

Sport

Indo-Pak hockey

Visitors go one up

NEW DELHI, Feb 3: A golden goal by captain Atif Bashir in the 85th minute gave Pakistan a 4-3 win over arch-rivals India in the opening game of their nine-match hockey series here today, reports AFP.

The opportunist goal towards the end of extra time beat back a fighting display by India's new-look team which scored twice in the closing stages of regulation time to force a 3-3 draw.

Some 10,000 spectators at the national stadium, including India's Home Minister Lal Kishen Advani, were rewarded with a speedy encounter between two young and well-matched teams.

Pakistan's penalty corner specialist Sohail Abbas put his team ahead in the 10th minute, but India drew level through Gagan Ajit Singh 11 minutes later.

Pakistan led 2-1 at the interval through another goal by Abbas and appeared to have the match wrapped up when Mohammed Nadeem increased the margin with a field goal in the 52nd minute.

India, egged on from the bench by their recalled coach Vasudevan Bhaskaran, raided the rival defence late in the match and drew level through Samir Dad's penalty corner and a second goal by Gagan Ajit.

Bhaskaran's Pakistani counterpart Shahzad Sheikh were both delighted by what their young wards had to offer.

"I am glad the boys fought hard till the end," said Bhaskaran, recalled as Indian coach despite the Asian Games gold medal success of his predecessor Maharaj Kishen Kaushik.

"The inexperience of the team showed but there was no disgrace in losing such a close encounter," he said.

The Indians rested six top stars of the triumphant Asian Games squad, including skipper Dhanraj Pillay, Pakistan too fielded a young team in their preparation for the Olympic qualifiers in Japan next year.

Shahzad said the victory was a morale-booster for the remaining eight matches of the series — three more in India and five in Pakistan later this month.

"We should have won in regulation time itself, but the end result matters," he said. "It is good to start the series on a winning note."

The other matches in the Indian leg of the annual series will be played in Bhopal (Feb 5), Hyderabad (Feb 8) and Madras (Feb 10).

Pakistan won last year's series 4-3.

Dunhill Cup soccer

China beat Bulgaria

HO CHI MINH CITY, Feb 3: Substitute Zhang Yuning scored an injury-time goal as 10-man China scored an upset 2-1 win over Bulgaria that could play a key role in seeing them through to the Dunhill Cup semifinals, reports AFP.

South Korea sealed top place in group two with a 3-0 win over Malaysia earlier on Monday night.

China, who won the last Dunhill Cup two years ago, lost Yi in the 48th minute when he collected his second yellow card for a foul on Bulgarian goalkeeper and skipper Jordan Gospodinov.

Bulgaria stretched the Chinese defence but failed to take advantage of their opponents' predicament.

Bulgarian, who were held 1-1 by Malaysia in their first match, took the lead in the 11th minute when Angel Stoyko drove home a rasping 20-yard shot which easily beat Chinese goalkeeper Cheng Dong.

China hit back in the 35th minute when Sui Dong Liang made amends for earlier misses when he blasted home from the edge of the penalty box.

The second half turned into a desperate battle to get the deciding goal. Several Bulgarians hit chances wide or against the woodwork. Zhang struck the killer blow with a close range shot in injury-time.

Cup favourites South Korea had a simple win over the Malaysians, who were overjoyed to hold the jet-lagged Bulgarians to a draw at the weekend.

Kim Do-Kyun headed perfectly from a Lee Dong-Gook cross in the 25th minute and the two combined again when Lee doubled the lead 10 minutes later with a low shot.

South Korea closed up in the second half against the tepid Malaysian opposition.

Platt parts with Sampdoria

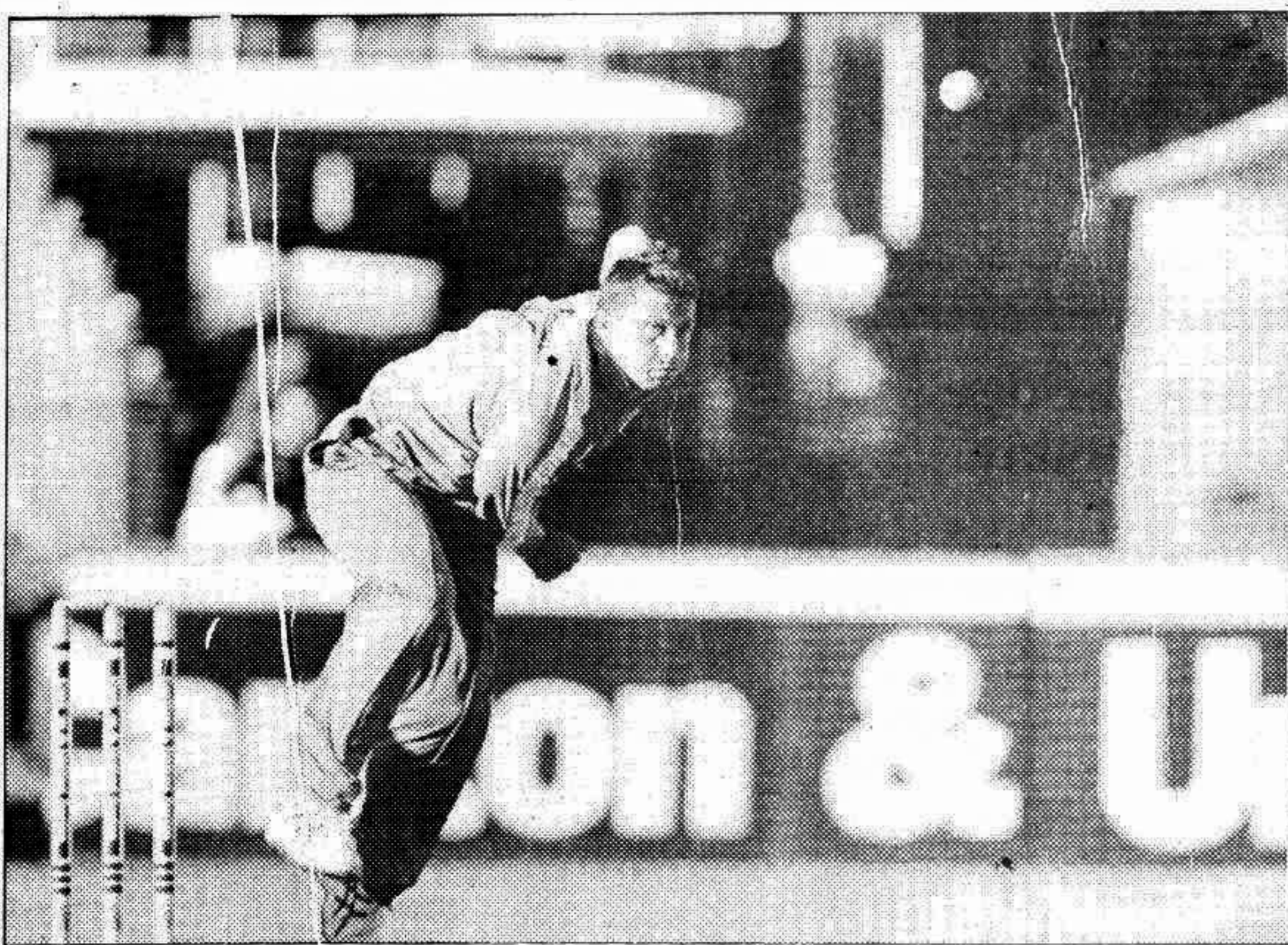
GENOA, Italy, Feb 3: Former England captain David Platt quit his job with Italian side Sampdoria after just seven weeks, reports AFP.

Platt, who joined the club management just before Christmas, failed to guide his side to a single win in six games.

His appointment — he was given the title of supervisor — caused controversy after Italian soccer chiefs failed to recognise his United Kingdom coaching qualifications.

Sampdoria won three points out of a possible 18 and fell from 13th to 18th place in the Italian table during Platt's tenure. The club bosses, however, were reportedly not set to sack him when he decided to go.

The 32-year-old's lack of international coaching credentials meant he was unable to take his place on the bench or even communicate with assistant Giorgio Veneri during games.



England's star pacesman Darren Gough bowling in the Carlton and United series match against Sri Lanka yesterday. — AFP photo

Some solace for Lanka

SYDNEY, Australia, Feb 3: Sri Lanka salvaged some pride when they beat England by 11 runs in a thrilling tri-nation tournament one-day clash at Sydney Cricket Ground tonight, reports AFP.

While the success came too late for them to have a chance of qualifying for the finals, it was a morale-boosting result as they attempt to recapture top form in the run in to the World Cup in England in May and June when they defend the crown they won three years ago.

In a shootout limited to 44 overs a side because of a rain-caused delay, Sri Lanka made 181-7 after being sent in by acting England captain Adam Hoolioake and then restricted the opposition to 170-9.

Sri Lanka's heroes were bowlers Thilan Samarawera (3-34) and Upul Chandana (3-35), who applied the brakes superbly as England, led by opener Nick Knight (58), threatened to achieve their target.

It was Sri Lanka's third win in nine games in the contest. England have won five of their nine outings and have already qualified to meet Australia in the showdown.

In Sri Lanka's innings, Avishka Gunawardene (24) and Romesh Kaluwitharana gave their side a fine start of 71 before Gunawardene departed in the 17th over.

But the momentum was quickly lost as six more wickets toppled for only 63 runs, leaving Sri Lanka a vulnerable 134-7.

Aravinda de Silva (52 not out) and Hashan Tillekeratne (13 not out) then added 47 runs in an unbroken eight-wicket stand.

Mark Alleyne took the bowling hours for England, capturing 3-27 from nine well-directed overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps in the limited-over tri-series match between England and Sri Lanka at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Table with columns for Sri Lanka and England, listing players and their runs/balls.

Table with columns for Extras, Bowler, and England, listing statistics for the match.

Result: Sri Lanka won by 11 runs.



Arjuna Ranatunga leaves the ground after being dismissed at Sydney yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

Spurs blank Wimbledon

LONDON, Feb 3: Tottenham Hotspur booked a fifth round FA Cup showdown away to fellow Premier League side Leeds United after convincingly beating London rivals Wimbledon 3-0 at White Hart Lane Tuesday, reports AFP.

Andy Sinton's spectacular third-minute goal gave Tottenham a dream start and they went on to dominate Wimbledon in what has become something of a grudge match this season.

Wimbledon took the field for the fourth meeting between the clubs in 18 days minus injured quintet Kenny Cunningham, Michael Hughes, Ben Thatcher, Marcus Gable and Efan Ekoku.

Frenchman David Ginola, criticised by Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear — a former Tottenham player — for diving in previous matches, also failed to pass a late fitness test for Tottenham.

It was Ginola's stand-in Sinton who struck the vital early blow with a cross-shot into the far top corner of Neil Sullivan's net after a slick link-up between Steffen Iversen, Les Ferdinand and Allan Nielsen.

He was sent racing down Wimbledon's right flank where Duncan Jupp, making only his fourth start of the season, could not contain the winger's pace and power.

It was Sinton's first goal of a season in which he has also filled in at left-back and right midfielder. The Dons could certainly have done with somebody of his versatility even though they struck the first meaningful shot of the match when Neal Ardley's 25-yard effort tested Ian Walker.

Sinton was also involved in a sharp move which was only half cleared and led to full back Justin Edinburgh dribbling just wide in the 14th minute.

Spurs had enough possession to be comfortably ahead at the break against a Wimbledon

defence unrecognisable from the solid unit which defied them in last week's goalless Worthington Cup semi-final.

Wimbledon threw caution to the wind at the start of the second half, sending on striker Carl Cort. And the Dons had an early opportunity for an equaliser when Robbie Earle slid in to the six-yard box and touched Alsn Kimmie's low cross

wide of an inviting target but was flagged offside anyway. But Spurs doubled their advantage with a second goal after 55 minutes.

It was bitterly contested by Wimbledon who thought Les Ferdinand committed a foul in setting up the goal, a simple tap, for Allan Nielsen but referee Dermot Gallagher rejected their arguments.



Boxing legend Muhammad Ali talks to newsmen at New York on February 2 regarding the planned Muhammad Ali Centre which is scheduled to be inaugurated at Ali's hometown in Louisville, Kentucky on February 17. — AFP photo

Bacher praiseful of Taylor

CAPE TOWN, Feb 3: Outgoing Australian cricket skipper Mark Taylor was one of the "greatest captains of all time," United Cricket Board of South Africa's managing director Ali Bacher said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Taylor, 34, announced his retirement from international cricket Tuesday, saying he felt he was starting to "lose the edge to compete."

Bacher told AFP: "In my opinion he is one of the great captains of all time. He has been an outstanding ambassador for not only Australian cricket, but world cricket."

"We congratulate him on all his achievements during his tenure as captain of the Australian team."

South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje said: "Mark Taylor was one of the toughest opponents mentally that I have come across, but off the field he was as friendly as anyone."

"He has retired at the right time, at the peak of his career both as an individual and as a captain."

Zimbabwe A 63/5

HARARE, Feb 3: England's Darren Thomas put Zimbabwe's second-string side on the rack here on Tuesday as the home side ended a rain-affected day on 63 for five, reports AFP.

Thomas of Glamorgan took three wickets and Melvyn Betts of Durham took two during a day blighted by overnight rain and bad light.

One hour and 45 minutes play were possible. England captain Mike Vaughan put the home side in on a soft wicket showing green patches and Betts, Thomas and Andrew Flintoff immediately found plenty of movement off the seam.

England struck in the seventh over when Betts had Trevor Madondo caught behind. Six overs later Craig Wishart fell to Thomas after his back foot dislodged a bail as he set off for a run.

Only Guy Whittall, Zimbabwe's senior batsman, offered real resistance. But he was out for 24, caught by Graeme Swann, as he tried to guide Betts through gully.

Swann also caught Don Campbell off Thomas, who also removed Dirk Viljoen.

Thomas finished with three for 24 and Betts two for 30.

England A had previously managed only four days play from a possible nine on their tour here following one of Zimbabwe's heaviest rainy seasons in living memory.

Scores: Zimbabwe A 63-5 (Wishart 24, Thomas 3-24, Betts 2-30).

Steve Mark's choice

SYDNEY, Feb 3: Retiring Australian cricket captain Mark Taylor would put his money on Steve Waugh to succeed him and so would many of Taylor's former teammates, reports AP.

Waugh and Shane Warne are the obvious candidates after Taylor closed his 104-Test career on Tuesday, saying his heart was no longer in it.

After initially declining to single a candidate out at a news conference, Taylor on Tuesday night told his likely new employer, Channel Nine Television, that he fancied Waugh as favourite.

"I suppose if I could put money on it, I'd probably say Steve Waugh," he said. "He's been around a long time, he knows the game very well."

"But that in no way takes it away from Shane Warne because I think they'd both make very good captains."

Test wicketkeeper and one-time candidate Ian Healy also backed Waugh, who replaced him as Taylor's deputy.

"The sentimental and the logical favourite would be Stephen with Shane (Warne) coming through underneath him," Healy said.

"People are saying his body is falling to bits but that's over the top, he's the man for a number of years and will be a tremendous mentor for the new bloke to come through."

Bowler Glenn McGrath picked Waugh as did former No. 3 batsman David Boon.

"I'd have to put my money on Steve at the moment, I think Shane's done well during one-day series so he's another option, but I'll have to go with Steve," McGrath said.

Boon said Waugh was the natural choice. "If I was a betting man I'd have a couple of bob on Steve because of his service, his being vice-captain and the natural progression," Boon said.

The new captain will be named when the Australian squad to tour the West Indies is named next Monday. Australia will play four Tests and seven limited-overs matches in the Caribbean.

Pua to become Uruguay coach

MONTEVIDEO, Feb 3: Uruguay will name Victor Pua, trainer of their successful under 20 side, as coach for the Copa America, it was reported Tuesday, reports AFP.

Pua led the under-20 team to the final of the World Cup for that age group in Malaysia in 1997 but his appointment as boss of the senior side will be only for the duration of the Copa America, held in Paraguay from June 29 to July 13 this year.

Suhrawardy Cup soccer Five more in zonal finals

Faridpur, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Khulna and Nilphamari emerged champions in their respective groups to romp into the zonal finals of the Keya Cosmetics Suhrawardy Cup youth football tournament yesterday, reports APB.

Faridpur beat Patuakhali by a solitary goal to become Group B champions in Dhaka A zone. Mahfiz scored the winner in the second half. Faridpur will take on Barisal in the zonal final on February 4.

In Dhaka B zone, Khokon slammed a hat-trick as Narayanganj trounced Manikganj 7-0 in a lop-sided affair and topped Group A. They will face the winners of Group B of the same zone on February 5.

Chittagong emerged Group B winners when they outplayed Luxmipur by 8-0 goals in Sylhet zone. Uttam and Abu struck two each while Kadir, Shawon, Anis and Anup scored one goal apiece. Chittagong will meet Sylhet in the zonal final on February 4.

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In the other matches, Chapinawabganj blanked Chuadanga 2-0, Netrokarna beat Pabna by a narrow 1-0 margin, Comilla posted a 2-0 goal win over Cox's Bazar.

Gazipur defeated Munshiganj 1-0, Chandpur downed Habiganj 3-0. Bagerhat

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Hooper 5 0 33 0 Did not bat: N Boje, S Elworthy

WEST INDIES Chanderpaul c Elworthy b Klusener 40 Murray c Elworthy b Pollock 15 Arthuron c Boucher b Klusener 1 Hooper c Kallis b Boje 1 Jacobs c Elworthy b Cronje 8 Semple c Boucher b Cronje 13 Lewis run out (Boje) 1 McLean c Pollock b Boje 7 Ambrose b Cronje 12

Result: South Africa won by 89 runs and take series winning 4-1 lead.

Man-of-the match: Lance Klusener.

REMAINING MATCHES Feb 5: Bloemfontein Feb 7: Centurion

Lens move into last eight

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Pascal Nouma opened the scoring in the 20th minute and provided the pass for Stephane Dalmat to blast the second from close range in the 35th.

Lens, beaten 3-0 at home by Olympique Lyon in the league at the weekend, had reached the second round with a controversial penalty shoot-out victory over Olympique Marseille.

Marseille's Eric Roy was denied a goal from his spot kick although a video replay showed the ball crossed the line after hitting the bar.

SA take winning lead

CAPE TOWN, Feb 3: All rounder Lance Klusener and in experienced batsman Dale Benkenstein led South Africa to a series-clinching 89-run win in the fifth limited-overs international against the West Indies at Newlands Tuesday, reports AFP.

Klusener hammered an unbeaten 54 off 36 balls and then dismissed the two leading West Indian batsmen, Shivnarine

series. Nixon McLean took three wickets in his opening spell of eight overs while King and Curtly Ambrose provided accurate and lively support.

Medium-pace Keith Semple, who had not bowled in the three previous matches, took two for 35.

Once again, however, the depth of the South African batting proved an important factor as Benkenstein and Boucher stabilised the innings before Klusener's assault took the home team to a total which was

always likely to be enough on a pitch which historically has favoured the bowlers under floodlights in the second innings.

Left-hander Shivnarine Chanderpaul made an aggressive start, hitting Shaun Pollock for four and three off the second and third balls of the West Indian innings.

The bowlers quickly settled down, however, and kept the West Indian batsmen under pressure, leading to rash strokes as they tried to keep the score moving.

With two matches to play, South Africa lead the series 4-1. Their one-day success follows a 5-0 clean sweep in the Test series earlier in the season.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the fifth limited-overs international between South Africa and the West Indies at Newlands Tuesday.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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5 Author 39 Canva or 1 Photog's choice at auction

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17 Tina's ex 53 Gabrielle 9 Impertinent 36 Score

19 Barbados, Bahamas, etc. (abbr.) 54 Yon wench 9 Impertinent 36 Score

King not out 0 Extras: (b-1; lb-4; w-3; nb-1) 9 Total: (All out in 42.4 overs) 132

Fall of wks: 1-23; 2-67; 3-71; 4-82; 5-90; 6-92; 7-107; 8-108; 9-122.

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