

Sport



The Tazik IM Magordo (L), makes a move against his fellow IM Gunawar of Indonesia during their fourth round engagement of the second United Insurance Grandmasters chess championship at the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Pakistani trio powers Mariners

Sports Reporter
Throttled by the recently-drafted Pakistani power, Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club made a resounding start to their Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey super league campaign with a thumping 5-0 win over Sonali Bank in the inaugural match at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Mariner Youngs, who had a rather disappointing one-nil first-half lead through Biaka Lusai's penalty stroke, came out roaring after the break and pumped in four more with Pakistani Mohammed Selim scoring twice. Ace-striker Mumtaz Hajder, who had a wonderful season with Mohammedan Sporting Club a couple of years back, also played his role in the victory, hitting the fifth goal 16 minutes inside the regulation period.

After local hero Biaka Lusai, who formed the Mariner attack along with Mumtaz and Selim, opened the winners account in the 17th minute, Glasuddin doubled the margin five minutes into the second half after being set up by Selim.

Imran Sharfaraz, the other Pakistani in the team, could do very little on his debut in the Dhaka league as the well-built goalkeeper had a quiet time under the bar.

Foreman ready to compromise

NEW YORK, Feb 14: George Foreman says he wants to settle his feud with the World Boxing Association (WBA) so he can keep the organisation's heavyweight crown, reports Reuters.

"I'm going to do what's right and work out a compromise," Foreman told Reuters backstage at Radio City Music Hall on Monday where he was a presenter at the ESPN sports television network's ESPY awards show.

Last month the WBA ruled that Foreman would be stripped of the belt if he went ahead with a planned April 22 bout against unranked German Axel Schulz instead of fighting the WBA's highest available ranked contender.

A news conference is scheduled today in New York to formally announce the Foreman-Schulz bout. This is Foreman's first fight since the 46-year-old's celebrated 10th-round knock-out of champion Michale Moorer last November.

"I've been in communication with the president of the WBA and they are not willing or wanting to strip me of the title," Foreman said.

"They want to work out something and we are going to sit down this week and there will be some sort of decision based on our conversation and not what was said by attorneys and promoters."

According to Foreman, elements of a likely compromise would be for the WBA to push back its March 5 deadline for him to fight the top-contender so he can go ahead with the Schulz bout. Foreman would then agree to fight the number one contender Tony Tucker sometime later this year.

"You have to respect the WBA and give them a chance to speak their minds because nobody's bigger than boxing," Foreman said. "The boxers can come and go but the organisations stay to keep handing down their glory."

Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer begins in Khulna

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Feb 14: The Zone Six matches of the nineteenth Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football tournament get underway at the Khulna Stadium tomorrow.

In all, eight district teams are expected to take part. The teams are: Khulna, Kushtia, Narail, Maherpur, Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura and Satkhira.

No change in scenario

Sports Reporter
On completion of the tenth round matches in the United Insurance Grandmasters chess championship yesterday, there was very little change in the top of the points table scenario with English GM Mark Hebden maintaining a one-point lead over his Russian rival GM Mikhail Krasenkov.

At the Jalsha Ghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday, both Hebden and Krasenkov won their respective matches to extend the rivalry into its sixth day. Hebden, who played with black against Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Khan Lodhi's Retty Opening, manoeuvred his pieces to winning position after 49 moves to win resignation.

Krasenkov, also playing with black pieces, was however, stretched to 60 moves by IM Enrique Stivano before the Filipino's Scotch Opening scheme fell apart. The win takes the Russian's collection to eight points.

Meanwhile, the other Briton in the fray, GM Stuart Conquest once again found himself at the wrong end of the table, going down to Indian IM Varugese Koshi in only 36 moves. The beleaguered Bri-

ton's defence was completely destroyed in a game played along lines of the Nimzovitch-Larsen system.

In another disappointing day for the local fans, IM Zillur Rahman could exact little inspiration from Tuesday's creditable draw against Uzbek Grandmaster Gregory Serper as the bespectacled player ca-

each, two of them playing safe against each other. GM Niaz Murshid and IM Reefat-bin-Sattar troubled their brains for only eight moves before agreeing to a draw.

Meanwhile, national champion IM Ziaur Rahman had no such luck against tournament's highest FIDE-rated player Serper and fended off the Uzbek GM's white pieces, employed in the line of a Catalan variation of the English Opening, for 47 moves before an agreement for a draw was reached.

The other match of the day between IMs Magaram Magoedov and of Tajikistan and Indonesian Ruben Gunawan fizzled into a draw after 44 moves in a game of Sicilian Defence.



United Insurance Grand Masters Chess Tournament 1995. Bangladesh Chess Federation.

ELEVENTH ROUND MATCHES

- GM Hebden vs IM Magoedov
- GM Krasenkov vs IM Lodhi
- GM Niaz Murshid vs IM Zillur Rahman
- GM Handoko vs IM Ziaur Rahman
- GM Serper vs GM Conquest
- IM Reefat-bin-Sattar vs IM Stivano
- IM Gunawan vs IM Koshi

Iqbal Abahani's sikander

Sports Reporter
Iqbal Sikander's virtuoso allround performance propelled champions Abahani Kriya Chakra to a 32-run victory over Brothers Union in an important Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Pakistani World Cupper scored a whirlwind half century as Abahani, sent in to bat first, ran up a total of 226 for seven and then went on to claim three crucial wickets to bowl the Gopibagh side out for 194 in 44 overs.

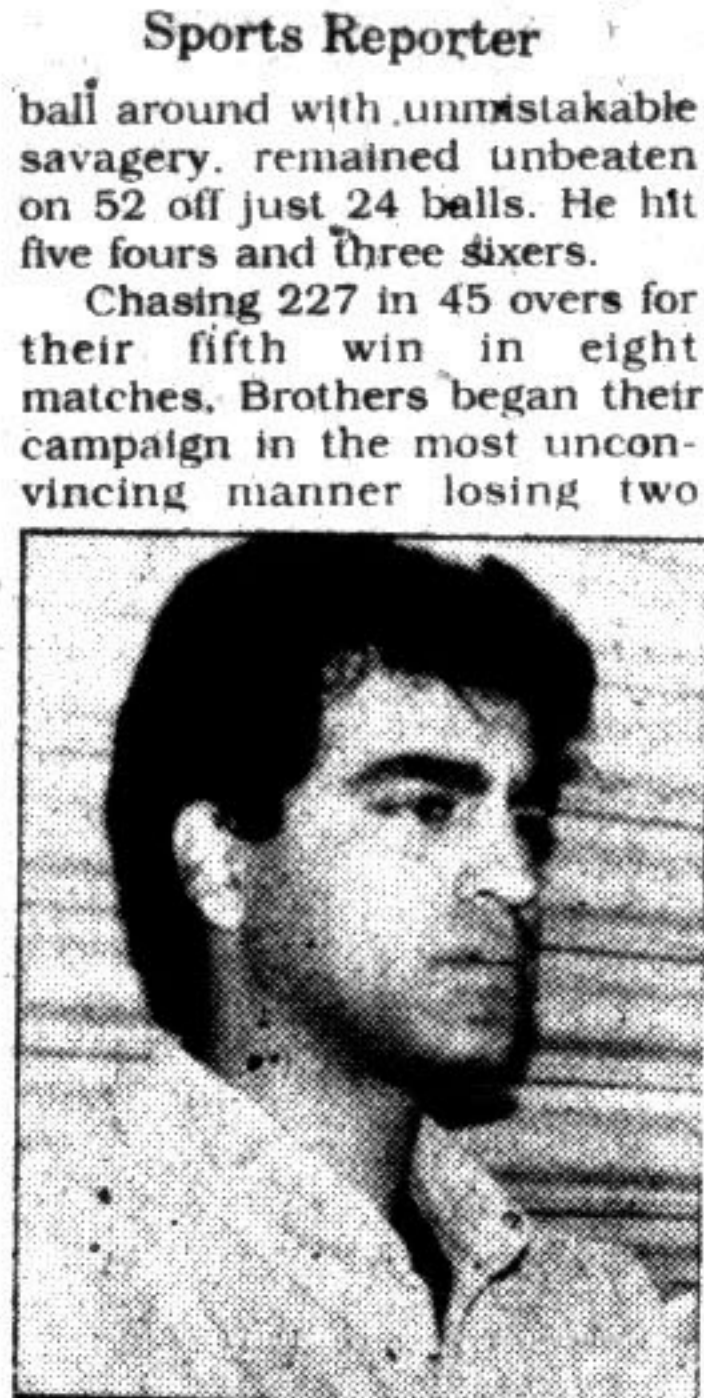
Another Pakistani, Aamer Hanif ranged a lone battle for Brothers with a powerpacked innings of 81. The older of the two Hanifs had earlier appeared in the role of the most successful Brothers bowler too.

Playing their eighth match, Abahani were off to an excellent start with almost all their recognised batsmen among the runs.

After skipper Gazi Ashraf (26) and Harun (20) had put on 50 runs for the first wicket, Pakistani Test-discard Naveed Anjum, promoted to number three, played a cavalier innings of 47 off only 46 balls with half a dozen boundaries and a sixer.

Akram Khan, whose eighty plus knock was the mainstay of Abahani's seventh win in this year's league in their previous match, contributed a rather quietish 36 but the real tempo was provided by Iqbal Sikander.

The right handed low profile batsman, whose calm looks belie his abilities to belt the



I SIKANDER ... allround show

ball around with unmistakable savagery, remained unbeaten on 52 off just 24 balls. He hit five fours and three sixers.

Chasing 227 in 45 overs for their fifth win in eight matches, Brothers began their campaign in the most unconvincing manner losing two and as many sixes.

Sikander's three wickets from eight overs of accurate leg-break bowling at a cost of only 18 runs.

Anjum mopped up the tail to finish with two for 25.

GULSHAN CANTER
Gulshan Youth registered a massive nine wicket victory over Sadharan Bima in the day's other match played on the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Bima batted first and were shot out for 77 in 32.2 overs with almost all the Gulshan bowlers meeting with flattering success at varying degrees.

Al Amin took three for 21 while Ziaul Huq and Shafayat Omar bagged two each.

Nasrul Hossain remained not out on 43 and Anup Biswas on 20 as Gulshan posted 81 in 23.2 overs.

TODAY'S MATCHES

- Tarun vs Victoria (DS)
- Eskaton vs Wari (DCS)

Gordon out

LONDON, Feb 14: Cancer sufferer Peter Gordon has finally won his fight against bureaucracy and will have a four-year athletics ban erased, reports AFP.



A goalmouth melee during yesterday's Green Delta Insurance First Division super league match between title aspirants Mariner Young's Club and Sonali Bank at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo

February 15 and Shahbaz

Sports Reporter
Dates have a funny way of reappearing with a ring from the past.

Pakistani hockey wizard Shahbaz Ahmad is destined to have a little and quiet walk down the memory lane when the mercurial forward steps on the green grass of the Hockey Stadium to make his debut in local league for Mohammedan Sporting Club today.

To pile on the incidental significance of his first appearance in Dhaka hockey, Shahbaz will go in action against champions Abahani Kriya Chakra, whom no matter what the player himself thinks, the numerous fans of the club he is playing for, deem as arch-rivals.

Nine years ago on another February 15, world hockey marked the advent of a superstar in the real sense of the word as Shahbaz made his international debut against archrivals India in Calcutta. That day a nervous and unknown Shahbaz, who came as a substitute, could not do much to avert the eventual loss of his country to their bitter neighbours by the odd goal in three. But the career of champion was launched.

Almost a decade later, having ridden the pinnacle of his illustrious career which culminated only recently with Pakistan's winning the World Cup under his inspiring leadership recently, Shahbaz is up against a similar ordeal, though of much less significance.

It is February 15, two arch-rivals of country's sporting lore — Abahani and Mohammedans — are pitted against each other in the second match of Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey super league scheduled for a 3 pm start.

Shahbaz's compatriots of much lower profile engineered a five nil drubbing of Sonali Bank by Mariner Youngs in the super league opener yesterday. With so many eyes on him and so much hyping around over his coming to play in Dhaka for a club side and above all, the smarting of a not-too-auspicious memory goading, will Shahbaz have any dearth of motivation? Not likely and even if he fails to pull off a *prima facie* sort of thing, Tahir and Irfan will be there to provide the thrill.

FIFA may give Nigerians another chance

ZURICH, Feb 14: FIFA on Monday bowed to fierce protests from Africa and said it would reconsider its decision to cancel next month's World Youth Championships in Nigeria, reports Reuters.

The decision was announced after a high-level delegation from Lagos visited the Swiss headquarters of world soccer's governing body to argue that FIFA's grounds for cancelling the championships — reported outbreaks of meningitis and cholera at two of the competition venues — were unfounded.

"It's very relieving," Nigerian Football Association president Samson Omeruah told Reuters after the meeting. "We are grateful that they can hear us and hear our side of the story."

FIFA said on Friday it was cancelling the championships, due to be held from March 11-26, because "The health situation had deteriorated in the last few weeks."

It said cases of meningitis and cholera had been reported at Kaduna and Enugu, two of the four venues.

Nigerian authorities protested strongly, saying "The reasons given were invalid, unsubstantiated and untenable" — and sent a delegation to Zurich to persuade FIFA to change its mind.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said the delegation had included the Lagos officer of the World Health Organisation, who presented "more extensive and specific documentation about the health situation in the problem areas than had been previously available."

The result, he said, was that FIFA's seven-man emergency committee would meet on Wednesday to reconsider their decision to cancel the championships.

FIFA's original decision provoked fierce condemnation of the organisation in Africa, and even charges of racism against the chiefs of world soccer following recent World Cup successes by African teams.

"It looks like a bad dream. Nigeria and black Africa have been insulted," said Babasola Rhodes, administrator of the national sports commission before leading the Nigerian delegation to Zurich.

Another protest came from the Organisation of African Unity, which warned on Monday that FIFA's decision "would have negative and grave consequences on Africa's future participation in international football tournaments."

Decisive third Test against Zimbabwe from today
History beckons Pakistan

HARARE, Feb 14: Pakistan could become only the second team this century to come from behind to win a three-Test series when they take on Zimbabwe in the third and final Test in Harare which begins on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The feat was first achieved when WG Grace rallied his England side against Australia in 1888 and there is a touch of irony in that after waiting 107 years for Hansie Cronje's South African team to beat New Zealand last month, the feat might be repeated by Salim Malik's Pakistanis just six weeks later.

Pakistan's convincing eight-wicket win in Bulawayo last week squared the series at one-all after Zimbabwe's surprise victory by an innings and 64 runs in the opening match, the country's first-ever Test victory.

Against the backdrop of the betting scandal which erupted in Australia over the weekend, victory would be a welcome relief to a team who, until Bulawayo, had failed to live up to their reputation as one of the top three test sides in the world.

"We are very determined and very confident after winning the second test," said manager Intikhab Alam today. "I don't think we'll be making the same mistakes as we did in

the first Test."

Intikhab, though, was not happy about the practise facilities at the Harare Sports Club.

"At Bulawayo the facilities were very good, but here the pitches in the nets are not very good and also there has been a lot of rain. It means we have done a lot of physical and a lot of fielding but we haven't had much chance for a proper workout in the nets," he said.

Aaqib Javed has recovered from the thigh strain which kept him out of the second Test and is available, along with every other member of the touring party, for the team which will be announced on Wednesday morning.

Zimbabwe have fast bowler Henry Olonga, still doubtful with a side strain and opening batsman Mark Dekker ruled out with a broken finger.

Dekker's absence makes room for a Test debut by either Ian Butchart or Danie Erasmus in the middle-order with Stuart Carlisle moving up to open the batting.

Experienced number four Dave Houghton, who had his right thumb broken by Wasim Akram during the second Test, remained confident of playing.

"I am definitely playing unless something drastic happens between now (Monday evening) and Wednesday," the 37-year-old said.

"I tried it out in the nets on

Saturday and I was able to grip the bat. It was quite painful but hopefully by Wednesday the swelling will have gone down and I'll be able to grip and play properly."

For Zimbabwe the euphoria of their first Test win has been overshadowed by defeat in Bulawayo. But Houghton believes the home side can still record their first series victory.

"I definitely think we can win. If we can win the toss and get a big score like we did before, then I think we have got every chance of winning the game," he said.

"I don't think the Pakistan team reacts too well to the pressure, certainly they didn't in the first Test and nor did they react to it in South Africa."

- TEAMS**
- ZIMBABWE** (From): Grant Flower, Stuart Carlisle, Alistair Campbell, David Houghton, Andy Flower (captain), Guy Whittall, Ian Butchart, Danie Erasmus, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, David Brain, Henry Olonga, Bryan Strang, Malcolm Jarvis.
- PAKISTAN** (From): Aamir Sohail, Shakel Ahmed, Saad Anwar, Asif Mujtaba, Salim Malik (captain), Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, Wasim Akram, Manzoor Elahi, Kabir Khan, Aamir Nazir, Aaqib Javed, Akram Raza.

NZ centenary one-day series begins today

Taylor, Cronje out to prove

WELLINGTON, Feb 14: Australia and South Africa have contrasting reasons to covet victory in the opening match of the New Zealand centenary one-day cricket series at the Basin Reserve here Wednesday, reports AFP.

India and New Zealand, the

against the West Indies.

Australian skipper Mark Taylor said Tuesday it was important to maintain a winning momentum. His South African counterpart Hansie Cronje is keen to bury the notion that his side does better at home than abroad.

South Africa's return to international cricket three years ago saw them struggle to adapt to New Zealand conditions during the World Cup in early 1992.

"We're a more experienced team now though," Cronje said. "We're no more confident, just more experienced because most of our guys, apart from one or two new faces, have played at international level for the past three years now."

Taylor, who has mostly tasted success since assuming the Australian captaincy for last year's tour to Pakistan following the resignation of Allan Border, is determined to defend his side's rating as one of the world's best one-day combinations.

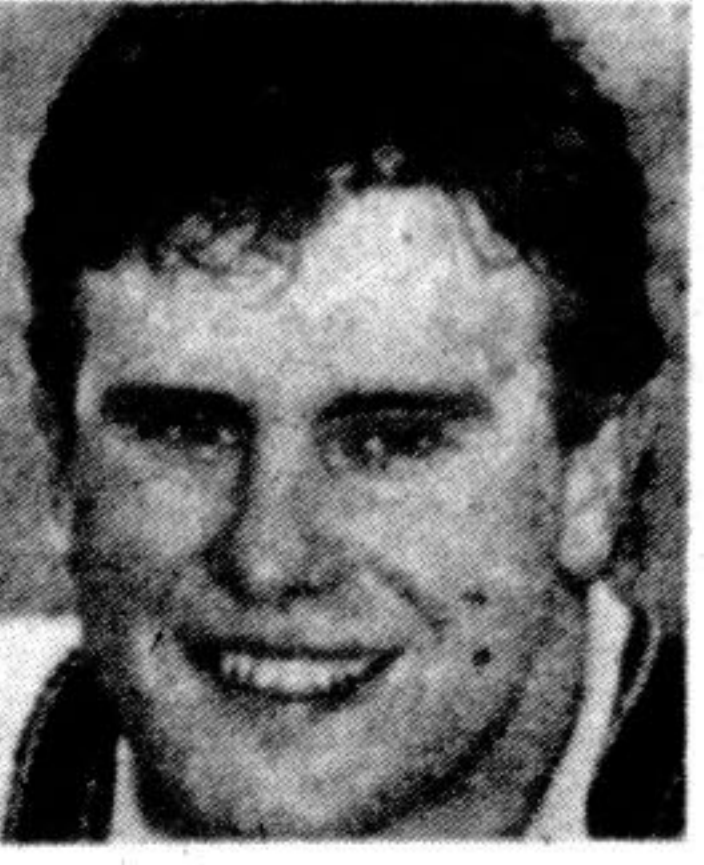
"We've had a pretty good summer... and it's important we keep that going," he said.

Taylor said Australia would experiment with the batting order in the centenary series which culminates with the final in Auckland on February 26.

A broken finger sustained by aggressive opener Michael Slater during the fifth Ashes Test against England earlier this month has seen the Australians bring only 12 players, and only six specialist batsmen, across the Tasman.

New sensation Greg Blewett is likely to be Taylor's opening partner Wednesday.

Mark Waugh's had success



MARK TAYLOR



HANSIE CRONJE

other two teams taking part in the quadrangular, face off on Thursday.

Fresh from a 3-1 Ashes Test series triumph against England and victory in the abbreviated game's World Series, Australia are en route to the Caribbean and their toughest challenge

here opening up and I'd like to give Ricky Ponting a bit of crack while we're here too."

Ponting, 20, is set to make his Australian debut at number six, a position from which he impressed with his shotmaking for Australia during the World Series.

Tendulkar powers India

NAPIER, Feb 14: Star-batsman Sachin Tendulkar hit an unbeaten century today to help India to a nine-wicket win over Central Districts and send a warning to the other teams in the one-day cricket centenary series, reports Reuters.

The 21-year-old right-hander's 139 helped India cruise to victory in a warm-up match before their opening game on Thursday against New Zealand in the quadrangular series, which also involves Australia and South Africa.

Central Districts, after being put in to bat, set the tourists a very respectable target of 253 to win on a beaming McLean Park wicket.

But with Tendulkar in command, the result was seldom in doubt even though India's allotted overs were reduced to 49 because of a slow over rate.

India reached 255 for just one wicket in the 41st over with Tendulkar hitting 19 fours and a six in his 128-ball, 161-minute innings.

On the ground where he only just failed five seasons ago to become the youngest century-maker in Test history, Tendulkar recorded his fourth and highest one-day century for India. All four have been scored since last September.

Tendulkar was ably supported by fellow opener Ajay Jadeja and number three Navjot Sidhu, who was not out 72.

He and Jadeja, with 34, put on 99 for the first wicket, a partnership broken only with a piece of good luck on Central Districts' part.

A firm Tendulkar drive was deflected by bowler David Lamason on to the wicket, running out Jadeja, who had been

backing up.

Earlier, Tendulkar was also successful with the ball as Central Districts reached 252 for six in their 50 overs.

Tendulkar, who was standing in as captain to allow Mohammad Azharuddin more time to recover from a sore back, bowled only one over, the 50th — and took two wickets.

He bowled Andrew Jones with one of his right-arm slow-medium deliveries, and then repeated the trick against Tony Blain.

Jones' knock of 64 was the best of the Central Districts innings, and followed his omission on Monday from the New Zealand squad for the

CENTRAL DISTRICTS:

C Ingham st Mongia b Kapoor	61
G McRae b Kumble	27
A Jones b Tendulkar	64
L Howell c Tendulkar b Srinath	19
M Greatbatch c Tendulkar b Kumble	20
T Blain b Tendulkar	33
D Blake not out	1
Extras: (lb-4, ng-6, w-7)	27
Total: (50 overs)	252
Fall of wickets: 1-57; 2-136; 3-165; 4-195; 5-249; 6-252.	
Did not bat: Stuart Duff, Campbell Furlong, David Lamason, Alistair Alcock.	

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Srinath	10	1	49	1
Vaidya	10	0	42	0
Kumble	10	1	40	2
Prasad	10	0	58	0
Kapoor	9	0	42	1
Tendulkar	1	0	7	2



TENDULKAR ... 139 n.c

INDIA:

S.Tendulkar not out	139
A Jadeja run out	34
N Sidhu not out	72
Extras: (lb-4, nb-3, w-3)	10
Total: (40.3 overs)	255
Fall of wicket: 1-99	
Did not bat: Vinod Kamble, Sanjay Manjrekar, Nayan Mongia, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Prashant Vaidya, Anil Kumble, Aashish Kapoor.	

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Blake	8	0	45	0
Alcock	8	1	50	0
Duff	10	0	49	0
Lamason	5	0	41	0
Furlong	9	0	62	0
Greatbatch	0.3	0	4	0

Result: India won by nine wickets.

Ctg cricket

CHITTAGONG, Feb 14: Chittagong Government Commerce College won the Seraj inter-college cricket championship beating Government City College by 15 runs in the zonal final at the Dampara Police Line ground here today, reports BSS.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one day match between New Zealand's Central Districts and India today