

AUSSIE OPEN
AT A GLANCE

MELBOURNE, Jan 20 (AP): Highlights of Monday's 8th day of the US dlr 7.6 million Australian Open tennis championships:

WEATHER — Very hot. Afternoon temperature was 104 degrees (40 C).

RESULTS — MEN'S SINGLES, FOURTH ROUND: No 1 Pete Sampras beat Dominik Hrbaty 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; No 3 Goran Ivanisevic beat Christian Ruud 4-6, 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 6-3, 6-3; No 5 Thomas Muster beat No 11 Jim Courier 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3; No 10 Albert Costa beat No 8 Wayne Ferreira 6-3, 6-2, 3-2 retired.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, FOURTH ROUND: No 4 Martina Hingis beat Ruxandra Dragomir 7-6, (8-6), 6-1; No 8 Inna Spirlea beat No 9 Karina Habsudova 6-4, 6-4; No 14 Mary Joe Fernandez beat Patty Schnyder 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; Dominique van Roost beat No 15 Chanda Rubin 7-5, 6-4.

STAT OF THE DAY — Ivanisevic served 38 aces in beating Ruud.

QUOTE OF THE DAY — "The conditions today were inhumane." — Van Roost on the oppressive heat during her win over Rubin.

Div I cricket
Sports Reporter

AJAX SC: 195 all out in 44.4 overs (Maqsood Raja 57, Khan 32, Raju 32, Shahnewaz 2/18).
AZAD SC: 171 all out in 41.2 overs (Rana 43, Nasim 36, Aslam 26, Lucky 3/24).
Result: Ajax SC won by 24 runs.

Ajax Sporting Club defeated Azad Sporting Club by 24 runs in a First Division cricket league match at the City Club ground yesterday.

Electing to bat first, Ajax were all out for 195 in 44.4 overs with Pakistani Maqsood Raja hammering highest 57.

In reply, Azad were bundled out for 171 in 41.2 overs. Rana (43) and Nasim (36) were the leading run getters for the losers.

England warm
up well

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 20: England's smooth progress towards this week's first cricket Test against New Zealand continued unimpeded today when they beat Northern Districts by 10 wickets with more than four sessions to spare, reports Reuters.

Northern Districts, who began the third day of the four-day match on 99 for one, were dismissed for 255, leaving England 35 to win, which opens Nick Knight and captain Mike Atherton got in 8.1 overs.

That gives England two first-class wins well inside the distance since their arrival in New Zealand, and Atherton admitted his pre-Test plans for the team had worked out ideally.

"I'm delighted with the way we've started the New Zealand tour," he said.

"... we've controlled them throughout, played good cricket and haven't really had a bad session."

Another piece in England's Test puzzle fell into place in the first hour today when fast medium bowler Darren Gough removed overnight batsmen Blair Pocock and Matthew Bell in an excellent seven-over spell.

Gough bowled Bell with the fourth ball of the day, without the batsman adding to his overnight 35.

Te then had Pocock leg before wicket, playing across the line, for 69.

Alan Mullally warmed up for the first Test with a useful return of four for 52, Gough finished with three for 51 and Chair White took two for 61.

England will travel to Auckland on Tuesday morning and have two days training before the first Test starts on Friday.

England's injured key fast bowler Dominic Cork said today he was hopeful of being fit for the first Test.

Cork damaged his lower back on Sunday while bowling against Northern Districts. An X-ray today showed no bone fracture and the injury was believed to be a soft-tissue problem.

Bergkamp
baffles Everton

LONDON, Jan 20: Dennis Bergkamp at his majestic best inspired Arsenal to a 3-1 win over Everton on Sunday as the North London side stepped up their challenge for the Premier league title, reports Reuters.

Bergkamp, who now begins a three-match suspension after being sent off against Sunderland, opened the scoring 10 minutes after the interval and two minutes later Frenchman Patrick Vieira put the home side further ahead.

Paul Merson scored Arsenal's third goal after Bergkamp stole the ball off Dave Watson at the halfway line. The Dutchman strode through the Everton defence and unleashed a thunderous shot which Neville Southall parried to Merson who tapped the ball in to an empty net.

Duncan Ferguson grabbed a goal in the last minute for Everton when he rose high above the Arsenal defenders and headed the ball past David Seaman.

Arsenal now have 43 points, three behind leaders Liverpool and one adrift of second-placed Manchester United.

Brothers bring Bagan down

Sports Reporter



Saifullah Gem's accurate left-arm spin brought Kalabagan down to earth as Brothers Union handed the league leaders 42-run defeat in a Premier cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The Brothers twacker, bowling in accurate line and length, consumed half of the opponent wickets as Kalabagan, facing an uphill task of scoring 250 runs in the stipulated 50 overs, were shot out for 207 with fifteen balls to spare.

The defeat ultimately ended the impressive run of Kalabagan on a sour note. The Dhanmondi outfit, who had earlier defeated both the defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra on their way to take up the saddle in the 12-team league, ex-

But it was Gem, who returning to his second spell served the final blow to Kalabagan's bid by sending off a menacingly poised Monzoor Elahi. The former Pakistan international, instrumental for his sides victories in their last three matches, scored a run-a-ball 20 before being outfoxed by a flighted delivery from Gem. And when Jahangir effected the regulation stumping, it heralded the end of Monzoor's unbeaten status in the league. The hard-hitting Pakistani remained unbeaten in his three previous appearances which also included two half-centuries.

Aamir Hanif, a potential Pakistani recruit of Brothers Union, then mopped up the Kalabagan tail to finish with three for 39 in his ten economic overs.

Earlier, the Brothers total

155 runs in 31.5 overs to lay a solid foundation for a huge total.

Wahidul, ignored in Brothers previous four matches, celebrated his rare call to open the innings with a blazing 76 off 91 balls. The attacking right-hander hammered half a dozen fours and a huge sixer in his whirlwind knock. While Jahangir scored a patient 64 off 106 balls embellished with a quartet of boundaries.

But after the rollicking start Brothers suffered a mini-collapse losing three wickets for the addition of 14 runs to their total. Aamir Hanif returned for a duck while skipper Faruque Ahmed fell for only four.

But Zahid Ahmed with 31 and lower-order bat Sajal Chowdhury, who scored breezy 9-ball 22, ensured Brothers to garner an imposing total.

For Kalabagan, skipper Sai-

BRIEF SCORES

BROTHERS UNION: 249 all out in 49.5 overs (Wahidul Islam 76, Jahangir Alam 64, Zahid Ahmed 31, Saiful Islam 4/48, Zakir Hossain 3/33).

KALABAGAN KC: 207 all out in 47.3 overs (Selim Shahed 44, Saiful 30, Zakaria 25, Monzoor Elahi 20, Saifullah Gem 5/28, Aamir Hanif 3/39).

hausted their quota of 11 first phase engagements with 18 points, still two points clear from other chasers — Abahani, Brothers Union and Bangladesh Biman. All the three flocked in the second position collecting 16 points with one match in hands.

Meanwhile, in the day's match Gem, the most consistent performer in the league so far, coming in as a first change in the sixth over, more than justified his skipper Faruque Ahmed's decision by removing Kalabagan openers in successive overs. Ajar departed for 14 when Gem had him caught by Enamul Haq Moni at mid-on. Liton perished in the next over scoring only 16, leaving Kalabagan at 35/2 in 9.1 overs.

The orthodox left-arm spinner then went on to dismiss Shahid Saeed in the 14th over. The Pakistani right-hander was on only four when he went for a big hit, but ended up offering Moni his second catch in the match at long-on. And Kalabagan were reeling at 46/3.

One-down Selim Shahed and Zakaria Intiaz, however, tried to steady the rocking boat putting on 60 runs for the fourth wicket. But once Aamir Hanif dismissed a portly Zakaria for 25, Brothers battling like-up, saved, in letting the asking run rate ticking up. Selim Shahed, who with a gritty 44, top-scored for his side, fell in 34th over.



Brothers Union's Pakistani batsman Amir Hanif goes for a cut against a Kalabagan's Shehid Sayeed during yesterday's Premier Division cricket league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium.

Was built around a century partnership for the first wicket between Wahidul Islam and Jahangir Alam. The two put on

ful Islam with 4/48 returned most successful. An ever economical Zakir took three for 33 in his 10 overs.

Odds in favour of Hingis



MELBOURNE, Jan 20 (AP): This time it's different for Martina Hingis. This time the 16-year-old Swiss miss is expected to win a Grand Slam title. And the thought doesn't faze her at all.

"There is a little chance to — well, there is a big chance" of taking the title, Hingis said after beating Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 Monday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open.

She is the highest-seeded player left in the women's singles after a series of upsets saw Steffi Graf, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez dumped out before the quarters and is bidding to become the youngest-ever winner of the Australian Open and the youngest Grand Slam champion this century.

"When I played the other Grand Slams it wasn't like that — especially now that Steffi Graf has lost," Hingis said.

But nerves, forget it. Hingis, playing in the ninth Grand Slam of her career, says they won't be a problem.

"I don't think so," she said. "The next couple of matches maybe, but hopefully I'm getting better and better in every match."

"It's just a great feeling to go out there. It's such a great crowd and everyone was behind me."

Hingis, in fact, is surprised that players like Dragomir — ranked 27 in the world — can put her under any pressure.

"I was pretty surprised that



MARTINA HINGIS

she could stand up at the higher level I think I have right now," Hingis said.

The Czech-born teen has said that she expects to break through for her first Grand Slam title this year, and Graf has anointed her as her likely successor as No 1.

Hingis began 1997 ranked fourth in the world after a series of scintillating perfor-

mances.

She reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at the Australian Open last January and then beat Graf on her way to the final at the Italian Open. She also reached the US Open semi-finals in August.

Hingis won her first career singles title at Filderstadt, Germany, in October, beating Anke Huber in the final, and a month later, trounced Monica Seles 6-2, 6-0 to win the title at Oakland, California.

At the WTA Tour Championships in New York, the determined baseliner with a fierce double-handed backhand pushed Graf to the limit before losing the five-set final.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Invitational International Hockey Tournament: (Final, Venue: National Hockey Stadium)

Abahani vs PIA (2:30 pm)

Premier Division Cricket League: Abahani vs Biman (DS)

First Division Cricket League: Dhanmondi Club vs City Club (DCS)

Gopibagh FA vs Sadharan Bima KS (CCG)

Acme Second Division Cricket League: Gandaria Cricketers vs Spread Eagles (DCS, West)

Azad Boys Club vs Kalindi KC (Uttara)

Young Ones Club vs Shantinaragar A (T&T ground)

Labagh Anwar SC vs Udayachal SC (MOS)

SAARC cricket
Azad made
chief patron

Sports Reporter

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad was named chief patron of the third SAARC cricket tournament 1997 organising committee.

According to a Bangladesh Cricket Board press release issued yesterday State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP have been named patron and chairman of the committee which also includes Dr M A Samad and Raisuddin Ahmed as its vice-chairmen and Syed Ashraf Haque as coordinator.

Besides, all members of the BCB executive committee have been included in the committee as members.

The four-team tournament involving three 'A' teams from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the Bangladesh national team will begin in the capital from February 19.

Nat'l jr chess
final round
today

Sports Reporter

Three players — Abdullah-Al-Rakib, Enamul Hossain Rajib and Tipu Sultan, led the 18th national junior chess championship with seven and a half points each at the end of eighth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the penultimate round of the nine-round Swiss league format, defending champion Rakib defeated Zainul Abedin, Rajib beat Showkat Hossain Pallab while Tipu won his board against Mahfuzur Rahman Imon.

Besides, eight players — Imon, Pallab, Ruhul Islam Bobby, Tofazzel Hossain Rumu, Abu Sufian Shakeel, Syed Ibrahim, Abdul Maleque and Ashrafur Rahman Murad, were in the second position with six points apiece at the end of yesterday's round.

The final round will begin at the same venue today at 10 am.

Acme Div II
cricket results
Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

NAWABGANJ SC: 201 for five in 40 overs (Sampo 66 no, Lipon 43, Ali 32, Tipu 2/28)

YOUNG PEGASUS CLUB: 205 for six in 39 overs (Minhaz 42, Imtiaz 30 n.o., Anu 23, Shahinoor 20, Faruque 3/55)
Result: Young Pegasus won by four wickets.

JATRABARI KC: 154 all out in 40 overs (Shahen 33, Nasir 20, Shamit 20; Azad 3/25)

DHANMONDI PS: 158 for seven in 38.5 overs (Dipu 53, Biplob 29; Shamit 2/10, Mukul 2/17)
Result: Dhanmondi Progati Sangha won by three wickets.

PWD SC: 189 for seven in 40 overs (Rana 84, Manik 31, Russel 19)

RAYEBARAZAR AC: 163 for nine in 40 overs (Razzak 37, Sohail 32, Belal 23; Sumon 3/23)
Result: PWD Sporting Club won by 26 runs.

NIRMAN ELEVEN: 179 for seven in 40 overs (Zahir 61 n.o., Idris 48, Asif 2/17)

KAKRAIL BOYS CLUB: 174 all out in 39.5 overs (Asif 28, Sabit Gomes 27, Nazmul 26; Zahir 4/27, Firoze 2/33)
Result: Nirman Eleven won by five runs.

Young Pegasus Club, Dhanmondi Progati Sangha, PWD Sporting Club and Nirman Eleven won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held at different venues in the city yesterday.

At the Uttara Friends' Club ground, Young Pegasus handed Nawabganj Sporting Club a four-wicket defeat while Dhanmondi Progati Sangha beat Jatrabari Krira Chakra by three wickets on the western strip of Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

In the other matches of the day, PWD Sporting Club recorded a 26-run victory over Rayerbaraz Athletics Club while Nirman Eleven beat Kakrail Boys Club by five runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.



Sri Lankan Army defender Mahinda Kumara (L) clears the ball during their invitational international tournament clash against Indian Airlines at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Abahani, PIA final today

MSC's horrid farewell

Sports Reporter



Abahani Krira Chakra scrambled in to the final of the five-team invitational international hockey tournament final by handing arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club an embarrassingly huge 1-5 defeat at the National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Needing victory by a minimum margin of four goals to beat Indian Airlines in the race for a right to lock horns with Pakistan International Airlines in today's final by virtue of a better goal record, Abahani did what exactly the doctor ordered. Both Abahani and Indian Airlines had earlier gathered seven points each from their respective four matches.

In the prestige battle of two popular clubs, Abahani's Indian forward Reaz Ahmed, skipper Mamun, Raju, Mahub Haroon and Alamgir scored one each while Mohammedan captain Nixon pulled one back for the vanquished.

Abahani, spearheaded by their talented Indian duo of Dhanraj Pillai and Reaz Ahmed, dominated the entire match from the very beginning and took the lead through a penalty in the 15th minute when a penalty corner hit by Mamun struck the leg of Mohammedan's Sadeq. Reaz converted the resultant penalty pushing the ball into the left corner of the net (1-0).

But the lead, was retained for only a minute as Mohammedans levelled the score through a counter attack which earned them a penalty corner. Skipper Nixon sounded the board after Mitul set him up with nice stop following a Musa push (1-1).

The levelling of score saw a sea-change in Abahani's attitude as they came pouring on their opponents from all direction and skipper Mamun deservedly wrested back the initiative for the sky blues with a

28th minute strike from a short corner 2-1.

Although Abahani's star Indian goal-getter Dhanraj was tightly marked by the Mohammedan defence, Reaz, the other recruit from across the border was in full cry and was instrumental for Abahani's devastating display in the second half.

The tall Reaz schemed the third goal for the Dhanmondi outfit in the 45th minute when he raced down the Mohammedan defence and set the ball for Raju who took a U-turn before placing the ball home past an advancing Mohammedan custodian Mohammad Javed 3-1.

Reaz could have easily made it 4-1 in the 54th minute had he not missed a penalty following an infringement on him in the

(Abahani).

TEAMS:

ABAHANI KC: Shamim Ahmed, Rabiuddin, Mamun, Shipu, Tapan, Khurshid, Raju, Reaz Ahmed, Alamgir, Dhanraj Pillai, Ramizuddin, Khokon, Haroon and Tutul.

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Mohammad Javed, Rony, Nixon, Khokon, Musa, Mitul, Ashique, Giasuddin Rubel, Kamal, Zahid Biswas, Mohammad Sadeq, Issa Mia, Sharafat and Merajul.

Umpires: Aslam Belim (Bangladesh) and Kamal Khan (Pakistan).

INDIAN AIRLINES
GRILL LANKANS

Earlier in the day's first engagement, Indian Airlines outplayed Sri Lankan Army by 12

goals to three.

In a one-sided affair, Indian national player Mukesh Kumar and centre half Ravinder Singh struck three goals each while defender Dilip Tirkey and Shaheer Ahmed added two apiece. Forwards Altaf Rahman and Mohammad Arif netted the other two for the winners.

On the other hand, forwards Mullaif, Ajit Manjula and defender Dharma Siri reduced the margin for the Lankans who completed their engagements with the dubious distinction of having lost all four matches. They served the role of the whipping boys of the meet having conceded 37 goals against a very paltry own record of four.

Cullinan defies India



JOHANNESBURG, Jan 20: Daryll Cullinan made up for a horrendous running error by stubbornly scoring an unbeaten 122 Monday to help South Africa salvage a draw against India in the third



DRAVID man-of-match cricket Test, report agencies.

Chasing a target of 356 runs, the home side found itself at 76 for five wickets at lunch and seemingly destined to lose against an inspired Indian squad seeking to avoid a whitewash in the three-Test series.

But Cullinan put on a brave and disciplined batting display, stroking boundaries and fending off spin deliveries to score a century and more importantly, hold up the innings until the umpires halted play due to poor light to end the match.

Lance Klusener with 49 runs provided vital support for Cullinan.

It was a bitter result for India, which outplayed the South Africans all five days and saw the weather prevent a well-deserved victory. More than 40 overs of play were lost to rain over the five days, and those most likely would have allowed India time to bowl the South Africans on Monday.

The South Africans already clinched the series by winning the first two Tests, but a batting collapse early in their second innings left them in dire straits.

India set the home side a target of 356 for victory, mostly on the strength of Rahul Dravid's run-making. Dravid scored his maiden Test century with 148

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the third and final Test between South Africa and India that ended at the Wanderers on Monday:

INDIA: First innings 410-9 (Dravid 148, Ganguly 73, Sri-nath 41; Klusener 3-75, Donald 3-88)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 321 (Pollock 79, J. Sri-nath 5-104, S. Ganguly 2-36)

INDIA: Second innings 266-8 declared (Dravid 81, Ganguly 60, Donald 3-38, Adams 3-80)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight four for one wicket)

Hudson b Kumble 3
Kirsten c Rathore b Prasad 1
Bachar b Prasad 23
Cullinan not out 122
Cronje run out (Kumble) 6
McMillan c Dharmani b Srinath 2
Pollock b Srinath 0
Richardson c Ashrauddin b Kumble 7
L. Klusener c Azhar b Kumble 49
A. Donald not out 15
Extras (b-1, lb-13, nb-1) 0
Total (for eight wks in 68 overs) 228
Fall of wickets 1-4: 2-4; 3-49; 4-71; 5-76; 6-78; 7-95; 8-222

Bowling: O M R W
Srinath 24 6 89 2
Prasad 15 1 59 2
Kumble 23 7 40 3
Ganesh 2 0 8 0
Tendulkar 2 2 0 0
Ganguly 2 2 0 0

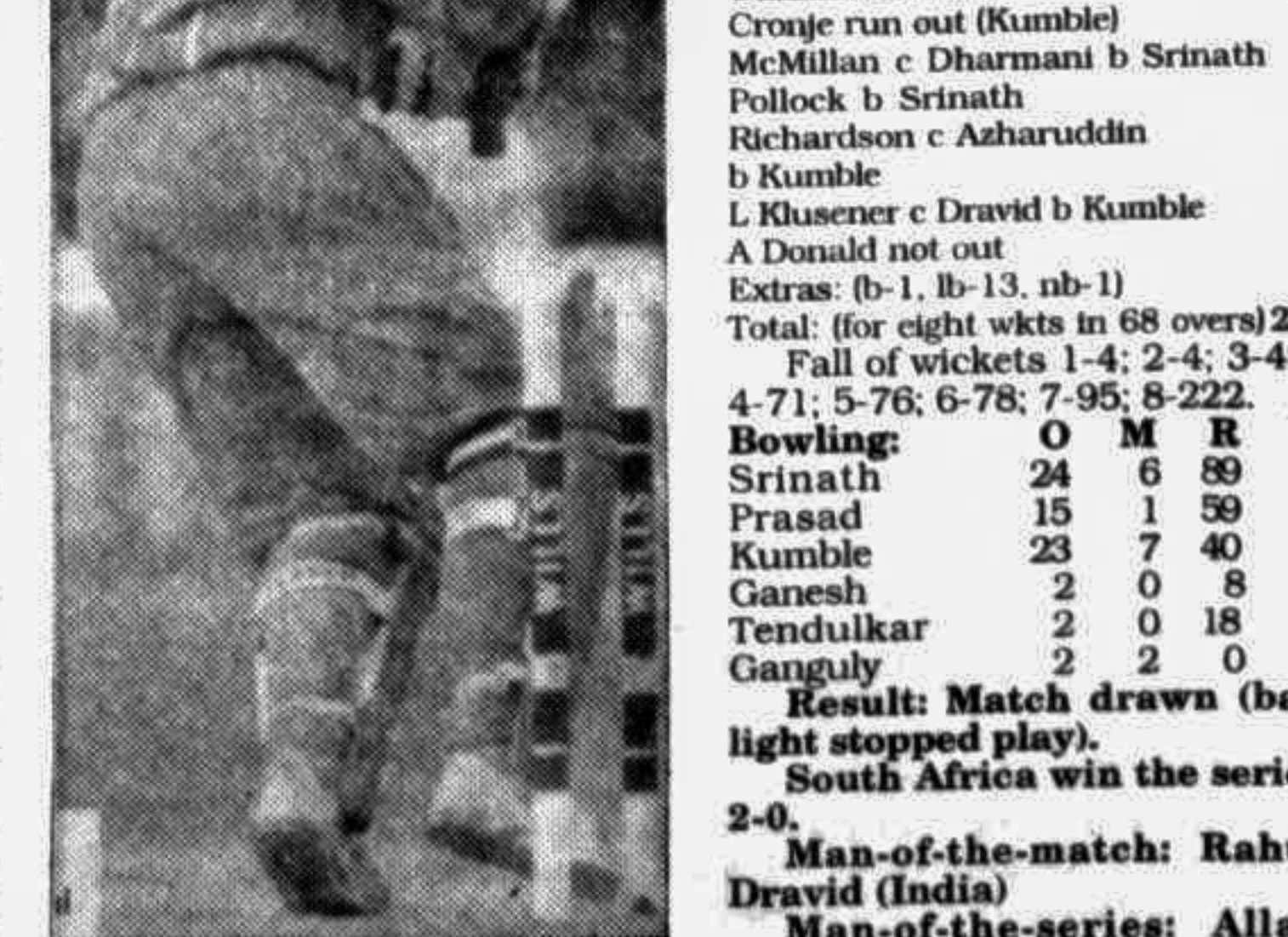
Result: Match drawn (bad light stopped play).

South Africa win the series 2-0.

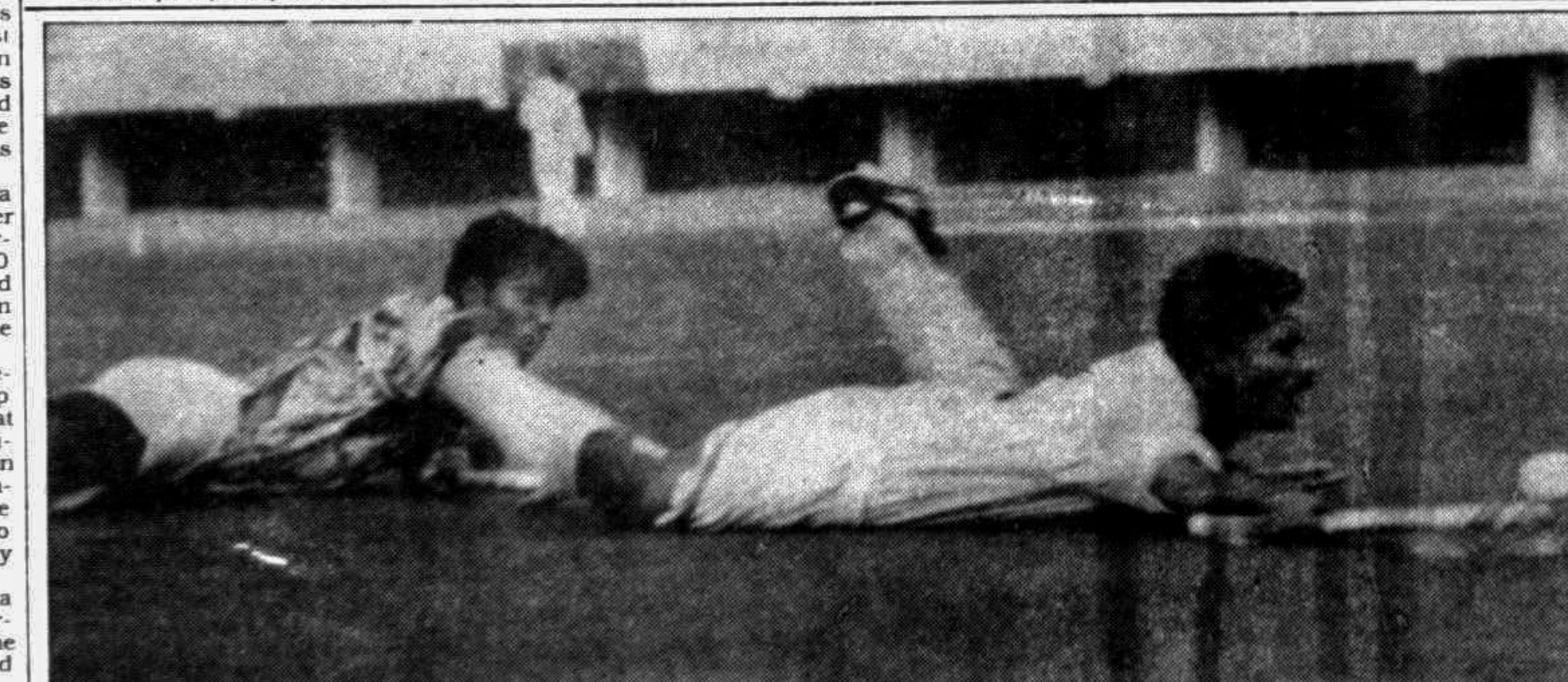
Man-of-the-match: Rahul Dravid (India)

Man-of-the-series: Allan Donald (South Africa)

CULLINAN... 122



CULLINAN... 122



Abahani's Indian forward Reaz Ahmed is brought down by Mohammedan centre-half Ashiquezzaman inside the danger zone during their invitational international tournament clash at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Abahani earned their second penalty stroke in the match following this infringement. — Star photo