Green Delta hockey MSC just one point away

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club are now only a point away from regaining the Green Delta Insurance First Division hockey league title.

At the Hockey Stadium yesterday, powered on by a hattrick from their Pakistani midfielder Tahir Zaman, Mohammedans ran down Ajax Sports Club by five goals to nil in their penultimate league engagement and they now need to draw against Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club to recapture the championship from arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra.

Mariner Youngs, however, kept the Mohammedans at bay for 24 minutes through some resilient defence but once Tahir Zaman struck in the 25th minute their resistance was all but over.

The Pakistani international sounded the board thrice in the span of five minutes to notch up the second treble of the league. His national teammate Mohammed Irfan earlier scored the first in the 9-0 drubbing of Sonali Bank.

Tahir Zaman scored his fourth in the 48th minute while his more celebrated compatriot Shahbaz Ahmad completed the tally with his second of the league, unleashing a powerful drive from inside the 16-yard area after being set up by a Mohammad Irfan corner.

The second match of the day saw another hattrick as Rafiqul Islam engineered a squeaky 3-2 win over Mariner Youngs.

Rafique was on target in the fourth, 12th and 47th minutes of the proceedings before Mariners got back into the game through strikes from Musa Miah and Biaka Lusai. who sounded the board in the space of one minute.

Sher-e-Bangla Cup football

Sports Réporter

Narayanganj and Cox's Bazar advanced to the final leg of the 19th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship winning their respective zonal finals in contrasting fashion.

At Faridpur, Narayangani outplayed Munshiganj 3-1 in the Zone One final with national winger Golam Gaus, Tipu Sultan and Tarigullah netting once for the victors. Ratan Miah got the consolation goal for Munshiganj.

Hosts Cox's Bazaar, on the other hand, had to wait until the 13th minute of the extra period for the winner in their Zone Three final against Noakhali

After the regulation 90 minutes failed to break the deadlock, Mamun, who was cautioned with yellow card, snatched the match-decider in extra time.

Besides, hosts Habiganj moved into the Zone Four final with a solitary goal win over Comilla while Tangail made it to the Zone Two semifinal romping past Manikganj 4-0 at Kishoreganj.

Koreans, Chinese dominate

JACA. Spain, Feb 24: Unranked Canadian Andrew Quinn took gold in men's 500metre short-track speedskat ing Thursday in the Winter University Games in a day otherwise dominated by China and South Korea with Korea's Kyung Chun setting a world record at 1,500 metres, reports AP. Chun, 19, won the 1,500 in

2 minutes 27.38 seconds, bettering the old mark of 2:31.36 set by South Korean So Hee Kim in 1994.

In the medal standings after 18 events. Russia leads with five golds and seven overall. The United States has two golds and four overall, and South Korea and Belarus also have two golds. No other team has more than one gold medal. although Japan has won eight overall with one gold, three silver and four bronze.

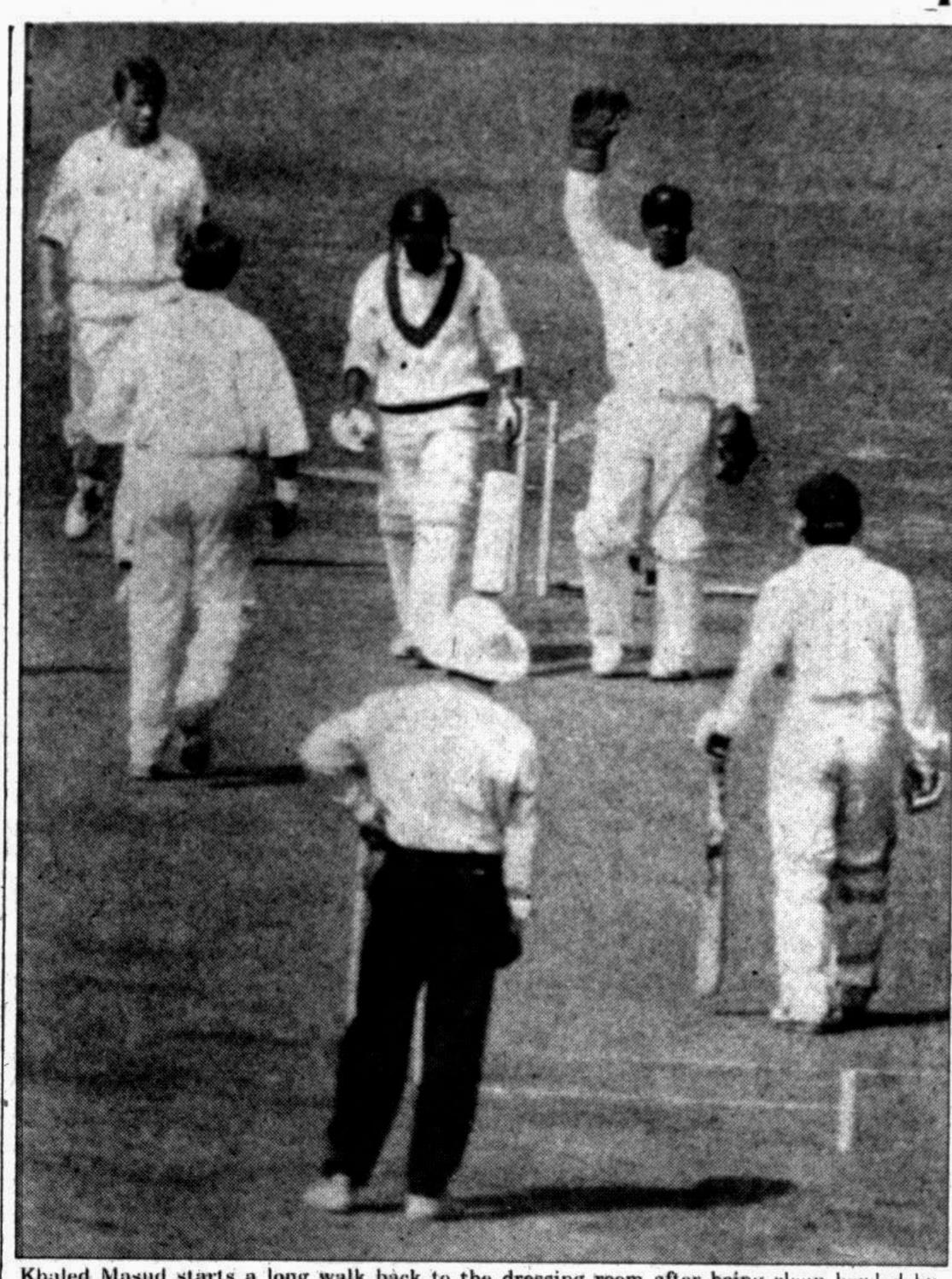
Of the 12 medals on offer Thursday in short-track, the South Koreans and Chinese each won five with the other two going to Canada.

The Canadians, shorttrack's No. 1 world power, brought none of their top skaters to the games, saving them for the trials for next month's world championships in Norway.

"This is their B or C team and they still won two medals." said US coach Patrick Wentland, whose team failed to medal in the first of three days of skating to continue a disap-

pointing US performance. The top American skater Eric Flaim failed to reach ei-

ther the 1,500 or 500 final. Quinn, 21, who just came off what he termed a "terrible season," shaved his red head of hair about three months ago for a meet in the western



Khaled Masud starts a long walk back to the dressing room after being clean bowled by England A leggie Ian Salisbury during the first day of the three-day exhibition cricket match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh made 168 for two at stumps. - Star photo

Bangladesh fare well

An ambeaten half-

century by Ami mil Islam helped Bangladesh negotiate the aggression of the visi-

ting England A team bowlers well as the hosts made 168 for two at the draw of stumps on the opening day of the exhibition three-day match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The in-form right handed batsman, who inspired a remarkable though abortive resurgence in the second unofficial one-dayer which Bangladesh lost by 20 runs Wednesday, stayed unconquered on 65 along with Minhazul Abedin (23) when stumps were drawn after only 60 overs, due to the delayed

A rare variety of the game in Bangladesh nowadays because of the infrastructural bottlenecks, the pre-lunch session of the match involving a foreign team in four years was completely lost due to wet conditions of the ground caused by the fairly heavy shower Thursday morning.

When play began after lunch Bangladesh openers Athar Ali Khan and Javed Omar Belim did well to justify skipper Akram Khan's decision to bat

Sports Reporter

first on a docile wicker putting on 34 before the tall Athar was hit on the helmet trying to avoid a snorter from England new-bell bowler Glenn Chapile. The thudding impact on the

earpieces which forced the experienced batsman to retire hurt on 18, required two



AMINUL ISLAM ... 68 n.o. stitches for a split in the ear-

With Athar out of the ground for medical attention, Bangladesh lost their first wicket at 48 when wicketkeeper Khaled Masud, who

Sports Reporter

Lalmatia Club raced to a nine-wicket victory over Udity Club in a rain-reduced Yamaha First Division cricket league

yesterday. ture, Udity, electing to bat first, struggled to 90 for seven in the revised allocation of 35 overs and then saw Lalmatia canter past the winning target in 19.1 overs, making 94 for

After losing his opening partner Raju (23) at 43. Sumit teamed up with his skipper Halim Babu and steered the Lalmatia outfit home with no further damage.

came to replace an injured Athar, was bowled by leg-break bowler Ian Sailsbury for seven.

Amin, whose bright and fighting 52 gave the Englishmen a scare only the other day, then joined Javed and the two batted enterprisingly to take Bangladesh to 98 before the latter became the first victim of Chaplle, one of the toast of the visitors during their recent all-conquering tour of

Bangladesh suffered no other casualties after Javed's departure for 39 as Amin in tandem with Minhazul Abedin, orginably the most successful of the local batsmen, guided the home side through the remains of the day.

Meanwhile, Amin duly Indies this summer. completed his half-century. His 65 made from 119 balls contained seven hits to the ence.

Minhaz was on 23 not out. Test-discard Ian Salisbury was most successful among the seven bowlers employed by England A captain Alan Wells, taking one for 24 from

Test prospect Glenn Chaplle, who really bent his back on a number of occasions. bagged one for 24 from a dozen hostile overs.

Stadium yesterday.

Minhazul Abedin not out

Bowling: G Chaplle R Johnson R Stemp I Salisbury 3 24 M Patel M Vaughan 7 2 22 J_Gallian 0 21

match abandoned NEW PLYMOUTH. New

SL-NZ Academy XI

Zealand, Feb 24: Medium pacer Janaka Gamage made an impressive debut for Sri Lanka on Friday before the tourists' one-day cricket match against a New Zealand Academy XI was abandoned because of rain, reports AP.

Gamage collected 4-22 of his full allotment of seven overs before the rain-reduced game was eventually called off He bowled to an impeccable line and length and troubled all of the Academy batsmen with his nagging accuracy. The scheduled 50-overs

per-side match was reduced to 35 overs because of the weather and was called off after the Academy XI had reached 101 for five in 27.1

It was a frustrating day for both teams, who were eager for solid workouts because each has important matches to come.

Sri Lanka leave tomorrow for Wanganui and will play a four-day game against a New Zealand Select XI starting on Sunday, while the Academy team are preparing for a fixture against South Africa next week in Nelson.

The Sri Lankans claimed. the unofficial spoils after stand-in captain Aravinda de Silva won the toss and elected

Despite the short bound aries that invite big hitting at Pukekura Park, a sodden outfield and accurate Srt Lankan bowling restricted the Academy batsmen - most of whom were dismissed trying to force the pace. Captain Llorne Howell top-

scored with 31, an innings that included two lusty sixes over mid-wicket, before he was trapped leg before wicket by Gamage. The only wicket that did

not fall to Gamage was claimed by off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage. whose seven overs cost him fust 22 runs. Scores: New Zealand Aca

demy XI 101-5 (Llorne Howell 31: Janaka Gamage 4-22). Match abandoned because of

Aravinda to replace Hooper at Kent

COLOMBO, Feb 24: Sr Lankan Test batsman Aravinda de Silva will be playing for English county Kent for the forthcoming 1995 season as replacement for West Indian all-rounder Carl Hooper, a newspaper said, reports Reuter.

The Daily News said De Silva, now touring New Zealand with the Sri Lanka Test side, had telephoned his father on Thursday with the news that Kent had confirmed his contract after negotiations.

Hooper is not available this season because he would be touring England with the West

It will be De Silva's first stint with any English county. The 29-year-old Sri Lankan vice-captain has scored 2,872 runs in 42 Tests at an average of 38.29. He has made seven

centuries, including 267 against New Zealand at Wellington in 1990-91, the hi-

Portugal edge Dutch

ghest by a Sri Lankan in

national friendly Wednesday night, reports AP.

keeper Ed de Goey into the far

Cup quarterfinal game.

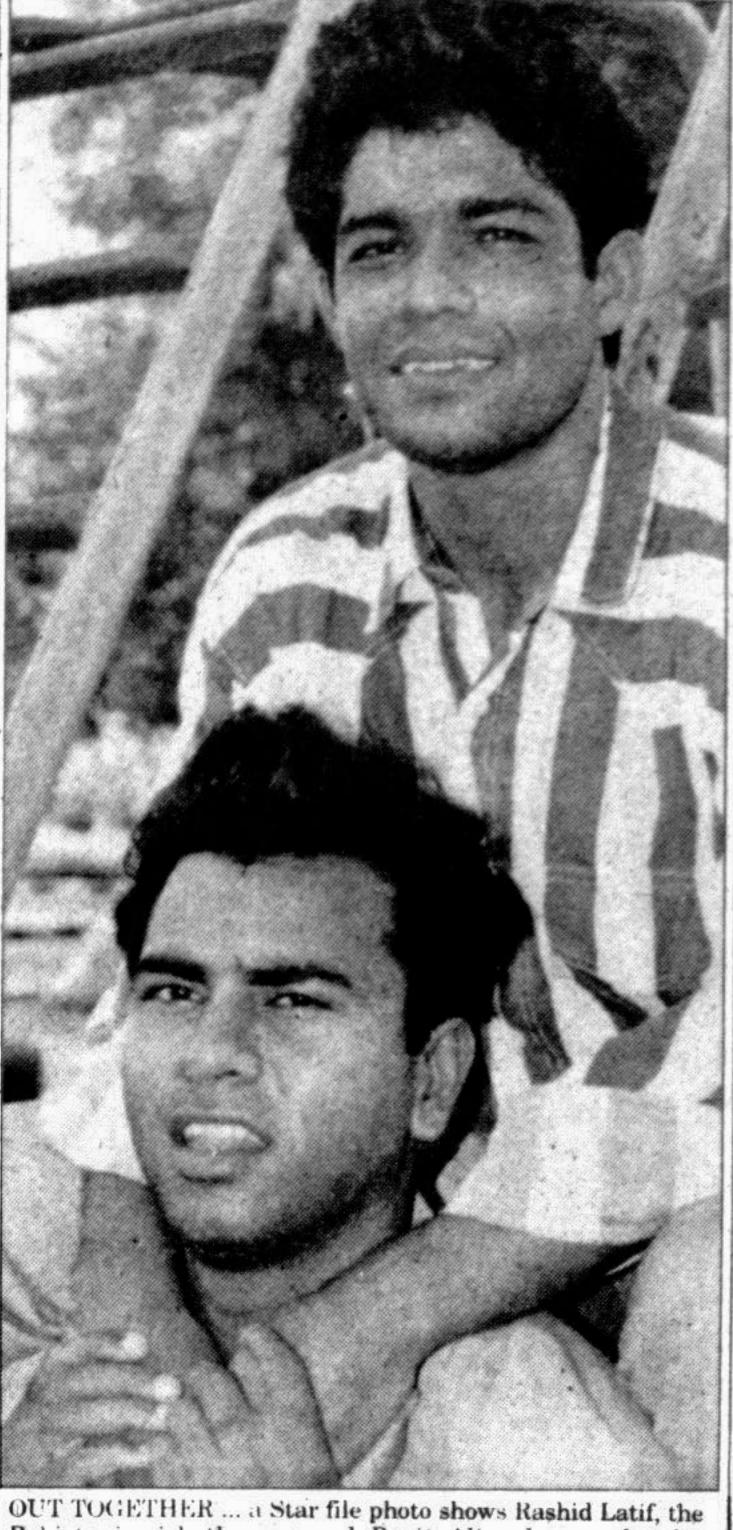
Basit, Rashid retire?



they say they are not enjoying HARARE, Feb 24: international cricket any Pakistan vice-captain Rashid Latif and talented mi-The players' retirements come at the end of a long tour ddle-order bats-

by Pakistan which began in announced on Friday they are South Africa at the end of to retire from international November and has been cricket immediately and are to dogged by poor form and confly home early from the tour of Zimbabwe, reports Reuter. When they arrived in Zim-

· Pakistan coach and manager babwe they stunningly lost the Intikhab Alam said the joint first Test by an innings and



Pakistani wicketkeeper and Basit Ali, who caught the cricket world by surprise announcing premature retirement.

announcement, made by fax to the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), had come as a complete surprise. Intikhab said: "Yesterday

(Thursday) the team (minus Rashid and Basit) went to Victoria balls and when we got back we heard the news that they had announced their rea tirement.

It is very unfortunate but

although they recovered to win the series 2-1, the cricket was overshadowed by allegations

from Sydney that several Aus-

tralian players had been of-

fered money to "throw" Tests during their tour of Pakistan last September and October. Both Rashid, 26, and Basit, 24. have been involved in Test

cricket for less than three

BCCP to probe into bribery allegations

KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb 24 Javed Burki, chairman of the ad-hock committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), said on Thursday it would carry out its own inquiry into charges of the attempted bribery of two Australian players by Pakistan captain Salim Malik, reports Reuter

"The BCCP, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) have one aim and that is if there is any corruption in cricket, it should be rooted out. There is no difference amongst the three of us on it." he said.

"We will decide our own system of enquiry," he added following his return from London, where he discussed the matter with ICC chief executive David Richards and was given statements and evidence regarding the alleged offence. which Malik has strongly de-

Among the documents is thought to be an official complaint from the ACB concerning the alleged bribe offer of 50.000 dollars each to Australian spin bowlers Shane Warne and Tim May by Malik to influence the result of the first Test between the counes in Karachi last year.

Donald down but not out LONDON. Feb 24: South

African fast bowler Allan Donald, "dazed and disappointed" he is no longer wanted as Warwickshire's overseas plaver, vowed to mark his fortheoming final season with 100 wickets, reports Reuter. Donald is to be replaced by

West Indies batsman Brian

Lara, who on Tuesday agreed a new three-year contract with the county champions that starts in 1996. He is unavailable this year due to West Indies' tour of England. . "I thought Warwickshire intended to alternate us as over-

seas players, but it appears Brian didn't want to do that and he had Warwickshire's hand," said Donald on Thurs-"I'm disappointed about the whole thing, not because they

long time and am now facing the prospect of my last season with them. "However, I have set my goals out for this season and

signed Brian, but because I

have been with Warwickshire a

will be going back home with a very positive attitude. "I had originally set myself a 90-wicket target but that has now been raised to 100 and 1

would love to win the county, championship as this might be my final chance." Despite his disappointment,

Donald said he would "seriously consider" the offer from Warwickshire of a coaching post at the club.

Dispelling cloud of hatred



Feb 24: Nearly two years after 18 top national soccer stars died in a plane crash off the coast of Gabon, Zambia

has launched a massive publicity campaign to persuade its soccer fans that Gabon did not shoot down the plane, reports AP. Advertisements, fliers, car stickers, T-shirts, caps and

urge Zambians to bury real or imagined differences with Gabon, said Zambia's state-run information service, the campaign organizers. It said the dirs 300,000 campaign is aimed at averting

church and theater groups will

violence against Gabonese players and supporters during an Africa Cup match scheduled for April 9 in Lusaka. Since the Zambia air force

plane carrying 28 players and officials to a World Cup play-off in Senegal plunged into the sea on April 28, 1993. Zambi

LUSAKA, Zambia, I has accused Gabon of obstructing investigations into the

> Because of the dispute, a popular belief emerged that the plane had been shot down after passing over a Gabonese military base, said Patrick Jabane, director of the Zambian information service.

The indebted Zambian gov-

George Graham accused of being bribed

LONDON, Feb 24: Former Arsenal manager George Graham received under-the-table payments of 425,500 pounds (dlrs 640,000) for the transfer of two Scandinavian players. at Premier league inquiry found Thursday, reports AP. Graham, who was fired by

the club Tuesday when officials learned of the committee's findings, could face further acuon from the Football Associa-

the three-man Premier league inquiry commission reported that Graham received the payments - twice the sum previously reported __ in connection with the transfers of John Jensen from Danish club Brondby and Pal Lydersen from Start of Norway. The panel found that Gra-

ham received two payments originating from Interclub Limited, a Guernsey-based company in which Norwegian football agent Rune Hauge has interests. The panel said Graham

eventually paid back the total sum, plus 40,000 pounds (dirs 60.000) in interest, into Arsenal's bank account on Dec. 1. 1994. The panel said it had "great

difficulty accepting Graham did not know the payments came from transfer fees paid by Arsenal." The league handed the doc uments to the Football Asso

ciation.

SHIC

ernment says it has not been able to afford a report on the crash by independent investigators, including the Canadian makers of the Buffalo military

transport plane. "In the absence of the report, we assume there is no one to blame. All we know is that there was a plane crash," Jabane said.

. He said diplomatic efforts have been made for several months to improve relations with Gabon.

Last August, the Confederation of African Football was forced to postpone one international match after both countries said they could not guarantee the safety of players.

That African Cup of Nations encounter was rescheduled to November, after Gabon promised the provide tight security for the Zambian visitors. Gabon won 2-1 at home. Jabane said 15,000 T-shirts

have been printed with the le-

gend "Be Friends-Soyez Amis"

in English and French on a design of a handshake and the two nations' flags. Leaflets show photographs of the rebuilt Zambian team with each of the players sound-

ing what Jabane de**scribed as a** "fraternal message." in one leaflet, team captain Kalusha Bwalya, who was flying separately from Europe to join the ill-fated team, calls on fans not to attack Gabonese visitors

in April. "Gabon must be beaten on the pitch, not outside," he

Radio and television message calling for tolerance include one by Robert Watiyakem, the father of one of the soccer stars killed in the crash. Jabane said the campaign

also recalls the death of UN secretary general Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden in a plane crash in central Zambia in 1961. Did the Swedish govern-

ment blame Zambia?" Jabane

province of British Columbia and also began reading books on controlling his nemesis release.

WBA to hear Foreman's appeal

on March 4 NEW YORK, Feb 24: The World Boxing Association executive committee on March 4 will hear heavyweight champion George Foreman's appeal of its decision to deny sanctioning of his fight with German Axel Schultz, the WBA announced on Thursday, reports

Reuter. Foreman, who holds both the WBA and International Boxing Federation versions of the heavyweight crown, and promoter Bob Arum were * granted the opportunity to make their appeal to the executive committee on March 4 in Atlantic City.

The WBA has threatened to strip Foreman of their title for his decision to defend against Schultz on April .22, rather than fight one of their top contenders. The WBA voted last month

not to sanction the Schultz fight during meetings in New York at which Foreman was not present. The IBF has already given its blessing to the title bout against the lightlyregarded German contender. Promoter Don King, who

controls the WBA's top two

contenders, will be present at

the hearing. Top-ranked hea-

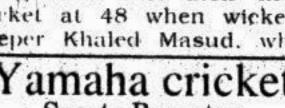
vyweight Tony Tucker and

second-ranked Bruce Seldon,

both of whom Foreman passed

up in favour of Schultz, will

also attend the appear hearing. Should the WBA reject Foreman's appeal, they could decide to strip him of the title, the organisation said in a news



match at the City Club ground In the day's lone league fix-

Yamaha cricket

Scoreboard at close of play

Athar Ali retd hurt Javed Omar e Knight b Chapile 39 Khaled Masud b Salisbury Aminul Islam not out Extras: (b-4, lb-5, wb-5, nb-2)

SCOREBOARD

of the first day in the three-day match between Bangladesh and England A at the Dhaka BANGLADESH: First innings

Total: (two wickets, 60 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-48; 2-98.

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands Feb 24: Pedro Barbosa scored an eight-minute goal as Portugal took advantage of a Dutch team missing eight players from league-leading Ajax to post a 1-0 victory in an inter-

Barbosa cut in from the left wing, eluded two Dutch defenders by stopping sharply inside the penalty area, and curled a right-footed shot past

corner. The Netherlands were missing the Ajax players, including captain Danny Blind. striker Marc Overmars, and defender Frank de Boer, in a protest over the Dutch Federation's rescheduling of Dutch

Action from yesterday's Green Delta Insurance super league encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Ajax Sports Club at the Hockey Stadium. Mohammedans blanked Ajax 5-0. - Star photo