

## PCB boss pours cold water on WI proposal

Pakistan cricket board (PCB) president Zulfiqar Ali Shah Bukhari yesterday ruled out the West Indies proposal of staging the World Cup cricket every two years instead of every four years, reports BSS.

Bukhari, who arrived here to witness the third SAARC cricket tournament at the invitation of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), told that the West Indies proposal is impossible and infeasible.

"We had organised the World Cup with India twice and we know how much organisational efforts, financial supports and other efforts are involved in organising such a tournament like the World Cup," the PCB chief said.

"The World Cup must be held every four years," he added.

Regarding the Bangladesh's request for one-day international and Test status, the Pakistan cricket chief said Pakistan would have the moral support for the Bangladesh. "But to have the such status, standard of cricket in Bangladesh and other associate members will come into discussion during the ICC meeting in June at Lord's."

Bukhari admitted the crowd support and organisational capabilities are very positive for Bangladesh and "It will go ahead in the days to come."

## Windies call up Williams

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb 28: West Indies have recalled opener Stuart Williams and named two newcomers in a squad of 13 for the first Test against India, reports Reuters.

Leg-spinner Rawl Lewis and paceman Franklyn Rose are the uncapped pair included in the early for the opening match of the five-Test series starting in Kingston, Jamaica, on March 6.

Openers Robert Samuels and Adrian Griffith, wicketkeeper Courtney Browne and pace bowler Patterson Thompson, who all went on the recent tour of Australia, have been overlooked.

Fast bowlers Kenneth Benjamin, Cameron Cuffy and Nixon McLean were ruled out by injury.

Williams, who played 12 Tests between 1994 and 1995, scoring only 386 runs at an average of 22.70, gets back into the side after a successful West Indies A team tour of Sri Lanka last October.

Lewis, 22, bowled well on the A team tour of Sri Lanka, taking four for 23 to help West Indies win the second unofficial Test against Sri Lanka.

The 25-year-old Rose returned to regional cricket for Jamaica this season after a self-imposed break and immediately made his mark with a man-of-the-match innings of 96 against the Leeward Islands in the opening match.

He so far has 18 Red Stripe Cup wickets after four matches, including five for 62 against Barbados last weekend.

India's 16-man squad, led by Sachin Tendulkar, arrived in Jamaica late on Tuesday for the tour that also includes four one-day internationals.

The Indians open their itinerary today with a four-day game against Jamaica at Sabina Park, Kingston.

### WI SQUAD

Stuart Williams, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder, Junior Murray, Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Courtney Walsh (captain), Rawl Lewis, Franklyn Rose.

## Becker set to leave Germany?

FRANKFURT, Feb 28: Upset by tax investigators raiding his home, three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker plans to leave Germany for good, possibly as soon as next week, the Bild newspaper said Friday, reports AP.

In a front-page story, the mass-circulation newspaper said the tennis star will move to a new house in Florida. Becker's decision to leave Germany was "irrevocable," Bild said.

"Boris will never again live in his homeland," Bild said.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed source close to Becker as saying one of Germany's biggest celebrities had "closed the chapter on Germany."

"He's been effectively gone since the tax agents raided his house," the source told Bild.

Becker's villa in Munich's upscale Bogenhausen district was searched Dec. 19, while Becker was vacationing in Florida.

No charges have been raised against Becker. Media reports have said the search was conducted against the advice of prosecutors, who saw no case against Becker.

## Jim slips, Pete escapes

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 28: Second-seeded defending champion Jim Courier was sent packing from the Advanta Championship by South African Grant Stafford on Thursday, but top seed Pete Sampras survived his second round challenge, reports AFP.

The 18th-ranked Courier rallied to force a third set only to fall 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 to the 78th-ranked Stafford.

World number one Sampras, a two-time winner of this event, struggled with his usually devastating serve before holding off 38th-ranked Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 7-5, 7-6.



A CAPTAIN'S KNOCK: Pakistan A skipper Asif Mujtaba in the defensive mode during his responsible innings of 91 yesterday. —Star photo

## An elementally cursed finale

# Pakistan's maiden success

Sports Reporter



Fog and rain blurred the maiden Pakistani success in the SAARC cricket tournament as Asif Mujtaba's Pakistan A team prevailed over their counterparts from across the border in an anticlimactic and inconclusive final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Pakistan landed the champion's trophy of the four-nation regional meet of one-day tournament by virtue of a better run-rate as the already revised match could not reach its conclusion due to a shower. Chasing a victory target of 200 in 44 overs, six overs less than the standard quota of 50 overs due to heavy fog that delayed the start — the match was pretty delicately poised with India on 124 for five at the completion of 31 overs. Left-handed batsman Sridharan Sharath, man-of-the-match in the previous engagement against hosts Bangladesh was batting with a fluent 35 made off 47 balls and Prasad, the wicketkeeper batsman who batted through the innings in the league match of the two teams was batting on one when the rain came down.

Facing an asking rate of 4.5 runs over India got off to a slow and watchful start with Gagan Khoda and Waseem Jaffer putting on 33 runs for the first wicket in 11.5 overs. Gagan, who justified his hurried reinforcement to fill the void of the indisposed India A skipper Ajay Sharma with a fine half century against Bangladesh, was the first to go when posthumously drove at a low and rather innocuous delivery from Md Zahid, the spearhead of the Pakistani attack whose pace and hit spell doom for the Indians in the league match, to be smartly taken behind the wicket by Wasim Yousofi.

Waseem Jaffer, the tall right-hander tipped by many as a future opener of the main Indian team did his rating no good when he went for a drive against Azhar Mahmood — the man responsible for wrestling back the initiative for Pakistan — to be bowled through a gap that would have allowed even a dog to run through, let alone a cricket ball. Waseem, who was involved in a couple of annoying withdrawals from his stance after the ball had been delivered, was extremely lucky to survive a splendid spell of new ball bowling by Aaqib Javed. The former integral member of the Pakistan team, specially the one-day combinations, Aaqib, contrary to his new ball partner Zahid, settled down to a perfect line and kept the young Indian openers guessing. Mostly cutting the ball away from the right-handers rather than getting it to swing in the air, Aaqib, who had no wicket to embellish his fine analysis of 12 runs from five overs, had Waseem playing and missing outside the off-stump time and again.

The arrival of Amay Khurasiya at the wicket did give some momentum to the otherwise sluggish Indian innings. A fine stroke-maker who could not quite translate his ability in achievement at least in this meet, more because of his restiveness than good bowling yesterday resoundingly announced his intention when he hit four spectacular boundaries off successive deliveries. Beginning with a punch down to long on, he played a short-arm pull past midwicket and then swivelled around to pull Zahid behind square to mark an embarrassing costly over by the young tearaway.

The Indian skipper, who hit the first ball of the next over for a four however could not carry on for long as Azhar Mahmood, the right-arm medium pacer who managed just about perfect swing in the air to create confusion in batsmen produced the ball of the match to send him back for a run-a-ball 27. It landed on the left-hander's off-

stump drawing Khurasiya into a tentative push and then moved out late to offer Yousofi his second victim of the day.

Hemant Badani, the other left-hander looked solid but struggled to get a move on and when he tried clip Azhar him off the legs, skipper Mujtaba who had strategically positioned himself at short midwicket for the catch, gleefully accepted the offer to do the icing on a fine batting display earlier in the day.

Bahutule whose fine batting was concluded through a controversial run out decision in India's 68-run defeat to Pakistan earlier in the meet, yesterday conjured a similar dismissal though without any controversy.

Sharath, the stocky south-paw, however, maintained steady aggression in the face of these reversals and had hit five powerful boundaries in a 47 ball innings of 35 when the weather intervention led to the premature death of the match.

Azhar Mahmood exhausted his quota of eight overs for a potentially decisive haul of three for 30.

Earlier in the day, the match started one hour behind the clock due to heavy fog and Pakistan A after being put in by Khurasiya were all out for 199.

highest by any bowler in the four nation unofficial meet.

Debashis Mohanty bowled well within himself and was rewarded with the wicket Md Wasim of the new star in the Pakistani batting horizon. A predominantly back foot player

who struggled on the slow surface right through their tournament, failed to adjust his movement to the pace and bounce of the wicket and left for four much to the disappointment of the crowd by scratching a straightish ball from Mohanty to Prasad behind the wicket. Mohanty, who was not given a second go in the slog overs, finished with one for 20 from seven overs.

IGLOO SNOW BALL

### SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN A			
Azam Khan c Wasim b Arindam	2		
Sharaf c Prasad b David	31		
M Wasim c Prasad b Mohanty	4		
Mujtaba c Khurasiya b Sharath	91		

## Ready reckoner

Sports Reporter



Pakistanis ended their SAARC jinx in the third edition of the regional tourney yesterday when they posted the

title triumph over arch-rivals India, winning in terms of better run-rate as rain affected the finale.

The fate of the match was decided under the 'Norm System' — the new International Cricket Council (ICC) rule — introduced here for the first time.

Instead of the now-defunct average system, the world cricket's governing body adopted a rather easy provision to decide any reduced one-day affair which is still quite unfamiliar to our local buffs. In a bid to make Star readers up-to-date with the change we are giving the nitty-gritty of the 'Norm System'.

After going through the one-day records the ICC has formulated a standard score from 25-50 overs (for a result at least 25-

overs-a-side should have been played). The 'Norm' or standard scores are as follows:

Overs	Runs	Overs	Runs
25	150	38	198
26	151	39	201
27	158	40	204
28	163	41	207
29	167	42	209
30	171	43	212
31	175	44	214
32	178	45	216
33	182	46	218
34	185	47	220
35	189	48	222
36	192	49	224
37	195	50	225

On the basis of the 'Norm' a target score is set for the team batting second with a formula. Target score is equal to the 'Norm' of the team batting second and is divided by the 'Norm' of the team batting first and the outcome is multiplied by the runs scored by the team batting first. Now solve the puzzle and sort out what was the target score for India A against Pakistan A in 31 overs!

in 43.2 overs. Although Indian seamers failed to cash in on the heavy atmosphere normally deemed as ideal for seam and swing bowling, Pakistani batsmen with the exception of skipper Asif Mujtaba showed a distinct lack of application.

Left-handed Mujtaba, who was man-of-the-match in Pakistan's opening match against

Bangladesh yesterday, held the innings together with workmanlike 91. Running magnificently and relying on nudges and pushes, Mujtaba the two-down batsman who was the last out in the Pakistan innings hit only five boundaries and was duly given the man-of-the-match award.

Akhtar Sarfaraz, the other left-hander, who had bailed Pakistan out in the previous match against Sri Lanka with a fine undefeated half century, followed his skipper in the final.

With 31, Jameel Mujahid and Muhammad Hussain with 26 and 18 were the other notable run-getters.

Fresh from his birthday celebration on the day of his side's seven-wicket triumph over Bangladesh, Noel David had the highest haul among the Indian bowlers. The shining star among a host of distinguished fielders for sheer athleticism, David picked up three wickets including that of Basit Ali, whom he had caught with a cleverly bowled one that forced the reputed Pakistani to air an intended big drive to Sharath at short midwicket.

Sharath who bowled his off breaks quite cleverly, got two for 30.

Harvinder Singh, the young Indian seamer took two wickets in the slog overs to finish with tournament haul of 12 wickets,

Basit Ali c Sharath b David	2
M Jameel c Harvinder b David	26
Yousafi c Prasad b Sharath	9
Azhar c Prasad b Bahutule	8
M Hussain c Wasim b Harvinder	10
Aaqib b Harvinder	1
M Zahid not out	5
Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-5)	10
Total: (All out in 43.2 overs)	199
Fall of wkts: 1-9; 2-29; 3-70; 4-85; 5-137; 6-152; 7-153; 8-187; 9-189.	

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Mohanty	7	1	20	1
Arindam	6	0	24	1
Noel David	9	0	32	3
Harvinder	6	0	44	2
Bahutule	6	0	46	1
S Sharath	6.2	0	30	2

<b>Bowling:</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Mohanty	7	1	20	
Arindam	6	0	24	
Noel David	9	0	32	
Harvinder	6	0	44	
Bahutule	9	0	46	
S Sharath	6.2	0	30	

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Aaqib	5	1	12	0
M Zahid	7	0	28	1
Azhar Mahmood	8	1	30	3
A Sarfaraz	3	0	13	0
M Hussain	6	0	25	0
A Mujtaba	2	0	6	0

Result: Pakistan A won by better run-rate.

Man-of-the-match: Asif Mujtaba (Pakistan A)

STATS AT A GLANCE

**Result:** Pakistan A won by 100 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Asif Mujtaba (Pakistan A)

## BCB XI suffer another setback

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) XI suffered a humiliating 108-run defeat to PIA in the Wills Cup cricket championship in Pakistan yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, PIA scored 267 for six in the stipulated 50 overs with Mehmoed Hamid top-scoring with 72. Other notable run-getters were Sohail Jaffer (not out 64), Moin Khan (52) and Zahid Fazal (51).

BCB's Mofizur Rahman Munia took three wickets giving away 62 runs while Zakir Hossain captured two for 24.

In reply BCB XI made 159 for six in their allotted 50 overs. Habibul Bashar Sumon scored the highest 40 runs followed by Parvez Ahmed 34, Halim Shah 30 and Shahriar Hossain 25.

PIA's off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq claimed three wickets giving away only 19 runs, while Nadim Khan, Mehmoed Hamid and Rizwan-uz-Zaman took one wicket each.

## Thipsay goes atop

Sports Reporter

IM Praveen Thipsay of India seized the lead in the third United Insurance Grand Masters' chess tournament at the end of the eighth round held yesterday at the NSC conference room.

Thipsay, the seven-time Indian national champion, edged past local star IM Reefat-bin-Sattar. Playing with white pieces, the Indian played an irregular set up against his opponents Sicilian defence and won the match after 34 moves.

Thipsay raised his tally to six points and enjoyed a half a point cushion over IM Ziaur Rahman, GM Plaskett of England and IM Devaki Prasad of India who were grouped in second spot with five and a half points each.

Zia was forced to a draw by compatriot GM Niaz Murshed while Prasad recorded a convincing victory over local Kayes Hasan. On the other hand, overnight leader Plaskett lost to GM Sergei Tiviakov of Russia.

Besides, IM Saidali of Uzbekistan defeated IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam, GM Malisaukas of Lithuania tamed Saifuddin Lovlu. In the day's remaining match, GM Szekely to Hungary and IM Kaumov of Uzbekistan agreed to a draw after 16 moves.

### STANDINGS

(After eighth round): 6 points — Thipsay; 5.5 points — Zia, Plaskett, Prasad; 4.5 points — Niaz, Reefat, Tiviakov, Dung; 4 points — Saidali, Szekely, Malisaukas; 2 points — Kayes; 1.5 points — Kaumov.

Reefat vs Plaskett, Lovlu vs Thipsay, Prasad vs Malisaukas, Zia vs Kayes and Dung vs Niaz.

### Johannesburg Test

## S Africa 302

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 28: South Africa bolstered by two brilliant half centuries from Hansie Cronje and Dave Richardson were bowled out for 302 on the first day of the first cricket Test here Friday, reports AP.

Both batsmen restructured the home side's first innings after fast bowler Glenn McGrath had made a mockery of it, cleaning up the top order in the space of two spells on either side of the lunch break.

After skipper Cronje had won his third toss in seven Tests and decided to make first use of the Wanderers pitch, McGrath reduced the home side to 115 for five after lunch.

But Cronje played an inspirational captain's knock and weathered the destructive storm in his 189-minute presence and built the total around two innings building stand.

Richardson, the only players to figure in all the Test since South Africa's return to Test fold — 35 of them, came out of the shadows of his skipper's 76 with a fine knock — an unbeaten 72 and held the innings together with the help of the tailenders.

Richardson shared two rollicking stands with Allan Donald (21) — 58 runs for the ninth wicket and 49 runs for the 10th with No.11 Paul Adams (15).

# No love lost between cricket and rain gods

By Zayd Almer Khan



The heavy mist that delayed proceedings in the morning and the overcast sky that threateningly loomed over the stadium almost throughout the day were reasons enough to expect rain in the later hours of the day.

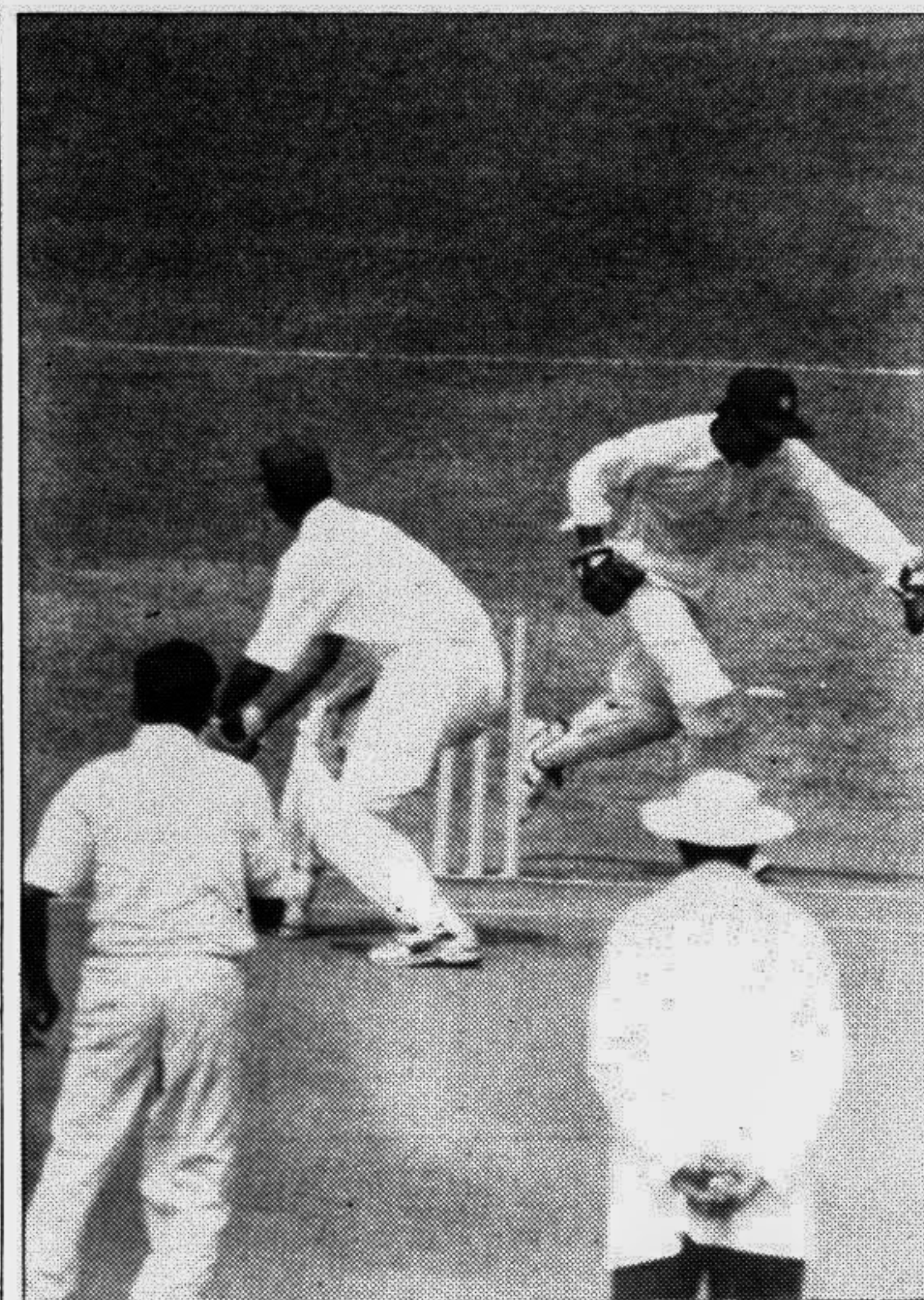
But no one expected the brief impenetrable downpour to being so much of an anti-climatic end to the third SAARC tourney. It was as if the rain gods were adamant to rub salt into the disappointment suffered by local cricket lovers due to Bangladesh's pathetic show by choosing this particular day to spray the city with unexpected cloudburst and foil the arduous efforts of the twenty-two men out there in the middle.

It truly was an anticlimax, the way yesterday's final match

ended. Both teams had fought hard upto the point when the elements interfered, promising a nail biting end to a keenly contested encounter. To be honest, the competition between the bat and ball had reached such an exciting level towards the end that most onlookers, this correspondent including, had even forgotten all about the possibility of rain.

What had set up such a close battle was undoubtedly the batting of Asif Mujtaba, the Pakistan A skipper. Cool, composed, unselfish, responsible — it was a true captain's knock by the Test discard from Karachi. It was a display of good, intelligent batting and tremendous running between the wickets — an innings our own batsmen could learn from.

The rest of the Pakistan line-up disappointed spectators.



Srikant Prasad, the India A keeper, is in ecstasy after stumping Pakistan's Azhar Mahmood off Sairaj Bahutule during yesterday's third SAARC cricket final at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

## The post-match parley

Sports Reporter



Pakistan A won the third SAARC cricket trophy as the most powerful and deserving side among the four participating teams, its manager Zaheer Abbas encapsulated his reaction before the press following his team's title triumph over India A yesterday.

Asked if rain helped them win the match yesterday, the celebrated former cricketer said, "Well, we did not bring the rain, it just came. And the point is what ever the rule says, we have won the match. I do not believe that without rain we could not have won because we also beat them in the robin league phase."

"Definitely I would like to go till the end of the match than a closed match", added Abbas.

About his captain's innings, Zaheer, rating him as a very good captain, said, "The captain played a captain's knock and my heartiest congratulations to him. He took all the responsibilities on his own shoulders and played genuinely well."

When asked what was the reason behind the delay in the morning, Mujtaba said, "I was ready to play (in the light fog), but the Indian captain (Amay Khurasiya) did not agree and the umpires had no choice but to delay the match."

About Bangladesh, Mujtaba said, "To tell you very frankly, your bowling has a lot to improve. Whatever the batsmen scored, the bowler couldn't defend that. You have to concentrate more on this."

When the Pakistan manager and captain were giving full credit to their boys for the victory, their Indian counterparts bluntly blamed the weather for

their defeat. "We are very disappointed because we were going on the right stride. But the weather has changed the whole thing and unfortunately we lost today," a demoralised India A manager Krishnamachari Srikkanth started his session by saying.

"I personally feel that, if it would have been a complete 44-over match, we could have won because we were gradually heading towards the victory. We needed five runs per over with five wickets in hand when the match was stopped. Anyway we have lost by the rules and we accept that", Srikkanth added.

About his team's batting, Srikkanth said that his boys were going all right. "You see they can't get to bat with a calculator in their hands and wait for rain. It was a bad luck for us", he said.

Commenting on Pakistan A captain Asif Mujtaba's performance, Srikkanth said that it a responsible innings. "If you look at him, he did not go for big shots. He played a sensible knock which is encouraging for any side."

About their fielding, the India A captain Amay Khurasiya said, "Well, it was the part of our plan today because we concentrated ourselves on restricting the fours. I think we were correct in doing so because they reached only 199 at the end."



Winners and participants of the Lancer Golf Tournament '97 after the prize distribution ceremony at Golfers Inn, Kurmitola Golf Club, yesterday. Golfers from home and abroad took part in the day-long tourney, organised by Rangs Limited. — Star photo