

Sweet revenge for A team

Local Iqbal Hossain pulled the penultimate ball of the 47th over to the fence amid wild cheers as Bangladesh A overcame a dramatic collapse and an under-prepared strip to post a three-wicket victory against Kenya in an exhibition one-day match at the Mymensingh Stadium yesterday.

The shadow national team thus exacted a fairly satisfactory revenge of its one-run loss to the tourists in a similar contest at the Comilla Stadium on January 28.

Wicketkeeper Khaled Masud, who bore a hand to the spinners in their torment of the Kenyan batsmen in the morning, was however, the mainstay of Bangladesh's successful chase later in the day which at one stage looked jeopardised by a mixture of bad wicket, bad nerves and aggressive cricket on the visitors' part.

Chasing 145 for a victory in 50 overs, Bangladesh lost four wickets for 18 runs after the first three wickets had kept the chasers focused for an easy win, realising 96 in 33 overs.

Kenya's slow left-armed Asif Karim then spread panic among the batsmen and as well as the 15,000 strong supporters with a deadly spell that earned him a haul of four for an eventual cost of 47 runs in ten overs.

Ziaur Rashid, who opened with Khaled Masud, was the other notable run-getter for the hosts making 18 in an enterprising opening partnership of 54.

Apart from Asif, skipper Maurice Odumbe and Lamec Onyango met with success among the Kenyan bowlers claiming two and one wicket respectively.

Asif Karim's exploits on a helping track was foretold in the splendid success of the Bangladeshi spinners led by left-armed Sharfuddinul Haque Shaheed.

Following the course of redemption with some consistency in the recent times after being really taken for a ride by the opposition batsmen in the ICC Trophy last February, the young spinner from Rajshahi snared four batsmen for 29 runs from ten overs.

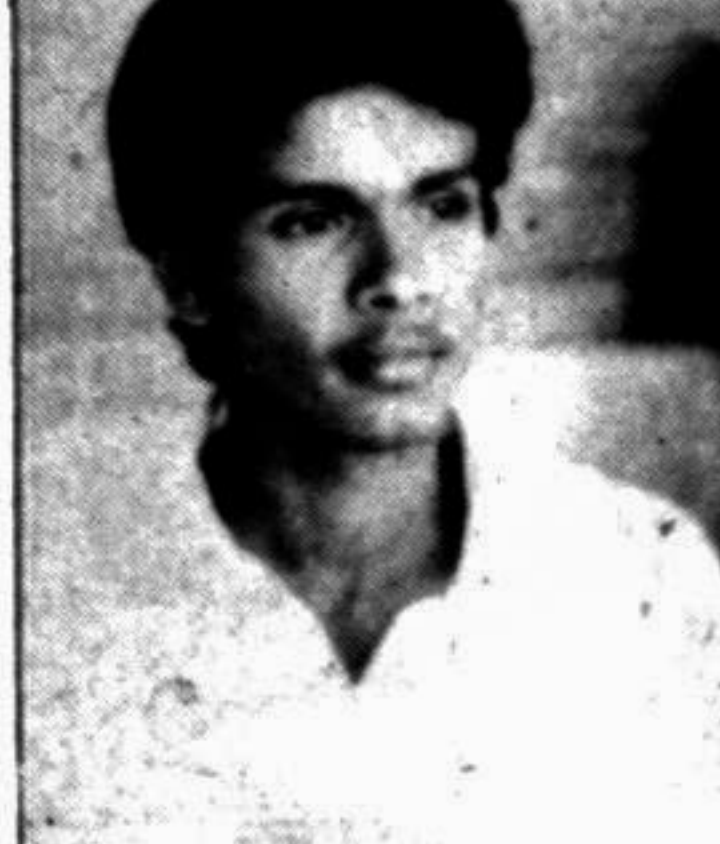
Kenya's began disastrously once the A team captain Faruque, who went on to take three catches, won the toss and expressed his desire to field first.

Both the new-ball bowlers — Zakir and a steady Iqbal — maintained pressure on the batsmen with the latter providing two quick breakthroughs to leave the visitors struggling at 13 for two.

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SPORTS

Although there was plenty to enjoy by way of competition



Iqbal Hossain

IBNE SHAHEED... m-o-m despite it being a low-scoring one, the spirit of such a friendly contest was spoiled by the tantrums shown by Bangladesh A players Khaled Mahmood and Ziaur Rashid. Khaled waved his bat threateningly at the Kenyan players, who asked the disgruntled batsman to leave the crease after an umpire had given him out, caught at silly point.

Zia's attitude was less reprehensible though not inconspicuous, in respect of the friendly atmosphere one expects in such an unofficial and insignificant contest and the recent accent on disciplinary action in the cricketing world.

Zia kicked the ground in an obvious show of dissent after his appeal was ignored by one of the umpires.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the limited overs exhibition cricket match at the Mymensingh Stadium between Kenya and Bangladesh A yesterday.

KENYA

Mofsin Ali c Faruque b Iqbal	4
Tariq Iqbal c Mahabub b Ziaur Rashid	33
Steve Tikolo c Khaled Mahmood b Iqbal	1
Hitesh Modi c Khaled Masud b Iqbal	22
Maurice Odumbe c Iqbal b Sharfuddinul Haque	33
Deepak Chudasama Ibw Saif Alish Bhandari b Khaled Masud b Sharfuddinul Haque	15
Edward Rito not out	12
Lamec Onyango c Khaled Masud b Sharfuddinul Haque	0
Asif Karim c Faruque b Sharfuddinul Haque	1
Rajab Ali c Faruque b Ziaur Rashid	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-4, w-6)	16
Total: (All out in 49.4 overs)	144
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-13; 3-60; 4-82; 5-98; 6-132; 7-135; 8-135; 9-137.	

Bowling: O M R W
Zakir Hossain 7 2 6 0
Iqbal Hossain 8 3 18 2
Ziaur Rashid 9 4 0 27 2
Khaled Mahmood 3 0 14 0
Saidul Islam 10 0 42 2
Sharfuddinul Haque 10 1 21 4
Habibul Bashar 2 1 1 0

BANGLADESH A
Ziaur Rashid Ibw Lamec Onyango 18

five, the Kenyan innings badly lost way in the maize created by Sharfuddinul Haque and the two off spinners — Saidul Islam and Ziaur Rashid, who along with Iqbal picked up two wickets apiece.

BEXIMCO jr badminton ends

Javed of Chittagong and Bangladesh Biman's Ruma clinched doubled crowns in the BEXIMCO national junior and sub-junior badminton tournament which concluded at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Javed lifted the boys' singles title of the under-14 age group beating Khalid of Rajshahi 15-3, 15-0 and also shared the doubles with Nikhil after they defeated Khalid and Shabbir of Rajshahi 15-4, 8-15, 15-5.

Ruma annexed the girls' singles under-14 title beating Lucky of Ansars 11-2, 11-1 and later clinched the doubles pairing with Jhuma to beat Lucky and Saki of Ansars 17-16, 15-7.

In the boys' junior under-18 section, Zia Hossain of Chittagong emerged champion defeating his fellow Chittagong Milladul 15-12, 15-2.

Zakaria and Ullash of Ansars clinched the boys' doubles under-18 title beating Zia and Bhanu of Chittagong 14-17, 15-4, 15-9.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Norfan was present at the closing function as the chief guest and distributed the prizes.

Sadeque meets BSJA members

The construction work of the proposed cricket stadium at Maghbaraz will start by the end of this year, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The land for the proposed stadium is expected to be handed over to the National Sports Council in the middle of this year, he said.

The State Minister was talking to the members of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) at the association's office.

More entries for Toyota tennis

Seven boys and as many girls from Thailand, three boys from Pakistan and one boy from Oman will take part in the Toyota ninth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships, reports BSS.

The six-day international junior ranking tournament begins at the Ramna Tennis Complex here on February 6.

The Thai players are: Boys — Witonpanich Bhee, Chai Navawongse, Rungsri Distes, Watcharapong Prangnararat, Auttapon Rittiwattana-pong, Soontarat Vongpukdee-puobal and Pacharapol Kam-sarana.

Girls — Mintika Anuchan, Phornsarin Tovisitachai, Orawan Wongkamalasi, Bussarin Boontemlaware, Atchara Wannachinda, Sawitree Naree and Chitima Toma.

Pakistan: Asad Ali Baghat, Raja Muhammad Faisal and Amir Khan.

Oman: Mudrik al-Rawahi. Earlier six boys and as many girls from India and two boys from Austria have confirmed their participation.

Next matches: BCCB XI vs Hyderabad Cricket Association at Dhaka Stadium. Bangladesh U-14 vs Hong Kong at BKSP.

Bangladesh bow out

NEW DELHI, Feb 1: Bangladesh bowed out of the fifth All India Lal Bahadur Shastri international hockey tournament after going down to Bharat Petroleum at the Shivaji Stadium here today, reports BSS.

HCA WIN BIG

The Hyderabad Cricket Association, a regional team from India, appeared in its real colour at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday as one of the three outfits visiting the country now routed the Bangladesh under-19 team by eight wickets in another exhibition match.

Having lost their first match a day after their arrival by 23 runs to the Bangladesh A team in Comilla, the Indians yesterday bowled the youth team out for 164 in 48.3 overs with the in-form Naimur Rahman top-scoring with 45.

Openers Shahriar Hossain and Sajid Hassan contributed 25 each while Sohel made 21.

The tourists, who take on the Bangladesh Cricket Control Eleven at the Dhaka Stadium today, posted 166 for four in 31.4 to storm to a morale-boosting win.

Experienced Siddhar remained unbeaten on 62 followed by Arvind Shetty who made 49.

Abdul Azeem, another familiar figure here, made 31.

Brief scores in the exhibition one-day cricket match between the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) and Bangladesh under-19 at the Sylhet Stadium yesterday.

Bangladesh U-19: 164 in 48.3 overs (Naimur Rahman 45, Mithrab Hossain 25, Sajid Hasan 25, Mustadir Litu 21, Shariful Huq 12, Shahriar Hossain 11; Kiran Kumar 3-25, Kanwaljeet Singh 2-26).

Hyderabad Cricket Association: 166 for two in 31.4 overs (Arvind Shetty 49, Abdul Azeem 31, M Sridhar 62 not out, Kiran Kumar 16).

Result: Hyderabad Cricket Association won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: M Sridhar (Hyderabad Cricket Association).

Next matches: BCCB XI vs Hyderabad Cricket Association at Dhaka Stadium. Bangladesh U-14 vs Hong Kong at BKSP.

UCEP sports

The annual sports competition of the Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP) Dhaka technical school was held at the Mirpur Outer Stadium yesterday.

More than one hundred students took part in some 20 events of the day-long meet, inaugurated by Rafiqul Haq, director general of the Bangladesh Technical Education Directorate.

Imran alright

CALCUTTA, Feb 1: Imran Khan, a 33-year-old physical instructor from Bokaro has created a world record by running 429 days covering 19,894 kms, reports PTI.

England may use Ramprakash

PERTH, Feb 1: England captain Michael Atherton said on Wednesday he would use newly-arrived batsman Mark Ramprakash as a likely starter for the fifth Test against Australia in Perth starting on Friday, reports Reuter.

England won the fourth match of the series in Adelaide by 106 runs with only five recognised batsmen following injuries to Graeme Hick, Neil Fairbrother and Alec Stewart.

With that trio absent and Atherton keen to field a sixth top-order specialist it appears almost certain that Ramprakash, who only arrived from the A tour of India last Friday, will play in a match England must win to draw the series 2-2.

"We may change our thinking before the Test, but I would be reluctant to go into the match without six specialist batsmen," Atherton said.

"Most modern Test sides play six specialists at the top of the order as generally to win matches you have to get runs on the board."

"And although Mark will be used to very different conditions coming from India, he is a good player, he has had some practice in Adelaide, and he should be able to adapt," Atherton added.

Ramprakash last played a Test in Antigua in April, and if he comes into the side, England would probably omit either spinner Phil Tufnell or all-rounder Chris Lewis.

Normally, Tufnell would be favoured to miss out as the WACA pitch is expected to be fast, bouncy and helpful to the quicker bowlers.

But Atherton said: "Although Phil didn't bowl particularly

Fifth Ashes Test begins on Friday

well in Adelaide, on the trip he has done a decent stock-bowling job for us."

Veteran opener Graham Gooch, 41, will play his 118th and last Test, breaking David Gower's England appearance record, and Atherton was quick to praise his long-time opening partner.

"We will be going hell for leather as we did on Monday and hope we can carry that sort of form through," Atherton added.

Australia, who have called up the Western Australian pace-bowling duo of Jo Angel and Brendon Julian in place of leg-spinner Peter McIntyre and injured swing bowler Damien Fleming, must decide who to leave out.

Angel looks set to be the unlucky one, with Julian, who played two Tests against England in 1993, likely to be the one chosen to bowl into Perth's infamous wind.

Australia had originally intended to take the day off on Wednesday, but instead they practised, alongside, England.

"We didn't play as well as we could in Adelaide so it was felt we needed a bit more work on our game," said Australia coach Bobby Simpson.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, David Boon, Mark Waugh, Stephen Waugh, Greg Blewett, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Brendon Julian, Jo Angel, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath.

ENGLAND (from): Michael Atherton (captain), Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Mark Ramprakash, Steven Rhodes, Chris Lewis, Philip DeFreitas, Angus Fraser, Devon Malcolm, Philip Tufnell.

Mandela honoured

NEW YORK, Feb 1: South African President Nelson Mandela was named Tuesday as the recipient of the second Jesse Owens Global Award honouring individuals who contribute to society "from a background of sports," reports AFP.

The award is intended to honour a person who has "shown distinguished leadership in the field through personal example of work, deeds or written and spoken statements over a period of years."

Mandela, who was an amateur boxer as a youngster, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for his work in guiding South Africa out of apartheid.

He was selected for the Owens Global Award by an international panel assembled by the International Amateur Athletic Association.

The Global Award is a sister award to the Jesse Owens International Trophy.

Norwegian speedskater Johann Olav Koss, winner of three Olympic gold medals in three world record times at the Lillehammer Games last February, had already been named as the winner of the trophy award.

Both Mandela and Koss are to be presented with their awards on February 7 in New York.

Pope's call for healthy entertainment

VATICAN CITY, Feb 1: Pope John Paul II on Wednesday denounced violence linked to sports and discos as he called for "healthy entertainment" with a moral base, reports AP.

The world of soccer — Italy's most popular pastime — was rocked on Sunday by the stabbing death of a fan outside a stadium in Genoa before a major league match. Italian sports authorities then ordered the cancellation of soccer and other sporting events scheduled for this Sunday to give the nation time to reflect on the growing problem of fan violence.

John Paul offered his own reflection to young people at his weekly general audience.

"A healthy entertainment is always respectful of the moral law and nourishes itself with those values that favor the integral growth of the person," John Paul said.

Then, referring as well to another problem that has cost young lives in Italy — driving after drinking or taking drugs at discos — the pope condemned behavior that compromise "psychophysical balance, sometimes putting at risk one's own life and the life of others."

John Paul then denounced the "Saturday night tragedies which involve so many young people who go to discos and the 'Episodes of violence, with even tragic results, that happen ever more frequently on the occasion of sporting events'."

Strunz joins Bayern

MUNICH, Feb 1: Bayern Munich, hit by injuries to key players and the impending departure of coach Giovanni Trappatoni, continued their rebuilding process on Tuesday by clinching a deal to sign German international Thomas Strunz, reports Reuter.

Two days after snapping up Werder Bremen's talented Austrian international Andreas Herzog for next season, the reigning German champions said 26-year-old Strunz would return to Bavaria from BFB Stuttgart on July 1.

Both midfielders have agreed three-year contracts.

The club's plans have been hit hard in the last week by a serious injury to captain Lothar Matthaeus and Trappatoni's announcement that he is to leave the club and return to Italy at the end of the season.

English disease in Italy

ROME, Feb 1: Soccer hooliganism once called the "English disease," has taken root in Italy to such an extent that the killing of a fan last Sunday outside the Marassi Stadium in Genoa was almost a death foretold, reports Reuter.

Italy's great stadiums will remain eerily silent next Sunday as the nation seeks to atone for the killing by enduring a day without sport.

"I hope that it will be of some use. If we don't find a way of stopping the mad men, the delinquents, then we'll have to pack up for good," said Gianni Rivera, a former Milan star and now a member of the Italian Parliament.

"We've reached the point where we've really got a serious problem on our hands," added Rivera, a star of the game in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) decided to suspend domestic sporting competition for the first time since World War Two after 24-year-old Genoa supporter Vincenzo Spagnolo was stabbed to death in clashes before a game with AC Milan.

Police have arrested Milan supporter Simone Barbaglia, 18, in connection with the killing and he is expected to be charged with unpremeditated murder.

The death of Spagnolo was the fourth violence-related fatality at an Italian soccer match since 1979.

In November, the deputy police chief in the northern town of Brescia underwent emergency surgery after he was stabbed in the abdomen by rioting Roma fans. He was one of some 200 police officers injured in clashes at matches this season.

The week after the Brescia attack, supporters of Lazio attacked police at the Olympic Stadium during the derby with Roma in scenes broadcast live on television around the world.

Sunday's suspension of the sporting calendar will save the collective conscience but will clearly not turn sinning fans into saints overnight.

Figo signs for Parma

LISBON, Feb 1: Portuguese player-of-the-year Luis Figo of Sporting signed a three-year contract Wednesday with Italian club Parma, club president Giambattista Pastorello announced, reports AP.

available. When we resume in two weeks we want to have achieved something concrete," said CONI president Mario Pescante.

The Italian authorities, worried at evidence of links between rowdy fans and extreme right wing political groups, approved a package of measures to clamp down on the hooligans before Christmas.

But the package has run into problems in Parliament where a Senate (upper house) committee has ruled that a measure obliging rowdy fans to report to their local police station on match days is unconstitutional.

"I don't think the constitution was designed to protect delinquents. We clearly need sharper legislation such as they have in Britain," said Rivera.

The ex-Milan and Italy star said the clubs and the soccer authorities had allowed fan violence to fester. "We're paying the price for years of permissiveness," he said.

Clubs are accused of enjoying a cosy relationship with groups of "ultras" (diehard supporters), sponsoring their trips to away matches and giving them batches of free tickets in an attempt to ensure their loyalty.

Gazzetta Dello Sport, Italy's leading sports daily, has urged clubs to cut all ties with the hardline fan groups and make it harder for supporters to attend away matches.

"We could even reach the point of restricting access to the stadium to season ticket holders, or maybe selling mini-season tickets for a particular

group of matches," it wrote.

CONI's Pescante said Italian soccer authorities had contacted their English counterparts for advice on dealing with the hooligan problem.

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Flowers, Whittal revel in run riot

Pakistan in real plight

HARARE, Feb 1: At close of play, Pakistan were 51 for one wicket in reply to Zimbabwe's first innings total of 544 declared on the second day of their first cricket Test at the Harare

while Grant battled the full six hours and hit one six and four fours in his 289-ball innings.

It was easily the highest partnership for the still fledgling Test nation, beating the 194 for any wicket by Alistair Campbell and Dave Houghton in Harare against Sri Lanka at the end of last year and the 192 for the fourth-wicket which the same Flower brothers added in Delhi against India in 1992-93.

It also left them just 17 runs short of the 264-run world record for a Test partnership between two brothers set by Greg and Ian Chappell against New Zealand in Wellington in 1973-4.

Such a total looked unlikely as the Pakistani seam attack of Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed used the helpful early conditions to remove Mark Dekker (two), Alistair Campbell (one) and Dave Houghton (23) with just 42 on the board.

But that brought the Flower brothers together and they gradually wore down the attack in contrasting styles. Where Grant was more circumspect, Andy went on the offensive, ending a sequence of eight successive maidens from Wasim Akram by striking him for four fours in one over.

Andy went to his century in 205 minutes off 157 balls only shortly after Grant reached just half that total from 192 deliveries.

The day started in some confusion as the captains, Salim Malik and Andy Flower, had to toss up twice after match referee, former West Indian batsman Jackie Hendricks, failed to hear Salim correctly call "bird" rather than "heads," referring to the bird on the Zimbabwe one dollar coin.

The Pakistani captain, who had wanted to bat first, looked

a little disgruntled as Flower won the second toss and decided to bat.

SCOREBOARD

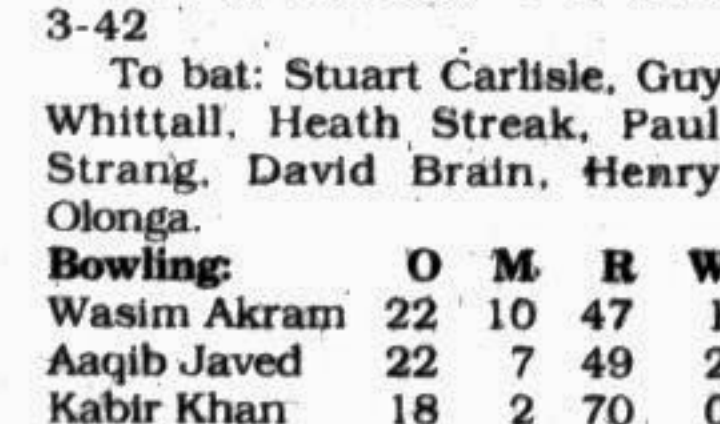
Scoreboard on the opening day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at the Harare Sports Club on Tuesday:

Zimbabwe: First innings
M Dekker c Rashid Latif b Aaqib Javed 2
G Flower not out 88
A Campbell Ibw b Wasim Akram 1
D Houghton c Aamir Sohail b Aaqib Javed 23
A Flower not out 142
Extras: (lb-12, w-3, nb-18) 33
Total: (for three wickets) 289
Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-9; 3-42

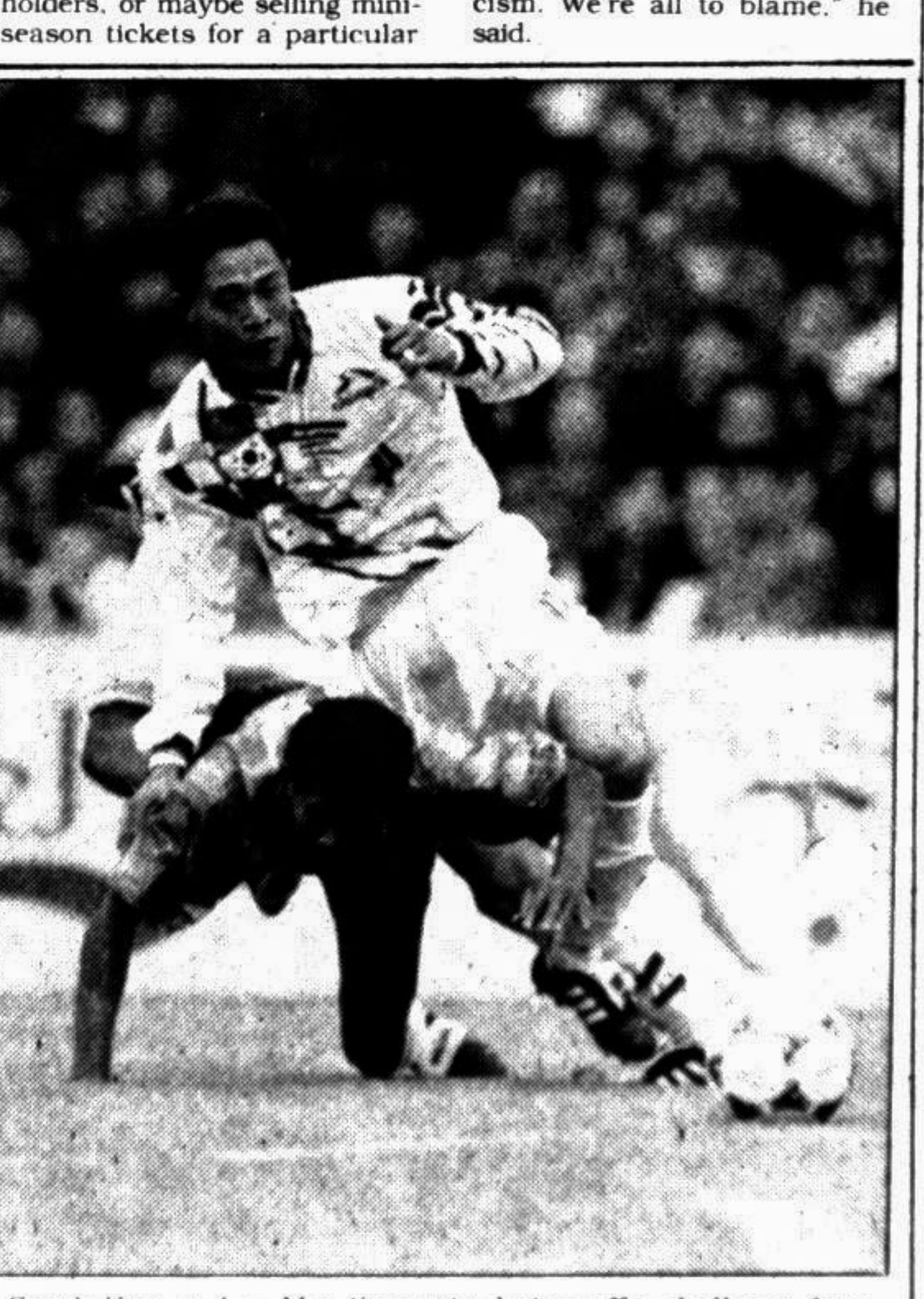
To bat: Stuart Carlisle, Guy Whittall, Heath Streak, Paul Strang, David Brain, Henry Olonga.

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim Akram 22 10 47 1
Aaqib Javed 22 7 49 2
Kabir Khan 18 2 70 0
Salim Malik 5 0 25 0
Akram Raza 16 4 53 0
Asif Mujtaba 4 0 19 0
Aamir Sohail 3 0 14 0

South Korean Lee Min Sung (4) shakes off a challenge from Colombian Alonso Alcibaz to reach the ball first during their match in an exhibition tournament in Hong Kong on Jan 31.



ANDY FLOWER



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