

Sport

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the game of Table Tennis became popular simply because its name was changed to "Ping-Pong". James Gibb, co-founder of the Amateur Athletics Association, in the 1980s thought of a game to be played on wet days. Bats made of cigar-box lids and balls of champagne corks were used on the dining table of his house in Cradon, England. Later he had celluloid balls specially made from America. Wooden bats also came into use. Gibb decided to make money with his invention and in 1988 marketed the game as "Gossima". It did not sell well at all until he changed the name to "Ping-Pong"; it was successful overnight.

Next time you meet a boring chap, change his name; it might make things chirpier for both of you. Bye, bye long.

SPORTS TALK



Aravinda De Silva

(Pioneer of Sri Lanka cricket and a dazzling one-day batsman) "Earlier there used to be a lot of pressure on Arjuna (Ranatunga) and me because every thing depended on us ... now our batting has come good ... and I have realised I can go out and play my natural game."

(On the changing face of Lankan cricket)

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-24

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Feb 2, 1996)

- 1. The fielder opposite to mid-wicket across the pitch is Leg slip Cover Long-off
2. Boris - Becker Brown Boca
3. Australian Open Tennis Championship 1996 is hosted by the city of Sydney Canberra Melbourne
4. The World Cup Cricket 1996 opening ceremony will be held in Lahore Calcutta Colombo
5. Mohammedan SC are currently taking part in the IFA Shield Meridita Kohish-Jalbar

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter Following are the results of the Acme Second Division cricket matches held yesterday.

BRIEF SCORES

YOUNG PEGASUS 'A': 143 in 32.1 overs (Shams 34, Shahinoor 27, Sajal 2/12, Babble 2/21, Munna 2/30, Jewel 2/37). RUPALI BANK: 145 for five in 28.1 overs (Munna 75 not out, Sabuj 36, Moni 3/30, Shahinoor 2/17). Result: Rupali Bank won by five wickets. RAYER BAZAR: 52 in 16.5 overs (Shaju 13, Shakil Qasem 5/5, Milon 2/22). AZAD BOYS: 56 for no loss in 9.4 overs (Parvez 28, Mahboob 23). Result: Azad Boys won by 10 wickets. KAKRAIL BOYS: 115 in 35.3 overs (Hyder 18, Rana 3/21, Milton 3/31). YOUNG PEGASUS 'B': 119 for six in 32.1 overs (Rana 35, Milton 17 not out; Hyder 2/20). Result: Young Pegasus 'B' won by four wickets.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Jan 31: Jordan Road SKP registered a two-wicket victory over Meghdut KC in First Division cricket league at the local stadium today.

Put into bat Meghdut scored 161 for six in the stipulated 45 overs Moni smashed 52. In reply Jordan Road SKP collected a total of 163 for the loss of 8 wickets in 42.5 overs. Babu hit 73 runs off 101 balls for his side.

Bagan dwindle in acid test

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

KALABAGAN KC: 235 in 50 overs (Faruque 70, Shahid Sayeed 38, Wahidul 29, Sujon 4/32). MOHAMMEDAN SC: 238/6 in 49.2 overs (Nadeem Younus 72, Bulbul 65 n.o., Shahed Mehmud 31 n.o.)

Skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul, going through a lean patch this season, returned to form at a very crucial stage to inspire joint-headers Mohammedans Sporting to a four-wicket win over formidable Kalabagan Kriya Chakra in a Premier cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The convincing victory may suggest an easy passage for Mohammedans against fellow title contenders Kalabagan in their penultimate league engagement of the first round. But things were quite different in the middle when Mohammedans, in reply to a fighting Kalabagan total, were left with an uphill task of scoring 40 runs from the last 24 deliveries.

Though the proposition may be, but Bulbul and the Pakistani Shahed Mehmud, were out to prove cricket as a game of glorious uncertainties, and plundered 20 runs from the 47th over of off-spinner Saidul Islam Effe, to steal the match from Kalabagan's grip.

For Kalabagan skipper Faruque Ahmed, who had done so well to tighten the noose on Mohammedans by handling the bowlers with great aplomb, suddenly found the going wrong when he handed the ball to a seasoned campaigner Effe.

His decision to bank on experience back fired as Shahed Mehmud, who was waiting for the introduction of spin, hit the first ball over the bowler for a four and then danced down the wicket for a massive sixer in the next delivery. Bulbul, the dark and dapper national all-rounder, then played the fourth delivery from a beleaguered Effe for another towering sixer that landed on the eastern gallery to complete his half century and reap a rich harvest of runs for his side.

Bulbul and Shahed Mehmud, who put on 57 runs for the undefeated sixth wicket to propel their side to an improbable victory, then garnered 17 runs from the next two overs leaving Mohammedans only three runs short of the victory target from the last six deliveries.

The Mohammedan skipper, who remained unbeaten on a chancy 70-ball 65 including five fours and a six, took a single from the first ball of Sharfudowla-ibne Shaheed Saikat while Shahed Mehmud, who played the perfect foil at the other end with a breezy 31 off only 20 deliveries embellished with three 4's and one sixer, lifted the ball over a hedge of close Kalabagan fielders for the winning run from a four - 138 for six in 49.2 overs.

For Kalabagan, they must rue their bizarre fielding for letting the match slip away when an otherwise reliable Saiul Islam, the national right-arm seamer, dropped Bulbul at long-on while the stout middle-order bat was on only three and Mohammedans were limping on 115 for three in the 30th over.

Besides, Effe, who later felt the wrath of Mehmud, dropped his predator at mid-wicket when the Pakistan leg-spinner was on only two. Earlier, sent in the bat in the morning the Kalabagan innings was built around a brilliant half-century from Faruque Ahmed and a quick-fire 38 by Pakistani right-handed bat Shahid Sayeed.

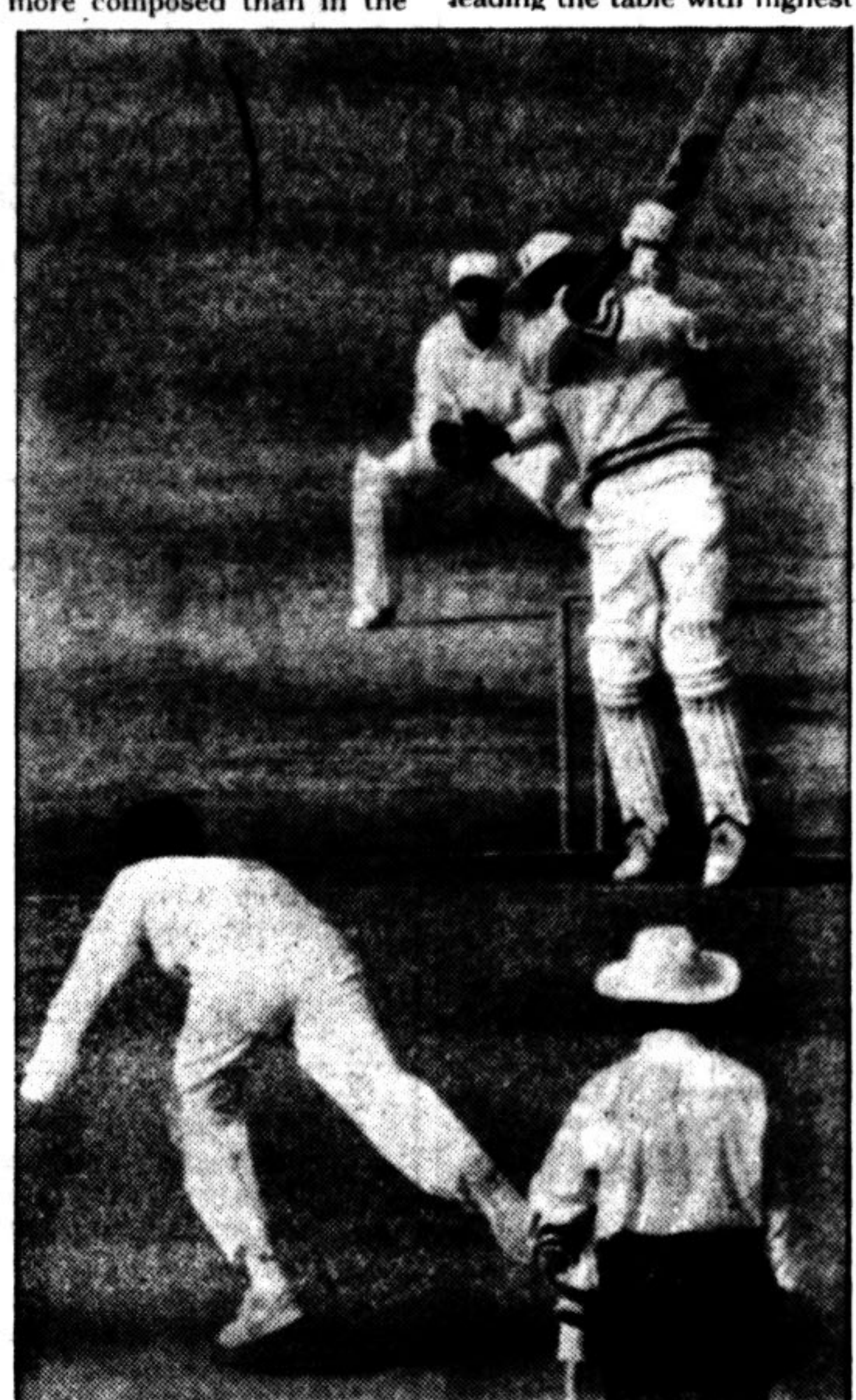
Faruque, who had earlier scored a dazzling 74 against Abahani, once again played the pivotal role for a fighting Kalabagan total with a well-made 70 off 108 balls. The former national skipper, who is in fine nick with the willow and is almost certain to claim a place in the national team, cracked seven sparkling hits to the fence in his patient knock before his Mohammedan counterpart Bulbul had him caught brilliantly by Nannu at mid-wicket.

Shahid Sayeed, who settled the Kalabagan innings into a groove sharing 65 runs for the fourth wicket with Faruque, hammered a massive sixer and four savage hits to the rope in his whirlwind 20-ball stay at the grease before the Pakistani, indisposed on the day, fell to his compatriot Shahed Mehmud in the 36th over leaving his side comfortably poised at 158 for four.

After the departure of Shahid, the highest individual scorer in the league with more than five hundred runs, Saiful joined force with Faruque to share 32 runs for the fifth wicket before both were dismissed by Bulbul in successive overs evaporating Kalabagan's hopes of a 250-plus score. Wahidul, who was dropped down in the batting order, however, provided pace in the slog overs scoring 29 runs off 26 balls as Kalabagan crossed the 200-mark. Among the Mohammedan bowlers Khaled Mahmud Sujon returned most successful

with four for 32 in his ten economic overs followed by skipper Bulbul, who with his off-spin, claimed two for 24 in his five overs. In reply, Mohammedans made a flying start with their Pakistani right-handed opener Nadeem Younus hammering a washbuckling 72 off 83 deliveries. The tall Pakistani, who is more composed than in the

chipped in with a sedate 17 off 40 balls, Nannu, the celebrated national middle-order bat, fell for two and when Sujon (2) followed Nannu in the next over, Mohammedans found themselves in deep trouble, proved as momentary later by Bulbul. It was Mohammedans ninth win from ten matches in the league. They are now leading the table with highest



CATCH IT! Amin Abbas plots the end of Nadim Yunus as wicketkeeper Atiar prepares to glove in the deflection. - Star photo

last season, clouted 10 savage boundaries in his polished knock before falling to compatriot Aamim Abbas in the 27th over with Mohammedans comfortably poised at 107 for two. With the dismissal of Nadeem Younus, Mohammedans suffered a dramatic collapse losing their next three wickets with the addition of only 16 runs to the total. One down Selim Shahed

MCC arrive Feb 2

Sports Reporter

A selection of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the most traditional cricket club in the world, is scheduled to arrive in the capital tomorrow for a nineteen-day tour of the country. This was announced by Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) officials at a press briefing last evening.

The outfit representing the prestigious club, at one time the supreme authority of the game, will play five one-day matches against different local selections and a four-day game against the Bangladesh national side at different venues around the country during their stay.

The first match of the tour will be a one-dayer against the Bangladesh 'A' team - a second string national eleven - at the Dhaka Stadium on February 5, followed by a game against the Bangladesh youth team at Sylhet on February 7.

The English selection will play their next two one-day games against the national team at Dhaka and Rajshahi on February 9 and 11.

The last one-day, again against the national team, is scheduled to be held at Chittagong on February 13. But the Chittagong Jila Kriya Parishad (CJPK) is yet to confirm their ability to stage the match. If the CJPK declines, the game will be held at Dhaka.

The four-day match - a rare yet much-needed commodity in local cricket - between MCC and Bangladesh is scheduled to be held from February 16 to 19.

The BCCB has estimated a budget of Taka 17 lakh in expenses for the entire tour. The amount excludes the airfare which will be borne by the MCC.

The last time an MCC outfit toured Bangladesh was in the 1980-81 season. The legendary club - the original rule layers of the modern game - also sent touring sides in 1976-77 and in 1978-79.

Yamaha Div 1 cricket

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Club defeated Bangladesh Boys Club by 73 runs in the Yamaha First Division cricket league at the City Club Ground in Mirpur yesterday. Batting first, Dhanmondi notched up 204 runs for the loss of nine wickets in the stipulated 45 overs. In reply, Boys could only scramble to 131 before being bundled out in 34.5 overs.

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BRIEF SCORES

DHANMONDI CLUB: 204 for nine in 45 overs (Anisul 45, Nazir 36, Nakib 31; Torey 3/51, Sayeed 2/33). BANGLADESH BOYS: 131 in 34.5 overs (Pavel 30, Torey 22; Nakib 3/16, 2/17).

Kiwis' World Cup break in Dhaka

Sports Reporter

The local cricketing area will get a rare taste of top-level international cricket when the New Zealand national team visits the capital for a brief tour early next month. This was announced at a press conference by the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) officials last evening.

According to the BCCB, the Kiwi team, which will be participating in the sixth World Cup to be jointly held in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, has agreed to play two matches against Bangladesh in Dhaka after the completion of their five first round engagements in the quadrennial one-day event.

In this respect, they are scheduled to arrive in the capital on February 29, their last Group-B match being on February 27 against the UAE at Faisalabad.

The two one-day matches between Bangladesh and New Zealand will be held on March 1 and 2 at the Dhaka Stadium.

Notably, the Kiwis were scheduled to visit Dhaka at the end of their Indian tour in November last but cancelled the trip at the last moment as they rushed back for a home series against Pakistan.

Wanderers halt Gulshan run

Sports Reporter

GULSHAN YOUTH: 186 in 49.1 overs (Mabitra 56; Sagir Abbas 6/49). DHAKA WANDERERS: 190 for 5 in 45.2 overs (Munirul 77, Sagir Abbas 39 not out; Al-Amin 2/33)

Dhaka Wanderers Club put the three-match winning streak of Gulshan Youth to a sudden halt when they defeated their suburban adversaries by five wickets at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The Premiership encounter, bearing no relevance to the on-going battle for a super league place, saw two bottom-of-the-table teams fight it out for two valuable points, vital for their existence in the top flight of local cricket.

Wanderers ran away with the victory as the better side on the day by scoring 190 for 5 in 45.2 overs in reply to Gulshan's total of 186 all out in 49.1 overs.

The difference between the two sides was definitely the presence of the Pakistani duo of Sagir Abbas and Munirul Huq in the Wanderers ranks.

Sagir, a medium pacer, returned with devastating figures of six for 49 from his ten overs to be the pick of the Wanderers bowlers who put in an impressive show.

Munirul, in his turn, scored a steady 77 from 101 balls (4x9). Sagir also chipped in with a useful unbeaten 39.

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Fleming fixes Kiwi fate

WELLINGTON, Jan 31: A classy 70 by left-hander Stephen Fleming guided New Zealand to a comfortable six-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the second one-day international at the Basin Reserve today, reports Reuter.

The win gives New Zealand an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series after Sunday's 74-run victory in Auckland. New Zealand's win was achieved on the back of some superb bowling and four direct hits for run outs as Zimbabwe reached only 181 for nine in their 50 overs after opting to bat first.

The hosts posted the winning runs with more than 10 overs to spare. The third umpire played a major role in the Zimbabwe innings, with key batsmen Guy Whittall and Grant Flower falling to direct hits for which the camera was needed.

Two other direct hits by Danny Morrison and Robert Kennedy completed a good day in the field for the Kiwis. Medium pacer Gavin Larsen returned figures of one for 14 from 10 overs, with five maidens - the sixth best on the list of most economical figures for a New Zealander in a one-day international.

Seam bowler Dion Nash finished with career-best figures of three for 30 from his 10 overs, while Morrison took one for 37.

New Zealand, needing to score at 3.64 runs per over, cruised steadily at about 4.5 runs per over. Fleming's innings was a mixture of excellent timing - especially through the covers - and good luck with a few edges flying to the boundary. His seventh one-day half-century took 78 balls and his innings included nine boundaries.

The last match in the series is in Napier on Saturday.



FLEMING ... 70

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between New Zealand and Zimbabwe at the Basin Reserve today.

Table with columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes players like G Flower, C Evans, G Whittall, A Flower, A Campbell, S Davies, S Carisle, H Strang, P Strang, B Strang, Extras, Total, Fall of wickets, Bowling, O M R W.

Result: New Zealand won by six wickets. New Zealand lead series 2-0.

Date dumped in Round 2

TOKYO, Jan 31: Defending champion Kimiko Date of Japan fell in the second round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open Wednesday, succumbing to compatriot Naoko Sawamatsu in the day's biggest upset, reports AP.

Sawamatsu, the world's 21st-ranked woman, ousted world No 6 Date, who is seeded fourth in the 326-250 tournament, in three sets, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

The 25-year-old Date had just had her World Tennis Association ranking lowered from No 5 after she lost to fellow Japanese Mana Endo in the second round of the Australian Open.

Playing on the synthetic surface at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, Date gave a lackluster performance littered with double faults and unforced errors in the first set, allowing Sawamatsu to break her serve at 5-6.

But in the second set, Date appeared to have regained her form with good shots and volleys at important moments. During the break, however, Date consulted with a tournament official, went out of the court for a while and came back with taping on her left thigh.

Date again lost control in the final set and was late for many balls. "I didn't know about her (Date's) injury until the beginning of the third set," a jubilant Sawamatsu said. "Anyway, I just tried to return the ball low and deep into the other side of the net, trying to forget that I was playing against Date."

Date is the top star in this emerging tennis power. She was the first Japanese player, male or female, to break into the world's top 10.

"I got the injury during the tournament in Sydney, but it didn't bother me much until today's match," Date said. "I now is aching each time I move my left leg."

The Peters International in Sydney, another major tournament, was held earlier this year before the Australian Open.

In another second-round match Wednesday, second seed Conchita Martinez of Spain outclassed unseeded Kyoko Nagatsuka of Japan 6-

3, 6-0. In first-round matches that ended Wednesday, fifth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria breezed past unseeded Mariaea de Swardt of South Africa 6-3, 6-2, while American Lindsay Davenport, the No 8 seed, defeated qualifier Naoko Kijimuta of Japan 6-7 (7-9), 6-4, 6-2.

First-round winners and higher-seeded players who won byes into the second round included No 1 seed Monica Seles of the United States, who just won her fourth Australian Open women's singles title, third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, and unseeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland, who eliminated sixth seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in an opening-day upset Tuesday.

Seles' joint world No 1 player, Steffi Graf of Germany, who withdrew from the Australian Open following surgery on Dec 15 to remove bone splinters from her left foot, is also sitting out this tournament.

The 13th annual Pan Pacific Open will continue through Sunday.

Alien game gets ahead

SHANGHAI, China, Jan 31: This week's inaugural men's \$328,000 US dollars Shanghai Open is proof that getting tennis off the ground as a spectator sport in China is a long-term project, reports AFP.

It is being staged without a title sponsor at the Hong Kong Gymnasium in China's most populous city and is a good example of the long march facing promoters keen for tennis to take off in a country with almost no tradition in the western-dominated game.

Officials from sports corporation of Hong Kong - a subsidiary of the Murdoch media empire - and the ATP Tour, sanctioning body of the men's professional game around the world, are writing off this week in Shanghai as a multi-million-dollar investment in the future.

But they hope the event and another they run in Beijing in October will pay dividends down the road.

"It's like eating Chinese food for the first time," said Sport Corp head Marcus Stapleton. "You've got to try it first to see if you like it. That's what we're hoping Chinese audiences will do at these tournaments."

Promoting a sleek, sophisticated sport in a nation of one billion souls whose main daily goal is getting ahead economically, is an uphill battle. "Some players are reluctant to come since it's just after the (Australian) Open," said ATP Tour tournament supervisor Ed Hardisty. "Down in Australia it's summer, it's warm and people have the holiday time to come out and see the tennis."

"Here is Shanghai, it's now the cold of winter and people are working," Hardisty, a Hong Kong-based travelling official for the tour, said "China is on a learning curve. Perhaps they have actually tried to walk before they can run. Maybe it would have been wiser to stage more challenger (ATP Tour entry) level events first."

"But the Beijing event, which began in 1993, has experienced steady spectator growth, due a lot to Michael Chang."

The American player of Chinese extraction has always had a high profile in Asia. He did himself no harm in the region last weekend when he played the Australian Open final in Melbourne, losing to Boris Becker.

Chang, the current world no. 5, is not playing in Shanghai, but has been a consistent crowd-puller in Beijing, where he has won the tournament there all three times it has been held.

"The gym in Beijing sells out every match that he plays," said Hardisty. "There are always 4-5,000 people watching."

Stapleton, the promoter and tournament director for both China events agrees. "It will be very interesting to see how much influence not having Chang will have on an event in China."

One major worry for tournament sponsors around the world is sponsorship. Sponsors bring in the money to attract top player fields, who in turn bring in the fans who learn more about the game and get excited over the new experience.



Patrick Blondeau (L) of Monaco arrests the charge of Lyon's Franck Gava during their French League Cup quarterfinal in Lyon on Jan 30. - AFP/UNB photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Columbus' starting point, 6 Bit of a tale, 9 Diagrace, 12 ...know and -, 19 Enslaved, 14 Literary collection, 15 Artist-ocratic, 16 Karloff's portrayal, 18 Icon, 20 Com concoction, 21 Do Shake-speare, 22 Old French coin, 24 Suggestions, 25 Wishes undone, 27 Michaelmas daisy, 29 'Jeepers, Creepers' lyricist, 31 Demos-thenes, e.g., 35 Bygone, 37 Naught, to home, 38 Afghan-istan's capital, 41 Singer, 43 Help, 44 Skunk's defense, 45 Hickory nuts, 47 Cock, 48 Fe birth, 52 Stammer-ing sounds, 53 Sitch, 54 Phantom's ballwick, 55 Plimsire, 56 Morfy, 57 E.T.'s, 19 Get on, 21 Prepare for a skirmish, 22 Rotation, stick, 24 Von wench, 26 Tends dirt pots, 28 Invigorant, 30 90-degree angle, 32 Wedding gift, all too often, 33 Egg, 34 Embarr-assed, 36 Turns inside-out, 38 "M*A*S*H" locale, 39 Embellish, 40 Support, 42 Boast for, 43 Squirrely, 45 Sphagnum byproduct, 46 California wine valley, 48 Numerical prefix, 49 Museum stuff, 51 -di-dah



CRYPTOQUIP

SEJ C SJM CEY KA AKCJCKTD, JDYU CJKQPA? JT PQU MYS JTU MYS. Yesterday's Cryptogram: DON'T COME TO CONFUSE THE WELL-FED LION WITH A STUFFED ANIMAL. Today's Cryptogram clue: S equals W. The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.