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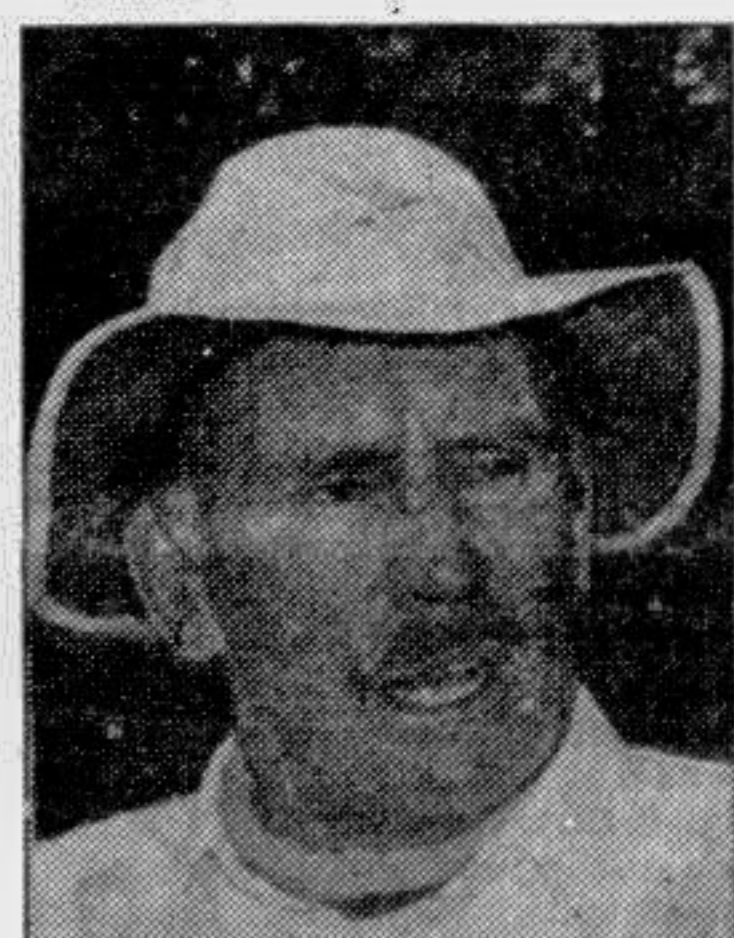
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Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)
THAT from a newspaper of 1876, we first learn about local cricket players. The playing ground was 'old lines', which we now know as Purana Paltan. The match was played between 'Europeans' and 'Natives'. There were eleven persons in the first team, and sixteen in the second. The match had begun at three in the afternoon. No! It was not a day-night affair. The 'Europeans' elected a bat after winning the toss and scored 130 runs. The Englishmen took the match quite seriously. In the language of an English newspaper: 'England expected every man to do his duty, and nobly did those, who had the least pretension to the name of Englishman, respond to their country's call.' Mr Loyal (his real name) played very well in that match. To illustrate sports journalism of the era, a part of the report on the match being quoted. The description of how Mr. Loyal was out: 'A cautious fieldsman standing almost under his very nose, and who had escaped the batter's observation in the heat of excitement, bided his time, and the best player of the day was destined to fall an easy prey to a miserable catch right into his opponent's hand.'
The Natives scored 69 in all. The Natives could not understand the pace of the ball. Newspaper's comment in English: 'Poor fellows! They were always wrong, expecting the slow for the quick and vice versa.'
Today, that journalist may find it hard to get a job in a decent newspaper.

SPORTS TALK



Ian Chappell
(Former Australian captain)
"Pakistan are the type of team about whom it is hard to make predictions."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-105

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm,
Oct 23 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

1	How many ODI centuries has Tendulkar hit so far?	17	18	19
2	Who is England's cricket coach?	Lloyd	Botham	Gooch
3	Who is the new France soccer coach?	Platini	Cruyff	Lemerre
4	Next Asia Cup cricket will be held in:	Dhaka	Colombo	Calcutta
5	Who lifted this year's 1st Division hockey league title?	MSC	AKC	BSC

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)

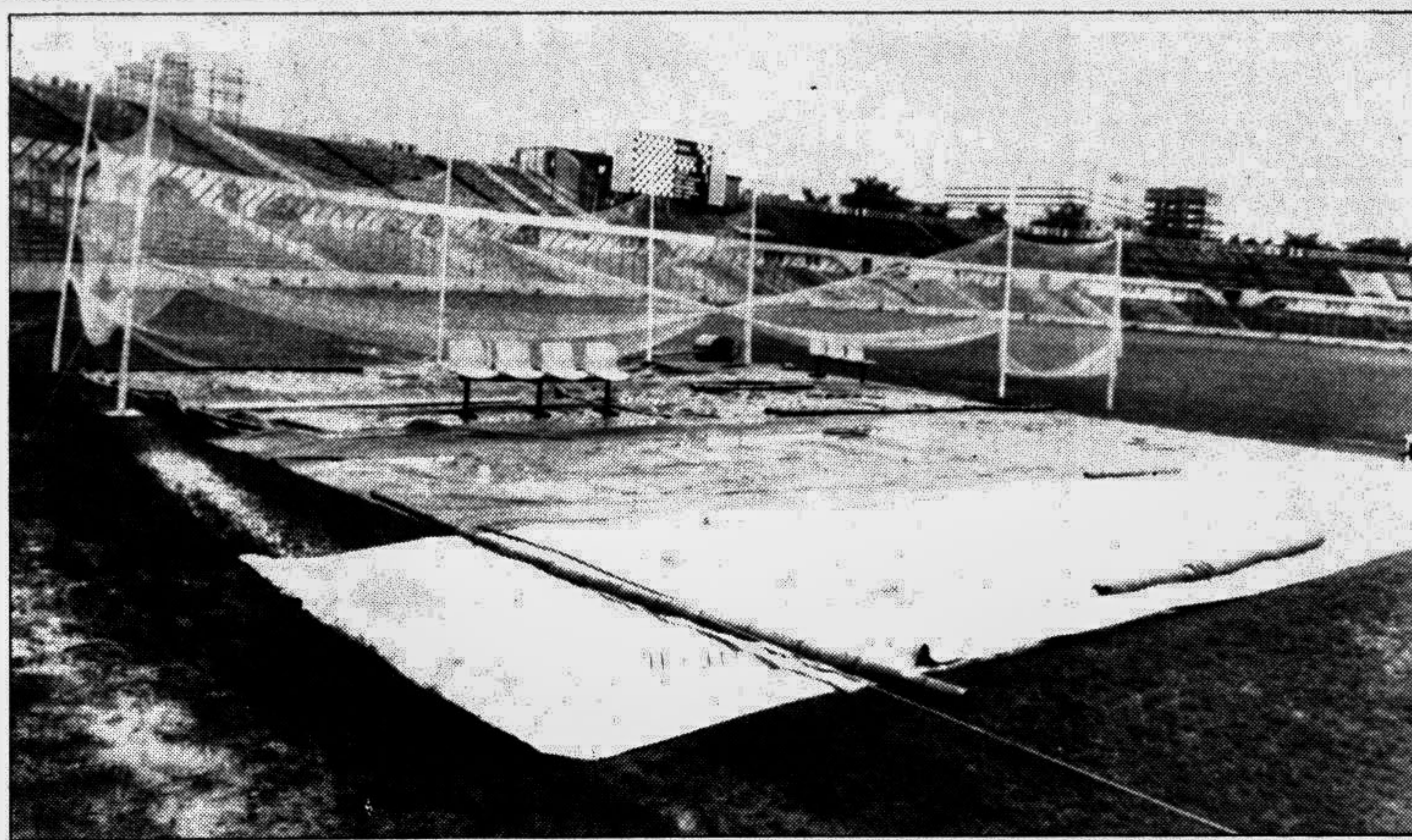
POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Ban on three Afghan boxers

KARACHI, Oct 20: Three Afghan boxers have been barred from an international contest opening here today because the tournament rules do not allow bearded boxers in the ring, a newspaper report said, reports AFP.

The three boxers were informed they could not compete unless they shaved off their beards, something they refused to do, the news said.

Sources close to the Afghan boxers said that if they removed their beards the Taliban-led government in Kabul would not let them re-enter their country, the report added. The boxers are accompanied by two officials.



RAIN RAIN GO AWAY: Inclement weather since early Tuesday morning forced ground attendants at Bangabandhu Stadium to cover the practice pitches. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Wills advisory body meeting

A meeting of the advisory committee of the Wills International Cup cricket tournament will be held in the office of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) today at 6 pm to discuss the overall preparations as well as the situation following the Opposition's strike call on October 22 — just two days ahead of the meet, reports BSS.

Three Opposition leaders — former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, former State Minister for Sports and BNP City Convenor Sadeque Hossain and BNP Whip in the Parliament Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, who were made members of the committee — have been invited to attend the meeting.

Works, Housing and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader have been made chairman and coordinator of the committee.

All the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports have also been made members of the committee.

BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "We shall discuss the overall situation at the meeting and seek the cooperation of the Opposition for the smooth holding of the mini-World Cup."

ICC to bail Harbhajan out

CALCUTTA, India, Oct 20 (Reuters/Internet): Spinner Harbhajan Singh will be given help soon by another player to correct the faulty bowling action which caused him to be dropped from the Indian team, a senior official said on Tuesday.

"ICC (International Cricket Council) will nominate a player to help him take corrective measures," ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya told reporters in this eastern city.

He said the ICC would bear the cost of assisting the 18-year-old off-spinner.

Harbhajan was dropped by India for the Wills International Cup in Dhaka later this month after the ICC's advisory panel on illegal deliveries said his action was suspect.

The ICC ruled that the bowler had to correct his action after three match referees raised doubts about it, Dalmiya said.

He said the ICC's panel had watched videotapes of the player's bowling and ruled that he had to correct his action.

Dalmiya said that the ICC would speed up the process to enable Harbhajan to stage an early comeback in the national team.

Wills Cup chips

Sports Reporter

Former England skipper Tony Greig and legendary West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding will be arriving today as part of WorldTel's commentary team for the Wills International Cup.

The American-based television company's team comprises six commentators. They are: Former Indian captain Ravi Shastri, Former South African batting great Barry Richards, former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe and former England captain Geoffrey Boycott.

Meanwhile seven members of WorldTel's production crew arrived here.

Another thirteen of the 60-member team is expected today.

CUP ON ITS WAY

The glittering Wills International Cup will be reaching the capital today.

The cup designed by Jaipur-based jeweller Arun Fabuwal, is going to be formally unveiled the day before the tournament.

ICC queries BCB

International Cricket Council (ICC), the organiser of the Wills International Cup, has enquired about the situation in Dhaka in view of the Opposition's hartal, reports UNB.

The ICC made the queries to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to let them know whether the prevailing political situation will create any problem in holding the knock-out tournament.

BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury said yesterday "the ICC is a bit concerned about the situation, but at this stage they've no alternative than to hold the tournament as scheduled from October 24."

The BCB president, however, hoped that the opposition would call off their Thursday's strike.

Meanwhile, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports Ministry comprising members from the ruling and opposition parties unanimously decided that there will be no programme of political agitation during the tournament.

After the meeting, the committee members visited the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The BCB president said: "We earned the honour of hosting the prestigious event," after giving an assurance to the ICC of political stability as well as of some infrastructure development needed for it.

He said ICC chief Jagmohan Dalmiya met with the government and Opposition leaders a

Eng-Zimbabwe tie BKSP goes international today

Sports Reporter

England and Zimbabwe will play a friendly match at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Prosthana (BKSP) in Savar today. Weather permitting, the limited over match will kick-off at 9 am.

This will be the first occasion when an international cricket match will be played at the Savar-based sports institution.

Both England and Zimbabwe, who are now in the capital to take part in the Wills International Cup, are certainly eager to get the feel of the conditions here, three days ahead of the knock-out tourney. But the prevailing inclement weather still remains a looming threat for the first of the two exhibition matches to be held at the country's lone sports institute.

For Zimbabwe, it will be their only practice match before their meeting with New Zealand in the inaugural match of the mega event on October 24 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

England will however play another exhibition match against hosts Bangladesh on Friday, October 23, prior to their first clash in the tournament proper against South Africa on October 25.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has confirmed that rain or shine, both the England and Zimbabwe teams will be at the BKSP on schedule. The BCB has also named three local umpires who will officiate the match. They are: Asgar, Shawkatul Rahman and Jahangir, who will act as the third umpire.

TEAMS
ZIMBABWE: Alistair Campbell (captain), Andy Flower (vice-captain), Gavriel Rennie, Grant Flower, Craig Wishart, Murray Goodwin, Craig Evans, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, Neil Johnson, Mpumelo Mbanga, Andrew Whittall, Henry Olonga and Adam Huckle.

ENGLAND: Adam Holloake (captain), Ian Austin (vice-captain), Alistair Brown, Dougie Brown, Mark Elham, Neil Fairbrother, Matthew Fleming, Anthony Giles, Graeme Hick, Nick Knight, Graham Lloyd, Peter Martin, R Martin, Jack Russell and Chris Silverwood.

Weather will smile soon

Despite the current cloudy weather, weathermen are optimistic that rain would not affect the Wills International Cup, the country's biggest ever cricketing show, slated for October 24-November 2, reports UNB.

"Monsoon is over. Light to moderate rainfall is taking place due to a low, but its impact may be over before the inauguration of the tournament," said Met Office Director Ershad Hossain.

He said a low that developed in the Bay was staying in the adjoining areas of West Bengal and Orissa after proceeding towards north-west. It will move north-east and may cross over northern parts of the country.

"Since the low will start to move north-east, it will become weaker as wind is strong. It means that rainfall will stop before the Wills Cup begins October 24," said the Met Office director.

He informed that there was no sign of low in the Bay that could cause rainfall in the country, including capital Dhaka. "Climate history indicates very light rainfall towards the end of October, but it should not hamper the tournament," he said.

Interview

Bangladesh not playing? "It's a shame" — Holloake

Adam Holloake, the England one-day captain, is in the city to lead his side in the Wills International Cup. The Daily Star's Rabeed Imam and Hasan Masood met the Surrey all-rounder with Australian and Indonesian connections at his hotel yesterday.

Daily Star: You had a long practice session yesterday. How was it?

Adam Holloake: The practice was good. We had a couple of hours in the nets. In the morning we had a little bit of a loosener to get rid of the fatigue from the flight hangover, so the practice went very well.

DS: Are you impressed with the practice pitches?

AH: Very impressed, they've been excellent. With all the rain, the groundsmen had to put in a lot of hard work. We were surprised at how good they were.

DS: What about the flood lights?

AH: Excellent, superb floodlights. Practically, it was like playing in day light.

DS: It seems you are satisfied with the proceedings so far.

AH: Oh yes, totally. I mean we didn't expect anything else. We expected we'd be satisfied, so it was no surprise.

DS: The England and Zimbabwe teams have arrived earlier than the other teams. Do you think that's going to give you any added advantage in your opening match against South Africa?

AH: I think that is going to give us a little bit of advantage, not a lot. I don't know when the South Africans are going to arrive. If they arrive very close to the opening game then that will give us some advantage. We're just glad we are here, getting settled and getting ready for the tournament.

DS: In your first assignment as captain, you succeeded in winning the Champions Trophy at Sharjah with a fairly young side. Keeping that success in mind, are expectations very high for this tournament back home?

AH: I think there's always high expectations when you play for your country, you are always expected to do well. I'm aware of the fact that a number of stars are missing but we've got some of the best one-day players in England. I know they may not be household names, they are not famous but they are renowned in England as the best limited-over players. I'm not sure if anyone else is thinking that way, but we're sure that we're going to do well and that is all that matters.

DS: How important is this tournament to you?

AH: I guess every tournament you play is important. If you win it then obviously it's

very good. The problem with a knock-out tournament is that you get only one chance. You may play very well but it's a 50-over-a-side game and the other team with a bit of luck can win it. I can only say that I wish to win every game we feature in this tournament.

DS: England and Australia now has separate teams for Tests and one-dayers. Do you think it's a positive approach?

AH: It's only positive if it makes a difference. If all the Test players are the best one-day players, then it's not positive at all because you are not picking your best team. England are trying to pick their best teams and if that makes a difference then of course it is positive.

DS: You are here in your capacity as a specialist one-day captain. Do you consider this as a threat to your future Test prospects?

AH: No I don't. When you are playing in a one-day competition that's all you can worry about. I can't worry about Test matches because I'm not playing them.

DS: Are you a bit disappointed at missing the Ashes?

AH: Disappointed, but also I realise that I hadn't played as well as I can do to get picked. Disappointed at not being there but also realistic.

DS: As cricket captain, do you feel confident that you will be in the World Cup squad?

AH: I'm always pretty confident. I've always felt that one-day cricket is my strength and I feel that if I can play as well as I can do, then I'll be in the World Cup squad.

DS: Your brother Ben is also a very talented cricketer. Aren't you a bit surprised he is not in this team?

AH: He has actually gone to Australia with the Test side. So I'm not surprised.

DS: Do you have any idea about Bangladesh cricket?

AH: Well, I've seen them in action during the Hong Kong cricket Sixes. They seem to possess a lot of talent. I've heard they are improving.

DS: Bangladesh, the hosts, are not participating in this Wills International Cup. What is your opinion about it?

AH: I think it's a shame.

DS: What are the strengths of this team?

AH: This is a very athletic team. It's a good fielding side, quick in running between the wickets. We try to do the 'one-percent' things right rather than doing things brilliantly.

DS: The interesting concept of 'bout out' will be introduced for the first time in this tournament. How does the prospect sound to you?

AH: Scary! We had gone through the system in a NatWest Trophy match last season where our team could hit the wickets only three out of ten.

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DS: Bangladesh, the hosts, are not participating in this Wills International Cup. What is your opinion about it?

AH: I think it's a shame.



BOYCOTT BATTALION: Former England cricket captain Geoffrey Boycott (C) poses with witnesses who will testify in his favour as he arrives at the court house in Grasse on the French Riviera on October 20. Boycott, now a very popular television commentator, faces charges of grievous bodily harm against his former girlfriend Margaret Moore (inset). The witnesses in this photo were not identified. "The 58-year-old Boycott was sentenced, in his absence last January, to a three-month suspended sentence, a 50,000 French francs and one franc in damages. Boycott ignored several orders to appear before the court and eventually appealed against the sentence in June. Moore, 45, accused Boycott of hitting her in October, 1996, during a row in a hotel room at Cap d'Antibes on the French Riviera. Boycott has said she hurt herself in an accidental fall —Photo Reuters/Internet

Tyson wins toughest bout of his life

LAS VEGAS, Oct 20 (AP/Internet): Mike Tyson won the biggest split decision of his life. Now, with the help of former basketball player "Magic" Johnson, he could be back in the ring before the year ends.

"I'm just happy I won," Tyson said after the Nevada Athletic Commission voted 4-1 Monday to return the license it revoked when he bit Evander Holyfield's ears 15 months ago.

With Johnson and Muhammad Ali backing him up, Tyson seemed near tears upon learning he would be allowed to return to his boxing exile.

He promised to put his life in order as he prepares to return to the sport he loves and the heavyweight division he once terrorized.

When he does, Johnson says he will replace the spiky-haired Don King as Tyson's new promoter and help guide the career

and troubled personal life of the 32-year-old former heavyweight champion.

"I'll be the closest guy to him, making all the decisions," Johnson said.

Other sources close to Tyson told The Associated Press, though, that Johnson's role might not be as big as he believes, and that adviser Shelly Finkel will help Tyson make most of his major decisions.

Chairman of the commission, Elias Ghanem said the fighter had made many mistakes but deserved another chance.

"I want to warn you, from my view, this will be your last chance," Ghanem said. "You will either conduct yourself in accordance with our rules and regulations, or you will probably never fight again in Nevada."

Tyson was near tears as his supporters hugged him and patted on his back after the decision was announced.

"I'm undecided when I'll fight again. I don't know whether I'm prepared to fight. I've been going through a lot of things."

His handlers have said the former heavyweight champ could be back in the ring as soon as December to fight for the riches he has frittered away. A loss would have put him out of the sport for at least another year.

"Don't be looking for him to be fighting these champions," said Magic Johnson, a supporter who testified before the commission. "He's been inactive a long time. We're going to bring him along very, very slowly."

Joining Johnson was Muhammad Ali, who told the commission that despite all of Tyson's problems he should be allowed to box again.

"There are only a few punishments worse than being denied a right to make a living," Ali said in a statement read by his wife, Lonnie, who sat next to

the ailing boxing great. Ali was banned from the sport for 3 1/2 years for refusing military induction.

In one pointed exchange with Nave, Tyson said he was humiliated by the hearing and the psychological tests the commission told him to undergo last month.

"Please don't torture me any longer, sir," Tyson said. "I made a mistake. Other fighters have made more."

"I'm just a human being trying to live my life."

With a couple of hundred people watching in the commissioners' hearing room, Tyson said he had no one to blame but himself for biting Holyfield, but he once again said he was reacting to what he thought were intentional head-butts from the champion.

Tyson also denied accusations that he punched and kicked two men following a fender-bender in Maryland in



A Sky News TV photo snapped by AFP shows Mike Tyson, pretends to bite his wife Monica's ear during the hearing of his reinstatement into boxing in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 19.