

KLM Cup golf results

The prestigious KLM Cup golf tournament was played at Kurmitola Golf Club on April 23 and 24, says a press release.

A record number of participants participated in the tournament.

The tournament was inaugurated on April 23 and prizes were distributed amongst the winners by Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafaizur Rahman BB, ndc, psc, the president of Kurmitola Golf Club on April 24.

Winners of individual stroke play:

Longest Drive: Alok Azeem; Nearest to Pin: AK Fazel Rabbi; Back Nine winner: Abu S Alam; Front Nine winner: SW Lee; 2nd Runner-up: Brig Anwar Farid; Ladies Runner-up: Mrs Nangiang; Runner-up: Turhan Khali; Best Gross: SM Jang; Junior winner: Nader Salam; Senior winner: Brig M Masud Ali Khan; Ladies' winner: Mrs Euan Hwa Lee; Winner: Numayer Enam.

KLM Challenge Cup was played between Kurmitola Golf Club and Bhatnagar Golf and Country Club on April 24. Kurmitola Golf Club became champions.

CRICKETERS' FOR



Shakil Kasem (R), the general secretary of Cricketers' Forum, speaking at a press conference yesterday. Forum president Mainul Haq (C) and former national cricketer S M Faruque were also present. — Star photo

Sacking of Selection Committee slated

Cricketers want their say

Sports Reporter

Cricketers' Forum, an organisation of former national cricketers, expressed its grave concern about the current state of cricket in the country and the 'mismanagement' in Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The Forum gave a piece of their mind through a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning.

Former national cricketers, Forum president Mainul Haq, S M Faruque and general secretary Shakil Kasem spoke on the occasion. Former national captains Roquibul Hasan and Gazi Ashraf Hossain, and former cricketers GM Nowsher, Golam-e-Alam, G S Hasan, Nasir Ahmed and Mahbub Hossain were also present.

Speaking to the press, Shakil Kasem said that nothing was done by the BCB officials to introduce a system for the game, as had been done by other cricketing nations.

He said, as former cricketers, the members of the Forum felt that they have a certain responsibility towards cricket.

"There is no established or published national cricket policy, and the board does not have any control over the game in the whole country," said Shakil, adding that cricket league was not being played in

Chittagong for the last three years. He further said that even Nepal has a better cricket infrastructure than Bangladesh.

"We don't have anything to say about how the election of the board should be held. What we want is the board to include us in different sub-committees so that we can put our views."

"We have an indoor practice facility in Dhanmondi where hundreds of young boys are practising everyday. The indoor space is supposed to have 21 lights but you will find that only three are working, and that could be dangerous for the boys any day. Besides, there are many cricket coaching academies in the country, which are not registered with the board. Neither does the board have any system to monitor their activities," said Shakil.

The general secretary also condemned the board for humiliating members of the Selection Committee time and again.

"The April 8 meeting of the BCB at BKSP (Savar) did not have any agenda to sack the Selection Committee. Only 16 of the 33 board members were present in that meeting. We don't know and neither are we interested to know why they have sacked the Selection Committee, but we condemn whatever has happened," Shakil added.

Forum president Mainul Haq said they were very much worried about the way cricket was going on in the country.

"We at the Forum feel that perhaps our cricketing future is not being charted in the manner that it should be. Mismanagement at the top level, questionable policy decisions, undue and unnecessary interference by board in the selection process, and public humiliation of national selectors are instances of the board's failures at this point," said Mainul.

When asked why they were reacting more than two weeks after the April 8 BCB meeting, SM Faruque said that the Forum was reviewing the situation for the last two weeks and, after analysing the matter, they finally thought of meeting the press to convey their message to the people.

Bacher on new mission

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 24 (Reuters/AFI/Internet): Ali Bacher will step down from his position as managing director of the United Cricket Board (UCB) next year to concentrate on organising the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

Bacher, who has been at the helm of the unified board since its inception in 1991, was asked by the UCB last weekend to take the position and accepted it on Friday.

"The board's feeling was that the tournament was going to be of such great importance to South Africa, with so much at stake, that there would have to be someone whose sole responsibility it was to look after it," UCB president Raymond White said.

"The board felt that there was only one person in South Africa that we could confidently entrust (with) such a task and that was Dr Bacher."

Bacher will take up his position next year though the exact date has yet to be finalised.

The UCB will look at selecting a successor to Bacher as managing director after this year's World Cup in England in May and June.

Bacher said the decision to take the new post had been a



ALI BACHER

difficult one.

"It's been a tough week for me," Bacher said. "For so long I have put my whole life and soul into the running of cricket."

Bacher said he had spent most of the week visiting sponsors, speaking to South Africa's national controlling body for sport, the National Sports Council and to Olympic chief Sam Ramsamy and sports minister Steve Tshwete.

He said that the World Cup

organising committee would be a separate entity from the UCB and said he hoped to exceed the expected 11-million-pound surplus that the England World Cup organising committee was expecting.

"I don't want to make projections but I am reasonably confident that we can exceed that and that would be good news for South Africa," Bacher said.

"This is a unique opportunity for the United Cricket Board of South Africa to put together a global event with great distinction for our country."

"It's a great opportunity and a unique occasion for South African cricket and I will do my best to make it a great success."

A qualified medical doctor, he is currently chairman of the International Cricket Council's international development committee.

Bacher masterminded South Africa's development campaign and was pivotal in talks to unite the country's cricket sector, previously divided along racial lines, resulting in the formation of the United Cricket Board in 1991.

He captained the South African squad in 1969 and 1970, in what were the last four Test matches before international isolation, sparked by apartheid policies. Bacher's team won all four games.

Nagoya ride on Stojkovic

TOKYO, Apr 24: Yugoslav star Dragan Stojkovic of Nagoya Grampus Eight led an assault on both tom-dogs Kyoto Purple Sanga with two goals, elevating his team's standing three notches on Saturday, reports AFP.

Stojkovic repeatedly delivered passes to the front line and scored two goals himself in just six minutes near the end of the match to clinch a 2-1 victory.

"We played much better in the second half and managed to produce many chances to score," Stojkovic said.

"The defense was not functioning as we wanted, but I could get around the opponent's

defenders and everyone else played really well."

Saturday's victory kept Nagoya's French head coach Daniel Sanchez undefeated after the team's disastrous start cost the former commander his job.

Jubilo Iwata beat off Shimizu S-Pulse's drive for a top spot with five-point rush in the second half, securing a comfortable lead against trailers.

"Jubilo chalked up a fourth straight win by beating Shimizu 5-2 as the striker Masashi Nakayama stacked up two goals to put himself just three goals away from the league's 91-scoring record of Kazuyoshi Miura, who now plays for Crea-

tia's Zagreb.

Defending champions Kashima Antlers, trailing the Jubilo by four points, fought extra time with Yokohama F. Marinos to a sour 3-3 draw, with Yokohama scoring two points in final minutes.

STANDINGS

Standings (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points — three points for a win in regulation time, two points for a win in extra-time and one point for a draw):							
Jubilo Iwata	8	7	0	1	17	6	21
Verday Kawasaki	8	5	1	2	11	10	16
Kashima Antlers	7	5	1	1	17	9	15
Cerezo Osaka	8	5	0	3	14	14	15
Shimizu S-Pulse	8	5	0	3	15	13	14
Yokohama F. Marinos	8	4	1	3	18	10	13
Nagoya Grampus Eight	8	4	1	3	11	9	13
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	8	4	0	4	13	10	12
Kashiwa Reysol	7	4	0	3	10	8	12
Gamba Osaka	8	4	0	4	14	14	11
Urawa Red Diamonds	8	2	3	3	9	11	9
Avispa Fukuoka	8	3	0	5	13	19	8
Vissel Kobe	8	2	1	5	13	16	6
Bellmare Hiratsuka	8	2	0	6	8	18	6
JEF United Ichihara	8	1	2	5	7	16	4
Kyoto Purple Sanga	8	1	0	7	5	12	3



Japanese Miho Saeki plays forehand against Andrea Glass of Germany during their Fed Cup fixture in Hamburg, Germany yesterday. —AFP photo

Miandad to change his mind?

KARACHI, Apr 24 (The Dawn/Internet): Javed Miandad is expected to reverse his decision anytime after attending Prime Minister's reception on Saturday. According to the same source who had told Dawn a day before that Miandad would submit his resignation on Wednesday, the reversal was in the offing.

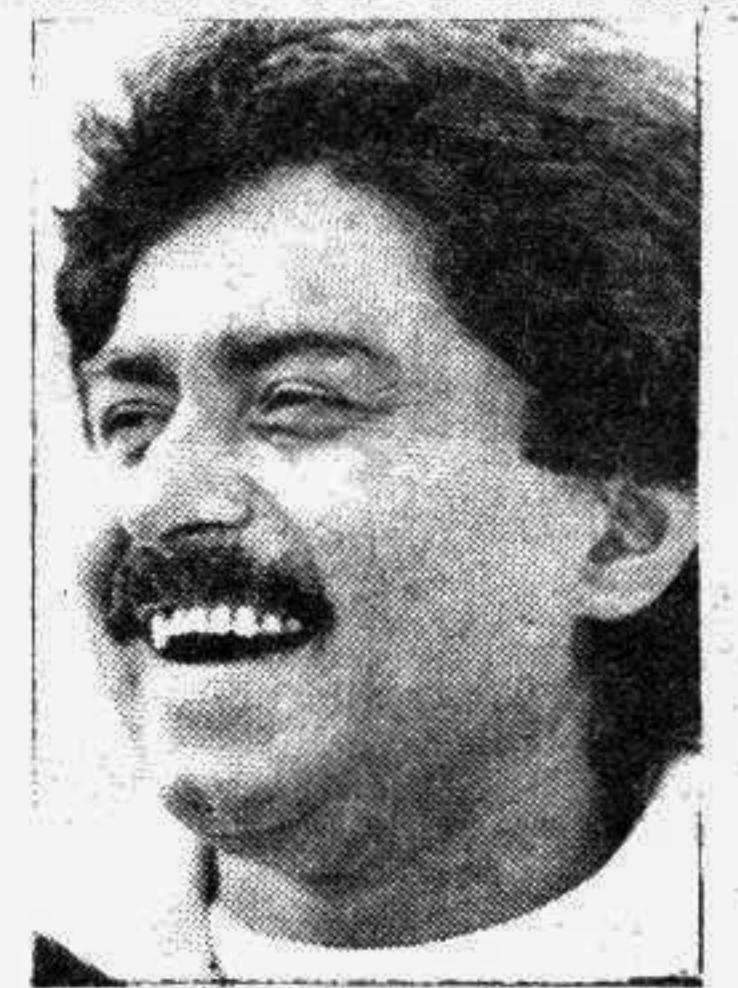
"Everything is in place for Miandad to continue as coach of the team," he remarked without disclosing other details.

While talking to Dawn from Lahore on Friday, Javed Miandad hinted that he could still return to the job as he has kept his options open.

"My doors are still open for negotiations. If the top hierarchy (of the PCB) discuss the matter with me, I can be flexible but so far no one has contacted me," Miandad said.

However, a cricket board official responded: "If the man doesn't want to go, how can we force him to proceed. It was his unilateral decision and the cricket board was not consulted."

Miandad on Friday approached a cricket board official and confirmed to him that he would be attending Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's reception which is being hosted in honour of the Pakistan team



JAVED MIANDAD

DO IT AGAIN: Kapil Dev (L), who led India to the World Cup victory in 1983, presents captain Mohammed Azharuddin with a book containing thousands of good luck messages in Bombay, on April 23. The Indian team left for England Saturday where they will play their first World Cup match against South Africa on May 15. — Reuters/Internet photo

day evening but Miandad will board the same flight on Saturday morning which will be taken by PCB chairman Khalid Mahmood and chief executive Majid Khan.

"If the chairman and chief executive (of the PCB) would discuss the issue on the flight, I will talk to them. But it has deeply hurt me reading their statements that I didn't contact them."

Miandad has a history of reversing his decisions. Besides this latest one, Miandad, on April 6, 1994 announced his retirement from international cricket in tears but reversed his decision within a month. He went on to represent in his record sixth World Cup but couldn't play in 1994 and 1995 because of knee injury.

Meanwhile, another Dawn report says, former captain Imran Khan on Friday termed Miandad's resignation a major set-back to Pakistan's chances of regaining the World Cup.

Imran, who led Pakistan to victory in the 1992 World Cup, said in a press statement that Miandad's resignation was a major loss as he was a good coach and could have contributed a lot to Pakistan cricket.

The cricketer-turned-politician observed that it was a pity that the decision came when the team was well knit.

"Pakistan had performed well during the past few months and the whole team, the coach and the captain had transformed (the team) very well into a fighting combination."

Imran felt that Miandad might have become an unnecessary casualty of betting and match-fixing controversy.

"It (betting and match-fixing) should have been settled much earlier instead of leaving the entire team under a cloud where every defeat in looked upon with doubt."

England cricketers to sign WC deal

LONDON, Apr 24 (Reuters): England's World Cup squad agreed on Friday to sign contracts for the tournament and end a cash dispute with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

"All the lads have now agreed to sign their contracts and we are looking forward to playing in the tournament and to hopefully achieving success," said England captain Alec Stewart.

The ECB said in a statement that "further adjustments" had been made to the balance between appearance fees and performance-related bonuses.

"Some other non-financial issues relating to the contract have also been resolved or are being resolved."

ECB chief executive Tim Lamb said he was sure everyone would now want to "focus completely on the World Cup campaign" and the players would be doing their best to "perform in a way that all their supporters can be proud of".

Big win for Segunbagicha

Segunbagicha High, Shaheed Abu Taleb School and Bidyanniketon High won their respective matches of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 17th national schools

ANZ Grindlays National School Cricket

cricket championship yesterday, reports UNB.

Segunbagicha High earned a massive 129-run victory over Aftab Memorial High at the Kalabagan Club ground.

Bating first, Segunbagicha piled up 266 for 9 in stipulated 38 overs while Aftab Memorial was all out for 137 in 25.3 overs.

At the Orient Club ground, Shaheed Abu Taleb defeated MDC Model Institute by 7 wickets.

Shaheed Abu Taleb scored 133 for 3 in 22.2 overs replying to MDC Model's 130 for all in 18.4 overs.

At the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground, Bidyanniketon High beat Dhanmondi International by 177 run in 18.3 overs.

Dhanmondi were all out for 183 in 28.4 overs in reply to Bidyanniketon's 200 for all in 31 overs.

Fed Cup tennis Japan go level

HAMBURG, Apr 24: Japan's Shinobu Asagoe, a last-minute replacement for the injured Ai Sugiyama, won Saturday to give Japan a 1-1 split on the opening day of a Fed Cup tie, reports AP.

Asagoe, playing her first Fed Cup match, beat Elena Wagner, 7-6 (8-6), 6-1 to even up the World Group II tie in which the top stars from both countries have been forced out by injury.

Andrea Glass beat Miho Saeki 6-3, 6-4 in the first singles of a tie which will determine which of the two countries qualifies again for World Group I.

The top Germans, Steffi Graf and Anke Huber, had been injured last week. Sugiyama twisted her ankle less than an hour before play began Saturday.

The little-known Asagoe, ranked 130th in the world, erased Wagner's 6-5 lead in the first set then went on to win easily against the Bulgarian-born German.

"I've never even seen her play before — I didn't know what to expect," said Wagner, who flew in from a tournament in Bulgaria two days ago to help the short-handed Germans.

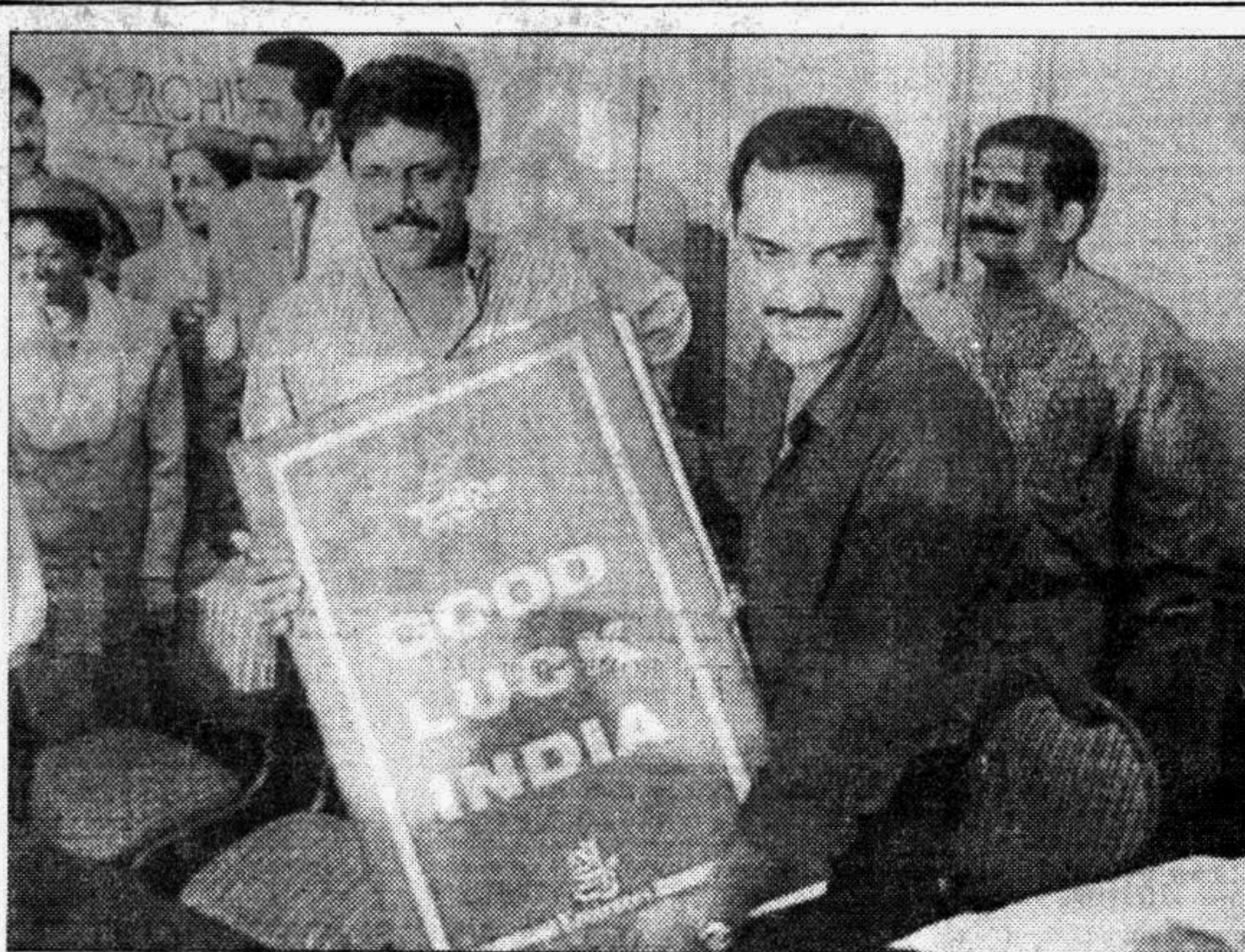
Glass, who gained a key break at 4-4 in the second set, needed one hour 22 minutes to close out her match against Saeki when a backhand by the Japanese player sailed wide.

Sunday, Glass faces Asagoe and Wagner plays Saeki in the reserve singles. The doubles will be played later the day.

"I think the chances are now 50-to-50," said Japan captain Takeshi Koura of the tie in which the role of favourite keeps switching as the injuries mount.

Meanwhile, AFP adds: Japan's Ai Sugiyama, world ranked number 24, withdrew Saturday morning from her country's scheduled singles match with Germany's Elena Wagner.

The 23-year-old has an ankle injury and will be replaced by 22-year-old Shinobu Asagoe against Wagner.



DO IT AGAIN: Kapil Dev (L), who led India to the World Cup victory in 1983, presents captain Mohammed Azharuddin with a book containing thousands of good luck messages in Bombay, on April 23. The Indian team left for England Saturday where they will play their first World Cup match against South Africa on May 15. — Reuters/Internet photo

How Ferguson dodged the axe on road to glory

LONDON, Apr 24 (AFP): It is hard to imagine now, but there was a time when Alex Ferguson's club was sacking a manager as laager of Manchester United.

The date was January 7, 1990, and United were facing an FA Cup third round tie away to Nottingham Forest on the back of a disastrous start to the season.

European football's most famous sleeping giant was in the deepest of slumbers. A 5-1 humiliation against bitter rivals Manchester City had been followed by a 3-0 Old Trafford defeat in the League Cup by Tottenham and came the turn of the year United were languishing 15th in the league.

The club's board were rumoured to be ready to axe Ferguson if his team lost at Forest, a result which would effectively end their season four months

prematurely.

Yet it was on that damp, muddy Nottingham pitch that the first seeds of United's re-birth were sown.

With the game heading for a goalless stalemate Mark Hughes curied a defence splitting pass behind the Forest back line and Mark Robins stooped to head the winning goal past Forest goalkeeper Steve Sutton.

Almost a decade later, Ferguson stands on the brink of football immortality, ready to take his place among the legendary managers of the British game by winning the European Cup in Barcelona next month.

United went on to win the FA Cup in the summer of 1990, albeit needing a replay to dispose of Crystal Palace in the final.

In 1991 they reached the League Cup final before Hughes again inspired victory against Barcelona in Rotterdam in the European Cup Winners' Cup final, the trophy Ferguson had won in 1983 as Aberdeen boss.

In 1992 United won the League Cup and a season later the first of Ferguson's Holy Grails, the club's first league championship since 1967.

In 1994 it was the League and FA Cup double, as well as another Wembley appearance in the League Cup final, 1995 brought another FA Cup final appearance and 1996 another League and Cup double.

United retained the title in 1997 but a new Holy Grail was by now fixed firmly in the mind of Ferguson, the European Champions' Cup.

Anyone wishing to understand Ferguson's obsession with winning Europe's ultimate club competition need look no further than the records of British football's managerial greats.

Matt Busby (United), Jock Stein (Celtic), Bob Paisley (Liverpool) and Brian Clough (Derby and Forest) all have a European Champions' Cup medal at the top of their win lists.

Liverpool's Bill Shankly is the exception that proves the rule and Ferguson knows that

to join the ranks of the truly great he must triumph against Bayern Munich in the Nou Camp on May 26.

Ferguson's prickly relationship with an ever-inquisitive media and his obsession with success has never made him truly popular outside Old Trafford - grudging respect is the best he can usually expect - but the 57-year-old Scot makes no apology.

"You've got to be a bit one-eyed about your own club and that's what I am," he says.

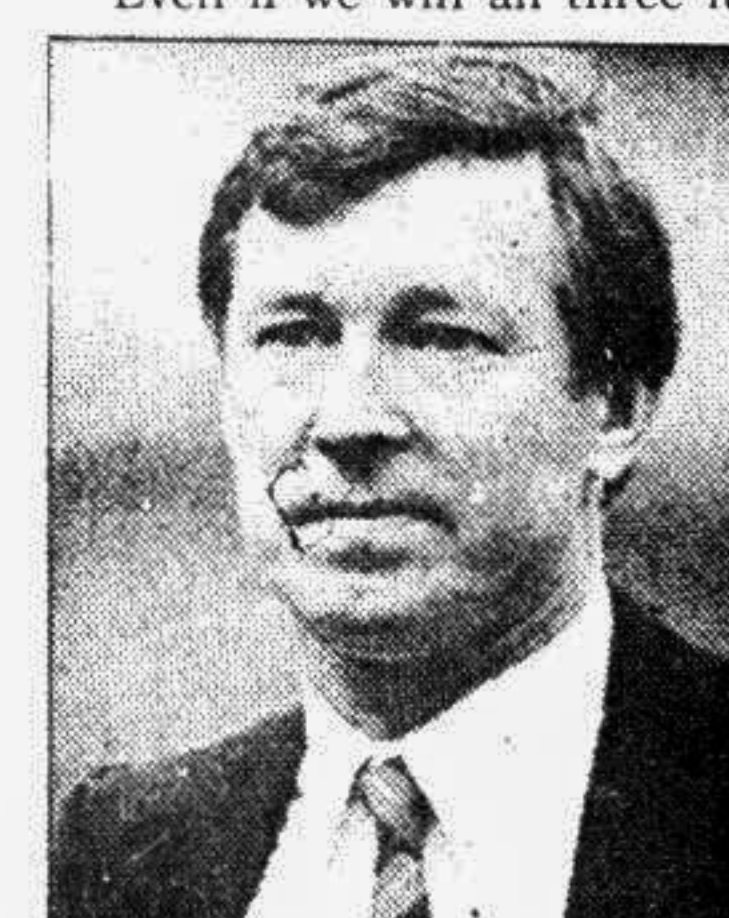
Such tunnel vision has put United on the brink of an unprecedented treble this season. They are on course to win back their Premiership title from Arsenal and will lift the FA Cup on May 22 at Wembley if they beat Newcastle.

Ferguson would probably swap both for success in the Catalan capital four days later, though you won't catch him admitting it.

"Even if we win all three it won't change my view on the future," he said after the stunning 3-2 success at Juventus this week.

It's all a far cry from that desperate day in Nottingham back in 1990 when an unheralded 20-year-old saved Ferguson's job. Last seen playing his trade in the Greek league, Robins has reason to reflect fondly on the memory. Ferguson, in contrast, has never looked back.

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ALEX FERGUSON

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