

Column One

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT there is this very popular coach's advice, according to which "if you stay at the wicket runs will come". Not so in the case of Vincent Hogg, who played for one hour and 27 minutes without scoring. He was batting for Zimbabwe-Rhodesia 'B' against Natal 'B' at Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, on January 20, 1980.

He was just a shade quicker than Thomas Godfrey Evans, who took one hour and 37 minutes to score his first run, before going on to score ten not out for England in their match against Australia at Adelaide from February 5-6, 1947.

Roost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-110

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Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 5 '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)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Malcolm Marshall
(The West Indies coach)
"I can help players where they've got problems but for someone to come on a tour with five, or six, or seven mistakes, and on a very hard tour like South Africa where there are not too many side games, I can't correct everything over a short period of time."

IOC bribes scandal
Family members got their shares also

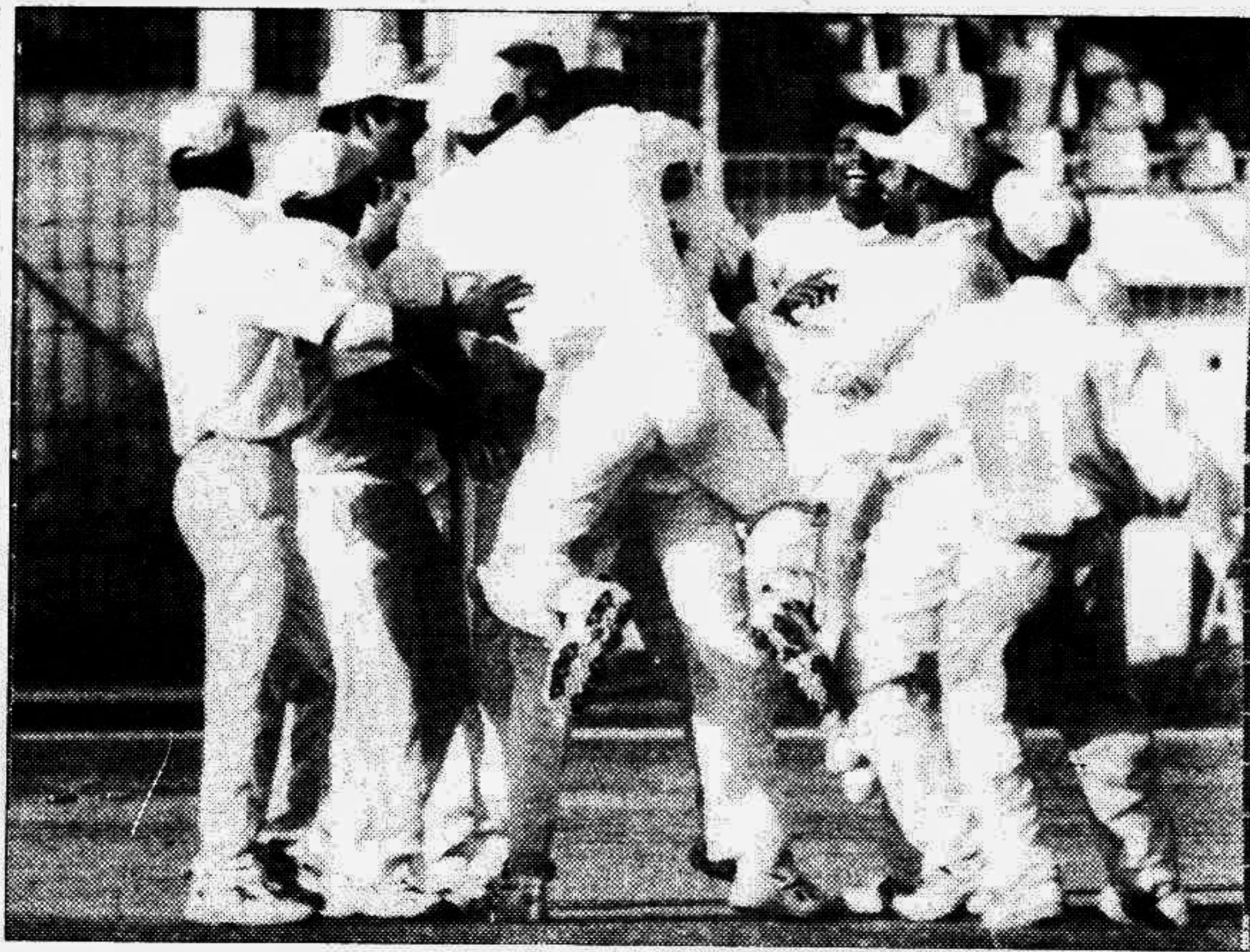
TOKYO, Jan 31: Relatives and friends of at least five International Olympic Committee members were entertained at a banquet by the organizers of Nagano's Olympic bid, a news report said Sunday, reports AP.

Visitors included a Latin American IOC member's son and his wife during their honeymoon and the wife and friend of expelled IOC member Augustin Arroyo of Ecuador, the Tokyo, Shimbun reported.

The son of an African IOC member and his wife were entertained by the Nagano officials in March 1991, shortly before the city was selected to host the 1998 Winter Games, the newspaper said.

The visits to Japan took place between 1989 and 1991, the report said.

Nagano Mayor Tasuka was quoted as saying by the Tokyo Shimbun that the bidding committee complied with requests from IOC members to entertain their relatives "in order to show our sincerity."



NOTHING TASTES AS SWEET: Abahani players are over the moon after beating arch rival Mohammedan.

Abahani steal MSC's joy

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Abahani kept alive their chances for a hat-trick of titles when they recorded an exciting 11-run win over arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting in a crucial Janakantha Premier League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In an intriguing finish, Abahani, defending a fighting total of 266, went on to bundle out their perennial foes for 255 in 69.2 overs.

Although Mohammedan, backed by half-centuries from their Kenyan run-machine Steve Tikolo and experienced opener Selim Shahed, dominated most of the proceedings in the high voltage drama, it was Abahani who withstood the pressure during the final session to decisively take the match.

The win helps Abahani to tie with Biman at the top of the table, both having seven wins from nine matches. On the other hand, Mohammedan are virtually out of the title race having conceded their third defeat from nine outings.

The clash of the titans also had its share of problems during the final session, a section of unruly Mohammedan supporters at the Western gallery threw bricks at the ground, only to stop the match for about five minutes. Tension spread to the stand when Mohammedan's wicketkeeper and Abahani's Pakistani all-rounder Mohammad Hussain got involved in a heated exchange of words for no good reason.

Mohammedan were at one stage cruising along until a suicidal catch cost the most important wicket of Imran. They went for the tea break with 224 for five. But when they returned the complexion of the game saw a sea of change after Imran Hamid was run out in the first over after the break.

The dashing left-hander, playing with Nasir as his run-ner, scored a forceful 40 off 43 balls while batting at the unusual position of number five. The hard-hitting opener, who twisted his left ankle while fielding on Saturday, was forced to bat down the order and it turned out to be a blessing in disguise for Mohammedan until Nasir set off for a sharp single. He was sent back by Halim Shah. But by that time it was too late and Mohammed Hussain dislodged the bats at the bowler's end.

Imran's departure only exposed the underbelly of Mohammedan and a rejuvenated Abahani made no mistake to rip through the fragile tail in no time. Mohammedan, however, were hoping against hopes with their ball-bashing captain still at the crease. But much to the dismay of Mohammedan, the southpaw departed in a peculiar fashion after hitting two successive fours against left-arm spinner Mohammed Hussain.

Rafique, who has earned the dubious reputation of going through the motion rather than playing with any purpose, topped an intended paddle sweep into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Tuhin. Rafique's departure from playing an outrageous shot reduced Mohammedan to seven for 235 in 62.4 overs.

Hussain then removed Halim Shah, the last recognised Mohammedan batsman, who offered a sharp catch to Akram in the slips after scoring only five. The pendulum swung Abahani's way.

With Mohammedan at 240 for eight, Ashfaq Ali smashed a huge sixer against Iqbal to throw caution to the wind. But it was all over for Mohammedan when Hasibul returning for his third spell in the 68th over, quickly mopped up the tail.

The national right-arm seamer, who had done little for Abahani this season, delivered the goods in the nick of time. He had Mortaza trapped leg-before with an over-pitch delivery be-

fore disturbing Ashfaq's furniture in his next over to herald the fall of Mohammedan's fifth.

Although Hasibul lifted the few thousand sky-blue supporters at the big bowl to ecstasy, it was off-spinner Naimur Rahman, who put a spoke in Mohammedan's smooth sail earlier on the day.



Selim Shahed, who played a sensible knock, reached his 50 with an eye-pleasing four through cover off Naimur. But his 137-ball vigil at the crease came to an end when he missed an attempted drive against Hussain and keeper Tuhin effected an easy stumping.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Agrani Bank recorded a hard-fought 19-run win over Orient Sporting.

The promotees, chasing a commanding bank total of 272 in the stipulated 80 overs, were all out for 253 in 78.3 overs. Opener Mofizul scored a gritty 53 off 126 balls and Pakistani Reaz Sheikh chipped in with 35. For Agrani Bank, Shaheen Malik took two wickets for 45 runs. The Pakistanis had earlier scored a brilliant half-century on Saturday.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the two Janakantha Premier League matches held at different city venues yesterday.

ABAHANI VS MOHAMMEDAN
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

ABAHANI: 266 all out in 76 overs (Necyanur 82, Mehrab 46; Monjurul 4/77)

MOHAMMEDAN
Rashed c Hannan b Naimur 32
Shahed st Tuhin b Hussain 53
Nasir b Naimur 2
Tikolo b Naimur 56
Imran run out 40
Oduhbe st Tuhin b Hussain 10
Rafique c Tuhin b Hussain 9
Mortaza lbw b Hasibul 0
Ashfaq b Hasibul 9
Monjurul not out 1
Extras: (lb-10, nb-7, w-21) 38
Total: (All out in 69.2 overs) 255

Fall of wkts: 1-71; 2-73; 3-147; 4-173; 5-222; 6-225; 7-235; 8-240; 9-250

Bowler

Hasibul Hossain	13.2	1.44	2
Iqbal Hossain	10	1.37	0
Naimur Rahman	6	0.18	0
Masud Rana	8	1.29	0
Mohammed Hussain	16	5.51	4
Naimur Rahman	16	2.66	3

Result: Abahani won by 11 runs.

AGRANI BANK VS ORIENT
(Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium)

AGRANI BANK: 272 for 9 in 80 overs (S Malik 61, Sajjad 41, Mofizur 41; Mizanur 2/50, Sohail 2/54)

ORIENT
Mofizul c S Malik b Russel 53
Ruzwan c Russel b Suja 19
Narayan b Jamal 18
Mridul b Suja 14
Reaz b S Arefin 35
Asif c Sajjad b S Arefin 18
Mizanur b S Malik 19
Sohail not out 28
Azin c Suja b S Malik 0
Akhter run out 0
Amimul run out 2
Extras: (lb-7, nb-12, w-12) 31
Total: (All out in 78.3 overs) 253

Fall of wkts: 1-50; 2-92; 3-110; 4-124; 5-172; 6-183; 7-219; 8-242; 9-248

Bowler

Mofizur Rahman	4	0	21	0
Shamsul Arefin	13	2	53	2
Suza Erfan	15	2	47	2
Shahin Malik	13.3	1	45	0
Rajin Saha	12	0	38	0
Russel Khan	16	3	30	1
Jamal Uddin	5	0	12	1

Result: Agrani Bank won by 19 runs.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Brothers Union vs Kalabagan
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Surjo Tarun vs Wari Club
Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Suhrawardy Cup soccer

BKSP, Barguna, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Jessore, Satkhira, Jamalpur, Chapainawabganj, Natore and Dinajpur won their respective zonal matches of the Keya Cosmetics Suhrawardy Cup under-19 national football tournament yesterday, reports APB.

In Dhaka-B zonal matches, BKSP downed Narsingdi 2-0 at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Barguna beat Shariatpur by a solitary goal at the Navy Stadium.

Host Sylhet defeated Feni 1-0. In another game Sunamganj overcame Khagrachhari 3-2.

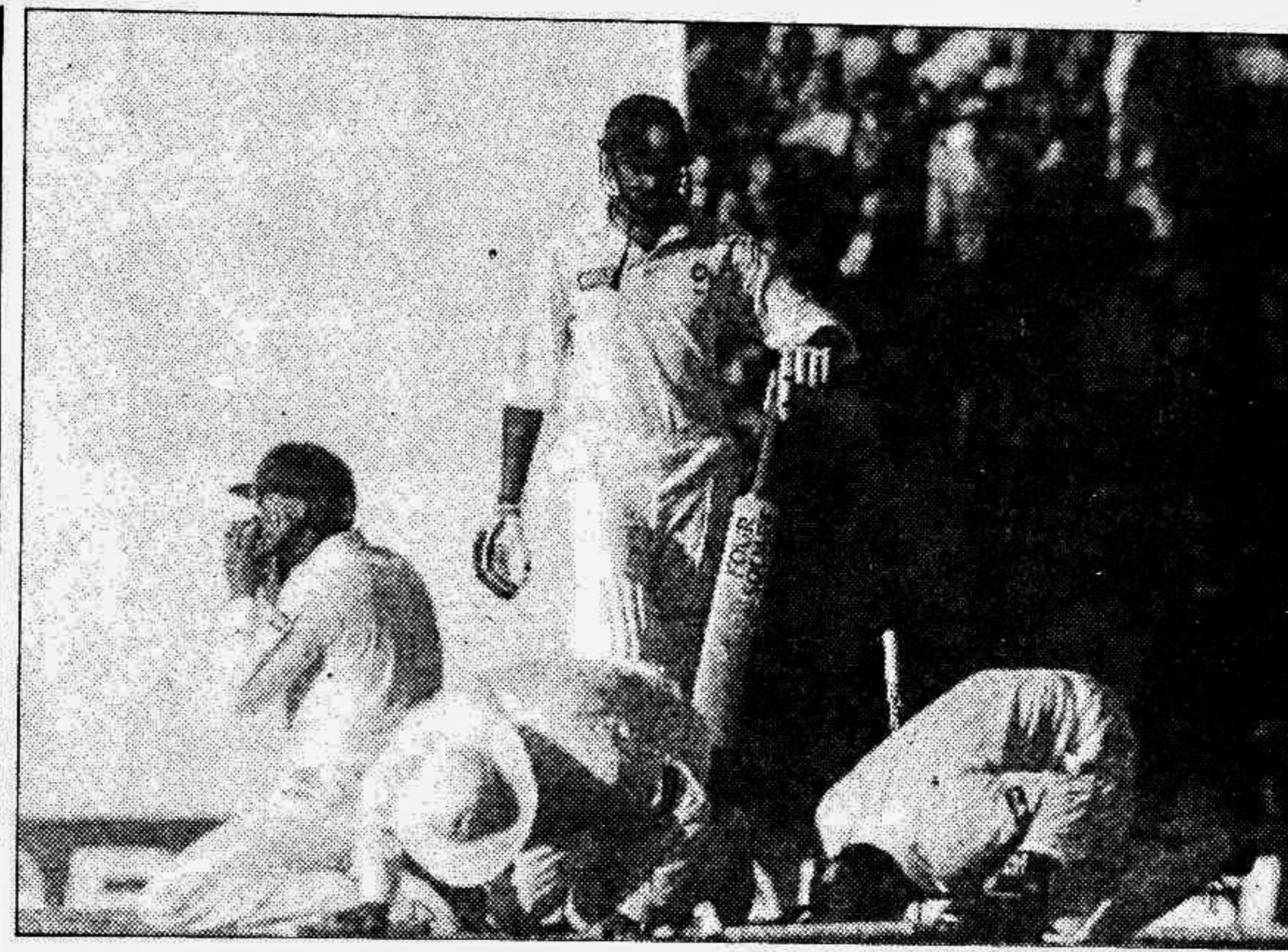
Jessore posted an easy 3-1 victory over Gopalganj and Satkhira blanked Narail 2-0 in Jessore.

In Sirajganj, Jamalpur recorded a 2-1 win over Sherpur.

Chapainawabganj beat Jhenidah 2-0 and Natore won 2-1 against Rajbari in their inaugural matches at Chapainawabganj.

Dinajpur outplayed hosts Kurigram 4-0.

In other matches, Dhaka drew with Kishoreganj 0-0, Sirajganj and Bogra also settled for a 0-0 draw. Brahmanbaria held Rangamati 1-1, and the match between Panchagarh and Lalmonirhat drew 2-2.



MORE THAN JUST A WIN: Ecstatic Pakistan players kiss the ground while India's last man Javagal Srinath walks back dejected. — Internet photo

Pakistan snatch victory from Tendulkar's grasp



MADRAS, Jan 31: Pakistan understood a magnificent century by India's champion batsman Sachin Tendulkar to win the first cricket Test by 12 runs in a dramatic finish here today, reports AFP.

Tendulkar hit 136 as India chasing a victory target of 271, recovered from a hopeless 82-5 to put up a brave fight and reach 254-6 before losing their last four wickets for as many runs.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mush-taq who took five wickets in each innings, signalled Pakistan's victory in their first Test on Indian soil in 12 years by bowling Javagal Srinath before stumps on the fourth day.

Some 45,000 spectators at the overflowing Chapatka and millions of TV viewers across the country watched in horror as India set up a dream finish only to stumble at the last hurdle.

The match turned Pakistan's way when Tendulkar, suffering from back pain and visibly tired after his seven-hour vigil, lofted Saqlain for an easy catch to mid-off when 17 more were needed.

His wicket, which made it 254-7, lifted the spirits of Wasim Akram's men, who then removed tailenders Sunil Joshi, Anil Kumble and Srinath in quick succession to bowl India out for 258.

The jubilant Pakistanis hugged each other, kissed the turf and then ran a lap of honour around the ground to loud applause from the crowd as Mohammad Azharuddin's team pondered the defeat.

Except Tendulkar and Nayan Mongia, who made 52 in a 136-run stand for the sixth wicket, the rest of the Indian batsmen aggregated 34 — two less than the total extras of 36.

"We batted badly except for these two, but full marks to Pakistan for playing better cricket in what was a fascinating match," said Azharuddin, who received loud jeers from the stands.

Akram said he had realised a dream of leading Pakistan to victory on Indian soil, and now looked forward to the second and final Test of the short series starting in New Delhi on Thursday.

"We want to win here too, because it has been a long time playing against India," he said



SMASHING BUT NOT ENOUGH: Sachin Tendulkar pulls during his dashing innings of 136. — Internet photo

"The boys are hungry for more." The last time Pakistan played a Test in India was in March 1987, which Imran Khan's tourists won by 17 runs at Bangalore to take the five-match series 1-0.

Tendulkar's 18th Test century — he also has 21 one-day hundreds — came after wicket-keeper Moin Khan missed an easy stumping when the little master was on 90.

The error almost cost Pakistan the match, till Saqlain and Akram himself revived the tourists with deadly blows late in the day.

Tendulkar, who was dismissed for zero in the first innings attempting a wild swipe, put his head down to single-handedly keep India afloat.

India managed just 46 runs from 26 overs during the tense morning session when Pakistan grabbed three import wickets.

Tendulkar scored 24 of those runs after taking a four of the first ball he faced in the day. He ended with 18 boundaries.

The Indians added 10 runs to their overnight score of 40-2 when Akram clipped Rahul Dravid's off-ball with a superb in-swinger.

Dravid, India's batting hero on the recent New Zealand tour, made 10 in a 44-run stand for the third wicket with Tendulkar that came after both openers were lost on Saturday evening for six.

Azharuddin, who made seven, paid the price for padding up to spinner Saqlain and was declared leg-before by New Zealand umpire Steve Dunne.

Dunne, whose controversial decisions marred a brilliant Test match, created another stir when he gave next batsman Saurav Ganguly caught off the rebound by wicketkeeper Moin Khan.

Television replays showed Ganguly's forward defensive stroke hit the silly-point fielder and the ball dropped to the ground before being held by Moin.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard on the fourth day of the first Test between India and Pakistan on Sunday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 238 (Moin 60, Youhana 53; Kumble 6-70)

INDIA: First innings 254 (Ganguly 54, Dravid 53; Saqlain 5-93)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 286 (S Afridi 141; V Prasad 6-33)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 40-2)

Ramesh c Inzamam b Waqar	5
Laxman lbw b Waqar	0
Dravid b Akram	10
Tendulkar c Akram b Saqlain	136
Azharuddin lbw b Saqlain	7
Ganguly c Moin Khan b Saqlain	2
Mongia c Waqar b Akram	52
Joshi c b Saqlain	8
Kumble lbw b Akram	1
Srinath b Saqlain	1
Prasad not out	0
Extras: (lb-8, lb-10, nb-18)	36
Total:	258
Fall of wkts:	1-5; 2-6; 3-50; 4-73; 5-82; 6-218; 7-254; 8-256; 9-256

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Akram	22	4	80	3
Waqar	12	6	26	2
Saqlain	32.2	8	93	5
Afridi	16	7	23	0
Nadeem	13	5	18	0

Result: Pakistan won by 12 runs.

Pakistan lead 1-0 in the two-Test series.

Man-of-the-match: Sachin Tendulkar.

Pak minister hails the classic win

ISLAMABAD, Jan 31 (Reuters/Internet): A Pakistani government minister on Sunday hailed the national side's nail-biting win over arch-rival India in its first series there in 12 years as a classic game of cricket.

"It was a dramatic finish," Sports Minister Mushahid Hussain told the official APP news agency.

"The Pakistan cricket squad did a marvellous job in playing a classic cricket match, which was a treat to watch, admire and enjoy," said Hussain. Pakistan's Information Minister, who was also given the Sports and Culture portfolio on Saturday.

"Once again, the cricket team has proved that they are world class players, who know how to play in demanding situations," he said.

He said the squad conducted itself with "utmost discipline" in the first game of a two-Test series which was threatened by Hindu extremists until the last minute. The second Test starts in New Delhi on Thursday.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif telephoned his Indian counterpart, Atal Behari Vajpayee, on the eve of the squad's departure to discuss threats by the right wing Shiv Sena Hindu nationalist party to disrupt the tour.

Shiv Sena militants called off police to disrupt it hours before Pakistan's team left for India.

Indo-Pakistani cricketing ties have been bedevilled in the last decade by the same rivalry which has dogged diplomatic relations between the two countries for 50 years.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

Mymensingh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Jan 31: Al Helal Kringa Chakra defeated Mukul Fouz Lal Dal by four wickets in the First Division Cricket League today, reports UNB.

Batting first, Mukul Fouz scored 122 all out in the stipulated 40 overs.

Monit made the highest 30 runs. Mukta and Al-Amin of Mukul Fouz took two wickets each.

In reply, Al-Helal reached 125 for six in 35.2 overs.