

### BCB picks 16 for Wills Cup

Sports Reporter  
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has announced a 16-member squad for the Wills Cup cricket championship, scheduled to begin from February 12.

Faruque Ahmed, the scapegoat of Bangladesh's ICC debacle in Kenya, will lead the team in the one-day meet, an annual event in Pakistan's domestic calendar.

The local selection, for whom it is going to be a maiden appearance of any Bangladesh team in such tournament in Pakistan, will feature under the banner of BCC Eleven.

#### SQUAD

Faruque Ahmed (captain), Harun-Ur Rashid Lito (vice-captain), Habibul Bashar Sumon, Shahriar Hossain Bidyul, Parvez Ahmed, Halim Shah, Morshed Ali Khan Sumon, Sheikh Salahuddin, Nazim-uddin Manna, Saifullah Gem, Mofizur Rahman Munna, Zakir Hossain, Shahnewaz Kabir Shuvro, Atiar Rahman (Wicketkeeper), Mizanur Rahman (Tour Manager) and Sayed Altaf Hossain (Cricket Manager).

### SAARC cricket

#### Pakistan A due Feb 16

Sports Reporter  
The Pakistan A team will be the first among the three sub-continental cricketing giants to arrive in the capital to feature in the third SAARC cricket tournament, scheduled to begin at the Dhaka Stadium from February 19.

The strong Pakistan side led by former Test captain Asif Mujtaba is expected to fly into the city on February 16. Defending champions India A will arrive in the capital on February 17 while Sri Lanka A is expected to turn up on February 18. The quadrangular meet also includes the Bangladesh national team, which finished runner-up here in December 1994.

Meanwhile, the organisers Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) are working round the clock for a successful completion of the meet. The tourney which was first held in 1992, however, fell through due to political unrest following the demolition of a Mosque in India.

After the abortive first attempt, it was successfully completed the following year when India A won and Pakistan finished second.

India then retained the title of the annual international event in 1994 defeating Bangladesh in the final. But for the hosts' remarkable performance en route to the final turned out to be a letter in the annals of the country's cricket.

#### FIXTURE

- Feb 19 Bangladesh vs Pakistan
- Feb 20 India vs Sri Lanka
- Feb 21 Rest
- Feb 22 Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
- Feb 23 India vs Pakistan
- Feb 24 Rest
- Feb 25 Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
- Feb 26 Bangladesh vs India
- Feb 27 Rest
- Feb 28 Final

### United Insurance chess Feb 19

Sports Reporter  
Four Grand Masters including Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh have confirmed their participation in the third United Insurance Grand Masters tournament that begins in the capital from February 19.

Niaz apart, Russian Sergei Tiviakov, Indian Dibendyu Barua and England's Jim Plaskett are the other players who have confirmed their trip to Dhaka for the 14-player tourney scheduled to be held on a 13-round Swiss league format from February 19 to March seven at the NSC conference room. Among the four Grand Masters, Tiviakov, who is currently ranked 45th in the world having 2610 Fide rating points, will be the highest ranked player so far to visit Bangladesh.

Besides, two Indian International Masters Praveen Thipsay and DV Prasad have also enrolled their names in the 17-day meet together with their Bangladeshi counterparts Zaiur Rahman and Reefat-bin-Sattar.

### Goodricke chess results

CALCUTTA, Feb 12: Five Grand Masters V Zviaginsev, Klaus Bischoff, Mihail Marin, Jaan Ehivest and Alexander Naneshev jointly shared the lead with four points each after the fifth round of the Goodricke international open championship at the Gorky Sadan here yesterday, reports PTI.

Defending champion Naneshev of Uzbekistan defeated DK Sasikiran of India in 43 moves in a Nimzo-Indian defence. Sasikiran, who had caused a major upset by taming Indian Grand Master Dibendyu Barua, could not display the same form yesterday.

On the top board GM V Zviaginsev and the German GM Klaus Bischoff agreed to a quick draw in 21 moves. On the second board, International Master NA Dung drew with GM Mihail Marin in 44 moves in Benoni opening.

Top seed GM Jaan Ehivest defeated GM Jonathan Levitt in a Kings-Indian defence while GM Komliakov drew with GM Peter Szekely of Hungary in just 16 moves. International Master Zia-ur-Rahman of Bangladesh drew with GM V Malisuskas in 26 moves.



Spaniard Carlos Moya makes a backhand return against Marc-Kevin Goellner of Germany during their Davis Cup first round engagement in Spain on Feb 7. Moya won 6-4, 6-3 and 6-3.

## France sent packing

SYDNEY, Feb 13: Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge swept to a straight sets victory Saturday at lifted Australia to an upset win over defending champion France in their Davis Cup World Group first-round match at White City, reports AP.

Woodbridge and Woodforde downed Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux 7-6 (8-6), 6-4, 6-3 to give the Australians an unassailable 3-0 lead.

The Woodies, winners of eight Grand Slam titles and the Olympic gold medalists, took 2 hours, 5 minutes to defeat Forget and Raoux, who were unbeaten as a Davis Cup combination.

Eight-time champion France followed in the footsteps of the United States — which arrived in Australia as defending champion in 1993 and lost in the first round.

The French, who won the Cup by defeating Sweden 3-2 in Malmo 10 weeks ago, became only the fourth defending champion team have lost in the first round of the Davis Cup since 1972.

Australia, which has won the Davis Cup 25 times, now will face either India or the

Czech Republic in the quarter-finals in Adelaide from April 4-6.

**Spain 2, Germany 0**  
At Palma de Mallorca, Spain, it took Moya just under two hours to defeat Marc-Kevin Goellner 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 and Costa followed that with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Hendrik Dreekmann.

Carlos Costa and Alex Corretja can clinch Spain's place in the quarterfinals with a doubles victory on Saturday over Goellner and David Prinosil.

**Italy 2, Mexico 0**  
At Rome, Omar Camporese and Renzo Furlan both started slowly before rallying. Camporese, returning to Davis Cup action after a three-year absence, defeated Alejandro Hernandez 2-6, 6-0, 6-4, 7-5 in 2 hours, 47 minutes and Furlan followed with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Luis Herrera on the red clay of the Foro Italico.

**South Africa 1, Russia 0**

At Durban, South Africa, Marcos Ondruska held on for a five-set victory over Andrei Chesnokov 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5 needing almost four hours in heat that reached 41 degrees Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) at Westridge Park.

Friday's matches kicked off the Davis Cup season, with 19

matches scheduled for the weekend including the eight in the elite World Group.

In other World Group matches Friday, it was: Italy 2, Mexico 0; South Africa 2, Russia 0; Czech Republic 1, India 1; Romania 2, Netherlands 0; the United States 2, Brazil 0 and Sweden 1, Switzerland 1.

In zonal play, in the first round of Asia-Oceania Group 1, it was: the Philippines 2, Indonesia 0 and South Korea 1, Japan 1. China beat Uzbekistan 4-1 in a tie played earlier this week.

In Euro-Africa Group 1, it was: Croatia 2, Morocco 0 and Zimbabwe 2, Ukraine 0. Denmark faced Hungary later.

The Americans had six matches scheduled. Chile took a 2-0 lead over Ecuador in one of two Group 1 matches. Canada played the Bahamas in the other.

In Group 2, it was: Cuba vs. Peru, Paraguay 1, Haiti 0, Uruguay 2, El Salvador 0 and Puerto Rico 1, Colombia 0.

The entire Asia-Oceania Group 2 schedule was postponed due to the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, delaying the Taiwan-Singapore, Pakistan-Iran, Saudi Arabia-Lebanon and Hong Kong-Thailand matches until later this year.

### India 191/9

DURBAN, Feb 12: India wilted under South Africa's pace attack Wednesday, scoring 191 for nine in their 50 allotted overs of the championship match of a tri-nation limited overs cricket series, reports AP.

South Africa, who beat India three times in compiling a 6-0 record in the preliminary round of the series that also included Zimbabwe, needed to score just under four runs an over in their innings to reach the innings target of 192.

Mohammad Azharuddin scored a 60 and the first six Indian batters reached double figures, but a controversial catch on captain Sachin Tendulkar by Jonty Rhodes hindered any chance for a big score.

Tendulkar, on 32 runs off just 26 balls that included six boundaries, smashed a Lance Klusener delivery that Rhodes dove for and snared with one hand.

Indian officials later complained Rhodes grounded the ball, but the catch stood to leave India at 54 for two.

Azharuddin and Rahul Dravid then put on a 62-run third wicket partnership until Dravid was caught by Gary Kirsten off a Hansie Cronje delivery. When Azharuddin was run out by Daryll Cullinan, one of three run outs in the innings, India was destined to finish with less than 200 runs.

Allan Donald led the South African attack with figures of two wickets for 23 runs in 10 overs, while Klusener also claimed two wickets for 35 runs in his 10 overs.

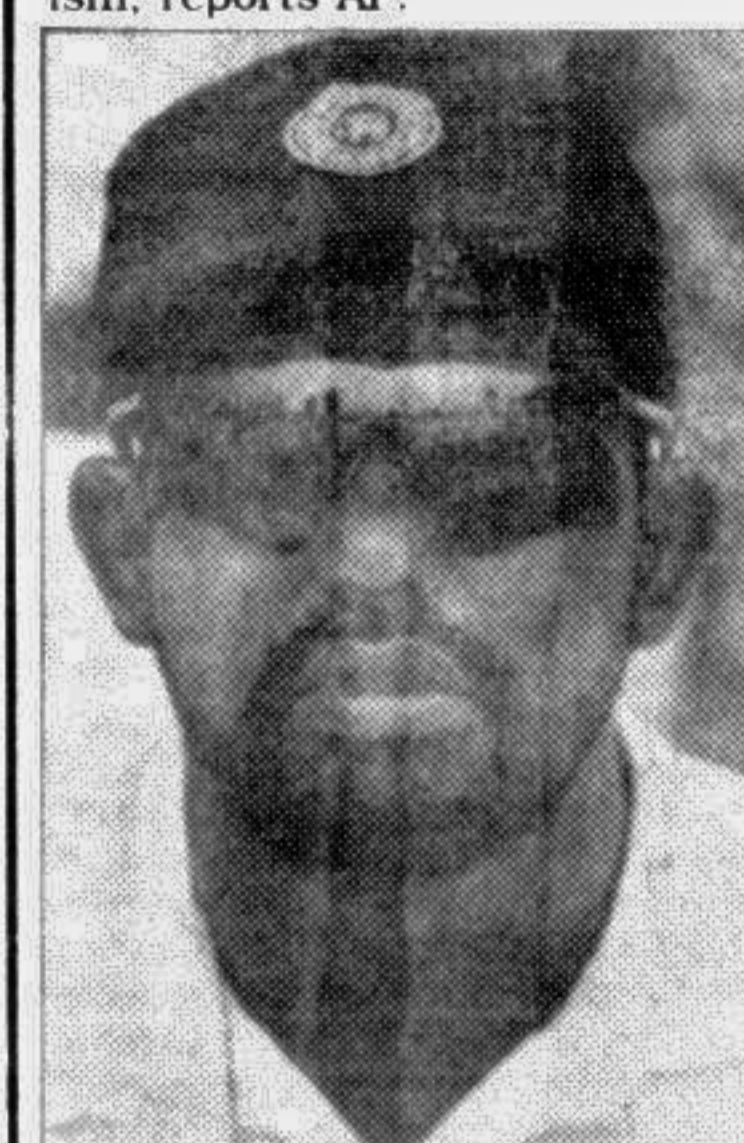
#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after India's innings Wednesday in the championship match against South Africa in the tri-nation limited overs cricket series:

INDIA				
Ganguly run out (Symcox)	18			
Tendulkar c Rhodes b Klusener	32			
Dravid c Kirsten b Cronje	33			
Azharuddin run out (Cullinan)	60			
Jadeja b Donald	10			
Rohit Singh run out (Kirsten)	16			
Mongia c Hudson b Klusener	7			
Srinath c Richardson b Pollock	7			
Kumble c Klusener b Donald	3			
Joshi not out	3			
Prasad not out	2			
Extras:	7			
Total: (for 9 wickets) in 50 overs	191			
Fall of wickets: 1-43; 2-54; 3-116; 4-138; 5-163; 6-177; 7-177; 8-184; 9-187				
Bowling:				
Donald	10	2	23	2
Pollock	10	1	31	1
Kallis	4	0	27	0
Klusener	10	1	35	2
Symcox	10	0	49	0
Cronje	6	1	23	1
(incomplete)				

### Gurusinha courts uncertainty?

COLOMBO, Feb 12: Sri Lanka's longtime number three batsman Asanka Gurusinha's international career may be at an end after he pulled out of the upcoming tour of New Zealand, accusing the Sri Lankan cricket board of a lack of professionalism, reports AP.



"As a result of actions taken by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, and the subsequent lack of professionalism by certain members of the board, it is increasingly difficult for me to make myself available for the forthcoming tour," a local newspaper on Saturday quoted him as saying.

Gurusinha's future was a doubt after he went to Australia to play for North Melbourne. The board wanted him back in Sri Lanka by late January, to practise for the tour that begins later this month. But Gurusinha wants to fly direct from Australia to New Zealand for the two Tests and three one-day international tours.

Relations with the board were made worse after Sri Lanka's last tour to Sharjah in November, where he was dropped for the last two matches. The board then fined him 50 per cent of his earnings from the tour after he spoke to journalists without the board's permission.

Gurusinha, 30 made his international debut in 1985 and is the fourth senior player in the side, behind skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, vice captain Aravinda Silva and Rohan Mahanama. He has played 41 Tests and 144 one-day internationals.

### Von Gruenigen ends Tomba's reign

SESTRIERE, Italy, Feb 12: Michael Von Gruenigen of Switzerland snatched giant slalom gold from Italian Alberto Tomba in Wednesday's World Championships and said the five-time Olympic and world champion was no longer a threat in the event, reports AP.

## Kasparov, Kramnik on top



KASPAROV

LINARES, Spain, Feb 12: World champion Garry Kasparov and his Russian compatriot Vladimir Kramnik opened their lead at the Linares chess tournament Tuesday, beating Britain's Michael Adams and Judith Polgar of Hungary respectively, reports AP.

With four rounds to go, Kasparov, 33, and his former pupil Kramnik, 21, are now one point ahead of Polgar and 1.5 points ahead of Adams.

The eighth round will take place Thursday, Wednesday being a rest day.

But the scenario was different for Polgar on Monday when the Hungarian prodigy domi-

nated international tournament after a string of results unprecedented by a woman in a major competition.

It is not difficult to spot Polgar in the male-dominated world of chess. Gregarious, extroverted and good humoured, she stands out from her more dour male rivals with whom she does battle.

Judith is the youngest of three Polgar daughters all of whom were educated from home by their parents and taught the pros and cons of the Sicilian defence at an early age.

"Geniuses aren't born, they make themselves," the Polgar parents, both academics, have been quoted as saying. All three daughters are chess fiends, but the game was only one piece of an educational jigsaw laid before the Polgar girls.

"My daughters speak more than five languages, play table tennis and go swimming, are generally very cultured, have been to more than 40 countries, are famous and earn money," Laszlo Polgar once told Spain's El Pais daily in defence of his unorthodox parenting techniques.

The product of which is now apparently coming to fruition. With her svelte figure, long auburn hair and genial nature, Polgar is the belle of the ball in Linares.

The Linares tournament brings together 12 of the world's top players, with this year only the former world number one Anatoly Karpov missing from the big names as he is trying to get elected to the Russian par-

liament. Results of round seven: Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), bt Judith Polgar (Hungary); Garry Kasparov (Russia), bt Michael Adams (Britain); Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), bt Boris Gelfand (Belarus); Alexei Shirov (Spain) drew with Shirov Alexei Dreyev (Russia); Jeroen Piket (Netherlands) drew with Pedrag Nikolic (Bosnia); Vishwanath Anand (India) drew with Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine).



KRAMNIK

Ranking	Points
1. Kasparov, Kramnik	5.5
2. Polgar	4.5
3. Adams	4
4. Dreyev, Gelfand	3.5
5. Nikolic, Piket, Topalov	3
6. Anand	2.5
7. Ivanchuk, Shirov	2

## Greats sing Major's tune

LONDON, Feb 12: English soccer greats joined Prime Minister John Major on Wednesday in saying that England — not Germany — deserves to host the 2006 World Cup, reports AP.

Major hosted a lunch and reception at 10 Downing Street to mark the official launch of England's bid for soccer's most prestigious event.

Sir Stanley Matthews, Sir Bobby Charlton, Geoff Hurst, Tom Finney and Gary Lineker were among the former stars who turned out to support the campaign.

The year 2006 will mark the 40th anniversary of the only time England hosted — and won — the World Cup.

"It would be lovely to have the tournament back after a 40-year break because we now have football fever in this country again," Sir Stanley said.

Major said, "We regard ourselves as the home of football. We regard ourselves as the home of a number of other sports, but football we would particularly like to see come home in 2006 with the World Cup competition."

Wednesday's ceremony came exactly two weeks after UEFA, European soccer's governing body, notified the English Football Association that it supported Germany's bid and suggested that England drop out of the race.

But, after talks in London last Friday, UEFA agreed to consider both bids before submitting one European candidate to the world governing body FIFA.

The deadline for bids is in 1999, with FIFA selecting the host country in June of 2000. Bids are also expected from

### Aussies begin tour of S Africa today

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 12: Australian skipper Mark Taylor plans to use four warm-up matches in South Africa to work on his struggling form prior to the first Test beginning Feb 28, reports AP.

Taylor, 32, has hit a new low with the bat, raising questions about his presence in the team and his captaincy.

Australia take on an Invitation XI hosted by Nicky Oppenheimer at his private cricket ground in Ranjiesfontein, outside Johannesburg, on Thursday to open the nine-week tour.

Taylor led back-to-back series success over the West Indies but managed just 151 runs, an average of 17.5 per innings. He said he wants to work on regaining his batting form before the three-Test series against South Africa begins.

Coach Geoff Marsh videoed some of his batsmen, including Taylor and Shane Warne, who initially worked out with a bowling machine.

Warne could hold the key to Australia's success in the Test series. He took 15 wickets while yielding an average of 33.5 runs in his last series in South Africa and has so far taken 33 wickets in six Tests against the Proteas.

The visitors will play three first-class matches against Western Province, Boland and Natal before the first Test, in Johannesburg.

#### TEAMS

AUSTRALIA, (from): Mark Taylor (captain), Matthew Elliott, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Greg Bell, Michael Bevan, Matthew Hayden, Ian Healy, Shane Warne, Paul Reiffel, Glenn McGrath, Jason Gillespie and Andrew Bichel.

INVITATION XI: Jonathan Oppenheimer (captain), James Teeger, Neil McKenzie, Micky Arthur, Nakhaya Ntini, Mark Davis, Dale Benkenstein, Boteta Dippenaar, Hugh Page, Martin Gidley and Dave Callaghan.

## ENGLAND CHRONICLES

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in England

Sheffielder Naseem Hamed celebrated Eid with an eighth round win over USA's Tom "boom boom" Johnson on Saturday in a featherweight boxing title fight to unite two of the several world titles at stake. Naseem became double-holder of the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organisation titles even after failing to do it in the predicted third round. Naseem's immediate sights are set on Colombian Wilfredo Vazquez, holder of the World Boxing Association title, and Filipino Luisito Espinosa who holds the World Boxing Council championship. Then there is American Kevin Kelley who holds the less-reputed World Boxing Union title.

Naseem, Prince Naseem Hamed as he is referred to in the local press, was the new British hero even before Saturday's fight, but every Briton had to pay extra to watch the LIVE TV coverage of the bout that took place in London. Cable operators charged each of their customers about ten pounds additional if they made the booking before midnight Friday and fifteen thereafter. The payment included 24 hours of boxing including the Las Vegas contest for the World Boxing Council vacant heavyweight championship between Londoner Lennox Lewis and 'cry baby' 31-year old American Oliver McCall.

"It really is a dog's life on tour with England's cricketers," blared the tabloid's caption atop a photograph of England's coach David Lloyd who was inspecting the pitch at Wellington prior to the second Test and a dog called Baldrick tagging along. The caption below the pic went on: "Perhaps he has a cunning plan. Baldrick the Airedale (type of dog) appears to be stepping forward to offer advice to David Lloyd. May be Baldrick, who belongs to the Wellington groundsman, is hoping to meet Jack Russel or simply something to eat. Unfortunately for him, though, these days Lloyd does not have any 'Winalot' (type of dog food)."

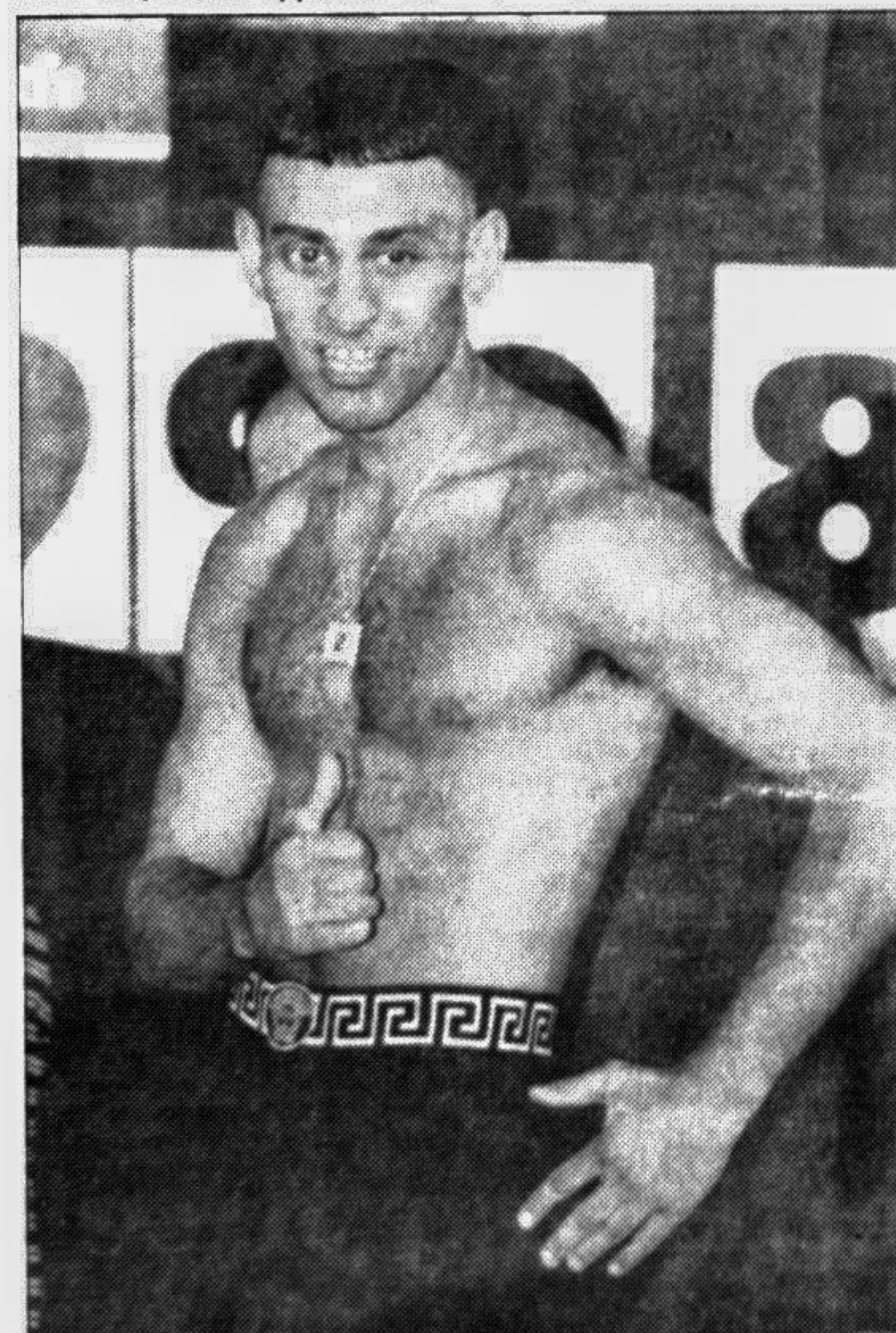
Today, Lloyd does have a win, finally after miserable displays in Zimbabwe and the failure last month at Auckland. Well, if Albertson and co. can contain the New Zealanders in the third Test beginning Friday at Christchurch, it will be their first overseas series victory in five years. It is a dog's life.

Even in the early 70s a good number of our national footballers used to smoke. But, happily enough today, perhaps due to the increased professional approach, not many top players indulge in puffing. And, they may have done themselves a jolly good turn. According to Dr Douglas Carnall, the key limit-

ing factor in aerobic fitness is the rate of transfer of oxygen from the lungs to the tissues. Smokers will have reduced lung capacity because cigarette smoke interferes in this process in several ways. The carbon monoxide levels, increased in the blood due to smoking, binds to the haemoglobin and reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the red blood cells. Furthermore, nicotine constricts blood vessels, reducing their ability to carry blood. And, that is dangerous. Smoking also depresses the body's repair mechanism which means that smokers tend to be slower to recover from injury and illness. The silver lining is that most of the harmful effects of cigarette smoking on fitness are probably reversible within a few days of stopping, provided there has been no lasting lung damage. However, healing the psychological scar left by nicotine addiction is more difficult. On the issue of positive approach to

health, our footballs have scored a lot of goals.

At last Sunday's Masters snooker final, being covered LIVE by BBC2, there was a woman stalker. BBC's unaware cameras caught the woman in her act. The ultimate champion, the icon of the 80s and an outsider at the age of 39 years, Steve Davis later said that he was so engrossed in the match he had not even seen the girl's face. Who had? But, the veteran thought the sight of the uncovered woman put his younger opponent Ronnie O'Sullivan off-track, allowing the six-times world champion Davis to level at four frames all. However, with no further streaking, O'Sullivan took an 8-4 lead. But, the lady had the last say, her earlier performance corrupting O'Sullivan's psyche from the 13th frame onwards. Steve Davis went on to become perhaps the oldest man to win a prestigious title.



British WBO champion Prince Naseem Hamed weighs in before his bout against world featherweight champion American Tom Johnson at the Capital Cafe in central London on Feb 7.