

Transcom schools hockey

Ahmed Bawani, Manikganj Model in final round

Sports Reporter

Ahmed Bawani Academy and Manikganj Model School moved into the final round of the Transcom national schools championship after winning their respective matches at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

In the first match of the day, last year's runners-up Ahmed Bawani Academy staved off a stiff challenge from a spirited Hatinal High School of Gazipur by a lone goal.

In a very exciting encounter with forays and counter forays Altaf struck the match-decider for Ahmed Bawani in the 12th minute with a nice field goal.

Meanwhile, in the day's second match, Manikganj Model School recorded a comfortable 4-2 win over Barisal Zilla School.

Shafiqul Islam, Zahurul Islam, Jobaidur Rahman and Hafizul Islam scored one goal apiece for the winners while Shahidul and Ershad reduced the margin for the Barisal School.

Baggio will let Juve know on June 12

TURIN, May 27: Juventus captain Roberto Baggio said on Friday that he will decide on June 12 whether he signs a new contract with the recently crowned Italian champions, reports AFP.

The date is the day after the return leg of the Italian Cup final between Juventus and Parma.

The Turin-based club hid behind a cloak of silence regarding the future of Baggio, 1994 world-footballer-of-the-year, whose current contract expires next month.

A club spokesman said: "We do not wish to make any comment until the end of the Italian Championship on June 4."

Baggio had talks on Thursday with Umberto Agnelli, brother of the owner Gianni Agnelli, who confirmed an offer already made in April of 2.5 million dollars over two years.

This amounts to a cut of 20 per cent in salary for Baggio and it was thought this could affect Juventus' overall form on the championship run-in and the two cup finals with Parma, the UEFA Cup which they lost and the upcoming Italian Cup.

Aussie U-17 booters book WC berth

PORT VILA, May 27: The Australian under-17 football team today won its ticket to the final round of the FIFA under-17 World Cup in Ecuador by beating New Zealand 1-0, reports AFP.

The regional tournament, hosted here by Vanuatu from May 18 to 26, was part of the qualifying round for the under-17 national selections of the Oceania zone, with only one team to represent the region in Ecuador, where the final phase will be played.

Australia this week easily beat Fiji (4-0) and Vanuatu (6-0).

"You'll represent your country in Ecuador, but don't forget you'll also represent our region," Vanuatu Prime Minister and patron of the Vanuatu Football Federation, Maxime Carlot, said while congratulating the Australian team after the final.

Animals usher in Edmundo!

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 27: Flamengo's five million dollar signing Edmundo, greeted by the city mayor, two elephants, a tiger and chimpanzee when he arrived at the club, could have to wait until August for his competitive debut, reports Reuter.

Edmundo, nicknamed alternatively the "animal" or "bad boy", arrived in Rio to a hero's reception after his signing from Palmeiras on Thursday.

He met Rio Mayor Cesar Maia and was then taken on top of a fire engine through the streets of the city to Flamengo's ground, where he was presented to ecstatic fans.

A truck containing two elephants and a tiger, loaned by a local circus, followed the fire engine while Edmundo held a chimpanzee, dressed in a Flamengo shirt, in his arms. All were a reference to his nickname.

But once the euphoria had died down on Friday, directors began to discuss when the hugely gifted but volatile striker could make his debut.

He is theoretically barred from taking part in the Rio de Janeiro Championship, which is reaching its climax with five rounds of matches in the eight-team final stage left. Flamengo are level on points with Fluminense and Botafogo at the top.



SOC'ER OR SOMETHING: Players engage in an on-field-tussle to take control over the ball during yesterday's Beximco 13th Federation Cup match between Dhanmondi Club and Diganta Prashari of Rajshahi at the Dhaka Stadium. Diganta won by 2-0. — Star photo

Victoria stay on course

Sports Reporter



Victoria Sporting Club came from behind to stay on course with a 2-1 win over Abahani Kiria Chakra of Khulna in one of the two first round matches of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Dhaka First Division outfit, who went down fighting conceding a goal in the 68th minute, bounced back into the game when their substitute Rahul struck the equaliser two minutes later.

A rejuvenated Victoria, then snatched the match-winner in the 75th minute. Selim after winning a ball on the edge of the box unleashed a powerful

left-footer that landed into the far post.

After the lack-lustre first half, both sides came up with more motivation with Abahani enjoying a slighter edge over their fancied opponent. And deservingly took the lead through Rana, who after receiving a pass inside the box fired into the net with a first time right-footer.

Rana, however, missed a golden opportunity earlier, when he shot the ball wide off the mark with Victoria custodian at his mercy.

Undaunted by the setback, Victoria came up firing all their four cylinders and mounted pressure for the equaliser with a wave of at-

tacks before Rahul, who came as a substitute of striker Angur, gave the final touch of a combined attack from close.

Selim then struck the crucial blow with a gem of a left-footer in the 75th minute to steer Victoria to the final from Group B.

Victoria will now have to wait for the winner of Rahmatganj MFS and Diganta Prashari to decide who to play in the eight-team final round.

Meanwhile, Diganta Prashari of Rajshahi recorded a comfortable 2-0 win over Dhanmondi Club in the first match of the day.

Rashidul gave the Rajshahi outfit a sixth minute lead before Biplob doubled the margin with a neat placing shot in the 26th minute.

They will now take on Rahmatganj, the First Division football league champions, in their next match on May 30.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Touch Club of Barisal vs Bangladesh Boys (4 pm)
Wari Club vs East End Club (6 pm).

7 lead nat'l chess board

Sports Reporter

Seven players with full points were jointly leading the table on completion of the third round of the national chess championship at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

The are — Abdullah al Rakib, Khandaker Kayes Hassan, Nasir Ahmed, Shahadat Hossain, Adnan Faisal, Enamul Hossain and Abul Kasem.

Meanwhile, ten players — Rezaul Huq, Saifuddin Labu, Enayet Hossain, Afroza Khanom, Badrul Alam, Anisuz-zaman, Akil Hossain, Shafiqul Islam, Ataur Rahman and Arman — were trailing the top seven with two-and-a-half points.



Action from yesterday's Transcom national schools championship match between Ahmed Bawani Academy and Harinal High School at the Hockey Stadium. Ahmed Bawani won the match by a solitary goal. — Star photo

Bailey puts Northants affirm

LONDON, May 27: Rob Bailey struck an unbeaten 95 — his top score of the season — to take leaders Northamptonshire to a strong position on the second day of the English county Championship match against Yorkshire at Sheffield on Friday, reports Reuter.

After dismissing Yorkshire for 250, Northants were in some trouble at 47 for three, particularly as captain Allan Lamb was struggling with a painful neck strain.

Bailey set himself to play a long innings on an improving pitch and he used up 187 balls in reaching his second half-century of the season.

He received admirable support from Kevin Curran in a fourth wicket stand of 74 in 27 overs.

David Capel then hurried to 72 — with 62 of his runs coming from a six and 15 boundaries. Bailey and Capel added 111 in 31 overs for the fifth wicket and at the close Northamptonshire were 262 for five.

Stuart Milburn, making his first home championship appearance, had a splendid new-ball burst of 10-5-6-2, removing both openers and returning to account for Curran.

But Yorkshire, who have won their first three county games in their best start since 1962, will be hard pressed to make it four from four when

play resumes today.

Big rivals Lancashire have also made a good start, but Tim Robinson led Nottinghamshire from the front with an unbeaten 130 at Liverpool.

The 36-year-old opener guided his side to 244 for five in reply to Lancashire's 309 all out before rain stopped play an hour early.

Peter Bowler's 176 for Somerset weighed heavily on Warwickshire as they set out to make 346 to avoid the follow-on.

Opener Andy Moles was bowled by Jason Kerr in the 11th over and Nick Knight (48 not out) was dropped behind the wicket as the champions laboured to 95 for one at the close.

Lankan WC cricket venues

COLOMBO, May 27: Three of the four 1996 World Cup cricket matches allotted to Sri Lanka will be played at Colombo, cricket board officials said Saturday, reports AP.

The fourth match will be played at Kandy, 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of the Sri Lankan capital, officials said.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka will play against Australia on Feb 17, against Zimbabwe on Feb 21 and against the West Indies on Feb 25.

Sri Lanka will take on Kenya in the last match at Kandy on March 6.

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are co-hosting the tournament. The World Cup will have 17 matches in India and 16 in Pakistan.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, England, the United Arab Emirates and Holland will participate in the championship starting next February.

Gavaskar Kapil's choice

RAJKOT, May 27: Former Indian captain and the world's highest Test wicket-taker, Kapil Dev, today expressed the view that Sunil Gavaskar would be the ideal man to replace Ajit Wadekar as India's cricket manager for the next season which encompasses the World Cup, reports PTI.

"He (Gavaskar) will be the best choice since he is young, energetic and vastly experienced. He is still fit enough to play with the current cricketers, which is an additional qualification for the job," Kapil Dev opined.

The former Test all rounder was on a visit to the city as member of the World Cup Technical Committee, who is also in the charge of certifying the suitability or otherwise of different Indian World Cup venues.

Maradona set to sign for Santos

BUENOS AIRES, May 27: Diego Maradona is likely to sign for Brazil's Santos despite unexpected offers from his old club Boca Juniors who only last week declared him *persona non grata*, reports Reuter.

Now Boca have publicly said they would welcome him back but it still seems more likely he will join Santos, a far cry today from the club that won the World Club Championship in 1962 and 1963, when Pele was playing for them.

"There's an 80 per cent chance that Maradona will accept the proposal from Brazil," said Maradona's personal manager Guillermo Coppola.

Maradona himself, speaking to Argentine news agency Telam from the Monaco Grand Prix, said he was unhappy at Boca president Antonio Alegre.

"It's terrible what the Boca managers have done. It really makes me mad that they say something official about me joining that club just when I'm in Europe. They didn't think like that a week ago."

Maradona says he is determined to play again in September at the end of the 15-month ban imposed on him for testing positive for drugs at the US World Cup.

He recently resigned as the coach of Deportivo Mandiyu who won just once in 12 matches under his control.

Rumours that he would join Santos, where he would wear the number 10 shirt once worn by the legendary Pele, have been circulating strongly for the last two weeks.

Australian Olympic body anxious

SYDNEY, May 27: Australia's top Olympic official has told a Sydney newspaper that the International Olympic Committee could take the 2000 Games away from Sydney if financial problems are not overcome, reports AP.

The Sun-Herald quoted Australian Olympic Committee John Coates as saying that International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch had expressed concern that the New South Wales state government is not fully behind the Games.

Last week, the new Labour government in the state said it was possible there could be an overrun of about US \$50 million dollars in the US 1.05 billion dollars budget for the Games.

Former premier John Fahey, whose Liberal party lost the state election in March, had been instrumental in getting the Games for Sydney.

The Sun-Herald quoted Coates as saying that IOC officials had warned that they had the contractual power to remove the Games from a host city.

England square one-day series Martin wrecks Windies



LONDON, May 27: Fast bowler Peter Martin burst onto the international scene with a spell of three wickets for five runs as England squared the one-day series against West Indies on Friday, reports Reuter.

Martin marked his England debut by dispatching Sherwin Campbell, Jimmy Adams and Brian Lara in his first four overs to help secure a 25-run win in the second limited overs game.

Lancashire paceman Martin, who attributes his improvement partly to coaching last year by former West Indies fast bowler Malcolm Marshall, ended with four for 44 and was named man-of-the-match.

Martin stole the spotlight following a record-breaking innings by England, who were put in at The Oval in ideal batting conditions.

Spurred by captain Michael Atherton (92), Graeme Hick (66) and Neil Fairbrother (61) not out, England piled up 306 for five in their 55 overs.

It was the highest-over score by any team against West Indies in a limited overs international, beating Pakistan's 294 for six off 50 overs in Sharjah in 1988.

to the pavilion but umpire Dickie Bird signalled for a television replay verdict in a superfluous gesture.

Hick's departure was followed soon after by that of Atherton, who drove outside a delivery from Winston Ben-

jamin that knocked back his middle stump.

England's captain battled with characteristic determination and was also positive enough to get his 92 in 118 deliveries, hitting 10 fours as he beat his previous international one-day best of 86.

Fairbrother masterminded the final onslaught with a blend of resourceful strokeplay

and nimble running between wickets, highlighted by a fifth wicket stand of 52 in 37 balls with Mark Ramprakash, who made 16.

The left-hander may not have succeeded at Test level but he again underlined what an accomplished batsman he is in limited overs cricket, hitting his 61 from 52 deliveries with a six and five fours.

West Indies' hopes were undermined by Martin's three-wicket burst in his first four overs as they slumped from 69 for one to 88 for four.

Bowling an effective line and achieving some swing, Martin had Campbell (20) caught from a skyed drive, Adams (2) lbw as he played to leg and then Lara for 39 as the left-hander drove loosely at a delivery that hit his off stump.

When Dominic Cork held a return catch from Richie Richardson (15) to continue the West Indian skippers' sequence of low scores, the touring team were 114 for five and with apparently no way back.

That they got to within 25 runs of England's total was due to Murray's one-day interna-

tional best of 86, struck off 77 balls with two sixes and six fours.

Martin, who admitted afterwards he had not expected to be chosen for the match, said: "I was just delighted to play, and did not have time to get nervous."

"When the other bowlers got hit around in the first five or six overs it helped to take the pressure of me when I came on."

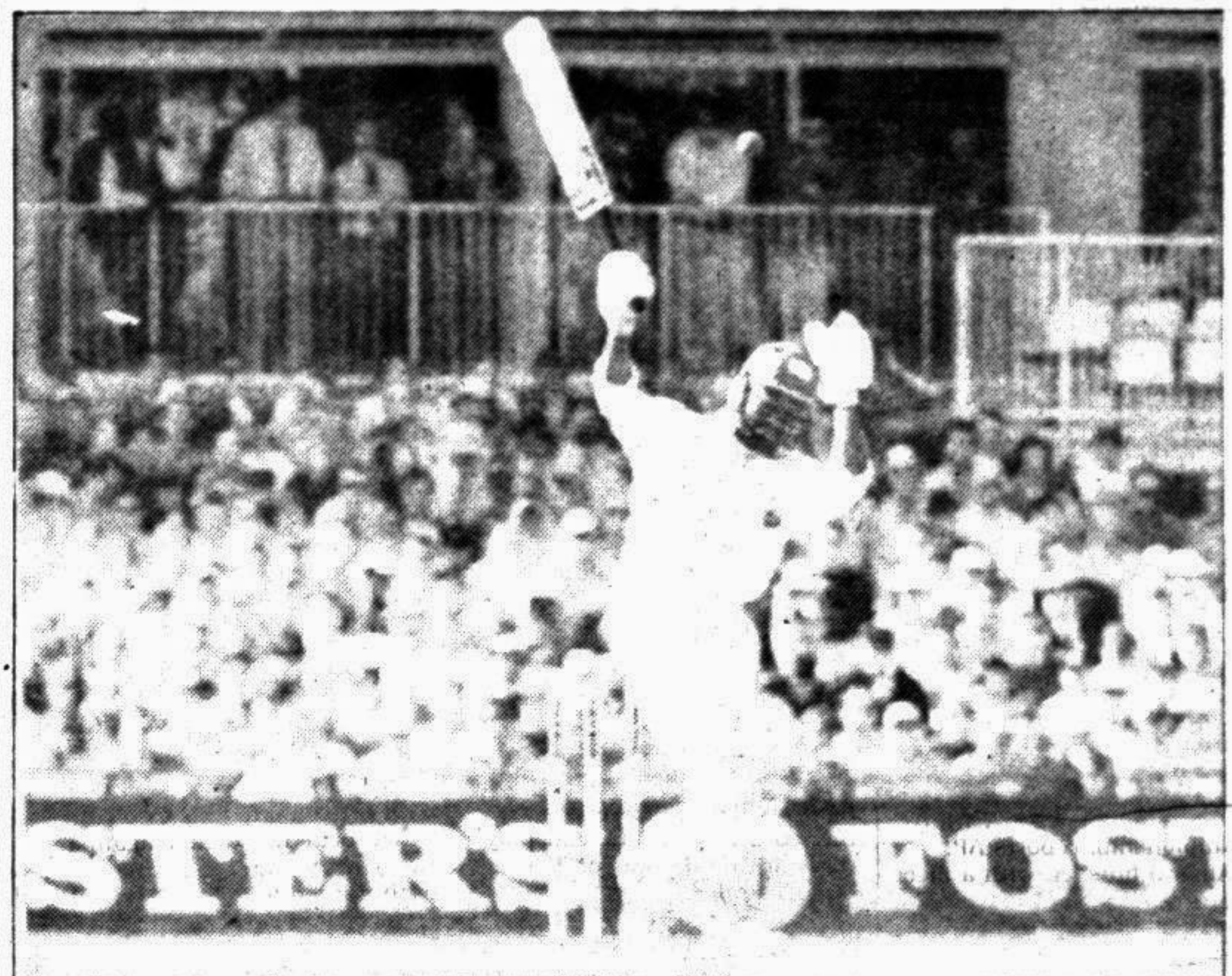
"Three quick wickets was great from a team point of view. It put us back in the driving seat."

Martin said Marshall's advice was essentially to hit the pitch as hard as possible and bowl flat out.

"I've also tried to redress my quiet body language and generally bowl more aggressively," he said.

"It's taken quite a long time for me to find out how to bowl to my best strengths."

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the second one-day (55 overs) cricket match between England and West Indies at The Oval on Friday:
ENGLAND
M Atherton b Benjamin 92
A Stewart c Murray b Bishop 16



West Indian star batsman Brian Lara pays the penalty of playing down the wrong line and the obvious impact was that he lost his wicket to England rookie Peter Martin during their second one-day international at The Oval on May 26. England won by 25 runs to level the three-match series 1-1. — AFP/UNB photo

England's run-spree, capped by Martin's story-book start, gave an added dimension to the 1,000th one-day international and set up a series decider in the third and final match at Lord's on Sunday.

England's assault on a depleted West Indian attack was built on a second-wicket partnership of 144 from 174 balls between Atherton and Hick.

With Courtney Walsh bowling only 5.2 overs before going off suffering from a lower back twinge, England made the most of 18 overs of spin from Carl Hooper and Keith Arthur-

therton, who conceded 116 runs between them.

Hick, who survived chances on 14 to Lara at first slip and on 41 to wicketkeeper Junior Murray, was eventually run out after hitting six fours in his 66 from 81 balls.

Non-striker Hick was thrown out by Hooper running round from short third man to gully, but there was a bizarre umpiring element to the dismissal.

The Worcestershire batsman, seeing he was well short of the crease when the wicket was broken, simply carried on

G Hick run out 66
G Thorpe run out 26
N Fairbrother not out 61
M Ramprakash c Adams b Hooper 16
D Gough not out 8
Extras: (lb-6, lb-5, w-7, nb-3) 21
Total: (for five wickets, innings closed) 306

Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-177; 3-188; 4-243; 5-296.
Did not bat: D Cork, P De-Freitas, S Udal, P Martin

Bowling
O M R W
Ambrose 10 1 47 0
Walsh 5.2 0 17 0
Bishop 11 0 60 1
W Benjamin 10.4 0 55 1
Arthurton 8 0 48 0
Hooper 10 0 68 1

WEST INDIES
C Hooper c Atherton b Gough 17
S Campbell c Thorpe b Martin 20
B Lara b Martin 39
J Adams lbw b Martin 2
R Richardson c b Cork 15
K Arthurton run out 39
J Murray run out 86
W Benjamin c Ramprakash b DeFreitas 17
I Bishop run out 18
C Ambrose b Martin 10
C Walsh not out 5
Extras: (lb-6, w-7) 13
Total: (53 overs) 281

Fall of wickets: 1-25; 2-69; 3-77; 4-88; 5-114; 6-166; 7-213; 8-261; 9-275.

Bowling
O M R W
Gough 11 0 61 1
DeFreitas 10 0 73 1
Cork 11 0 56 1
Udal 11 0 40 0
Martin 10 1 44 4

England and West Indies level at 1-1 in series.
Final match: Sunday, at Lord's.

Martin doubtful

LONDON, May 27: England fast bowling hero Peter Martin, who took four wickets on his international debut on Friday, is doubtful for Sunday's one-day series decider against West Indies at Lord's, reports Reuter.

Martin had treatment at Lord's but England's selectors are unlikely to take any chances with his fitness, particularly as the first Test against West Indies starts on June 8.

"We'll give him a fitness check in the morning," said England physiotherapist Dave Roberts.

Date in semis
STRASBOURG, France, May 27: Japanese players Kimiko Date and Yone Kamio gained the semifinals of the Strasbourg Open Friday with straight-set victories, reports AP.



Argentinian soccer star Diego Maradona accompanied by his wife arrived at a French hotel on May 26. They are visiting France to enjoy the Monaco Grand Prix. — AFP/UNB photo