

Windies 15/0

Sports Reporter

West Indies were 15 for no loss in their first innings, a quarter of an hour into the post lunch session on the second day of the first Test against England at Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad, according to Star Sports monitored last night.

Earlier England resuming on overnight 175 for eight were all out for 214 exactly 30 minutes before lunch.

Kenneth Benjamin captured both the wickets to fall today and ended with three for 68. Curtly Ambrose was the outstanding bowler once again for West Indies and finished with wonderful figures of three for 23 in 26 overs which included 16 maidens.

For England Nasser Hussain remained unconquered on 61 from 202 balls.

Bengal take control

NEW DELHI, Feb 6: Ajay Verma (75) and Akshendu Lehari (87) piled up a superb 173-run opening stand atop skipper Saurav Ganguly's career-best haul of six for 87 to put Bengal on the driver's seat against Delhi on the second day of their Group 'B' Ranji Trophy super league tie here today, reports PTI.

Ganguly, who had struck thrice to leave Delhi at 263 for six overnight took as many more to restrict Delhi to 300 soon after the first drinks interval. No 7 Nikhil Chopra scored a defiant 84 before being the last man out.

Bengal were 200 for two at stumps for the loss of the openers with Debang Gandhi (15 batting) and Saba Karim (four batting), who came ahead of Ganguly.

Bengal would have been in an even stronger position but for paceman Robin Singh striking twice in the space of eight balls after tea, taken at 130 for none.

Ajay Verma and Lahiri played cultured knocks and played forward to counter the occasional balls which kept low. Robin Singh trapped Verma leg before, to the batsman's displeasure, off the fourth ball of his second spell from the far end before catching Lahiri's upshot drive gleefully.

Ganguly killed Delhi hopes of a big score. He bettered his previous Ranji best haul of five for 60 against Assam at Maligaon in 1993.

Brief scores: Delhi 300 all out (A Sharma 101, N Chopra 64; S Ganguly 6/87, U Chatterjee 2/62) vs Bengal 200 for two (A Verma 75, A Lahiri 87; R Singh 2/32).

Magic wants to be Mike's friend

LAS VEGAS, Feb 6: Earvin "Magic" Johnson says he wants to be as influential in the boxing ring as he has been on the basketball court, and he thinks former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson is just the ticket, reports AP.

Johnson, in a copyright story in Thursday's Las Vegas Sun, said he wants to become a major force in boxing promotion. He has yet to file for a promoter's licence with the Nevada State Athletic Commission, but has met with the agency's executive director, Marc Ratner, about the new role.

Johnson said he would love to sign Tyson, who is rumoured to have split with his longtime promoter Don King.

"I would love to have Mike Tyson because Mike needs somebody like me," Johnson told the Sun in an interview Tuesday in his Beverly Hills, California, office. "First of all, Mike needs somebody to respect. He needs somebody to tell him 'This is how you're going to have to do it. Mike, you can't do this, and this and this. You got to do it like this.'"

"He needs somebody he can look up to. That's what he needs. No matter what people think boxing still needs Mike Tyson. But they need the right Mike Tyson. They don't need the old one; they need the new one."

Johnson is prepared to recapture that Tyson of old. He claims he can correct the error of Tyson's ways.

"Mike needs image control," Johnson said. "He needs status right now. He needs somebody to bring that back."

"First of all, you got to sit him down and say 'This is it. This is your last shot.' That's the No 1 thing. No 2, we need the old Mike Tyson fighting-wise. The real dedicated, stern Mike Tyson. Then we got to get him out so people can see him again. The association with Magic can help him maybe."

Tyson, suspended for biting the ear of Evander Holyfield in his last fight, is eligible for reinstatement in July, but he must petition the commission.

Costly flaw!

NAGANO, Japan, Feb 6: The first foul-up of the high-tech Olympic results and information system at the Nagano Winter Games cropped up today with the South Korean national anthem falsely identified, reports AFP.

"We are in the process of changing it," said Ko Yamaguchi, the media chief of the Nagano Organising Committee (NIOC). "We'd like to check all the other information on anthems country by country."

The mistake has flawed the NIOC's multi-million dollar effort to prevent a recurrence of the numerous glitches that haunted a similar computer network at the Atlanta Summer Games in 1996.



Players of Abahani Krira Chakra (L) and Mohammedan Sporting Club in jovial mood during practice yesterday. The arch-rivals will lock horns today in the Bijoy Dibash cricket tournament final at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Bijoy Dibash final today

Sports Reporter



After a break for Ramadan and Eid, the Bijoy Dibash invitational cricket tournament final between arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club will be held today at the Dhaka Stadium. The match will start at 9 am.

Bangladesh Betar will provide ball by ball commentary of the match from Dhaka Stadium.

Mohammedans, who have not won a single match against their perennial rivals in their last six meetings, will desperately be looking for a victory. This will be the third meeting between the two popular crowd-pullers this season. The previous two meetings in the Damal

Smriti cricket tournament last December went Abahani's way. They won the second round clash by 26 runs and the final by 73 runs respectively.

Another important feature of today's encounter is that both teams will field only local players according to the rules of the tournament.

Mohammedans practised at the stadium yesterday morning while Abahani had their net in the afternoon at their club ground without their skipper Akram Khan who arrived in the city last night from Calcutta.

Talking Mohammedan captain Aminul Islam Bulbul he thought 230 would be a defendable score.

"Toss will be no factor, but spinners will help", he added. Abahani coach Sarwar Im-

ran was optimistic about the game.

"We are in high spirits, because Mohammedans were beaten twice this year. We have no injury and our fielding has improved," he explained.

"200 plus will be a good total on this pitch."

Rates of tickets are: VIP Box Gate No. 1 — Tk 200, VIP Gate No. 3 — Tk 100, BCB enclosure Gate No. 1 — Tk 100, Club House Gate No. 2 — Tk 50 and East and West gallery (Gate Nos. 4-19) — Tk 20 each.

The winners will earn Tk one lakh cash and the losers receive Tk 75,000. Besides, the player-of-the-match and tournament collects Tk 5,000 and 10,000.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will be the chief guest in today's final.

PROBABLE TEAMS

ABAHANI KC: Imran Hamid, Azam Iqbal, Al-Shahriar, Akram Khan (captain), Naimur Rahman, Khaled Masood, Iqbal Hossain, Zakir Hossain, Saifulah Khan, Colonel and Niamur Rashid.

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Parvez Alam, Mehrab Hossain, Salim Shahed, Aminul Islam (captain), Minhajul Abedin, Sajid Hasan, Nasir Ahmed, Mohammad Rafique, Jahangir Alam Talukdar, Hasibul Hossain and Morshed Ali Khan.

IM chess

Sports Reporter

Twenty-two players were leading the qualifying round of the fourth United Insurance International Masters chess tournament at the end of the second round played at the NSC chess room yesterday.

On the second day of the nine-round Swiss league qualifiers, Ahmedul Haque, Mainuddin, Kambir Ali, Taherul Islam, Naim Arefin, Mehdi Hasan, M A Islam, Tanveer Talukdar, Syed Anwar Shamim, Mamunur Rashid, Rokonzaman, Javed, Nahid Ahmed, Selim Ahmed, Abdul Bari, Nuruddin, Mahbub Afzal, Ejaj Hossain, Nazrul Islam, Shahidul Amin, Anisuzzaman and Iklil Ali won their respective matches and remained atop the table with full two points.

The third round will start at the same venue today at 3 pm.

Kafelnikov in semis

MARSEILLE, France, Feb 6: It took three sets, but top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov defeated Romania's Adrian Panu 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in third-round play Thursday at the ATP Marseille Indoors-tennis tournament, reports AP.

Meanwhile, number six seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden had no trouble with Francisco Roig, defeating the Spaniard in two sets with a score of 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the semifinals, where he will face his countryman Magnus Gustafsson.

Unseeded Arnaud Boetsch of France had a tough first set against Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil but swept past the number four seed in strong second set play, winning the match 7-5, 6-2.

And in another upset, unseeded Arnaud Clement of France advanced defeating number eight seed Julian Alonso of Spain 6-1, 6-4. Clement will be up against No 1 seed Kafelnikov in the semifinals Friday.

U-16 Dhaka soccer team leaves for India tonight

Sports Reporter

A 20-member Dhaka Mahanagari under-16 football team including two officials, will leave for India tonight to play some exhibition matches.

All-India Football Federation invited the team as part of their celebrations marking 50 years of the country's independence.

Following are the members of the team: Shamim Reza, Ramjan Ali Babul, Ramjan Ali Mollah, Nazmul Haque Shah, Russell Ansari, Shah Alam, Jahangir Alam, Ataur Rahman, Salauddin, Sharifuzzaman, Mohammad Swapan, Liton Hossain, Farhad Hossain, Anwar Hossain, Sajjad Hossain, Ramjuddin, Rashedul Alam, Shafiqur Rahman, K M Shaidullah (team leader) and Shafiqur Rahman Shafique (coach/manager).

The odds have been tilted in the Kiwis' favour from the start when, on winning the toss, Stephen Fleming chose to bowl to give his attack the advantage of moist early conditions. All the bowlers performed well in helpful conditions after light drizzle livened the pitch and caused a 20-minute delay.

The tourists lost three wickets inside seven runs, with left-arm paceman Shayne O'Connor taking his maiden five-wicket haul — five for 39 bettering his 4-51 against Australia last month.

Veteran Kiwi all-rounder Chris Harris marked a personal milestone when caught and bowled Guy Whittall to take his 100th limited-overs wicket. He joined Richard Hadlee, Ewen Chatfield, Martin Snedden, Danny Morrison and Chris Pringle in the elite 100 club.

The home team's batting performance gave the Zimbabwean attack little to be proud of, however, with Craig Whittall's dismissal of opener Lorne Howell the only serious strike.

The Kiwis threw away their other wicket when Astle was run out after a mix-up.

The teams will meet again on February 19 in Wellington for the first of two scheduled Test matches, while three more one-day games will

follow in early March.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day international between Zimbabwe and New Zealand at the Basin Reserve on Friday:

ZIMBABWE

G Flower c and b Doull 11

Wishart c Astle b O'Connor 10

Goodwin c Fleming b O'Connor 3

A Flower c McMillan b Cairns 0

Campbell c Harris b O'Connor 23

G Whittall c and b Harris 31

Viljoen c Parore b Doull 36

P Strang b Nash 8

Streak c Parore b O'Connor 10

J Rennie b O'Connor 5

A Whittall not out 1

NEW ZEALAND

Howell c Wishart b Streak 7

Astle run out 67

Parore not out 36

Fleming not out 17

Extras (b-2, lb-4, w-5, nb-1) 12

Total (for two wks in 28.2 overs) 139

Fall of wks: 1-18; 2-121

Did not bat: C McMillan, C Cairns, C Harris, D Nash, S Doull, D Vettori, S O'Connor.

Bowling: O M R W

Streak 7 0 20 1

Rennie 5 0 27 0

P Strang 6 0 30 0

G Whittall 5.2 1 16 0

A Whittall 5 0 40 0

Result: New Zealand won by eight wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Shayne O'Connor.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Feb 6: Housing Estate Club defeated Lichu Bagan Cricket Club by four wickets in the third round of the 10th Shaheed Zia Smriti cricket tournament at Rajshahi Government College playground today.

Winning the toss, Lichu Bagan batted first and collected 168 for all in the stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Housing Estate reached their target of 169 runs for victory losing only four wickets in 22 overs.

Ibrahim, Sonny and Mony of the winners collected 25, 15 and 20 runs.

In the second match of the day at the same venue, Elite Club defeated Ranita Smriti Sangha by 23 runs.

Winning the toss, Elite batted first and made 173 runs for all in the stipulated 25 overs.

Shakil, Totan and Bright collected 52, 23 and 18 runs.

In reply, Ratan Smriti made 150 for all in 21.6 overs.

New Zealand at a canter



WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Feb 6 (AFP/AP): New Zealand crushed Zimbabwe by eight wickets in the second one-day international at the Basin Reserve today to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

Zimbabwe were left defending a hopelessly low total of 138, after the home team flattened the visiting batsmen in the morning session.

Replying, a confident New Zealand duo of Nathan Astle (67) and Adam Parore (36) not out put together the bulk of 139 inside 30 overs to take their team to victory with eight batsmen and 20 overs unused.

The odds have been tilted in the Kiwis' favour from the start when, on winning the toss, Stephen Fleming chose to bowl to give his attack the advantage of moist early conditions. All the bowlers performed well in helpful conditions after light drizzle livened the pitch and caused a 20-minute delay.

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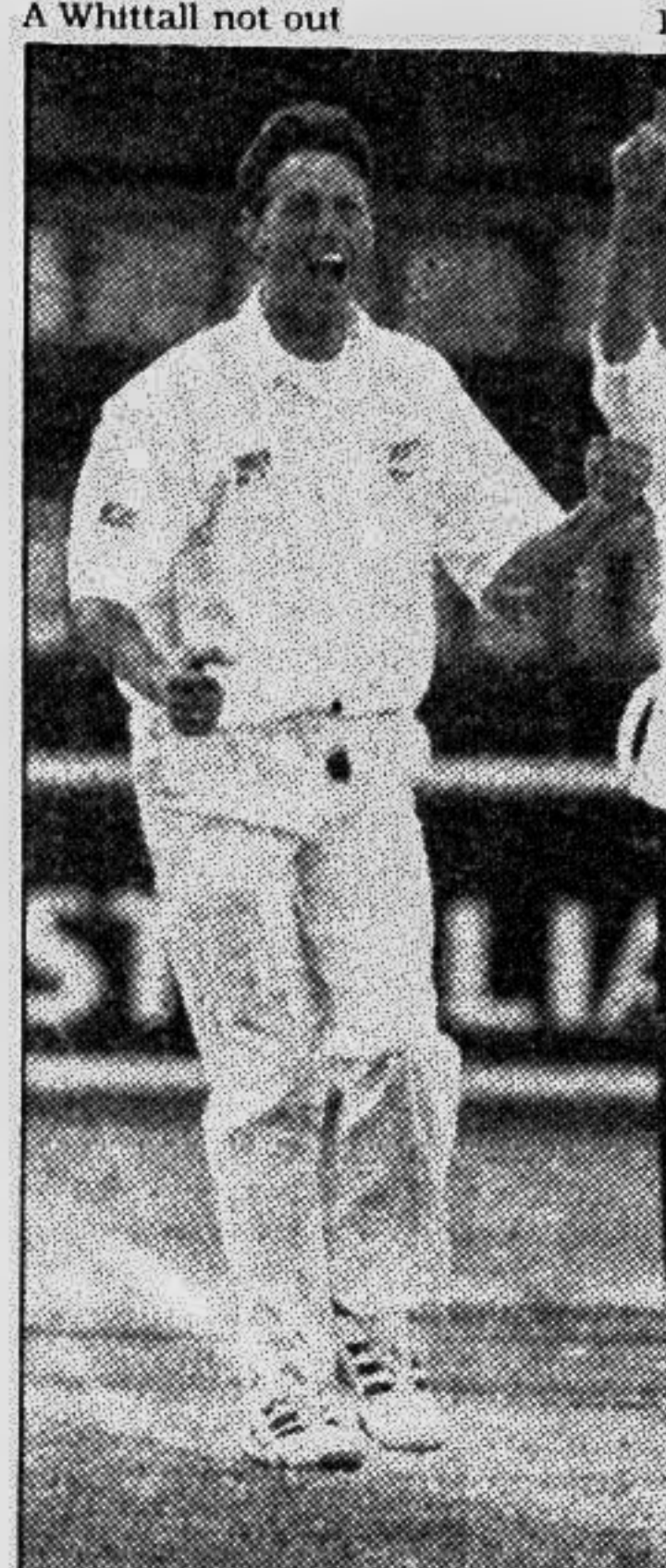
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O'CONNOR ... p-o-m

Extras: (b-4, nb-1, w-5) 10

Total: (all out in 49 overs) 138

Fall of wks: 1-1; 2-6; 3-7; 4-23; 5-48; 6-114; 7-114; 8-131; 9-133; 10-138.

Bowling: O M R W

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Plata bedevils Brazil



MIAMI, Florida, Feb 6: Juan Carlos Plata headed in a corner kick four minutes into the first half to give Guatemala a 1-1 draw against world champions Brazil in a first-round match of the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Plata headed home a corner by Martin Machon from eight yards that bounced once and then skipped past goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel for the dramatic equaliser before a crowd of 17,842 at the Orange Bowl.

About a minute later, referee Ramesh Ramdhan of Trinidad and Tobago whistled the match over.

Romario, the MVP of the 1994 World Cup, converted a penalty kick in the 79th minute to lift Brazil to a 1-0 lead and saved the four-time World Cup champions from the embarrassment of not scoring for the second time in two days.

Brazil was unable to score against Jamaica in a 0-0 draw here on Tuesday.

On Thursday, second-half sub Engelvert Herrera tripped Romario at the top of the penalty box. Romario fired a shot into the left corner as goalkeeper Edgar Estrada dived to the right.

Samson retains WBF belt

BANGKOK, Feb 6: Reigning World Boxing Federation (WBF) junior bantamweight champion Samson Dutcheboygym of Thailand, successfully defended his crown with a knockout victory over Philippines' Flex Marfa here today, reports AFP.

The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel was one of the sponsors of the tournament. The hotel sponsored hole