

Column One

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-88
Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm
on Feb 20, 1998

1. How many countries took part in the World Youth Cricket Cup?

14 15 16

2. What is the position of Korda in ATP rankings at the moment?

1st 2nd 3rd

3. How many Test matches has Dave Richardson played?

42 43 44

4. Who is the current 100m world champion?

Bailey Greene Cason

5. Which team finished first in the Premier Division soccer league?

Muktijoddha MSC Fganj

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS

SPORTS TALK

Pat Rafter

(Australian tennis star)

"Right now it looks like my next tournament will be Antwerp, Belgium, starting in three weeks in the dead of the grey European winter."

After losing in the Australian Open.

Saint Gregory's

School sports

Sports Reporter

The annual athletic competition of Saint Gregory's High School will be held at the school premises today.

State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq will inaugurate the meet at 9 am as the chief guest.

REGRETS

Due to space constraint our regular item CROSSWORD could not be accommodated.

— Sports Editor

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No : 248/Mkg of 1997-98

2. Name of work : Tender for Repairing and seal coat work at 1st KM (P) of Aricha-Daskandi Road under Manikganj Road Divn during the year 1997-98.

3. Estimated cost : Tk 1,35,012/=

4. Earnest money : Tk 2,701/= In favour of EE (RHD) Manikganj Road Division in BD/TC/Protrikashya Sanchay Patra and Bonus Sanchay Patra etc.

5. Time allowed : 15(fifteen) days from the date of issue of work order.

6. Eligibility of : 'A' to 'E' class General Category of RHD Contractors.

7. Name of Offices : Office of the EE (RHD) Manikganj/ Dhaka Divn, Dhaka/Narsingdi/ Narayanganj/Munshiganj/Gazipur/ Planning Divn, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka and SDE (RHD) Manikganj/Nayerhat under Manikganj Road Divn.

8. Name of offices : Superintending Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/EE (RHD), Manikganj Road Division and SDE (RHD), Manikganj/Nayerhat under Manikganj Road Divn.

9. Last date of : Up to 1-3-98 during office hours.

10. Last date of : At 12:30 PM on 2-3-98.

11. Date and time : On 4-3-98 at 1:00 PM in the office of the EE (RHD), Manikganj Road Divn.

12. Date and time : At 1:00 PM on 5-3-98.

13. Chargeable head : 168-RBF.

14. Authority of : SE (RHD) DRC, Dhaka.

AKM Rezaul Haque

Executive Engineer (RHD)

Manikganj Road Division

Manikganj.

DFP-2779-9/2

G-236

Naimur, Masud save Abahani

Sports Reporter

A century partnership for the fifth wicket between Naimur Rahman and Khaled Masud gave Abahani Krira Chakra their eighth win in the Janakantha Premier Division



cricket league yesterday. At the Dhaka Stadium, the title-holders beat Brothers Union by three wickets.

In a spectacular recovery operation Naimur and wicket-keeper Masud produced a match-winning 108 runs after Abahani were reduced to 65 for four in reply to an unimpressive Brothers total of 189.

Coming into bat at number five, Naimur scored a brilliant 58 and Masud fell just three runs short of what would have been a deserving half-century. The two middle-order batsmen got their acts together to steady the rocking boat after their top order caved in while going for some senseless shots.

A fine display of controlled spell by Abahani bowlers, aided by some unimaginative batting of the Gopibagh willow-wielders, enabled the popular Dhanmondi outfit to bundle Brothers out for 189 in 47 overs.

Things turned out to be more stimulating for Abahani when they were off to a rollicking start, scoring their 50 in only nine overs. But in the process they lost their opener Azam Iqbal (11) and one-down Al-Shahriar.

The complexion of the game however changed sharply when dashing opener Imran Hamid, who scored a typically aggressive 26, and skipper Akram Khan fell in quick succession.

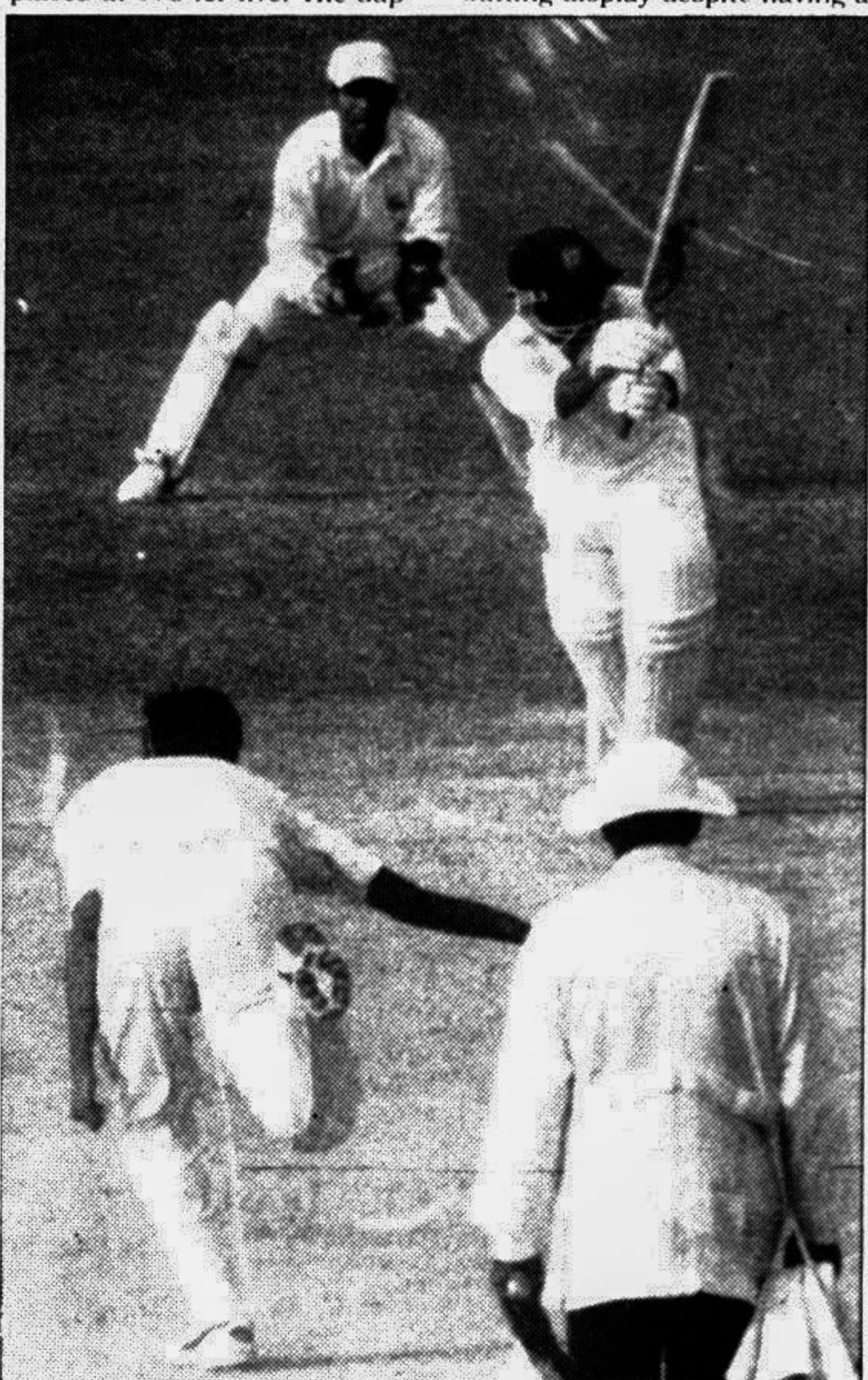
Imran was caught at mid-off Sanwar while going for a lofted drive. But a chill was sent down the Abahani spine when Akram fell for only nine, missing a full length delivery down the leg side from Khaled Mahmud into the safe pair of hands of wicketkeeper Jahangir.

But then came the exciting episode of the day's match when Masud joined forces with Naimur to weather the Brothers threat.

An in-form Naimur, who in an object lesson for his more illustrious predecessors played a very sensible innings, reached his fifty off only 68 balls which included three successive hits across the rope against Khaled Mahmud. But his fourth boundary, an eye-pleasing on-drive off national right-arm seamer

Shafuddin, was the best shot of the day. Naimur was eventually out in the 40th over, but not before Abahani were comfortably placed at 173 for five. The day

10 from Iqbal, Abahani reached the summit without further damage. Earlier, in their innings, Brothers demonstrated a poor batting display despite having a



Abahani's middle-order batsman Naimur Rahman flicks the ball for a four during his match-winning knock of 58 against Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the match by three wickets. — Star photo

per all-rounder was undone by a brilliant piece of fielding from Brothers skipper Halim Shah, who shattered the stump at the striker's end with direct throw from point.

The departure of Naimur inflicted a mini-collapse with Abahani losing their next two wickets for the addition of only seven runs. Khaled Masud, who hammered the lone sixer in the match, a huge hit over long-on off Sanwar, was brilliantly caught by former Indian Test-cap Sanjeev Sharma at mid-wicket and Sheikh Salahuddin scored only one before offering a simple return catch to Brothers' left-arm spinner Mustadir Litu. But thanks to an unbeaten

strong line-up which included former Pakistan international Amir Hanif and Sanjeev Sharma. Aamir did scored a defiant 45 off 72 balls and Sanwar hammered a handy 48, but there was no one around to play a long innings to vindicate their skipper's decision to bat first. With this win Abahani joined their arch-rivals Mohammedans atop the table. But Mohammedans played one match less than Abahani, who collected 18 points from nine matches.

On the other hand, with this defeat, Brothers' collection remained unchanged, 14 points off nine matches.

Salas proves his worth

LONDON, Feb 12:

Marcelo Salas showed why Lazio have paid 12 million pounds (19.5 million dollars) for his signature with two superbly-taken goals as Chile beat an experimental England team 2-0 in a World Cup warm-up on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The 23-year-old South American player-of-the-year put his side ahead after 44 minutes with one of the best goals ever scored under Wembley's famous twin towers.

Salas, who flies to Rome to

day to complete his transfer from River Plate, struck with stunning skill and finishing power.

Outpacing defender David Batty on the edge of the penalty area, he controlled a soaring 40-metre pass from Jose Sierra on his left thigh and completing the movement without breaking stride, volleyed the ball wide

of diving English goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

He wrapped up their deserved success with a perfectly-taken penalty 11 minutes from time when he sent Martyn the wrong way.

Salas himself had bamboozled England defender Sol Campbell into fouling him, and his goals fulfilled a personal dream.

It was Chile's first ever win in five meetings against England dating back to 1950 and wrapped up their sort world tour on a high note after a win over Australia in Melbourne at the weekend.

The Chileans, who face Italy, Cameroon and Austria in the

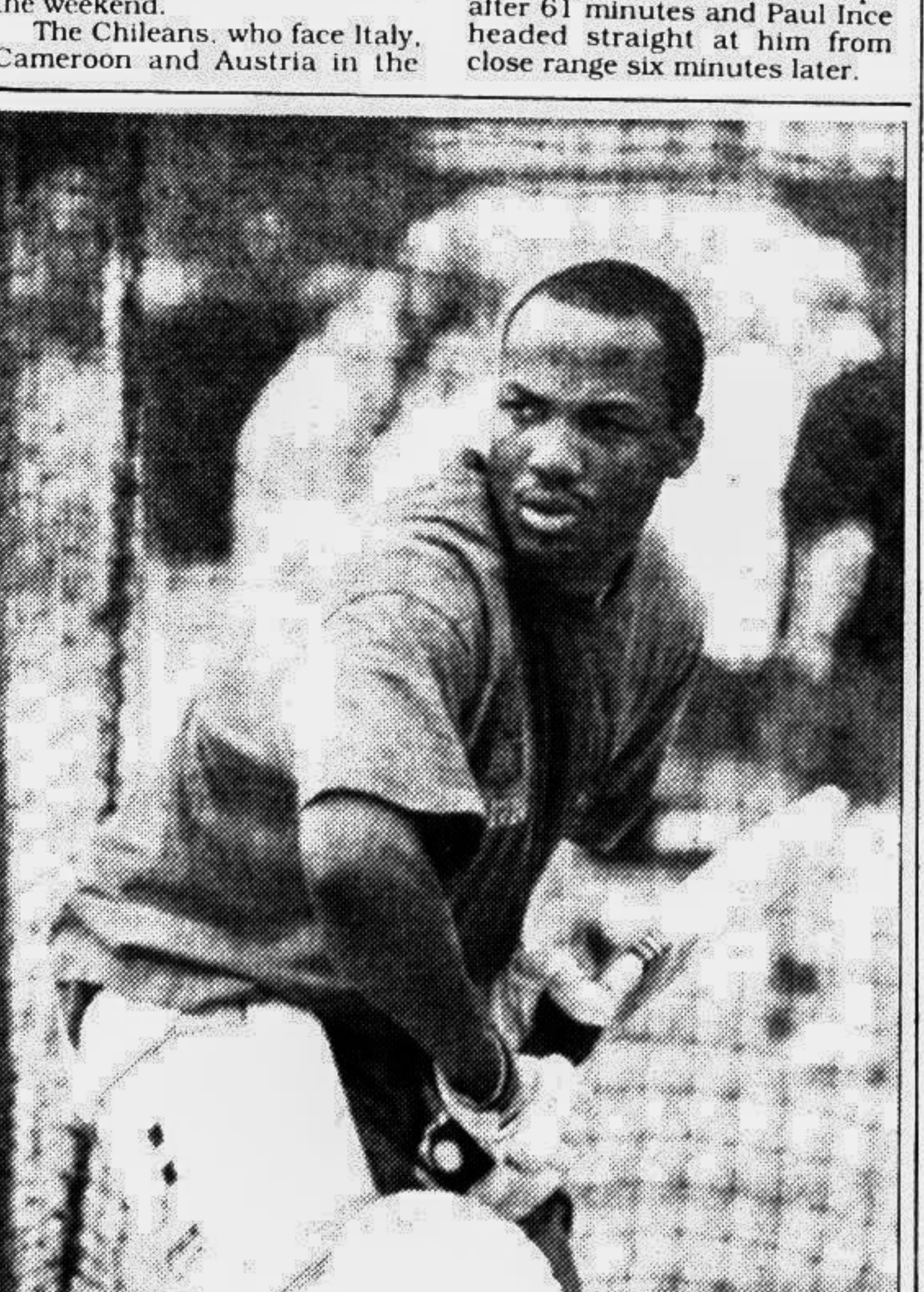
first round in the World Cup finals, showed no sign of jet-lag or lethargy after flying halfway round the world for the match.

Instead, with Sierra and Rodrigo Barrera at the heart of all their moves and dictating the pace of the match in midfield. They looked sharp, incisive and far more cohesive than England, who gave debuts to strikers Dion Dublin and Michael Owen.

Owen, aged just 18 years and 59 days, became England's youngest player this century and had a highly promising debut, twice going close to scoring.

England, who despite the experiments below their best, welcomed back striker Alan Shearer for his first international after his long injury lay-off, but he did not contribute greatly to their cause.

The nearest England came to a goal was when Grame le Saux shot at goalkeeper Nelson Tapia after 61 minutes and Paul Ince headed straight at him from close range six minutes later.



West Indies captain Brian Lara practises in the nets on Feb 11 at the Queen's Park Oval prior to the third Test against England, which starts in Trinidad today. The hosts are leading the series 1-0. Star Sports television channel will cover the match live from 9.35 pm BST. —AP/UNB photo

AKC-BU
SCORECARD

Scoreboard of the Janakantha Metropolitan Premier Division cricket league match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Brothers Union Club played at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday:

BROTHERS UNION:
Shahriar b Salahuddin 21
Shezan b Salahuddin 12
Jahangir c b Salahuddin 10
Sanwar c Saifullah b Durjoy 48
Amir Hanif c Imran Hamid b Saifullah 45
Halim Shah c K Masud b Saifullah 0
Sanjeev lbw b Zakir 5
K Mahmood st K Masud b Saifullah 12
Mostadir run out 6
Shahnewaz not out 5
Shafuddin K Masud b Naimur 4
Extras (lb-3, lb-5, nb-2, w-11) 21
Total (all out in 47 overs) 189
Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-46; 3-52; 4-131; 5-132; 6-148; 7-163; 8-175; 9-180; 10-189.

Bowling
Zakir 8 0 20 1
Colonel 5 0 26 0
Salahuddin 8 2 23 3
Iqbal 6 0 31 0
Saifullah 10 0 30 3
Naimur 10 0 51 2

ABAHANI KC:
Azam Iqbal st Jahangir b Shezan 11
Imran Hamid c Shafuddin b Sanwar 27
Al-Shahriar c Jahangir b Sanwar 9
Akram Khan c Jahangir b K Mahmood 7
Naimur run out 58
K Masud c Sharma b Mustadir 47
Salahuddin c b Mustadir 1
Iqbal Hossain not out 10
Zakir not out 0
Extras (lb-2, nb-6, w-12) 20
Total (for seven wickets in 45.1 overs) 190
Fall of wickets: 1-27; 2-48; 3-61; 4-65; 5-173; 6-179; 7-180.

Bowling
Shahnewaz 5 0 12 0
Shafuddin 5 0 26 0
Sanwar 8 1 0 43 2
Shezan 5 0 22 1
Shanjeev 3 0 15 0
K Mahmood 4 0 26 1
Mustadir 6 0 24 2
Hanif 9 1 20 0

Result: Abahani won by 3 wickets.

Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

BRIDGES

SADHARAN BIMA: 185 all out in 44 overs (Mainuzzaman 70, Rajinder Singh 36, Nakib 21; Jewel 2/24, Pappa 2/31, Ripon 2/32, Tanque 2/41)

DHAKA WANDERERS: 183 for nine in 50 overs (Jasim 53, Badshah 29, Tapu 29; Nakib 3/23)

Result: Sadharan Bima won by two runs.

A brilliant all-round performance by Nakib Haider guided Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha to their second successive win in the First Division cricket super league with a sensational two-run victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

In a low-scoring match, Nakib scored 21 runs to help his side reach a moderate total of 185 and then went on to capture three wickets for 23 runs to restrict their counterparts to 183 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs.

Sent into bat, the insurmountable score 185 before they were all out in 44 overs with opener Mainuzzaman hammering highest 70 off 89 balls including six fours.

Wanderers' Jewel, Pappa, Ripon and Tanque evenly shared eight wickets among themselves.

In reply, Wanderers could collect only 183 runs in their quota of 50 overs in the face of some inspirational bowling by new ball bowler Nakib. He was ably supported by Khokon Mainuzzaman, Rajinder and Ratan who captured one wicket each.

Middle-order Jasim, with a superb 53 off 58 balls, was the lone Wanderers bat who played with some sense while Badshah and Tapu contributed 29 runs apiece to the losers' account.

IM chess

qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Six players — Mainuddin Mainu, Dewan Shahidul Amin Tipu, Aminul Islam Palash, Kazi Taherul Islam and Hanif Mollah — were leading the table in the fourth United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament qualifiers at the end of the eighth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

In the penultimate round of the nine-round Swiss league qualifying tournament, Hanif beat Mehdi Hasan Parag while Mainu, Palash, Tipu, Taher and Anis drew with their opponents to remain atop, each having 6.5 points.

Ahmedul Haque, Nooruddin, Kazi Mahbub Afzal, Shyamol, Ejal Hossain and U Ten were in the second position with six points apiece while six others — Parag, Yanur Rahman Royal, Kambur Ali, Ratul, Milton and Lorrell with all having 5.5 points remained in the third spot.

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

TODAY'S MATCHES

Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group IV Competition:
Venue: National Tennis Complex

Bangladesh vs Brunei
UAE vs Jordan
Oman vs Iraq

Janakantha Premier Cricket League:
Biman vs Kalabagan KC (Dhaka Stadium)

First Division Cricket Super League:
Gopibagh FA vs Dhanmondi Club (Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

ALGERIA EXIT

Soccer weaklings Burkina Faso captured their first-ever victory by out-running and out-scoring former champions Algeria 2-1.

The loss made Algeria — who won the Cup in 1990 — the first team to exit from this year's tournament. The Algerians lost their first game against Guinea on Sunday.

Sabbir hangs up his boots

Sports Reporter

Syed Rumman-bin-Wali Sabbir waved his goodbye to football yesterday. The mercurial playmaker announced his retirement at a press conference at the NSC auditorium last evening.

Considered as one of the finest footballers the country has ever produced, Sabbir was a key player of Mohammedan Sporting Club during his luminous career spanning little over 14 years. But, quite sadly though, excepting the presence of a few admirers there no one around to play the last rites of Sabbir whose wonderful swiftness and imaginative crosses from the flanks was a class apart.

A born fighter, Sabbir made a remarkable comeback last year after a severe knee injury during the fateful night in August, 1994, in a Premier league match against Public Works Department (PWD) which almost marked a premature end to his career.

Although Sabbir, in his thirties, lost much of his grace and pace, he played the role of a kingpin to inspire Mohammedans win the coveted league title last season.

In front of a silent audience, Sabbir, an unassuming hero of many a Mohammedan triumph, tried hard to hold his tears back while bidding bye to the game he adored most.

"I have spent 12 of my 14-year-old career with Mohammedans. After the shocking incident in 1994, I was happy to come back and help my team win league championship last year. I thought it's better to quit the game as a Mohammedan player," said Sabbir in an emotion-choked voice.

"I cannot think football and Mohammedans separately. So it is not possible for me to don the jersey other than that of Mohammedans' black and white."

"Although my own form was not quite up to the mark, I had the confidence of playing better

this season. But a few club officials did not want me to play. Specially, Johnny (the manager of Mohammedans) tried everything to keep me out of the team. Finally, I have made up my mind and decided not to continue my career any more," told the soft-spoken Sabbir, who played for the national team from 1987 to 1993.

When asked if it was only Johnny who made his life difficult in the Mohammedan camp, Sabbir said, "Johnny does not dare to do much unless he gets support from some of the club officials."

The bereaved booter however ruled out any chances of his return to the competitive football.

"The decision is final. And, after having gone through the long spell of unpleasant experiences, I have lost all of my appetites for the game," said Sabbir, who began his career with Dhanmondi Club way back in 1985. He joined Mohammedans in 1987 and since then had never changed his allegiance.

"From now on, I will concentrate only on my business, and if I am called with due respect, I may consider to serve the club in different capacity," added Sabbir, who owns a garment factory and a sports shop.

Sabbir rolled up his emotional encounter with the press thanking his club officials and fans for providing him necessary support, especially during the critical time of his life in 1994-95.

Former national footballer Sheikh Mohammad Aslam and Shafiqul Islam Manik the convener of the Football Players Welfare Association, gave Sabbir a bouquet of red roses after his farewell deliberation. While national team players Zakir Hossain, Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, Tito, Jewel Rana and former players Ayaz and Montu were also present on the occasion.



Juventus, Inter held

ROME, Feb 12

(Reuters). Juventus and Inter Milan threw away 1-0 leads and had to settle for 1-1 draws from their respective Serie A matches at Brescia and Fiorentina on Wednesday.

Juve forged ahead through Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi shortly after halftime and appeared on course for their seventh consecutive league victory against a Brescia side fighting against relegation.

But 19 minutes later defender Alberto Savino headed his first goal in Serie A to give the home side a valuable point and stop the defending champions in their tracks.

In Florence, Inter took the lead through Ronaldo, who appears to have rediscovered his scoring touch after a barren spell over Christmas and New Year.

The Brazilian fired a free kick into the bottom left hand corner of Francesco Toldo's net on 26 minutes after French midfielder Benoit Caecile had been tugged to the ground on the edge of the penalty area.

But Fiorentina, with three straight victories at their back, pulled themselves level before halftime thanks to their own

goal. The Argentine found himself unmarked in the penalty area after 42 minutes and flicked a cross from Brazilian Luis Oliveira past Gianluca Pagliuca in the Inter net for his 15th league goal of the season.

Juventus move up to 45 points, still four clear of Inter.

Udinese, who were third before start of play, were also held to an away draw — 0-0 against AC Milan at the San Siro.

That result allowed in-form Lazio to edge into third on goal difference following their 3-1 victory over Empoli at the Olympic Stadium.

South American goalscorer, Gabriel Batistuta.

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