

# No time for adrenalin

By Chandra Shekhar Das

Puissance begotten by professionalism upon success took good care of home-bred enthusiasm at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday as the touring England A team sent Bangladesh hurtling to a 58-run defeat in the first exhibition one-day match.

Fresh from a remarkably successful stint against their counterparts in India, the shadow national selection of England made light of the best of Bangladesh, who after being set a victory target of 204 in 50 overs managed 145 for the loss of eight wickets.

Patriotic hopes were frozen in the cosy warmth of young spring as the Bangladeshi batsmen, unable to draw inspiration from a recent spate of success against selections from fellow ICC associate members, capitulated abjectly under pressure stemming from nervous speculation and awe.

After having the second best selection of England, who had drubbed the Indian A team 3-0 in an unofficial Test series only recently, in quite a bit of quagmire in a match that had to be started some 20 minutes behind the schedule due to wet patches caused by Saturday night's sharp shower, Bangladesh allowed their fancied opponents to build a goodish total of 203 for eight wickets.

On a two-paced wicket, rendered even trickier by damp spots at places, the batsmen of the visiting team found it difficult to get on with their natural game after their skipper Alan Wells won the toss and decided to bat first despite the absence of their most accomplished batsman, Test cricketer Mark Ramprakash.

Left-arm opening bowler Anisur Rahman, who has been under constant limelight with a string of success since the SAARC cricket tourney, sent the local expectations soaring by gleefully accepting an offer from England opener Nick Knight in the very first over.

His partner Saiful Islam chimed in by clean bowling Michael Vaughan, the other opener, in the eighth over with the total reading 19.

A 96-run partnership for the third wicket between man-of-the-match Jason Gallian and skipper Wells hammered in a rather harsh sense of reality as the two batsmen collected their singles in an exemplary demonstration of cricket sense and agility.

Gallian topscored with 58 made from 76 balls before being stumped by Khaled Masud, who had a miserable day behind the stumps, off Minhazul Abedin.

Veteran Wells fell three short of his half century while trying to swing off-spinner Naimur Rahman in an obvious bid to step up the run rate.

Paul Weekes remained not out on a 49-ball 36 while Richard Johnson, reprieved by stumper Khaled, scored a brisk 26 off 22 balls with the help of a sixer.

Of the seven bowlers employed by skipper Akram Khan, Anis and Minhaz claimed two wickets apiece giving away 28 and 43 runs respectively.

Any hopes of rising to the occasion at the first exposure to razor-sharp cricket epitomised by a bunch of out-of-control players, the top-order

Bangladeshi batsmen just caved in against the charge of the England A new-ball pair of Dominic Cork and Johnson.

Against sustained pace made to look diabolical by ac-



J GALLIAN...m-o-m

curacy plus an obvious want of application on the part of the batsmen, Bangladesh lost half the side for 53 with the stipulated overs hardly halfway through.

Only defiant batting by experienced Minhazul Abedin, by far the most successful local



Dejected batsman and dishevelled wickets formed a rather familiar pattern in Bangladesh's innings during yesterday's unofficial one-day against touring England A. In this act, the conqueror is Paul Weekes and the conquered left-hand bat Mohammed Rafique.

batsman and some inelegant but effective willow-wielding by tail-ender Mohammad Rafique helped Bangladesh minimise the margin of the defeat.

Minhaz, who seems to have regained his motivation, scored 34 off 69 balls before being bowled by Cork.

Rafique fell for 30 while Khaled Masud made some amends for his appalling display earlier in the day remaining unbeaten on 24.

Cork was virtually unchallenged in his eight-over spell that cost him 11 runs. There were two wickets each for his partner Johnson and left-arm spinner Minal Patel.

The two teams meet again tomorrow at the same venue for their second limited-overs exhibition match. The tie begins at 9:15 am.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the limited-overs exhibition cricket match between the visiting England A and the Bangladesh national team at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

ENGLAND A			
Nick Knight c & b Anis	0		
Michael Vaughan b Saiful	5		
Jason Gallian c Khaled Masud b Minhazul Abedin	58		
Alan Wells c Aminul Islam b Naimur Rahman	47		
David Hemp run out	3		
Paul Weekes not out	36		
Dominic Cork c & b Minhazul Abedin	6		
Paul Nixon lbw b Anis	6		
Richard Johnson run out	22		
Extras: (b-5, lb-5, w-8, nb-2)	20		
Total: (for eight wickets in 50 overs)	203		
Fall of wickets: 1-1: 2-19: 3-115: 4-127: 5-131: 6-144: 7-157: 8-203.			

BANGLADESH			
Jahangir Alam c Nixon b Johnson	1		
Athar Ali b Johnson	4		

Bowling			
Anisur Rahman	9	0	28
Athar Ali Khan	10	2	29
Rafique	3	0	26
Minhazul Abedin	10	0	43
Saiful Islam	9	1	28
Enamul Haq	3	0	15
Naimur Rahman	6	0	24

Bowling			
Richard Johnson	10	1	27
Dominic Cork	8	1	11
Paul Weekes	10	2	30
Alan Wells	1	0	4
Jason Gallian	3	0	9
I. Salisbury	10	3	28

Result: England A won by 58 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Jason Gallian (England A).

## Twice told tale of missing bus

Sports Reporter

In a bemusingly galling display of chronic myopia the country's cricket authorities have once again badly messed their priorities and the help-less patriotic zeal was poorer for their avoidable indiscretion.

While every cricket buff expected the selectors to go about their business of giving exposure to the most deserving cricketers in a discreet manner after all that time of doing their homework based on performances against Kenya, Hong Kong and the Hyderabad Cricket Association, a sense of purposeless stupor reigned the sporting arena as Bangladesh lost the first exhibition one-day against the visiting England A team by 58 runs yesterday.

Not that Bangladesh went in as favourites against their highly spirited and fancied opponents, who are here after completing a highly successful tour of India.

Consternation lay in the fact that local selectors unmistakably missed the point of pitting local selection against a highly professional and motivated international unit.

Robbing the chance of an in-form batsman like Zakaria Imtiaz by playing two wicket-keepers — that too in a one-day match — was the high point.

While there is hardly anything to choose between Khaled Masud and Jahangir Alam as wicketkeepers, one fails to understand the rationale of keeping a proven batsman out of contention.

At the end of the day Jahangir Alam, the pugnacious opener who seems to have fallen into a rut, had nothing to his credit to justify the faith of the selectors while Khaled Masud, also an opener for his club in the local league, put up a miserable display behind the stumps.

Masud did get some runs when the fate of the match was well and truly decided but his clumsiness with the gloves made a nonsense of the pretension that two of the eleven was a better stumper.

And to think that of the two front-line left-arm spinners used up only six of their quota of 20 overs only underlines the lack of balance in the side picked for yesterday's game.

Unless the selection process is eradicated of such unaffordable fancies, the growth of cricket in this country will continue to be stunted.

## Abahani win

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra squeezed out their second successive win in the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey super league, beating Usha Krira Chakra by a solitary goal at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Abahani, who started their six-team super league campaign on the wrong foot bowing down to a Mohammedan Sporting Club by two goals to one, got the winner from Jumman Lusal through a penalty corner.

For Usha, who lost to Mohammedans 2-3 in their opener, it was the second consecutive defeat.

## Milan Open Kafelnikov

MILAN, Feb 20: Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Boris Becker 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 in the final of the Milan indoor tournament on Sunday to dash the German's hopes of winning the title for the third successive year, reports Reuter.

Becker contributed significantly to his own downfall with two double faults in the decisive final tiebreak, including one on match point which allowed the fifth seeded Russian to clinch the title without hitting a return.

But Privalova's best achievement of the day came in the 200 metres in which she beat her own European record of 22.15 seconds when she clocked 22.10.

"I knew the track was fast and I was in great shape so I knew I could do something here," she said.

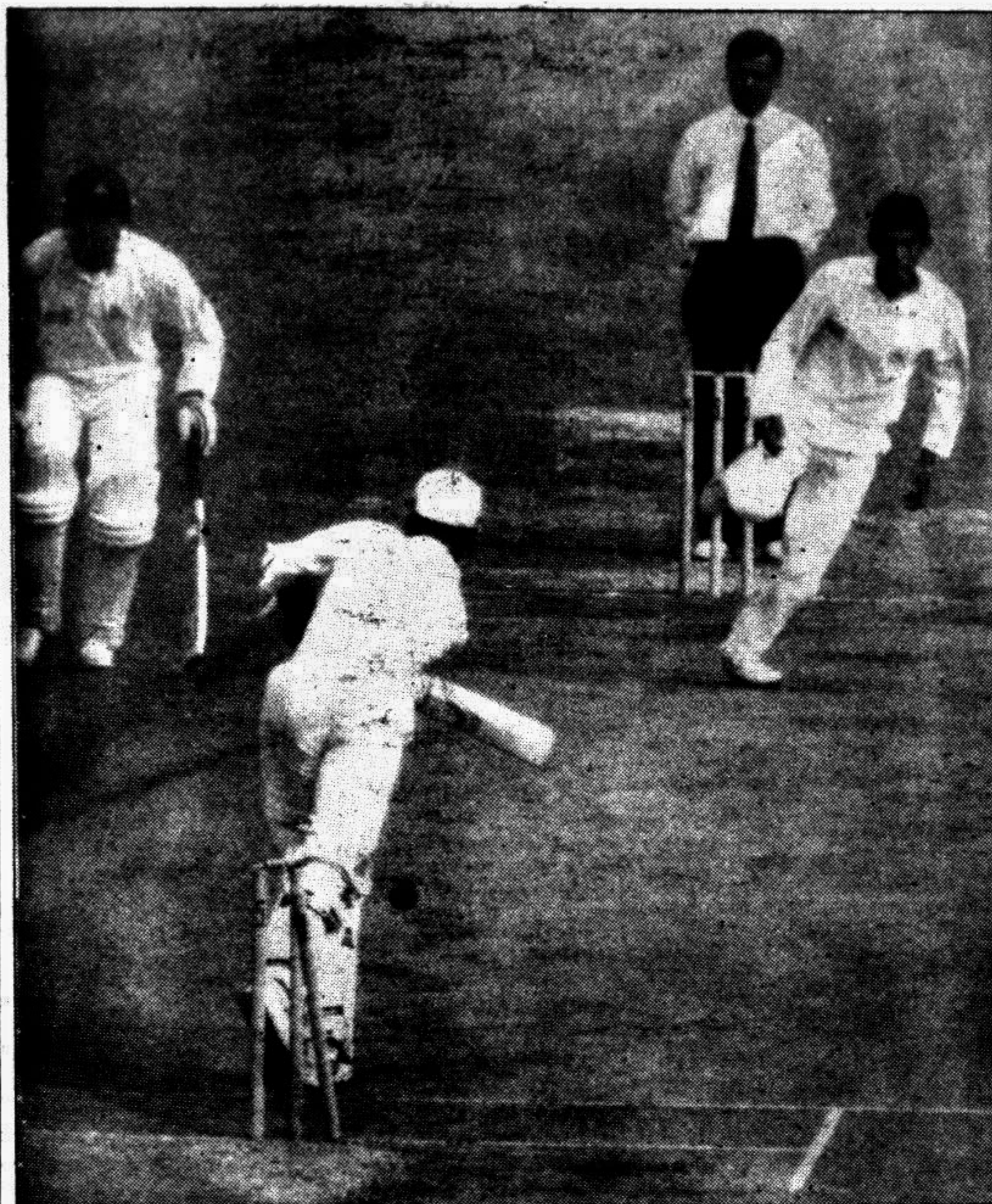
Pole vault master Sergei Bubka, eager to make up for a disappointing start to the season, had his best performance so far this year by clearing six metres with incredible ease.

Ukrainian Bubka then failed three times at 6.16 metres in an attempt to beat his own indoor world record of 6.15 metres.

## Shultz sails

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma, Feb 20: Top seeded Brenda Shultz needed just 52 minutes on Sunday to overpower Russian teenager Elena Likhovtseva 6-1, 6-2 in the final of the Iga classic women's tournament, reports Reuter.

Shultz claimed the 26,500-dollar first prize for her first WTA Tour victory in two years.



MORNING DOESN'T ALWAYS SHOW THE DAY. Bangladeshi new-ball bowler Saiful Islam has England A opener Michael Vaughan clean bowled, the second wicket to fall in the innings, to raise some hopes for the local supporters during the first limited-overs exhibition match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The hosts couldn't quite cling to early morning success as the visitors went on to record a 58-run victory. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Aussie squad for Windies tour named

# No room for Dean Jones

SYDNEY, Feb 20: Australia's selectors today signalled the possible end of Dean Jones' Test career when they ignored his claims for a place on the forthcoming tour to the West Indies, reports Reuter.

The flamboyant batsman failed to make the 15-man squad for the Caribbean, despite his prolific form as the leading run scorer in this season's domestic Sheffield Shield competition.

Selectors opted instead for the youthful potential of Ricky Ponting and Justin Langer to fill the two available bats for batsmen.

Australia captain Mark Taylor said he was pleased with the balance of his squad, which is based around the side which beat England 3-1 in this season's Ashes series.

"I think we have the squad to do the job," Taylor said. Speaking from Auckland, where he is leading Australia in the quadrangular limited-overs tournament to celebrate the centenary of first-class cricket in New Zealand, Taylor said he intended to take the challenge to the West Indies.

"We have to win at least two Tests because the West Indies play good attacking cricket," Taylor told reporters. "You have to be prepared to wear a couple of hits and take them on and challenge them," he added.

The West Indies beat Australia 2-1 at home in 1991 and repeated the margin of victory in the Test series in Australia in 1992-93.

Jones, 33, who retired briefly from international cricket last year, leads the Australian first-class average on 82 after scoring 1149 runs for Victoria this season.

The Victoria captain toured South Africa last year without playing a Test match and was completely overlooked for the

Ashes series. He has played 52 Tests for Australia, most recently against Sri Lanka three years ago, scoring 3,631 Test runs at an average of 46.55, including 11 centuries.

In recent years, Jones has earned a reputation for the game's outspoken views on the game. Ponting, at 20, the youngest

Australia arrive in Barbados on March 1 and open their tour with a warm-up game in Barbados before the series of five limited-overs internationals.

The four Tests will be played in Barbados, Antigua, Trinidad and Jamaica.

**SQUAD** Mark Taylor (captain), Ian Healy (vice-captain), Greg Blewett, Michael Slater, David Bonn, Justin Langer, Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Damien Fleming, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Tim May, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne.

**ITINERARY** The Australian cricket team's schedule for its upcoming tour of the West Indies is: Feb 26: Depart Australia. March 1: Arrive Barbados. March 5: Barbados, one-day game, Barbados. March 8: West Indies, 1st one-day international, Barbados.

March 11: West Indies, 2nd one-day international, Trinidad and Tobago. March 12: West Indies, 3rd one-day international, Trinidad and Tobago. March 15: West Indies, 4th one-day international, St Vincent.

March 18: West Indies, 5th one-day international, Guyana. March 20-22: Guyana, 3-day game, Guyana. March 25-28: West Indies President's XI, 4-day game, St Lucia.

March 31-April 5: West Indies, first Test, Barbados. April 8-13: West Indies, second Test, Antigua. April 15-17: West Indies Board XI, 3-day game, St Kitts. April 21-26: West Indies, third Test, Trinidad and Tobago. April 29-May 4: West Indies, 4th Test, Jamaica.

Australia, who will play five limited-overs internationals and four Test matches against the West Indies in March and April, named seamer Paul Reiffel to fill the fourth fast-bowling position at the expense of Jo Angel.

Reiffel will join Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming in Australia's new-ball attack.

## Japanese govt to okay bid for 2002 WC

TOKYO, Feb 20: The Japanese government will officially approve the nation's bid to host the 2002 World Cup soccer Tuesday ahead of announcing its candidacy in rivalry with South Korea and Mexico, officials said, reports AFP.

Vice ministers agreed today that its planned bid to hold the event would be approved by ministers at Tuesday's cabinet meeting where the ministers would also guarantee their full support for the games if the country won the bid.

Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama will send a letter to the International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) president Joao Havelange, promising to prepare stadiums for the games, they said.

The Football Association of Japan is expected to officially make its bid to FIFA by the end of the month, they added.

## India won't come to Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

The Indian national team's planned visit of Bangladesh, made uncertain by the side's early elimination from the on-going Centenary series in New Zealand, was formally called off by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the country's highest governing body of the game.

In a faxed message to the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), BCCI general secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya expressed India's inability to go ahead with the tour due to the inconvenience caused by the 1983 World Cup winners' premature exit from the quadrangular meet.

Dalmiya, however, suggested the team, which plays Australia in an insignificant match before boarding a home-bound flight tomorrow, might visit Bangladesh by the end of this year, provided the BCCB agrees to host Azharuddin's men.

## Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer

Sports Reporter

Moin scored a hattrick as Bhola advanced to the Zone-5 final with a thumping 7-0 win over Barguna in one of the eight 19th Sher-e-Bangla national football championship matches decided at different venues across the country yesterday.

At Patuakhali, Bhola ran all over Barguna in a painfully lopsided affair with Moin leading the charge. Montu, Tutul, Sohagh and Mehdi added to Barguna's plight with a goal apiece.

Bhola will take on Pirojpur in the final tomorrow to decide who qualify for the final leg.

Barguna part, four other teams to move into their respective zonal finals were Munshiganj, Cox's Bazaar, Satkhira and Kurigram.

Munshiganj were the first to step into the Zone-1 final edging past hosts Faridpur by a solitary goal.

After a barren first half, Apu struck the match-decider. Cox's Bazaar, the hosts of Zone-3, had a demanding match against Feni. After the regulation period ended one-all, Cox's Bazaar booked their place, through penalty shoot-out. The final score was 4-2.

Away at Khulna, Satkhira set up a final engagement with Kushiha when they beat Jhenidah by the odd goal in three.

Hanif and Kabir gave Satkhira a double lead at the breather while Mainuddin pulled one goal back for the losers 10 minutes into the second half.

Chandpur, Rajshahi and Kishoreganj moved into the next round winning their respective zonal matches.

## Chess course on

Sports Reporter

A three-month coaching programme, under the tutelage of Russian Grandmaster Mikhail Krasenkov, who finished second to English GM Mark Hebden in the just-concluded second United Insurance Grandmasters' chess championship, got underway yesterday.

The Bangladesh Chess Federation, organisers of a rather rare venture launched with a view to giving the local players exposure to the finer points of the game, have nominated those playing in the national men's and women's championship plus four from sub-junior meet, for the course.

Twenty-nine players joined the first day's session yesterday. The federation has, meanwhile, requested the absentees to report to the BCF office on February 23 otherwise their places would be filled in by others.

## SA-Wellington match drawn

WELLINGTON, Feb 20: South Africa scored two runs off the final ball Monday to force a tie in their limited-overs cricket match against Wellington at the Basin Reserve today, reports AP.

Opener Mark Douglas scored 100 to lead Wellington to 234 for six wickets from their allocated 50 overs and South Africa then replied with 234 for seven.

Gary Kirsten led the South African run chase with 85, while David Callaghan made 42.

South Africa play New Zealand in Christchurch on Thursday to decide which of the two teams advances to the final of the centenary series limited-overs tournament.

## Martin blazes with aces

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 20: Defending champion Todd Martin fired 16 aces past Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands to win 117,000 dollars and the Kroger St Judge international tournament title 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 on Sunday, reports Reuter.

## Christie's delightful double

LIEVIN, France, Feb 20: World and Olympic champion Linford Christie smashed the 200 metres indoor world record and set a European best at 60 metres on Sunday, reports Reuter.

"I certainly didn't expect it," the Briton said after clocking 20.25 seconds in the 200 to beat the previous mark of 20.36 set by Frenchman Bruno Marie-Rose on the same track in 1987.

Namibian Frankie Fredericks had said earlier that he would be going for the record himself. He did indeed beat Marie-Rose's mark by 0.10 seconds but that was still 0.01 seconds behind Christie.

Briton John Regis was third home in 20.42 but was disqualified for drifting into the next lane, leaving third place to Sergei Osovich of Ukraine.

Christie emerged from the last bend in front and resisted a determined Fredericks in the finishing straight in front of 7,500 noisy fans.

"I have the three titles and a world record," Christie, who had never set a world record before, said.

"Now I can retire," he said before adding, "I'm not serious, I'm still having fun."

previous time of 6.48 he clocked in Karlsruhe, Germany, last March.

Fredericks, who took the world outdoor title over 200 metres two years ago in Stuttgart, finished strongly to cross the line second in 6.52 with Nigerian Olapade Adeniken third in 6.57.

"I should come here more often," said Christie, making his first appearance in the meeting.

While Christie put his name in the record books at last.

## Kiptanui to run in Barcelona

MONACO, Feb 20: Kenyan world steeplechase champion Moses Kiptanui, who broke his own world indoor 3,000 metres record eight days ago, has confirmed he will take part in next month's World Indoor Championships in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

A statement from the International Amateur Athletic Federation today said Russian sprinter Irina Privalova and American hurdler Allen Johnson had also confirmed they would take part in the meeting from March 10-12.

Privalova, the European outdoor 100 and 200 metres champion, equalled her own world indoor 60 metres record this month while Johnson ended the 44-race unbeaten streak of Britain's world high hurdles champion Colin Jackson in Madrid on February 9.



Mid-pitch action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division super league encounter between holders Abahani Krira Chakra and Usha KC at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani won 1-0. — Star photo