

Queensland close in on victory

SYDNEY, Feb 2: Queensland moved towards a likely victory against Western Australia on the third day of a match involving the top two sides in the Sheffield Shield competition on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The home team reduced Western Australia to 96 for four in their second innings, still needing another 313 runs to win, at close of play at the Gabba in Brisbane.

Queensland earlier set a target by scoring 412 all out in their second innings, an overall lead of 408.

On a wicket providing variable bounce, Western Australia, who lead the Shield table by six points from Queensland and New South Wales, will be looking to all-rounder and captain Tom Moody, their last remaining recognised batsman, when play resumes.

In Melbourne, Victoria made a bold start in the run chase against New South Wales.

Australia Test opener Mathew Elliott and Graeme Vimpani added 136 runs in an unbroken opening stand, leaving the home side with another 255 runs to score to pull off an unlikely win.

At close of play on the third day, Vimpani remained unbeaten on 77 alongside Elliott, who was 54 not out.

Victoria were set a target of 391 for victory after New South Wales declared their second innings on 264 for eight.

In Adelaide, South Australia reached 287 for eight at close of play on the first day of their match against Tasmania.

Beer barred in Aussie dressing room!

PERTH, Australia, Feb 2: The traditional end-of-day beer in the dressing room will be banned for Australian players during their South African tour starting later this week, reports AFP.

They have been told they must replenish fluids lost on the field with water and non-alcoholic soft drinks.

The tough rule has been imposed by new Australian coach Geoff Marsh, keen that players are 100 per cent sharp for a tour expected to present Australia with a major challenge.

"You need rules and you need strict discipline," Marsh said here today. "It's not a big sacrifice it's Test cricket we're talking about and the guys need to be sharp every day."

There will be no late-night frolicking either.

Marsh has imposed an 11:30 pm lights-out policy from two days before and during Tests.

"The guidelines are designed to make us an even better team," said Marsh, who played in 50 Tests.

There is a strong feeling in the Australian camp that South Africa will be extremely tough opponents, especially on their own wickets.

Australia and South Africa will clash in three Tests and seven one-day internationals.

New BOA office

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader inaugurated the new office of the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) at the third floor of National Sports Council building yesterday, reports UNB.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division Cricket League:

(Super League)

Abahani vs Waru Club (DS)

(Relegation League)

Agrani Bank vs Lalmatia Club (BKSP)

GMCC vs Gulshan Youth (DCS)

First Division Cricket League:

Ajax SC vs Dhanmondi Club (OCG)

Acme Second Division Cricket League:

Kathalbagan GCC vs Jatra-

bari KC (T&T)

Gendaria Cricketers vs

Spread Eagles (DCS, West)

Young Ones CC vs Indira

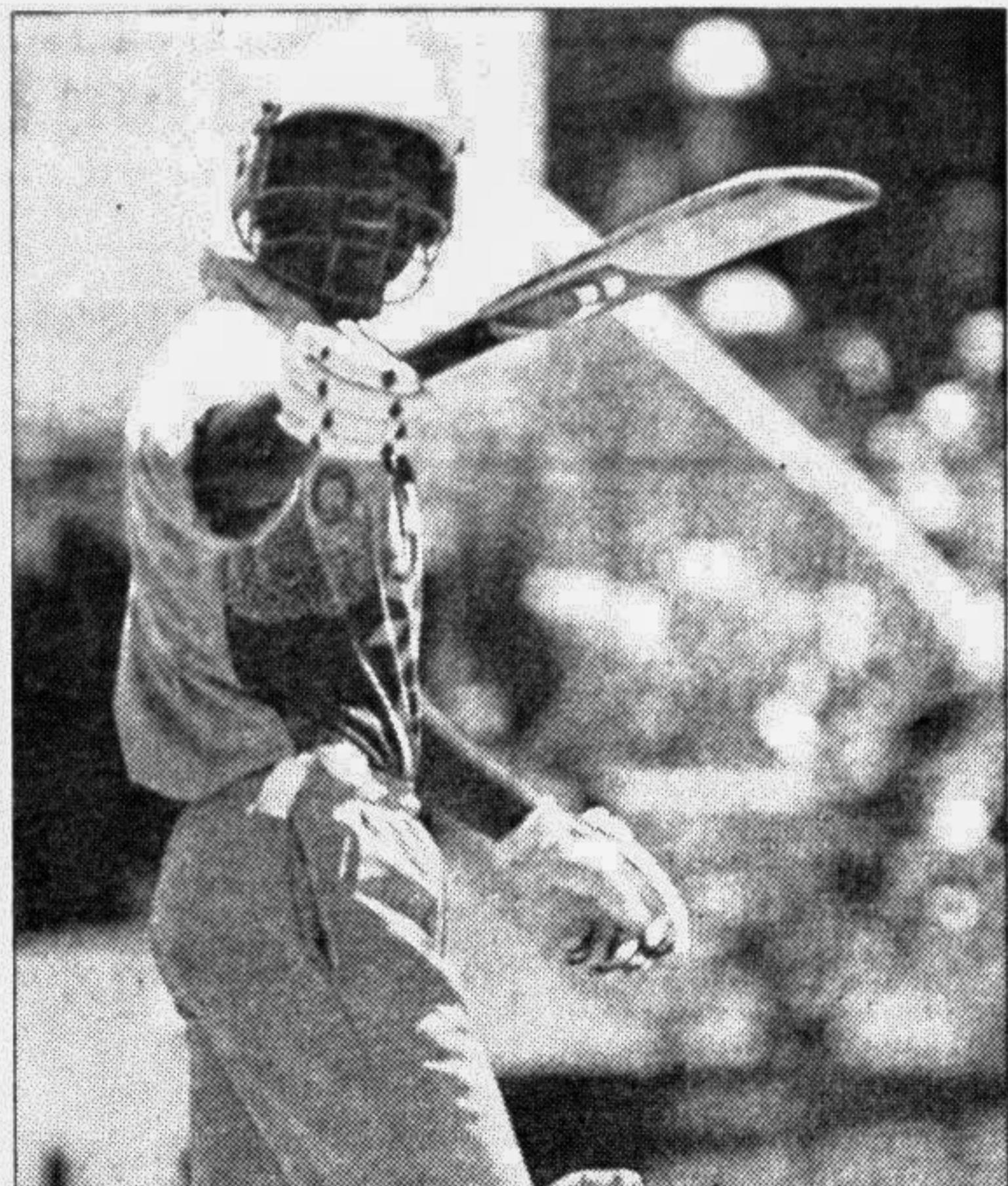
Roak KC (DCG)

Nawabganj CC vs Lalbagh

USC (MOS)

Rupali Bank vs PWD SC

(Uttara)



Former Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin acknowledges the crowd's applause on reaching his half century during the triangular series one-dayer against South Africa in Port Elizabeth yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

English ego in disgrace



WANGANUI, Feb 2: England's struggling cricket team crashed to another defeat Sunday — this time against the second-string New Zealand A team, report agencies.

New Zealand A won the match by 90 runs just before lunch on the final day of the four-day contest at Victoria Park, and then criticised the English players for a lack of effort.

"As soon as we got partnerships going they weren't prepared to dig in when it got tougher fight a bit harder," said New Zealand A captain Darren Murray.

"We were the opposite. When we got on top we made sure we stayed on top."

England were all out for 272 in their second innings as they chased 363 for an unlikely victory. Russell, who hit an untenable 61 in what could be his last innings of the tour, ran out of tail-end partners as he bravely fought to make up for Saturday's collapse.

England resumed at 166 for six and wicketkeeper Russell and off-spinner Robert Croft put on 73 for the seventh wicket.

Russell's place in the Test series is in danger because of England's policy of using Alec Stewart as batsman and wicketkeeper instead of using a specialist wicketkeeper.

In a show of defiance that few other England players have

been able to match in recent months, Russell stayed at the crease for 189 minutes, facing 130 balls and hitting seven fours.

Bad luck hit with Croft's departure for 49. The Glamorgan player swept a ball from off-spinner Paul Wiseman which struck short leg fielder Phil Chandler in the stomach.

Chandler saved the ball before it could fall to the ground and England's hopes then disappeared as none of the other tail end batsmen could give Russell support.

Andy Caddick briefly hit out and reached 12 before dangerously hitting a ball of Kiwi fast bowler Heath Davis to Matt Horne at point.

Chris Silverwood lasted half an hour for his 10 runs but was run out going for an over-ambitious run.

Russell sliced a shot to third man and Silverwood rushed up the pitch only to be furiously sent back by the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper.

Phil Tufnell came out with only a few minutes before the lunch break but did not seem to want the match to last.

After one wild stroke brought two runs, he skied his fourth ball off Chris Harris to Kennedy at mid-off. England were all out but their coach showed little sign of the disappointment being expressed at home.

New Zealand coach Steve Rixon has on the contrary been delighted with events in Wanganui. Rixon has been highlight-

ing the effect of a New Zealand victory on England's spirits.

He was particularly encouraged by the performance of Geoff Allot, who took eight wickets in the match, including four in the demolition of the England top-order on Saturday, and is in the Test side for Wellington.

It was the first time an international side has been beaten in a first-class match, outside a Test, in New Zealand since England went down by five wickets to a Shell Selection XI in New Plymouth in February 1988.

The second Test starts at the Basin Reserve on Thursday. The first Test was drawn after England failed to take advantage of being in a strong position.

England approached this match in a surprisingly light-hearted way and coach David Lloyd seemed unperturbed by the loss.

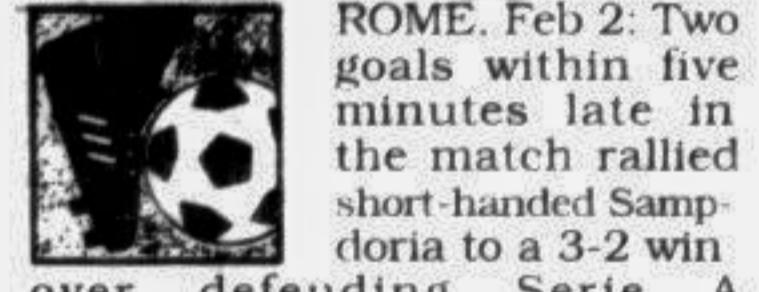
"I don't think any damage

will be done by a result like that," Lloyd said. "We gave as good a performance as can be expected."

Scores: New Zealand A: 181 and 288; England: 107 and 272 (Jack Russell 61 not out).

New Zealand A won by 90 runs.

Sampdoria baffle Milan



ROME, Feb 2: Two goals within five minutes late in the match rallied short-handed Sampdoria to a 3-2 win over defending Serie A champions AC Milan Sunday.

With leaders Juventus held 0-0 and Cagliari, second-place Sampdoria pulled within two points of first place while Milan sank to 12th, reports AP.

In an eventful match at Milan, Yugoslav midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic snapped in a free kick for his first goal of the season in the 74th minute to equalise for Sampdoria, and substitute striker Marco Carparelli hit the winner in the 79th.

Liberian striker George Weah, returning from a six-week injury absence, scored Milan's goals in the 37th and 57th minutes. But he limped off the field, replaced by Dutch defender Michael Reiziger just before Mihajlovic's score. Milan (7-4-8), who have lost two straight and four of eight games since Arrigo Sacchi rejoined the club as coach, also saw de-

fender Paolo Maldini leave in the first half with an apparent leg injury. That puts his status in doubt for Italy's crucial 1998 World Cup qualifying match Feb 12 against England.

Sampdoria who led after one minute thanks to veteran forward Roberto Mancini's goal, were reduced to ten men to the 22nd minute when goalkeeper Fabrizio Ferroni was sent off for a foul on Weah outside the penalty area.

Their sixth win in seven outings overall — and first at Milan since the 1990-91 season, when they last won the title — gave Sampdoria (10-5-4) 35 points. Reigning European and World Club champions Juventus are at 37 after failing to earn points against Cagliari, who stand 16th of 18 teams. Juventus (10-7-2) had to play conservatively after Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero was expelled in the penalty area.

Bologna, who were in Serie B last year, moved up to third place on 31 points with a 6-1 rout over next-to-last Verona.

Elsewhere, Argentine striker Abel Balbo's double gave AS Roma a surprising 2-0 win over fourth-place Vincenza.

Guinean striker Aboubacar Camara scored twice as Lens beat Guingamp 2-1 at home to end a nine-match run without victory.

Enrico Chiesa's score lifted AC Parma past Piacenza 1-0, while Internazionale settled for

a 0-0 draw at Perugia. Vicenza, Parma and Inter all have 30 points.

In other matches Sunday: Lazio edged Udinese 3-2 and last-place Reggiana held Napoli to a 1-1 draw.

The Italian-first Division will take a two-week break, with action resuming Feb 16, because of World Cup qualifier Fabrizio Ferroni was sent off for a foul on Weah outside the penalty area.

PSG, desperate for a first home win since early November, went ahead with striker Cyrille Pouget's first league goal for the club in the 12th minute.

PSG remain six points adrift of leaders Monaco who will pull nine clear if they win at Lyon today.

Guinean striker Aboubacar Camara scored twice as Lens beat Guingamp 2-1 at home to end a nine-match run without victory.

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone Offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address: "WASA Bhaban" 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka WASA-PI-34/97 DFP-2105-27/1 G-359

Md Ramizuddin Molla Executive Engineer (Current Responsibility) S M Division Dhaka WASA

Sport

A cakewalk for SA

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the triangular series one-day match between India and South Africa at St George's Park on Sunday:			
INDIA			
Ganguly run out Bacher	0		
Dravid c Cronje b Donald	50		
Srinath c Richardson b Kallis	3		
Tendulkar b Donald	1		
Azharuddin c Rhodes b Donald	57		
Jadeja lbw b Kallis	15		
Karim c Bacher b Adams	8		
Singh c Donald b Pollock	18		
Kumble not out	11		
Ankola run out	8		
Extras:	8		
Total: (for nine wickets in 50 overs)	179		
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-7; 3-11; 4-116; 5-118; 6-130; 7-147; 8-168; 9-179.			
Bowling:	O	M	R
Pollock	10	1	37
Kallis	8	2	23
Donald	10	2	40
Klusener	8	0	28
Adams	10	1	31
Cronje	4	0	17
			0
SOUTH AFRICA			
G. Kirsten c Azharuddin	6		
b Prasad			
Bacher b Kumble	13		
Kallis c Ankola b Singh	79		
Cullinan c Jadeja b Singh	21		
Rhodes not out	29		
Crone not out	20		
Extras:	12		
Total: (for four wickets in 45.1 overs)	180		
Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-47; 3-89; 4-152.			
Bowling:	O	M	R
Srinath	7.1	2	24
Prasad	9	0	41
Kumble	9	0	30
Ankola	10	0	42
Singh	10	0	34
			2
Result: South Africa won by six wickets.			
Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis (South Africa).			

Misinformation

In a news item published in The Daily Star sports page Sunday under the headline 'Queen versus Princess,' it was reported that Graf was eliminated from Australian Open prematurely following her fourth round defeat to Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands.

The item was provided by Associated Press (AP). The mistake is regret