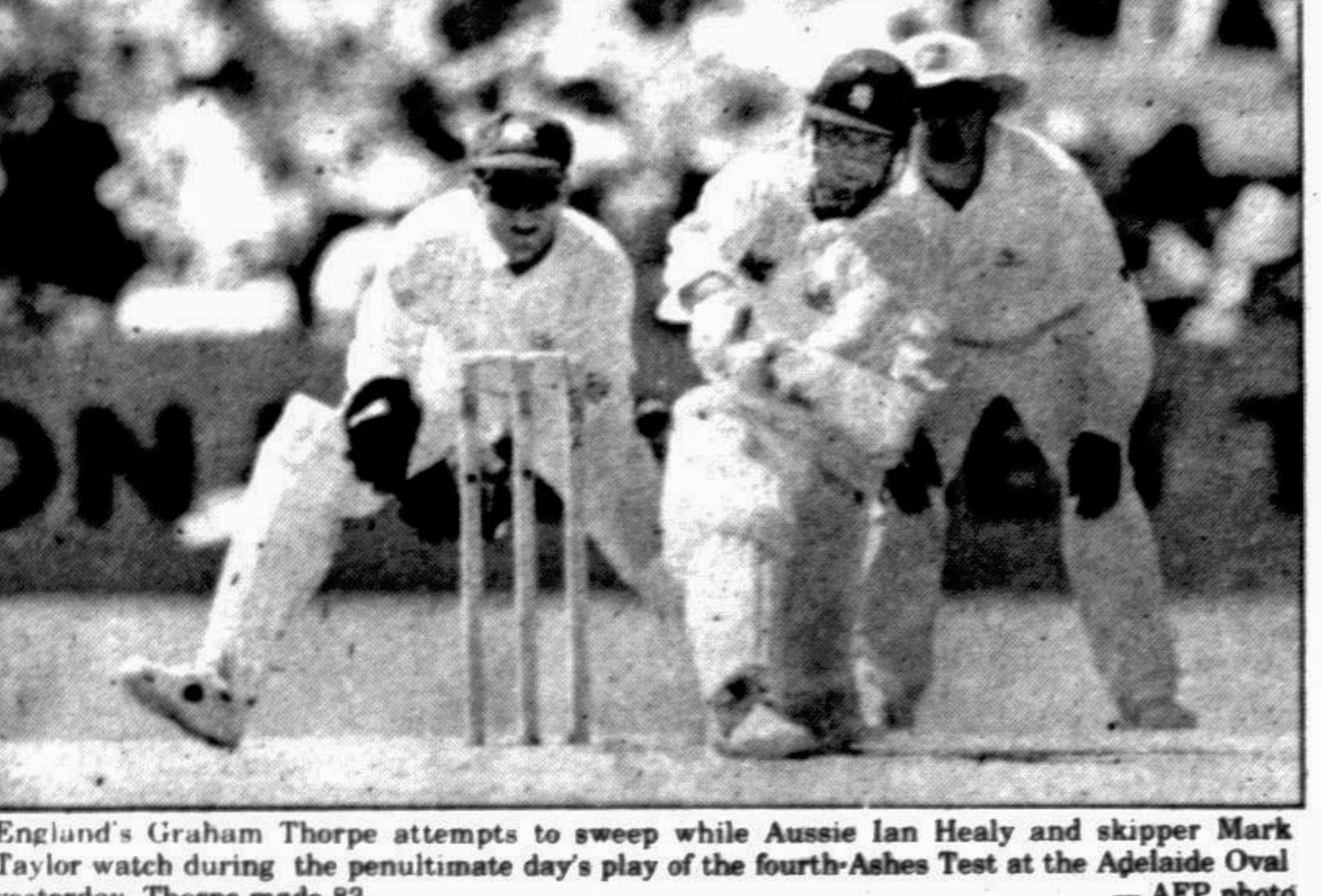
"I am not maintaining the level of performance I need for myself at this level," added Gooch, who only has former Australian captain Allan Border and retired Indian opener Sunil Gavaskar ahead of him.

"For me, getting 20s, or 40s in Test matches is not what it is about," said Gooch, who captained England 34 times.

Gooch equalled David Gower's record of 117 Test appearances for England in the fourth Test and will pass that mark if selected for this week's fifth Test in Perth.

Scoreboard in the limited over exhibition cricket match between Hong Kong and the Bangladesh Under 19 team at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday:

Table with columns O, M, R, W for bowling statistics.



England's Graham Thorpe attempts to sweep while Aussie Ian Healy and skipper Mark Taylor watch during the penultimate day's play of the fourth Ashes Test at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. Thorpe made 83.

Thorpe, Crawley steady England innings

Exciting Day 5 on cards

ADELAIDE, Jan 29: England batsmen Graham Thorpe and John Crawley on Sunday halted Australia's charge towards a likely victory in the fourth Test, reports Reuter.

The pair rescued the tourists after the experienced top order trio of captain Mike Atherton, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting fell cheaply as England struggled to build a second innings lead at the Adelaide Oval.

At close of play on the fourth day, England had recovered to finish on 220 for six, a lead of 154 runs with one day remaining.

Thorpe led the fight back with a determined innings of 83 after coming to the crease with his side poised precariously on 30 for two, still needing 37 runs to make the home side bat again.

Crawley, England's last recognised batsman, followed Thorpe's example to remain unbeaten on 49 alongside pace bowler Phil DeFreitas as 20.

With the pitch expected to turn increasingly on Monday, there is even the faint prospect of an England victory if Australia bat poorly chasing a victory target in their innings.

Australia, as holder, have already retained the Ashes after taking an unassailable 2-0 lead, with one draw in the five-match series and will reap up the medals and at the end of the day they led the medals table with four golds, five silvers and one bronze.

Thorpe responded admirably to England's crisis, scoring his runs off 117 balls with 10 fours during a two-hour 20 minute stay at the crease.

He eventually fell after tea when he drove a McDermott delivery to Shane Warne in the covers.

Wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes and all-rounder Chris Lewis followed cheaply, before Crawley and DeFreitas added an unbeaten 39 for the seventh wicket.

Earlier, Australia resumed on 394 for five — a lead of 41 runs — and appeared to be in a potentially match-winning position. But they lost their last five wickets for 25 runs in less than 10 overs to be 419 all out.

The speed of his side's demise almost denied all-rounder Greg Blewett the opportunity to score a century on his Test debut and become the first Australian to achieve the feat since Mark Waugh four years ago.

Blewett, who remained unbeaten on 102 after starting the day on 91, found himself in danger of being stranded in the 90s as wickets tumbled around him.

His prospects were further diminished by a health scare for McDermott, which forced the Queensland fast bowler to leave the ground at the start of play for a precautionary hospital X-ray following stomach cramps.

With his score on 94, Blewett found himself at the wicket with spinner Peter McIntyre, effectively Australia's last man as McDermott had yet to return from hospital.

After surviving several scares as he tried to smash his

way to three figures, Blewett reached the milestone in the seventh over of the day to earn a standing ovation from his home crowd.

He hit 12 hours during his superb four-hour stay at the crease, during which he faced 176 balls.

Malcolm sparked the Australian collapse by removing Healy for 74 in the first fast over of the day.

The Derbyshire fast bowler finished with figures of three for 78 from 26 overs, while Angus Fraser took three for 95.

Close scores on the fourth day of the fourth Test between Australia and England at Adelaide Oval on Sunday:

Table with columns O, M, R, W for bowling statistics.

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Four new records set in nat'l athletics

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) won on set three of the four national records set on the inaugural day of the three day 23rd national athletics championships at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Rahima Khanam shaved 9.70 seconds off the previous women's 1,500-metre record with a time of 4:56.60 while Haivder Mohammed Ilias of Bangladesh Army clocked 31 mins 17.78 seconds — 3.29 seconds inside the old mark — to establish the other track record of the day.

In the field events, Kalpana Biswas of BJMC eclipsed the 15-year-old high jump record when she crossed 1.35 metres to efface the previous national record of 1.54 set way back in 1980 by another BJMC athlete Shamima Sattar.

Akhirunnisa hurled the javelin some 38.86 metres to better the old mark by 1.08 metres.

Although the BJMC athletes made their way into the record books, Bangladesh Army kept on plucking the medals and at the end of the day they led the medals table with four golds, five silvers and one bronze.

BJMC bagged three gold, four silver and five bronze medals.

Fifteen events were decided on the opening day of the meet, inaugurated earlier in the morning by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain.

Bakero powers Barcelona

BARCELONA, Jan 29: A late goal by veteran midfielder Jose Maria Bakero gave Barcelona a sorely-needed 1-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday, and kept alive the side's hopes of winning a fifth consecutive title, reports AP.

Barcelona pounded Athletic with attacks from Romanian Gheorghe Hagi and Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov throughout the game but seemed unable to get the ball past goalkeeper Juan Jose Valencia, who was in top form.

The break came six minutes from the end when team captain Bakero took control in the area of a long pass from Hagi, broke free from two defenders and fired the ball home.

Age has caught up with me and I'm not satisfied to go on making 30s and 40s. That's not good enough," said Gooch.

"I always said I would go when I was not happy with the way I am playing and I've de-

Arbi, firing his favorite jumping smashes, beat Indonesian compatriot Joko Suprianto 15-8, 15-8 in the men's singles final.

After taking the first set, Arbi trailed 2-7 in the second set. Then Arbi collected four straight points en route to an 8-8 tie. Arbi then took control of the game with jump smashes and forehand winners to take the second set.

Arbi earned dlr 8,125 from the total purse of dlr 125,000 for his second victory of the Japan Open.

"I tried to hit back and to fire nice shots better than him," said Arbi. He beat top-seeded and world No 1 Ardy B. Wiranata in the semifinals Saturday.

The men's doubles title went to Ricky Sobagda and Remy Mainaky, who defeated the Indonesian compatriots Bambang Suprianto and Rudy Gunawan 15-8, 15-9.

The Chinese pair of Ge Fei and Gu Jun beat the Indonesian pair of Finarish and Lily Tampi 15-11, 15-8 to take the women's doubles.

Thomas Lund and Marlene Thomsen of Denmark outlasted the Indonesian pair of Trikus Heryanto and Minarti Timur 15-4, 14-17, 15-10 to capture the mixed-doubles title.

Bang said "I was disappointed and exhausted. I made unforced errors. I had planned to play the offensive game but I could not do so in the first set."

No sweat for West Indies

DUNEDIN, New Zealand, Jan 29: Wicketkeeper Junior Murray was unbeaten on 74 as the West Indies reached 295 for seven at the end of the first day of their three-day match against New Zealand on Sunday, reports Reuter.

It was Murray's first bat on tour after two weeks of one-day matches where Jimmy Adams was favoured ahead of him to keep wicket.

West Indies used the match as a chance to give their batsmen some much needed time in the middle but they generally failed to take advantage of a reasonable wicket.

Brian Lara captained the team while Courtney Walsh rested an injured back.

Lara, to the discontent of the spectators, decided to bat at number eight and even he fell into the malaise of getting a start and then getting out when he was bowled by Even Marshall for 19.

Song dies

SEOUL, Jan 29: South Korea's wrestler Song Sung-Il, who won a gold medal at the 1994 Asian Games, died on Sunday from cancer, at a Seoul hospital said.

The patient died this morning, a nurse at the Samsung Medical Centre told Reuters by telephone.

Song Sung-Il, 25, took the gold in the Greco-Roman mid-heavyweight category at the Hiroshima Games in Japan, despite having a tumour bigger than a baseball in his stomach.

Wilson b Gale 10

Keith Arthurton c Rutherford b Wiseman 20

Junior Murray not out 74

Brian Lara b Marshall 19

Robert Kennedy 19 1 75 0

Aaron Gale 19 4 39 2

Even Marshall 19 2 55 1

Chris Finch 17 2 54 1

An Indonesian clean sweep

TOKYO, Jan 29: Indonesians dominated the Japan Open Badminton Championships on Sunday as Susanti took the women's singles title and Heryanto Arbi won the men's

crowns, reports AP.

Susanti, the Barcelona Olympic champion and world No 1, beat Bang Soo-hyun of South Korea, the Barcelona finalist, 11-7, 12-11.

After tying 4-4 in the first set, Susanti won four points in a row and went on to take the first set.

Susanti and Bang played a see-saw game to a 9-9 tie in the second set. Bang took an 11-10 lead and was one point shy of the title when Susanti fought back, taking the next two points to wrap up the final match.

In the second set, my shots became simple in long rallies. I tried to come to the net but I am afraid to make errors there," said Susanti who received dlr 6,250 for her third triumph in the Japan Open.



Kalpana Bishwas of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) flies over the bar on her way to breaking the 15-year-old record in the women's high jump at the Mirpur Stadium on the inaugural day of the 23rd national athletics championships yesterday.