

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT, although many of you... all right I thought baseball was similar to softball...

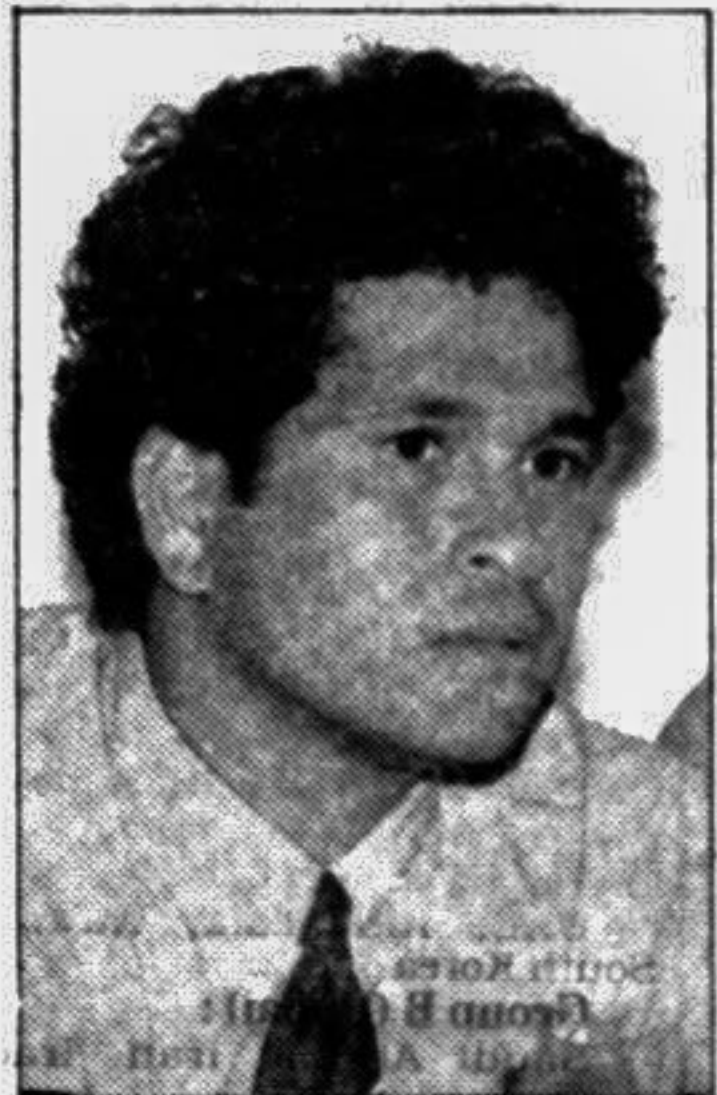
A softball, made of a silky fibre called kapok, is larger than the regulation baseball...

The bat used in softball may not be more than 34 inches in length...

Softball has three major classifications: fast-pitch, slow-pitch (which is especially popular in the American Midwest)...

Several aspects of softball's rules of play also differ from baseball. First, pitching in softball is underhand...

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar

(Indian cricket captain) (Batsman like Boycott and Gavaskar would always play cautiously, the same cannot be expected of the likes of Azharuddin and Vivian Richards who always go for their shots.)

(Disagreeing with a surprising questioner that Azharuddin who scored 109 and 52 in Calcutta Test against South Africa, had got out to rash shots.)

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-58

Tick the Correct Answers

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for the Whizz Kid competition.

Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone (if any) fields.

TODAY'S MATCHES

- List of Premier Division cricket league matches: Abahani vs Victoria SC, Biman vs Gulshan Youth, etc.

Sanwar MSC's saviour

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club began their campaign for retaining the Premier cricket league title with a shaky five-wicket win over promotes Lalmatia Club...

The holders, smarting under their debacles in two warm-up tournaments before the league including the season's curtain-raiser, the Damal Smriti tournament, seemed to have hardly any...

BRIEF SCORES

LALMATIA CLUB: 162/7 in 50 overs (Amir Uddin 46, Shovon 22, Nahid 21 n.o., Shanto 2/30, Sanwar 2/36) MOHAMMEDAN SC: 166/5 in 48.5 overs (Sanwar 51 n.o., Shipon 38, Bulbul 27, Nahid 2/28) Result: Mohammedan won the match by five wickets.

covered from disappointing spell when, facing a modest Lalmatia total of 162 in their share of 50 overs, lost half of their wickets with the scoreboard reading at 98 in 36.2 overs.

But thanks to a brilliant unbeaten half-century from Sanwar Hossain as Mohammedans reached home and dry with only seven balls to spare.

Sanwar, who came into bat at number six with all the recognised batsmen of the star-studded Mohammedan line-up returned to the dressing room, almost single-handedly guided his side to victory with a polished 51.

The lithe right-hander, who joined Mohammedans this year, in his 65-ball vigil at the crease featured in two vital partnerships to stymie a kicking Lalmatia.

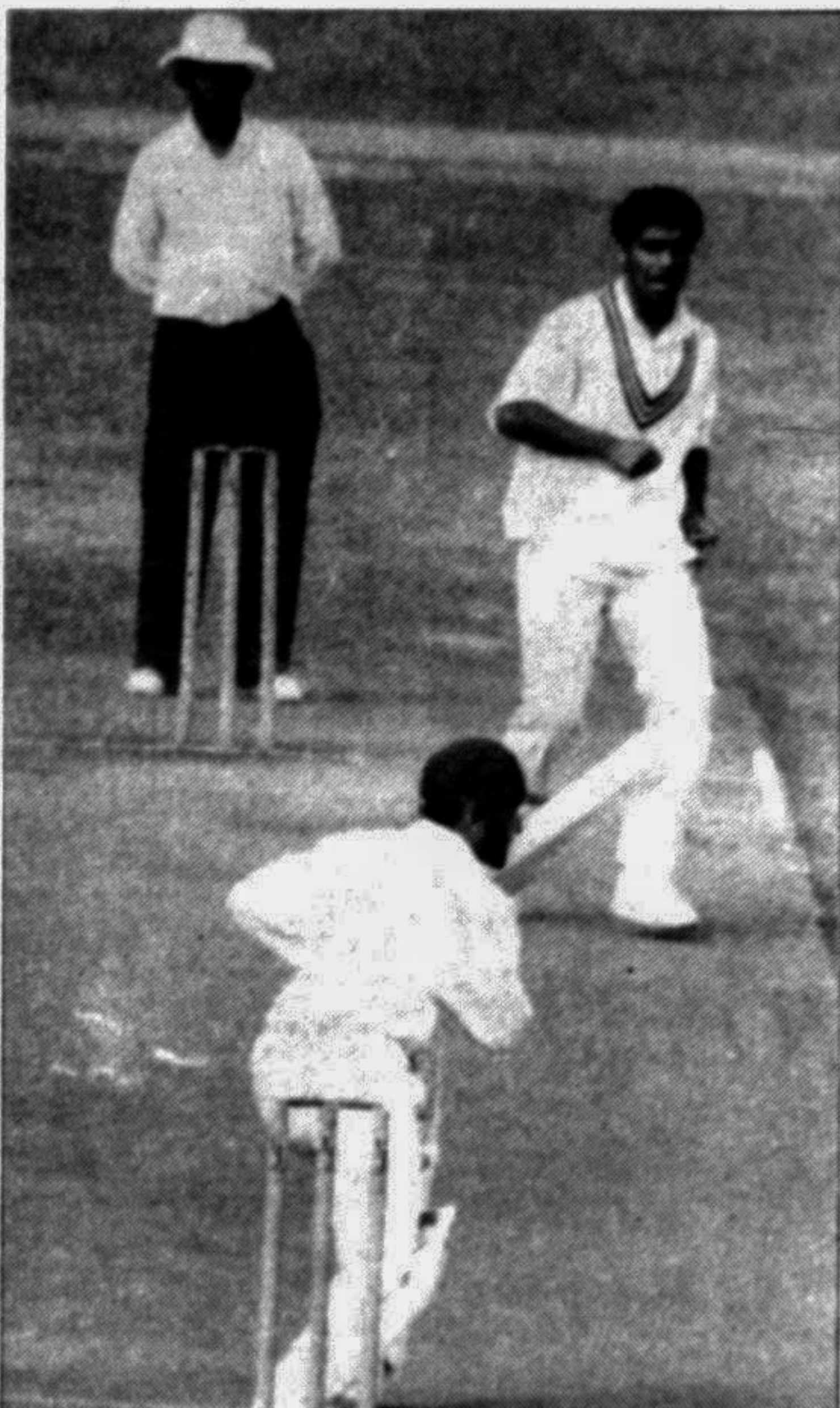
He shared some 30 odd runs with Sujon before the latter retired hurt after scoring only eight. Sujon, who injured his hamstring while taking a cheeky single, was carried off the ground much to the horror of a moribund Mohammedan team.

After the departure of Sujon, Sanwar, who had earlier did one better with the cherry, then propelled his side to victory without further damage mustering the required runs with left-hander Mustadr Litu who remained unbeaten on a 15-ball 13.

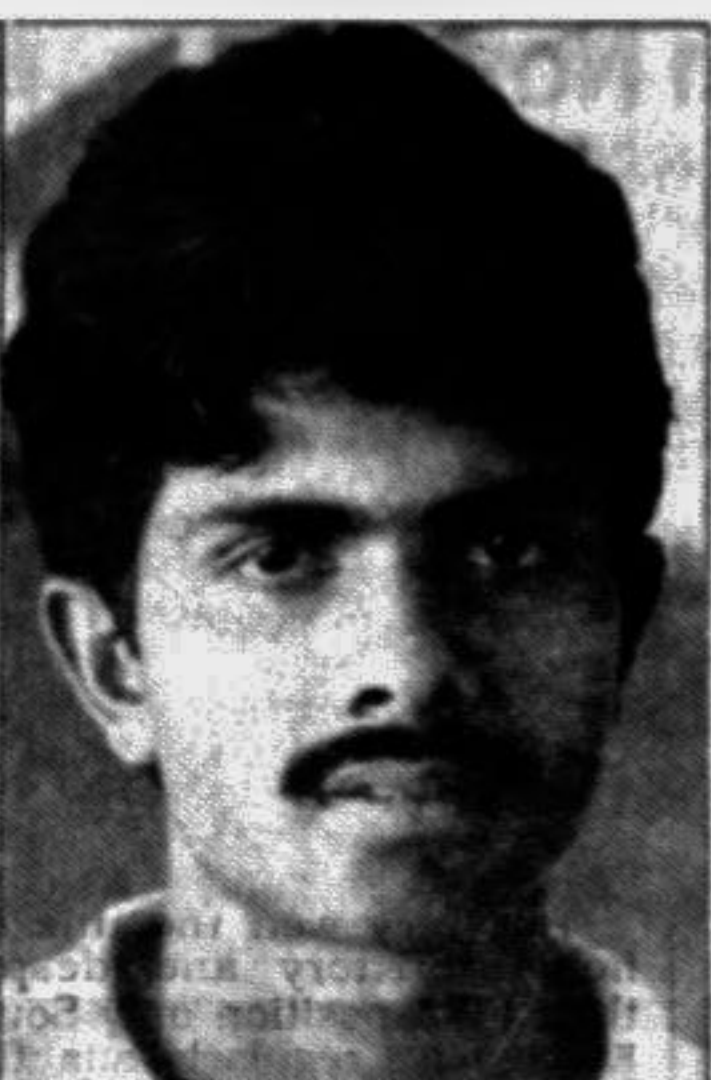
But it was Sanwar, undoubtedly the unofficial man-of-the-match, cracked four off Lalmatia's new-ball bowler Korshed Alam in the penultimate over to collect the winning run and as well as to celebrate his match-winning half century.

Sanwar, an useful off-spinner, was also in the thick of things while restricting Lalmatia to a modest total scalping two for 36 runs.

His two wickets in space of four deliveries has effectively dashed Lalmatia's hopes of a late thunder when former na-



Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon, the one-down Mohammedan batsman, square cuts during their league opener against Lalmatia at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



SANWAR... allround show-tional opener Shanto and Korshed were dismissed in the 48th over.

Earlier, a gritty 46 off 93-balls from Pakistani Amir Uddin and a patient 22 by skipper Shovon helped Lalmatia cross the 100 mark against some accurate bowling from Shanto and Nannu, who conceded only 23 runs in his ten napping overs to bag one wicket.

But Mohammedans, facing a simple task of scoring a little more than 3 runs per over, got off to a disastrous start, losing both of their openers after garnering 13 runs on the board.

C'wealth chess begins today

CALCUTTA, Dec 3: A host of top ranked chess players of the world, including six Grand Masters, will vie for top honours in the Commonwealth Open Chess championship to be held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here from December 4 to 14, reports PTI.

This is the first time that the championship is being held in India.

Dibyendu Baruah (India), Niaz Murshed (Bangladesh), Kevin Spragget (Canada), Tony Kosten (England), James Plunkett (England) and Collin McNab (Scotland) were the six Grand Masters who have confirmed participation in the prize money championship.

Apart from the Grand Masters, as many as nine International Masters five International Women Masters will take part in the championship organised by the West Bengal Chess Association under the aegis of Commonwealth Chess Association.

More than 40 players from nine countries have confirmed participation in the meet to be played in the FIDE Swiss League system, accorded to the organizers.

The winner will be richer by Rs 1,08,000, while there will be a separate cash award of 18,000 for the champion in the women's section.

Pravin Thipsay, Lanka Ravi, D V Prasad, R B Ramesh, P Konguvel, Ziaur Rahman, K Murugan and Watu Kobese were among the International Masters who have confirmed participation.

Pak-NZ first one-dayer today

Sports Reporter

Pakistan take on visiting New Zealand in the opening one-day international of the three-match cricket series at the Gujranwala today.

Pakistan, who levelled the two-match Test series on Dec 1 after having lost the first Test in Lahore, are expected to be without their skipper Wasim Akram who missed both the Tests due to nagging shoulder.

With rookie fast bowler Mohammad Zahid, who set a Pakistani record by scalping 11 wickets in his debut Test in Rawalpindi, the hosts are likely to field yet again a bunch of fresh bloods in their famed pace line-up.

England 175/9

HARARE, Dec 3: England were 175 for nine when bad light forced an early closure on the opening day of their four-day match against a Zimbabwean side Mashonaland at Harare Sports Club today, reports Reuter.

ACME-BBSF snooker

Sajjad wins a slugfest

Syed M Sajjad, the Bangladesh national junior champion won his 2nd match against U Win Myint of Myanmar in an exciting encounter in the first session of ACME-BBSF President Cup snooker championship at the Gulshan Club Billiards Room yesterday, says a press release.

After losing the first two frames, Sajjad changed his strategy and took next four frames to win the match 4-2 (24-51, 39-69, 74-24, 61-31, 41-31 and 48-28). U Kyi Soe of Myanmar won 4-0 (56-19, 69-36, 68-40 and 49-47) against K P Akbar Ali of Bangladesh in the other match of the first session.

In the second session, Sunantha Boteju of Sri Lanka retained his supremacy to win 4-2 (40-77, 80-18, 55-73, 62-40, 92-8) against Weng Kok Wei of Malaysia with breaks of 58 and 62 in the 2nd & 6th frames.

In the other match, Sunantha's father, Henry Boteju lost to Kwan Poomjan of Thailand 0-4 (12-99, 44-80, 33-50 and 26-76). It may be mentioned here that Henry Boteju was the champion in the first BBSF President Cup snooker championship held in 1987 and the proud father of Sunantha Boteju, the current Sri Lanka No. 1 player.

In the third session, Saleh Mohammad of Pakistan produced some brilliant game of snooker to win 4-0 (88-18, 62-17, 66-16 and 80-35) with two 54 breaks in the first and fourth frames.

In the day's other match, Josephites swept aside Rangers Club scoring 63-34.

Purabi b'ball

Sports Reporter

Surid Sangha and Josephites won their respective Purabi Insurance First Division basketball league matches at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday.

In the first match, Surid Sangha recorded a 51-31 victory over Lalbagh Sporting Club. The winners led the first half 27-20.

In the day's other match, Josephites swept aside Rangers Club scoring 63-34.

Kalyani sports

Sports Reporter

Kalyani, special school of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation yesterday celebrated the 'Universal Disability Day' with its annual sports competition at the Dhaka University Stadium.

Hill gets into hot water

BOMBAY, India, Dec 3: Anthony Hill, who only recently returned from a four-month ban from international squash, faces the possibility of another after quitting his first round match with Egyptian Amir Wagis in the 105,000 US dollars Mahindra International on Monday, reports Reuter.

The eight-seeded Australian walked out when the referee awarded a penalty point against him at the start of the third game for throwing his racket.

"Aren't you've been going to give me a warning?" Hill demanded of New Zealand official Gavin Whyte. "No warning," said the referee, who was then given a contemptuous gesture with the racket as Hill stormed off.

The angry player had just enough composure to shake hands with his opponent who had already profited from Hill's fretfulness about the refereeing decisions and the irregular contour of one of the walls and had taken an unexpected two games lead.

The racket-throwing incident had happened on the last point of the second game in which Hill twice had game points to level the match 1-1 but had twice been fortunate not to

get a warning. Once he swore three times, adding: "It's impossible to play squash here, and once he whacked the ball hard at the glass back wall in line with the market and referee glared at them.

These incidents may well have influenced Whyte in his decision to penalise Hill for slinging his racket half the length of the court and into the glass wall after losing five points in a row from 14-12 up.

The New Zealander waited till the players had gone off court and returned for the start

DU cricket

Islamic History defeated the Education and Research Institute by 6 wickets in the inter-department cricket tournament at the Jagannath Hall ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Battling first, the Education and Research Institute were all out for 114 runs in 25.2 overs. Yasin scored highest 30 followed by Monir who made 13. Jewel and Sumon of Islamic History bagged four and two wickets respectively.

In reply, Islamic History reached their target hammering 115 runs for four wickets in 21.5 overs with Sumon scoring match highest 34. Rashid captured two wickets for the losers.

of the third game, and then announced to Hill that he was 1-0 down before even hitting a ball. The volatile Aussie then decided he had had enough.

Hill will have his behaviour reported to the Professional Squash Association (PSA), the players governing body which is likely to be considering also a report of his part in a controversial match with Pakistan's Zubair Jahan in last month's World Open in Karachi.

If he is deemed to have brought the game into disrepute, or to be guilty of aggravated behaviour, he is likely to accumulate enough disciplinary points in 1996 to get an automatic ban.

The incident led to the disqualification of the fourth-seeded Englishman Chris Walker, who was caught out by the shortening of the time schedule caused by the brevity of the Hill match.

Walker, a World Open semi-finalist last month, turned up late for his first round match with Pakistan's Zarak Jahan and now faces a 100 pounds (160 US dollars) fine from the PSA.

The third seeded former title holder Brett Martin also went out. The Australian, apparently suffering from knee problems, gained only 10 points from the Egyptian number four Omar El Borolossy.



A disabled kid aided by his mother makes an attempt to throw the ball into the basket during the annual sport of the Kalyani, a special school of the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation, at the Dhaka University Stadium yesterday.

Brothers off the mark

Sports Reporter

Wicketkeeper-batsman Jahangir Alam scored a gutsy half-century as last year's runners-up Brothers Union got off to a flying start in the Premier Division cricket league with a convincing seven-wicket victory over promotes Surja Tarun Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring affair, Jahangir, the former national opener who joined the Gopibagh

Club got off to a flying start in the Premier Division cricket league with a convincing seven-wicket victory over promotes Surja Tarun Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

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Gibbs gives 'em a horror

Sports Reporter

NAGPUR, India, Dec 3: Harschelle Gibbs scored a brilliant unbeaten 200 as South Africa rattled up 384 runs for the loss of five wickets by close on the first day of their three-day match against an India A selection today, reports Reuter.

Gibbs, 22, hit four sixes and 28 fours in an impressive display of attacking batsmanship as the home side toiled.

Gibbs, who opened the innings, put on 215 runs for the fifth wicket with Derek Crookes.

Crookes, who scored a patient 76 off 177 balls, was out when he miscued a lofted drive off paceman D Ganesh to Navjot Sidhu at mid-on. Wicketkeeper Dave Richardson was batting on 10 at close with Gibbs.

The first day's play provided valuable batting practice for the South Africans ahead of the third Test which starts in Kanpur on Sunday. India and South Africa have won one match each in the three-Test series.

The home side's bowlers would have disappointed the three Indian selectors watching the match as the South Africans hammered them at

only Ganesh, who hails

from the southern state of Karnataka, home of India's two

other Test pacers Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad, was promising as he picked up three wickets, two of them in the space of three balls.

He finished with figures of three for 69 of 23 overs.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa: First innings Cronje c Javeda b Bahutule 53 Gibbs not out 200

Commins c Kapoor b Sharma 22 Cullinan c Dharmani b Ganesh 11 McMillan c Dharmani b Ganesh 0 Crookes c Sidhu b Ganesh 76 Richardson not out 10 Extras: fb-8, nb-2, w-2 Total: (for five wickets) 384

Fall of wickets: 1-78; 2-123; 3-141; 4-141; 5-356.

To bat: L Klusener, N Boje, F de Villiers, P Adams

Bowling (to date) O M R W Ganesh 23 3 69 3 Sharma 16 2 84 1 Javeda 8 1 26 0 Kapoor 25 4 97 0 Bahutule 15 0 82 1 Sidhu 4 0 18 0

INDIA A: W Raman, N Sidhu, V Kambl, A Javeda, S Sarath, R Nayyar, P Dharmani, S Bahutule, A Kapoor, S Sharma, D Ganesh.

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Alex counts on Cantona

PARIS, Dec 3: Manchester United's quest for a second European trophy triumph handed by Alex Ferguson's men travel to Rapid Vienna for their final Champions' League Group C outing needing a win to book a quarterfinal place, reports AFP.

Successful home defeats against Fenerbahce — the first time the Red Devils' Old Trafford fortress had been breached in 40 years of European competition — and holders Juventus have left United clinging on as they bid to reach the knock-out phase for the first time.

A 2-0 triumph in Turkey six weeks ago looked to have sent the Premiership champions on their way, but a poor league run has pushed them down to fifth place, while those two Champions' League flops could now have catastrophic consequences.

Crucial to United's hopes is the form of French playmaker Eric Cantona, on target in Fenerbahce but who has failed to hit the target since.

With a place in the last eight worth around 3 million dollars to the club, United are desperate to see off Rapid, but they cannot expect a Viennese waltz with their Austrian playing for their battered pride as group wooden

spoonists. They also have a 2-0 defeat in Manchester to avenge.

Manager Ferguson will have one eye on developments in Turin, where Juventus play Fenerbahce. The Turks will qualify at United's expense if both Wednesday's games end in a draw.

Ferguson dismisses the theory that Juve will just go through the motions having already won the group. "I am confident Juventus will give it their all," he said.

"We must look for a win in Vienna and I am confident we will go through."

A bonus for United is the return of centre back Gary Pallister from injury.

But if United have their problems as they chase the trophy which has become their holy grail, they are by no means the only side whose hopes of European Cup glory rest on a knife edge.

AC Milan also have it all to prove as they welcome back former coach Arrigo Sacchi, who resigned Monday as coach of the Italian national side to return to the club whom he made European and World champions in 1989 and 1990.

Sacchi, hit by a barrage of criticism since Italy's Euro '96 flop, quit and immediately replaced Uruguayan Oscar Tabarez, who threw in the towel in Milan after Sunday's humil-

iating defeat by struggling Piacenza.

Milan, five times European champions, the last in 1994, face Rosenborg at the San Siro Stadium knowing they cannot afford a third Group D defeat if they are to make the quarterfinals as that would send the Norwegians through.

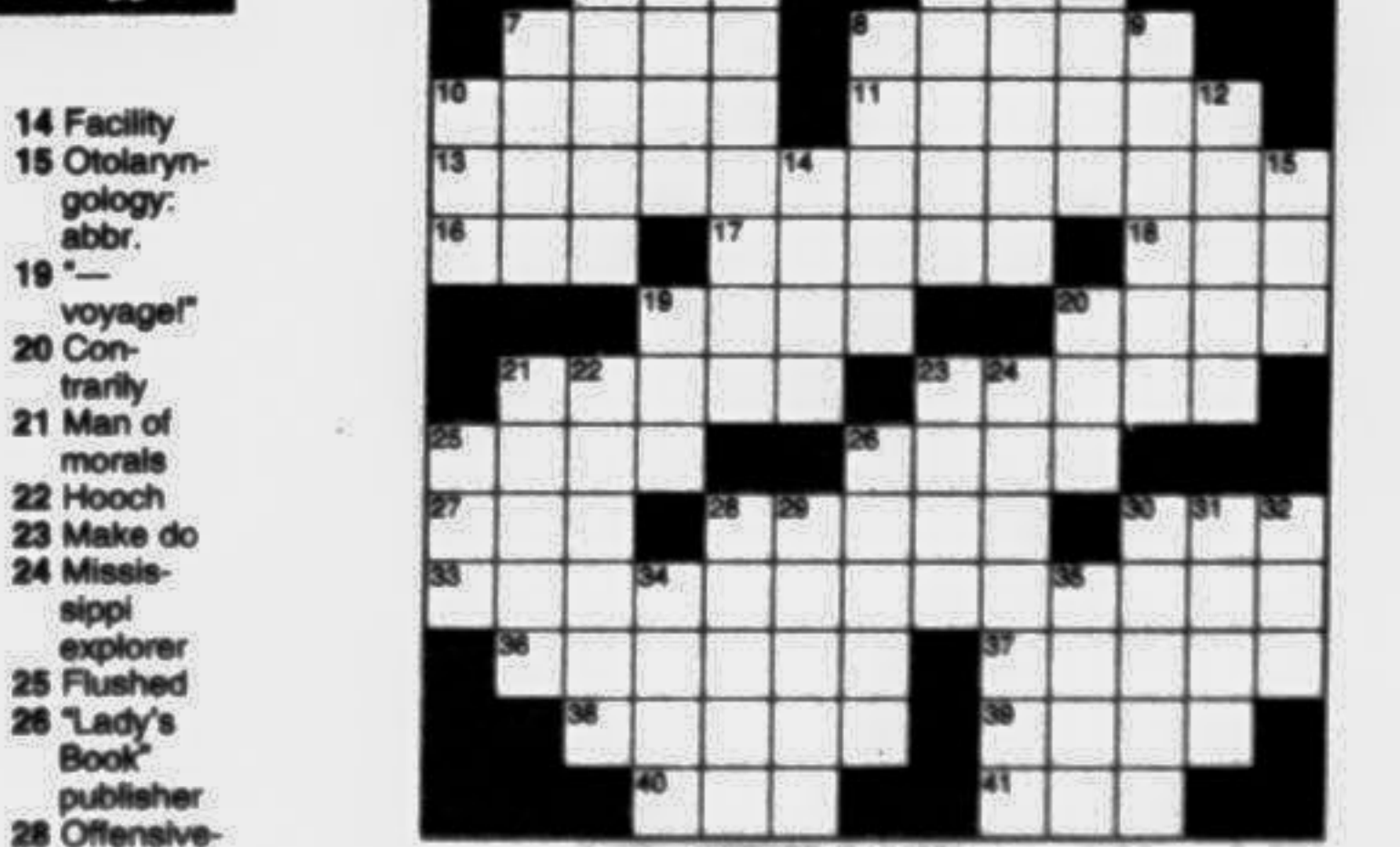
Sacchi's side will be short of Liberian striker George Weah, as the FIFA world player-of-the-year is suspended following his altercation with Porto captain Jorge Costa two weeks ago in Portugal.

Porto, who have already sewn up Group D, finish with a clash in Gothenburg.

Four-time European champions Ajax, like Milan, are in the doldrums having lost at home last month to Auxerre. The Dutch press slammed that performance as 'toothless'.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Half a sawbuck 4 Aviv lead-in 7 Jai - 8 Pigeons' extinct 10 Cousins 11 Charles of CBS news 13 Afternoon at the movies 16 White House mono-gram 17 Less risky 18 Took off 19 Gerahwin heroine 20 Bill's toe 21 Un-escorted 23 Lum-moxes 25 Jockey's handful 26 Capriotti 27 Attorney's abbr. 28 Feeds the hogs 30 24 hours 33 Deceptive lady... 36 Courts- 37 Sill 38 Card game 39 Kegler's place 40 Canton's farmer 41 Sela-mander all in - 42 1 Baking necessarily 9 Went bad 2 Short-long foot 3 'Naked' 12 Attracts gram Solution time: 22 mins. JOCK FIA PIARY OBOE AVE ASIA GILA VAGATION BIVALVE BRITIS GIBBY EUN PLANK OVATION OIL EWE GIRD ELIATION QUEER PLANK OVATION PLANK OVATION LIBATION EDNA EMIL ALO ALEUP DIATE NEIT SIABS 14 Facility 15 Otolaryngology: abbr. 19 - 20 voyage! 21 Con-trarily 21 Man of morals 22 Hooh 23 Make do 24 Missis-sippi explorer 25 Flushed 26 'Lady's Book' publisher 28 Offensiv-ly vile 29 - 30 Entertain You 30 Failed to 31 'Stop' writer 32 Candle count 34 Reason for eye-tears 35 Fall taller



CRYPTOQUIP BZGO TX OTPN JSSGZCSW FEW JDEGF JDZJ XNS MYSSQD YPNSVO BSZGM QZVVEGC QTVVSQJ. Yesterday's Cryptquip: I PRESUMED THE PIG'S VERY FAVORITE FAIRY TALE OF ALL IS HANSEL AND GRUNTEL. Today's Cryptquip clue: Q equals C. The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.