

Sport

Wari let Biman off hook

Sports Reporter



Pakistani Aamir Wasim produced a thrilling display of pyrotechnics but failed to steal the thunder of compatriot Wasim Haider and his skipper Enamul Haq as holders Bangladesh Biman scraped home by 14 runs against a spirited Wari Club in yesterday's lone Navana Premier Division cricket league at the Dhaka Stadium.

A left-arm spinner threw caution to the winds and really raised the visions of a possible third defeat for the national airlines, who shared the Navana title last year with Abahani Krira Chakra. He hit Biman skipper Enamul Haq, the most experienced and successful of the local spinners, for a huge sixer to announce his intention and went on to hit two more in successive deliveries off Ziaur Rashid to complete his half century in the 44th over.

finishing with three for 48. Earlier put into bat, Biman, who have been on an unconvincing campaign to retain the title having lost to Victoria and Kalabagan, were in a sticky situation until Enamul Haq and Pakistani Wasim Haider wicketed their willow effectively to take the more fancied side out of the woods.

Haider topscored with 44 off 59 balls including one sixer and two fours while Enam, who came down the order, smashed 31 off 28 balls with the help of two sixes and a four.

Together they raised 73 for the sixth wicket to take Biman from 89 for five to 162 and geared by this vital partnership, Biman plundered 73 runs off the last 48 deliveries.

Jabangir Alam and Habibul Bashar were the other notable scorers in the eventual Biman total of 181 for nine with 20 and 28 respectively.

Wari's experienced new ball bowler Morshed returned excellent analysis of two for 17 from nine overs. There were two wickets for Salahuddin (jr) and Wahidul Islam each.

TODAY'S MATCHES Kalabagan vs Victoria (DS) Gulshan Youth vs Eskaton SS (DCS)

Lucrative Asia Cup cricket for Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Although the Pepsi fifth Asia Cup cricket championship, scheduled to begin in Sharjah from April 5, will have very little to offer for Bangladesh as far as the competitive interest of the game is concerned, the quadrangular cricket gala will surely be profitable for the only nation in the sub-continent sans Test status from a financial point of view.

The traditional underdogs of this region join India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for a hunt in the desert for an appearance fee of 60,000 US dollars, converting to local currency which amounts to some Taka 24 lakh.

The three other contestants will, however, be entitled to 120,000 US dollars each, excluding the 1500 US dollars they will be awarded for every win.

The champions of the limited overs competition will be richer for 30,000 US dollars while the runners-up will get 20,000.

There will be 5,000 US dollars purse for the man-of-the-series and man-of-the-final awardee will pocket 2,000 US dollars. Moreover, man-of-the-match of every league game will get 1,000 US dollars.

League match losers will have 500 US dollars for their efforts.

According to Syed Ashrafal Huq, one of the three special committee members for the ten-day meet, legendary West Indian skipper will act as match referee while three umpires — one each from South Africa, Zimbabwe and England — will form an international umpires' panel.

FIXTURES

- April 6: India vs Bangladesh April 7: Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh April 8: Pakistan vs Bangladesh April 9: India vs Sri Lanka April 11: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka April 14: Final



Indonesian Edhi Handoko and Filipino Enrique Silvano engaged in cerebral warfare during a fifth round match of the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess championship at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday. Handoko won. — Star photo.

Police Div II soccer champs

Sports Reporter

Police Athletic Club clinched the Second Division football league title as their nearest rivals Badda Jagarani Sangsad shared points with BG Press in a goalless draw at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The draw left the services team beyond the reach of two other possible contenders — Badda Jagarani and City Club — with highest 31 points from 14 matches.

Police, who had earlier qualified for the First Division in 1990, now play their last league match against Jurain Janata on February 10 while City Club with 26 points from 14 matches to their credit will meet Malibagh Abhijatrik on the same day for a win to keep alive any realistic chance of a promotion to the First Division next year.

But Badda Jagarani, who raised their collection to 27 after yesterday's draw, have a brighter prospect of promotion along with Police.

They need a win against Mahakkah Eleven in their last match to be held on February 12.

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Gopibagh Friends Association and Bangladesh Railway won their respective Yamaha First Division cricket league matches by convincing margins at different city venues yesterday.

On the eastern strip at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Gopibagh Friends recorded a huge 65-run win over Agrani Bank.

Electing to bat first, Opener Hira and Lablu shared a century partnership for the second wicket as Gopibagh compiled a huge total of 227 for nine in their quota of 45 overs.

After Gopibagh lost their first wicket for 35 runs, the two shared 128 runs for the second wicket with Lablu scoring a sparkling 71 off 81 balls which included six hits to the fence.

Hira made 67 off 99 deliveries before being sent back in the 84th over with the scoreboard reading 163.

Lablu followed him with the addition of seven runs to the total.

Morshed Alam, who picked up both the prized scalps, finished with two for 43 in his quota of nine overs while Atiquzzaman, who ripped through the Gopibagh tail, claimed three wickets for 23 runs.

In reply, Agrani Bank could muster only 162 runs before being all out in 36.4 overs in the face of a devastating spell from Azimul Haq, who finished with a four-wicket haul.

Among the Bank willow-wielders Anwar Hossain and Atiquzzaman could offer some resistance with 48 and 26 respectively.

Way at the Mirpur Lalabi ground, Bangladesh Railway picked up a facile four-wicket win over Lalmatia Club in a low scoring affair.

Chasing 155 for an outright victory, Railway reached the target in 43.5 overs with skipper Shahid remaining unbeaten on 30.

Earlier, sent in to bat first, Lalmatia scored 154 for nine in their share of 45 overs with Jamaluddin notching up highest 41 for the eventual losers.

H'ball refs' course

Sports Reporter

A three-day handball referees refresher's course, organised by the Bangladesh Handball Referees' Association, began here yesterday, reports UNB.

Director, Sports of National Sports Council Aminul Islam inaugurated the programme in the afternoon.

In all, forty-five officials from all over the country, are taking part.

Reefat remains focused

Sports Reporter

Reefat-bin-Sattar remained focused in his quest for a GM norm when the local International Master recorded his third straight win in the second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess championship at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Reefat, who somewhat steadied his rocking campaign Tuesday with his second successive triumph after losing the first two matches, extended his winning streak to three matches with a creditable victory over English grandmaster Stuart Conquest.

Playing with white pieces, the student of anthropology demolished the Briton's Caro-Kan Defence in only 37 moves with a superlative aggressive approach.

The win brightens Reefat's prospect of collecting the required nine and a half points for the GM norm.

While Reefat inched closer to his objective, his theoretically superior compatriot Grandmaster Niaz Murshid posted his first victory after a string of disappointing performance.

Niaz, who is rather busy for the last few days promoting his career as a singer, seemed to have overcome, a surprisingly sluggish start when he schemed his white pieces effectively against Tajik IM Magaram Magoedov in the line of English Opening to win submission in 28 moves.

After a subdued four-round streak, which saw the country's lone GM managing three draws and going down to In-

donesian GM Edhi Handoko, yesterday's outcome came as a relief to the player and his fans.

The two other Bangladeshis in the fray — IMs Ziaur Rahman and Zillur Rahman — playing each other in a fifth round tie went home with half a point each.



Both local IMs opened account yesterday after going empty-handed for the last four days. Zia, however, played one game less.

Meanwhile, Russian grandmaster Mikhail Krasenkov was forced to a draw for the second successive day, allowing his English counterpart Mark Hebden surge one point clear at the point of the table.

Krasenkov manoeuvred with his white pieces for 37 moves to penetrate Indonesian IM Ruben Gunawan's Queen's Indian Defence before accepting an offer for a draw.

Hebden, on the other hand, had little trouble against In-

dian IM Varugese Koshi's defence, formed along the lines of the close variation of Sicilian Defence, and forced resignation to maintain a five-match all-win record.

Niaz's Tuesday's conqueror Indonesian Grandmaster Edhi Handoko won his fifth round encounter and so did Uzbek GM Gregory Sherper.

Handoko, who shares the third slot with Sherper and Magoedov half a point behind Krasenkov, compounded Filipino Enrique Silvano's misery when he forced first two days' surprising leader to submission after 44 moves.

While Handoko complied with Silvano's four knight's opening, Sherper declined to play along the lines of a queen's Gambit, intended by Pakistani IM Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi. He knew definitely what he was doing as the cerebral warfarer from Uzbekistan took control after an interesting middle game and eventually won the jovial Pathan's resignation in 41 moves.

SIXTH ROUND MATCHES

- IM Magoedov vs IM Ziaur Rahman GM Coquest vs IM Zillur Rahman IM Reefat-bin-Sattar vs IM Gunawan GM Krasenkov vs IM Koshi GM Sherper vs GM Mark Hebden GM Edhi Handoko vs IM Lodhi GM Niaz Murshid vs IM Silvano

ASHES: STATISTICAL REVIEW

PERTH, Feb 8: Averages from the Australia v England five-Test cricket series: BATTING (Tabulated — Tests, innings, not outs, highest score, runs, average, 100's scored, 50's scored, \*Indicates not out):

Table with columns for Player, Tests, Innings, Not Outs, Highest Score, Runs, Average, 100's, 50's. Includes players like G Blewett, M Slater, S Waugh, M Taylor, M Waugh, I Healy, D Boon, T May, M Bevan, D Fleming, C McDermott, S Warne, J Angel, G McGrath, P McIntyre, M Ramprakash, G Thorpe, G Hick, M Atherton, J Crawley, D Gough, G Gooch, A Stewart, M Gatting, P DeFreitas, C Lewis, D Malcolm, A Fraser, S Rhodes, P Tufnell, M McCague.

BOWLING: (tabulated — overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average; best bowling figures, five wickets in an innings):

Table with columns for Player, Tests, Innings, Overs, Maidens, Runs, Wickets, Average, Best Bowling. Includes players like M Waugh, S Warne, C McDermott, J Angel, D Fleming, G McGrath, P McIntyre, T May, M Bevan, G Blewett, D Gough, C Lewis, A Fraser, P DeFreitas, P Tufnell, D Malcolm, M McCague, G Gooch, G Hick, M Ramprakash.

FIELDING AND WICKETKEEPING: Australia: 25 — I Healy (23 caught/2 stumped) 8 — M Waugh 7 — M Taylor 4 — S Warne 3 — G Blewett, C McDermott 2 — D Boon, D Fleming England: 21 — S Rhodes (20 caught/ one stumped) 9 — G Hick 5 — G Thorpe 4 — M Atherton 3 — M Gatting, D Gough, C Lewis 2 — P DeFreitas, M Ramprakash, A Stewart, P Tufnell 1 — J Crawley, D Malcolm.

Top two sail

Sports Reporter

Top seeds Saurav Panja of India and Thai Witonpanich Bhee were made to sweat in their respective quarterfinals en route to the Toyota ninth, Bangladesh international junior tennis championships at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Top-seed Saurav staved off a spirited second-set rally from Thai Rangasere before prevailing 6-4, 7-6(7-3). Second seeded Bhee came across tougher challenge from Pakistani Asad Ali Bhagat, losing the first set in tie-breakers before booking a semifinal slot with a 6-7(6-8), 6-3, 6-2 win.

Saurav faces compatriot Bhasker Chowdhury in the round of four while Bhee takes on Slovenian M Gregory.

Bhasker beat fellow Indian Intikhab Ali 7-5, 7-6(7-3) while in the other quarterfinal match, an all-Slovenian affair, Gregory got rid of Mitja Pavlinic 6-4, 6-3.

In the girls' draw, Atchara, Bussrin of Thailand, Jacklyn Yun Ning-Fu and Indian Rushmi Chakravarti advanced to the semifinals.

Besides, the quarterfinal matches of the boys' and girls' doubles were also held yesterday.

Kamsky beats Salov

HYDERABAD, Feb 8: Gata Kamsky of the United States defeated Valery Salov of Russia here Wednesday to complete their adjourned first game, reports AFP.

Salov, the world's third-ranked player, resigned on the 70th move after only a quarter of an hour of play on Wednesday.

The win gives the 20-year-old Kamsky 1.5 points to 0.5 for Salov.

The first player to reach 5.5 points will play the winner of the other semifinal between Anatoly Karpov of Russia and Boris Gelfand of Belarus for the world chess title.

Nirman cricket

Mirpur Bangla High School crushed Khilgaon Government High School by 125 runs in the 13th Nirman schools cricket tournament at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent to bat, Mirpur rattled up 233 for seven in allotted 35 overs with six batsmen reaching double figures.

Middle-order batsman Tinku contributed 49, opener Aziz scored 40 while Mossaddak (39), Papiu (27) and Zia (26) were the other main run-getters.

Skipper Imran of Khilgaon grabbed three wickets for 25. Later, Shuvo claimed three while Papiu and Saymon took two wickets each to bundle-out Khilgaon for 108 in 25.2 overs.

England A win a thriller



CHANDIGARH, India, Feb 8: Last man Richard Stemp hit a six and a four to take England A to a one-wicket victory in a nail-biting finish to the third and final unofficial Test against India A here today, reports AFP.

Stemp joined Richard Johnson with the visitors needing nine runs to reach the 177-run target. He lofted left-arm spinner Utpal Chatterjee for a six off the second ball he faced, then took a single to take the score to 175.

The 27-year-old Yorkshireman drove Paras Mhambrey through the covers for four from the first ball off the next over to put the issue be-

yond doubt, giving England A a 3-0 clean sweep of the series. Johnson remained not out on 33, hitting six fours off the 72 balls he faced on a treacherous track tailored for the home side's spin attack.

With Bombay-born left-arm spinner Minal Patel, he added 41 runs in a crucial ninth-wicket stand that proved decisive, and was picked by skipper Allan Wells as one of the two English heroes of the match.

For a third seamer to go and get 33 runs in such a tight situation was not easy, Wells said of Johnson. He also heaped praise on paceman Glenn Chapple for his nine-wicket haul.

It was fantastic to win,

particularly after such a tight game," the Sussex player said. "Winning the Test series was the biggest thing and hopefully we will go from strength to strength."

The white wash avenged the 0-3 rout suffered by the England senior squad on their tour of India in 1993, and came as welcome relief for English cricket followers dismayed by the humiliating performance of Mike Atherton's side in Australia.

Patel was claimed lbw by Chatterjee for 15, bringing Stemp in to finish the match in style. Left-arm spinner Chatterjee and off-spinner Kanwaljit Singh each finished with four wickets.

Wells credited the England performance on the vicious wicket here to their hard training on artificial surfaces tailored to spin bowling. "That helped a lot," he said. "The boys adapted very well to pace play."

England A and India A next week play each other in a series of three one-day internationals. The first is to be played in Indore on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

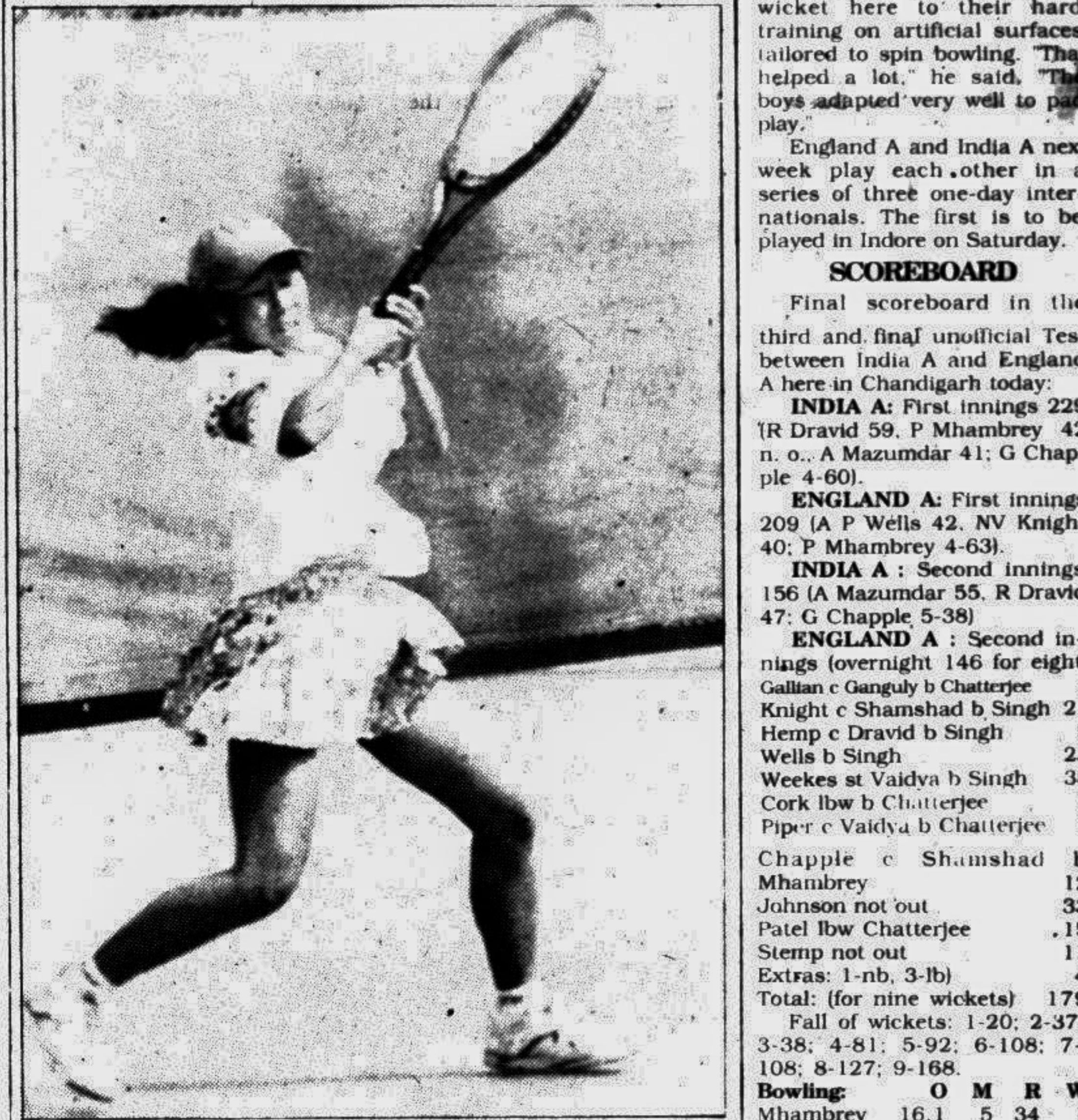
Final scoreboard in the third and final unofficial Test between India A and England A here in Chandigarh today: INDIA A: First Innings 229 (R Dravid 59, P Mhambrey 42 n.o., A Mazumdar 41, G Chapple 4-60).

ENGLAND A: First Innings 209 (A P Wells 42, NV Knight 40, P Mhambrey 4-63). INDIA A: Second Innings 156 (A Mazumdar 55, R Dravid 47, G Chapple 5-38).

ENGLAND A: Second Innings (overnight 146 for eight) Gallian c Ganguly b Chatterjee 9 Knight c Shamshad b Singh 21 Hemp c Dravid b Singh 5 Wells b Singh 23 Weekes st Vaidya b Singh 38 Cork lbw b Chatterjee 7 Piper c Vaidya b Chatterjee 1 Chapple c Shamshad b Mhambrey 12 Johnson not out 33 Patel lbw Chatterjee 15 Stemp not out 11 Extras: 1-nb, 3-lb 4 Total: (for nine wickets) 179.

Fall of wickets: 1-20: 2-37: 3-38: 4-81: 5-92: 6-108: 7-108: 8-127: 9-168.

Bowling: O M R W Mhambrey 16.1 5 34 1 Ganguly 5 2 9 0 Chatterjee 33 12 71 4 Singh 29 14 49 4 Padmanabhan 4 0 13 0 Result: England A won by one wicket.



Atchara of Thailand makes a double-ended return during her quarter final match against Indian Jahnuvi Parekh in the ninth Toyota Bangladesh international junior championships at Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Atchara won 6-2, 6-1. — Star photo

Advertisement for Bangladesh government services, including contact information for various departments and a list of officials.