

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Fabio Junior
(AS Roma's exciting new Brazilian striker)
"Don't call me the new Ronaldo. I am Fabio Junior."
On comparisons between him and superstar Ronaldo.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-110

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 22 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	The margin of Australia's recent Ashes series win was			
3-1	4-1			4-0
2	Who is the number one player in women's tennis at the moment?			
	Hingis	Lindsay	Venus	
3	The final of the 1st Asian Test Championship will be held in			
	Dhaka	Calcutta	Colombo	
4	The eighth SAF Games will be held in			
	India	Sri Lanka	Nepal	
5	How many teams are taking part in the Janakantha Premier cricket league?			
	10	12		14

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Good wins for GASSA, Green Leaf

Sports Reporter

GASSA Cricket: 217 for 8 in 35 overs (Tofazzal 47, Mukul 29, Swapon 20 not out; Parvez 3/22, Shahriar 2/25)
Khilkhet KC: 147 all out in 29.5 overs (Mehdi 50, Mamun 29; Liton 5/25, Mukul 3/34)
Result: GASSA won by 70 runs.

Green Leaf SC: 202 for five in 35 overs (Saifullah 71, Shamsul Alam 45; Iftekhar 2/31)
Farida SC: 142 all out in 34 overs (Muslim 41 not out, Kamrul 38; Shamsul 4/21)
Result: Greenleaf won by 40 runs.

GASSA Cricket recorded an impressive 70-run win over Khilkhet KC in the Lotus Kamal Third Division qualifying cricket at the Uttara Friends Club Ground yesterday.

The GASSA cricketers, defying a huge total of 217 for eight in the stipulated 35 overs, shot the Khilkhet outfit for a paltry 147 in 29.5 overs, thanks to some brilliant bowling from Liton, who ripped through the middle and lower-order to finish with five for 25 from 4.5 overs. Liton captured the prized scalp of Shahriar, who fought a lone battle for Khilkhet with a dazzling 50.

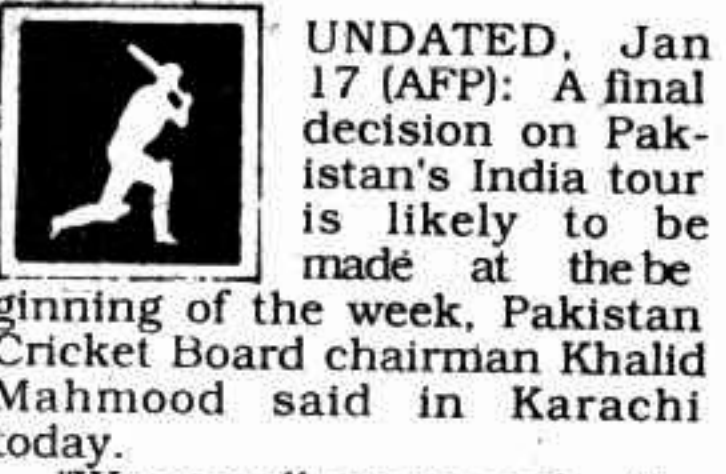
Earlier, the GASSA total was built around some useful contributions from their top order and a quickfire unbeaten 20 from number ten batsman Swapon. Opener Tofazzal top-scored with 47, he hammered eight fours in his fluent knock.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Green Leaf SC, aided by a virtuoso all-round performance from Shamsul Alam, recorded a 40-run win over Farida SC.

Shamsul scored 45 in an absorbing 117-run stand for the third wicket with Saifullah (71 off 76 balls) to lay the foundation for a large Green Leaf total of 202 for five in 35 overs.

After the good work with the bat, Shamsul then went on to capture four wickets giving away only 21 runs to shot Farida boys out for 142 in 34 overs.

Shiv Sena forms 'suicide squad'
Onus on Pak government



UNDATED. Jan 17 (AFP): A final decision on Pakistan's India tour is likely to be made at the beginning of the week. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Khalid Mahmood said in Karachi today.

"We are all set to make the tour and we are fully prepared with all the visa formalities under process," Mahmood told AFP, adding that a decision was expected Monday.

But he added that, "Taking into account the sensitive issue of security, our government is making its assessments under the assurances given by Pakistan high commissioner in India."

"It is now in the hands of Pakistan government but the keen interest shown by Indian government in the tour is a very positive sign," he said.

Reports from New Delhi suggest Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's government is willing to risk the fall of the alliance government in Maharashtra if the Shiv Sena persists with its plans to scuttle Pakistan's cricket tour.

"The Sena cannot be our ally and at the same time cause us international embarrassment," sources in the BJP told the daily.

Vajpayee has pledged to prevent the militants holding the tour to ransom, and Pakistan's ambassador in New Delhi has said the tour was likely to go ahead on those assurances.

Mahmood said positive assessments made by the Pakistan high commissioner and a board envoy, Saied Ahmed Rafi, who was due to return from India later today, will clear the way for the tour.

Rafi, an army brigadier and a security specialist, visited venues where Pakistan will play three Tests and gave his approval for the tour to proceed.

The PCB chairman, however, showed concern about continuous threats by Hindu militants.

"Although we have confidence in the Indian government's assurances, we cannot ignore the increasing preparations of those who are bent upon destroying the tour. Now they are talking of a suicide squad, and we must take all things into consideration," he said.

Ajay Srivastava, president of Shiv Sena's youth wing in New Delhi told AFP on Saturday that his party has formed a 51-member 'suicide squad who will immolate themselves at 10 am on January 28 at the Prime Minister's residence, on the first day of the first match in India.

"This will be our way of protesting against the match."

Shiv Sena chief in Delhi, Jai Bhagwan Goel, was quoted in several newspapers as saying that about 5,000 activists of the party would buy tickets for the opening match and "be present

LATEST Pakistan will tour

KARACHI, Jan 17: Pakistan late today gave the go-ahead to its cricket team to tour India, putting confidence in assurances given by the Indian government for the security of its players, information minister Mushahid Hussain told AFP, reports AFP.

"Pakistan team will go to India as planned," Hussain said adding the squad will leave for India on January 21 to play the first Test series on Indian soil in 12 years.

"We have decided this on the basis of firm commitments given by the Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee," the minister said.

Doubts had been lingering over Pakistan team's tour to India after renewed threats from Hindu militants who earlier this month dug up pitch at New Delhi's main stadium the venue of first Test.

The positive response of the Pakistani high commissioner in India, the special envoy of Pakistan Cricket Board Saied Ahmed Rafi and above all the Indian government are good enough to take on the tour," Hussain added.

Pakistan will open its tour with a three-day side match on January 23 at Gwalior. The team will play a series of two Test matches, participate in the first ever Asian Test championship and also play a limited over 'three-nation one-day tournament, also involving Sri Lanka.

in the stadium."

"They will then jump on the field and end attack Pakistani cricketers," Goel said.

Delhi police chief, V N Singh, said the security plan for the match was "foolproof."

"The situation is being assessed on a regular basis... we are confident that the match will be held in a peaceful atmosphere and have developed a foolproof strategy."

Mahmood described the whole scenario as "disappointing."

"Nobody can be happy with this situation because sports is not an avenue where these things should happen. Cricket fields should not be used to settle scores," he said.

The cricket tour is the first Pakistan tour on Indian soil since 1987.

The venue of the first Test due to begin January 28 was changed to the southern city of Madras after Shiv Sena activists dug up the pitch in New Delhi.

"It is regrettable that even after Vajpayee talked him, Sena chief Bal Thackeray, has not relented. On the contrary, the latter has adopted a more confrontational attitude," the BJP source said.

The daily said that if the tour was cancelled because of the Sena's actions after the Pakistanis land in India, then the BJP may jettison the Sena.

The cancellation of the tour after the team lands in India will... provide ample grist to Islamabad's propaganda mill," the source added.

He (Thackeray) should desert from actively opposing the matches."

In 1991, supporters of Thackeray vandalised the pitch at Bombay's Wankhede stadium two days before Pakistan were to start a limited over series in India.

Pakistan are not scheduled to play in the Shiv Sena-controlled western state of Maharashtra, which includes the cricket-mad state capital of Bombay, during the two-month tour.

Shiv Sena leaders said they would go ahead with their plan to "sabotage" the tour.

"Let the BJP do what it wants. We are prepared to face any eventuality," a Shiv Sena leader said.

Hick helps England thru'

SYDNEY, Jan 17: Graeme Hick and Nasser Hussain shared a record stand of 190 as England squeezed out a seven-run win over Australia in their high-scoring tri-series one-day match today, reports Reuters.

The pair lifted England to an imposing total of 282 for four, Hick winning the man-of-the-match award with his 108, Hussain scored 93.

Their stand was an England record for the third wicket against the Australians in a limited-overs match. It surged past the 108 between Mike Brearley and Graham Gooch in 1979.

Australia, who had beaten England by nine wickets in Melbourne on Friday, made a gallant attempt to overhaul England's total.

Mark Waugh scored 85, Darren Lehmann 76 and Michael Bevan 45 not out but the Australians fell agonisingly short of making a record winning score batting second at the SCG, finishing on 275 for six.

Hick and Hussain turned the match England's way with a dynamic partnership after coming together at 39 for two.

They began by slowly resurrecting the innings, taking the total to 77 from 20 overs before going onto the attack.

Their cause was helped in no small part by an uncharacteristically sloppy fielding display. Steve Waugh spilled a difficult catch from Hick when he was on 23 while Glenn McGrath missed a chance off Hussain on 63 when the setting sun caught his eye.

Hick faced a total of 129 balls, hitting five fours and a six to reach his third century in one-day internationals and better his previous highest score of 105 not out against India in Gwalior in 1993.

He said later: "If I had been playing a Test match I might have enjoyed it a little more but I'm very glad to have come away with a hundred. I thought I played pretty well."

Hussain, whose innings spanned 114 balls, was equally impressive as he registered his first half-century in a limited-overs match more than nine years after making his international debut.

Their partnership ended in the 44th over when Damien Fleming, who claimed three of the four wickets, bowled Hussain with the total 229.

Hick followed shortly afterwards, trapped lbw by Fleming.

The Australians, who successfully chased 260 to beat Sri Lanka last Wednesday, adoped

a cavalier approach to the run chase but were always struggling.

Adam Gilchrist and Ricky Ponting went cheaply before Mark Waugh and Lehmann put Australia back in the game with a stand of 115 for the third wicket.

Mark Waugh registered his third half-century of the series when he swept left-arm spinner Ashley Giles over the square-leg fence before departing 15 runs short of his century when he pulled Adam Hoolioake to Robert Croft at deep backward square.

Brother Steve, playing his 250th one-day match, was dismissed first ball but Lehmann and Michael Bevan added 51 for the fifth wicket before Lehmann was bowled by Mullally.

Bevan then added 60 with Greg Blewett but Australia's hopes of victory effectively ended when Blewett was dismissed for 32 with 20 needed from the last two overs.

England's win was their third in four matches in the tournament also involving Sri Lanka.

Result: England won by seven runs.
Man-of-the-match: Graeme Hick

Next match: England V Sri Lanka (January 19 in Melbourne)

STANDINGS				
	P	W	L	Pts
England	4	3	0	6
Australia	4	2	0	4
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the tri-series limited-over match between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

ENGLAND
Knight c Gilchrist b McGrath 0
Stewart c Gilchrist b Fleming 17
Hick lbw Fleming 108
Hussain b Fleming 93
Fairbrother not out 17
Hoolioake not out 22
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-9, nb-7) 25
Total: (for six wks in 50 overs) 282
Fall of wks: 1-1; 2-39; 3-229; 4-245.

Did not bat: M Ealham, R Croft, D Gough, A Giles, A Mullally.

Bowler:

O	M	R	W	
McGrath	10	0	56	1
Dale	10	0	26	0
Fleming	10	0	64	3
Lehmann	4	0	20	0
Warne	10	0	57	0
Bevan	3	0	26	0
Blewett	3	0	24	0

AUSTRALIA
Gilchrist c Hussain b Gough 6
M Waugh c Croft b A Hoolioake 85
Ponting c Hick b Gough 86
Lehmann b Mullally 76
S Waugh c Gough b A Hoolioake 40
Bevan not out 45
Blewett b Giles 32
Warne not out 6
Extras: (b-4, lb-9, w-5, nb-1) 19
Total: (for six wks in 50 overs) 275
Fall of wks: 1-9; 2-36; 3-151; 4-152; 5-203; 6-263

Did not bat: D Fleming, A Dale, G McGrath.

Bowler:

O	M	R	W	
Gough	10	2	40	2
Mullally	10	0	45	1

Chess tourneys deferred

The 20th national women and junior chess tournaments have been deferred for three days due to unavoidable circumstances, reports APB.

Officials said yesterday that instead of starting on January 25, would now begin on January 28.

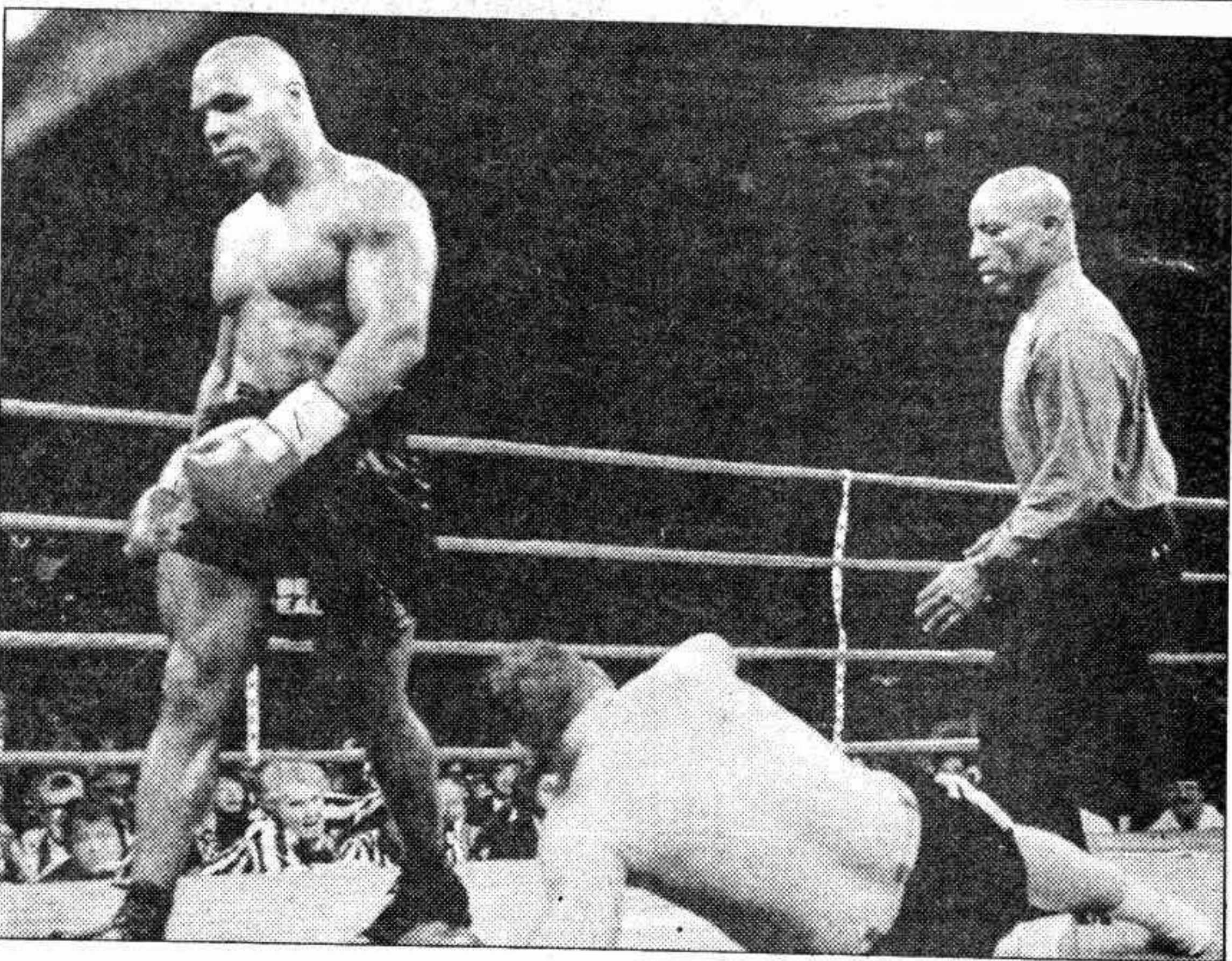
Badda become champions

Badda Jagarani Sangsad emerged champions of the Independence Day Cup football tournament beating Aaryans Club of Calcutta by a solitary goal at Balughat in South Dinajpur of West Bengal yesterday, reports UNB.

National striker Nakib scored the all-important goal in the 4th minute of the first half from a Bakhtiar pass, according to a message received at the BFF office.

Badda Jagarani controlled the match but failed to increase their advantage. Khokon and team captain Nakib squandered four easy chances.

Social Welfare Minister of West Bengal Bishwanath Chowdhury witnessed the match as the chief guest and later distributed prizes.



THAT DID IT: A vintage Mike Tyson (R) 'thunder punch' leaves challenger Francois Botha flat on the canvas during their heavyweight bout on January 16. — AFP photo

Dominic's Derbyshire days over?

LONDON, Jan 17: England international Dominic Cork may quit Derbyshire after club officials refused to sack committee member Harold Rhodes and development manager Andy Hayhurst, reports AFP.

Cork had wanted both to be dismissed.

"This has gone on since October. It's now January and nothing has happened," said Cork, adding: "I'm not having any more meetings with Harold Rhodes or Andy Hayhurst or any of the committee."

Let them pick Harold Rhodes, let them pick Andy Hayhurst, let them pick the committee."

"If that's how they want to lose Dominic Cork, if that's how they want to treat Dominic Cork, Dominic Cork doesn't want to be involved with Derbyshire," he said.

Beckham beyond Bayern's reach!

BONN, Jan 17 (Reuters/Internet): Bayern Munich cannot afford to buy Manchester United midfielder David Beckham, the German club's manager, Uli Hoeness, was quoted as saying on Sunday.

"Whoever wants to buy David Beckham has to be able to buy the Spice Girls as well," Hoeness told the German daily Express. "A player from Manchester United is too expensive."

Hoeness was quoted as saying last week that Bayern were looking for "a real top guy like David Beckham" for next season.

One 'iron' punch good enough
Mike makes merry return

LAS VEGAS, Jan 17 (AP): Mike Tyson, looking like anything but the baddest man on the planet for most of the fight, threw a thunderous right hand from nowhere that knocked down Francois Botha and stopped him with one second left in the fifth round Saturday night.

Botha was ahead on all three judges' cards in the mauling, dirty fight when Tyson landed a bomb to the South African's chin with 10 seconds left in the fifth. The 233-pound Botha went down in a heap, tried to get up, then dropped back into a sitting position. He got up at the count of 7, but fell back into the ropes and referee Richard Steeles waved the fight over.

Although Botha was on his feet, he was knocked out by ever a fighter was.

When the fight ended with one second left, Botha slumped again to the canvas and Tyson went over and tried to help him up.

At the end of four rounds, judges Dave Moretti and Dalby Shirley each had Botha ahead 40-35 while Bill Graham favoured Botha 39-36. The sudden ending concluded a fight that almost ended in controversy at the end of the first round. It also saved a career that was in jeopardy.

"I had a tremendous amount of rust," said Tyson, who had not fought since he was disqualified for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in the third round on June 28, 1997.

That action led to revocation

of his license, which wasn't restored until last October 19 by a 4-1 vote of the Nevada Commission.

Until the end, however, Tyson looked anything like the Iron Mike who took boxing by storm in the 1980s.

He missed with many of his punches before landing the one that saved the night.

Tyson was cut over the right eye in the first round, which was marked by mauling. When the bell sounded ending the round and Steele tried to separate the fighters, Botha landed a right to the head and Tyson retaliated. They mauled and corner men rushed into the ring to separate them.

Steele called a timeout after the bell sounded starting the second round, and for 45 seconds discussed the situation with Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

Steele then warned both fighters.

Botha appeared to have the best of the second round and Tyson also was penalised a point for elbowing.

In the third round, Tyson, who weighed 223 pounds, got in his clearest shot of the fight to that point.

Botha came back in the fourth round and was actually taunting Iron Mike.

Botha continued to talk to Tyson in the fifth round until the former undisputed heavyweight champion had the last word, a piledriver right hand to the head that dropped the 30-year-old Botha and ended

chances of an upset.

"He was talking a lot of smack and stuff but I was cool," said Tyson, who blew his cool in the MGM Grand Garden in his rematch loss against Holyfield.

"Everybody said I was losing my confidence. You know what, they were talking bogus about me. It made me angry. No one was going to disrespect me."

"I just need to fight," Tyson said. "I need to put on a better show."

"I was trying to bait him," admitted Botha, who lives in Newport Beach, California. "I just walked into it."

The spectacular but sloppy victory ended a two-fight losing streak (Tyson lost the WBA title to Holyfield in the 11th round on Nov 6, 1996) and was Tyson's first victory since he stopped Bruce Seldon in the first round for the WBA title 28 months ago.

Tyson's victory was watched by Muhammad Ali, who also was on hand to support him during the hearing in which his license was restored.

What Ali thought of Tyson's performance, which wasn't anything like the "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" performance that Ali usually put on remains to be seen. But Tyson got the job done.

Tyson, whose purse was 10 million dollars, notched the 40th knockout in his 46-3 record. Botha, a former IBF champion, lost for the second time against 39 wins, 24 by knockout. His purse was 1.85 million dollars.

From Pakistani perspective

KARACHI, Jan 17: World record holder Pakistani opener Saeed Anwar aims to hit a triple hundred against India in a Test match during the upcoming Test series.

"I have never played a Test match against India but now I desperately want to and score a triple hundred in that," he told AFP, adding, "Scoring against India gives you a different taste."

Saeed hit a world record one-day score of 194 against India at Chennai in 1997.

An official announcement on Pakistan's first tour since 1987 has not been made pending a report from its envoy on security arrangements in India following threats from Hindu militants of sabotaging the series.

However, optimism among cricket fans grew after the Pakistani high commissioner to India Ashraf Jehangir Qazi gave a green signal on Friday.

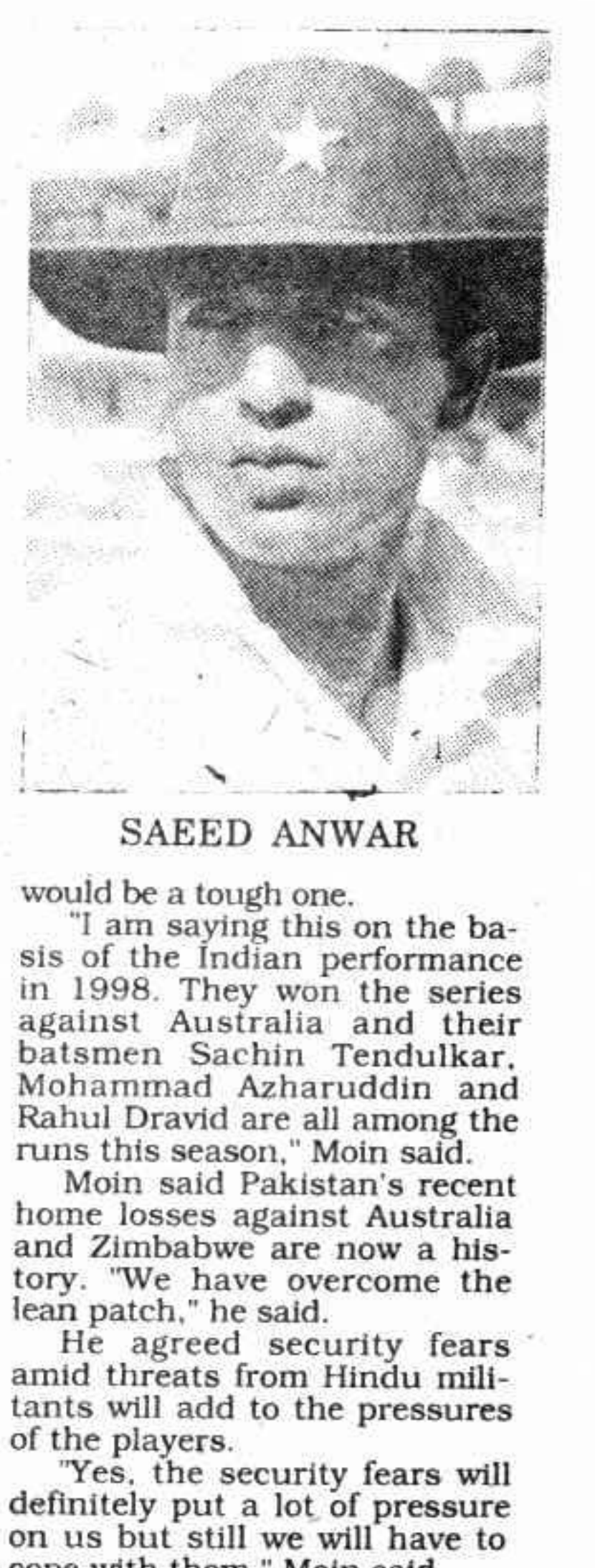
Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Khalid Mahmood Thursday said the fate of the tour will be decided by the government of Pakistan.

Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

although I know little about Indian conditions," the burly batsman said. He said he expected perfect batting wickets in India.

"I believe they will not take the risk of making fast or even turning wickets as we are superior in bowling while their main strength is in batting," Inzamam said.

Vice captain designate Moin Khan said the teams were evenly balanced and the series



Damen Fleming successfully appeals for a lbw against man-of-the-match Graeme Hick yesterday.

Saeed said he was thirsty to create more records against India.

"If I can't break Brian Lara's 375, I will certainly like to score 300 against them," he said.

Saeed will be a key member of Pakistan's batting line-up in the absence of axed Aamir Sohail. The team includes two inexperienced openers Wajahatullah Qureshi and Mohammad Naved.

"Pressure is always there when you are playing against India and there will be extra pressure when you are playing against India in India," Pakistan's most prolific opener said.

Saeed agreed security fears would add to pressures.

He said Pakistan had prepared extensively for the tour. "I think the team stands a good chance to win in India," he said.

Middle-order batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq, who had a lean patch in the home season against Australia and Zimbabwe, vowed to return to form in India.

"I will definitely make runs