

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Darren Gough
(England pace bowler)
"I am the sort who always wants to do everything flat out."

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1. How many Test wickets did Malcolm Marshall grab?	376	380	396
2. Who won the Sharjah Cup last month?	Pakistan	W Indies	S Lanka
3. What is the name of Steve Waugh's son?	Austin	Jacobs	Larry
4. Who is the vice-captain of India?	Dravid	Jadeja	Ganguly
5. Who became champions in the Kora Premier League soccer league?	Abahani Mukaddisa	Mohammedan	

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Bangladesh face

Uzbeks today

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh will kick off their 12th Asian Cup football qualifying campaign against Uzbekistan at the desert kingdom of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today.

The inaugural Group 3 match, which also marks the maiden clash between Bangladesh and Uzbekistan on international circuit, will start at 6.45 pm (BST). Uzbeks are tipped as the favourites to win the prestigious title.

Led by prolific striker Alfaz Ahmed, an also-ran Bangladesh will take on the hosts UAE in their second group league match on November 23.

Although they will be hoping against hopes in their first two matches, Bangladesh will be tested by a team from the same league when they renew their rivalry with Sri Lanka on November 25 following their famous triumph in the SAF football final.

Never crossed the first round barrier, Bangladesh will take on their bitter foes India in their last group league match on November 29.

ITF tourney

in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Nov 20: The ITF second leg Alpha Men's Future Tennis Tournament commences at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex from November 22. A total of 73 players from 23 different countries, including hosts Bangladesh, will compete in the week-long meet, which offers a cash awards of 10,000 US dollars. The ITF Grand Slam Fund will sponsor the prize-money.

Talking to the reporters at a press briefing today, the director of the tournament, Mostaque Ahmed said that Take 6,15,100 would be spent to hold the meet.

Collins calls

it a day

GLASGOW, Nov 20: Scotland midfielder John Collins announced on Friday he was retiring from international football, just three days after his country lost the European Championship play-off to England, reports Reuters.

BD almost upset China



Bangladesh held China to a surprise one-all draw in their second Group 5 match of the 5th Asia Cup hockey championship in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Smarting under a 4-0 thrashing by favorites Korea in the opening match on Friday, Bangladesh showed a spectacular turnaround yesterday when they clung on to an early lead till midway through the second session.

Reza Shamim stunned China when he slammed home a nice field goal in the 18th minute. Shamim swept in a rebound from goalkeeper Wang Zhongjun's pads after Rafiqul Kamal broke through on the right and forced Wang to parry his shot.

When the two teams last met at the Asian Games in Bangkok 11 months ago, China ran out 4-0 winners and before Saturday's match it was difficult to predict anything other than a Chinese victory.

Bangladesh looked well in course of what would have been their first ever win against the

Sports Reporter

Asian giants when Guo Jie struck the equalizer in the 65th minute.

Bangladesh will play their third group match against Nepal on Monday before pitting against former world champions Pakistan in the last match on November 23.

An AFP report adds: yesterday, against a Chinese team that played well in patches, Bangladesh's steadier, more composed play almost resulted in an upset win.

An upset was on the cards from the initial exchanges when the Bangladeshis moved the ball wide and passed frequently.

But Bangladesh could not sustain their bright start and allowed a resurgent China to gain the upper hand in the second half, mainly from superior individual play in which forwards Ren Baode and Guo Jie were prominent.

The pair combined to score the Chinese equaliser in the 64th minute. Off a second penalty corner, Ren, feigning to hit, relayed a push-out to the unmarked Guo Jie who beat goalkeeper Raseel Khan with a crisp shot.

In Group B, hosts Malaysia held India, the Asian Games champions, to a 1-1 draw.

The Indians enjoyed the territorial advantage but not the luck. Despite dominating the early exchanges, India trailed to a 13th minute Malaysian goal scored by S. Kuhan off a penalty corner.

It spurred the Malaysians but attractive moves on both flanks by Suhairi Saidi and Chua Boon Huat went begging.

India looked for the equaliser from the start of the second half. A sustained bout of pressure saw them force two penalty corners in succession in the 44th minute.

In a superb set piece move off the second corner, skipper Baljit Singh Dhillon relayed the ball to a nicely positioned Ajit Singh Gargan who neatly deflected into goal.

But in the end, India were left to rue what is now a familiar trademark of their play -- plentiful possession but paltry conversion.

The draw meant the second semi-final spot from Group B will be a battle between Malaysia and Japan. India are favoured to clinch the top berth.

IFA Shield tournament of India

Badda keep hopes alive

From Our Correspondent

CALCUTTA, Nov 20: Bad Jagaran Sanghad of Bangladesh kept their hopes alive for a semifinal berth in the IFA Shield with a 2-0 victory over Churchill Brothers at the Rabindra Sarovar Stadium here today.

With this win Badda, who lost to East Bengal (1-0) and held Tata Football Academy to goalless draw on Friday, finished their league engagements with four points from three matches. If the match between Tata Football Academy and Churchill Brothers ends in a draw or the former loses then Badda will qualify for the last four along with East Bengal. The Calcutta giants are already through to the last four with a tally of seven points.

With Abdullah Sayeed, Mani, Deepankar Daswas, Khokon and Tanveer combining like a well-oiled machine Badda put in a superb display in the second session of the match to score two goals.

The first came in 57th minute with Khokon moving down the left flank and dribbling past central defender

Osman Fossain of the Churchill brothers. He then sent in a perfect back pass to an advancing Saifur Rahman Mani, who pushed the ball past the hapless Churchill custodian Oscar Hunda.

The visitors then put the issue beyond doubt when midfielder Tanvir added another goal during the injury time.

Nat'l cricket league

Round Two from today

Second round of the three-day national cricket league, involving six divisional teams begins today at different venues across the country, reports UNB.

Dhaka will take on Barisal at the Mymensingh Stadium. Chittagong face Khulna at the Chittagong M A Aziz Stadium and Sylhet meet Rajshahi at the Rajshahi Stadium. Earlier, Khulna, Sylhet and Rajshahi earned two points each winning their first round matches by virtue of first innings lead.

With the entire Churchill side advancing forward, search of an equaliser, Abdullah Sayeed launched a quick counter attack. He picked up a miss-pass from the Churchill media Somai Saiza and sent a lovely 40-yard pass to Khokon. The latter advanced a few paces before unleashing a tremendous right footer. Hunda blocked the shot but an opportunist Tanveer slammed it home on the rebound.

Churchill however were unlucky in their search for the equaliser. In the 72nd minute a powerful long-range shot by Osman Hossain beat Titumir but crashed onto the cross-piece. The result of the match could have been different had Churchill got the equaliser.

Earlier the first half was dominated by Churchill. Rocky Barretto, Saiza, Mario Sores and Edward Amsa played a number of passes between themselves. Albeit they had a greater share of the ball possession, Churchill failed to cash in on it due to their myopic marksmen up the front.

Badda will now have to keep their fingers crossed for a draw or win for Churchill when they meet TFA.

Waqar back on fast track

SYDNEY, Nov 20: On the sub-continent, most trains break down at some stage. It is part of the experience.

The same applies to fast bowlers, and one of the best of the modern era has suffered more than his share of breakdowns in recent years.

Pakistan's Waqar Younis burst on to the world scene bowling at express-train speed, fast and full, and was soon recognised as a master of fast bowling's modern innovation - reverse swing. He did most of his early damage against England in England. Sadly, we have never seen him at his best in Australia - not that is until a wonderful burst in the second session on Friday.

Waqar toured Australia as a rookie in 1989-90. He came back in 1995-96 but was recovering from a serious back injury and, by his own admission, was not at his best.

Before this match, Waqar had taken only 12 wickets at 40.58 in six Tests in Australia - the rewards you would expect of a great pace bowler on the fastest pitches in the world. In the series against Australia in Pakistan last year, Waqar was sidelined with a lingering elbow injury which had plagued him during his final season of county cricket. He played in an early tour game against the Australians but admitted he would struggle to be fit and in form for the Test series.

On Wednesday, Wasim Akram said he thought Waqar had fallen victim in 1998 to a syndrome where injured Pakistani players find themselves left to their own devices. With minimal support they lose motivation. Certainly there was an air of resignation about Waqar back then. It seemed his great career was nearing an anti-climatic end.

Yet the emergence of a new young rival in Shoaib Akhtar, the healing of a number of injuries and the prospect of one more visit to Australia gave Waqar another lease of life.

On Friday, his five-over burst of 2-12 just before the tea break reminded everyone of what a great bowler he was and could still be on occasions. In that spell, Waqar took two highly prized wickets and began Australia's collapse. Mark Waugh was leg before to a late

dipping inswinger and, two overs later, Ricky Ponting left a big off-cutter that hit the off ball.

In between, Waqar bowled a hostile over at Steve Waugh during which he had a huge shout for caught behind denied and a close leg-before appeal turned down. The caught-behind appeal came from a delivery that was clocked at 148.5km/h - just under 90mph - the fastest of the day.

Waqar said before play yesterday that he had set himself to return to Australia for this tour.

"Yes, it's always a big series and a hard task coming to Australia. It's always a dream for a fast bowler to play in Australia and I always wanted to come here and play. This is my third tour and I haven't done as well as I could, but maybe I didn't get the proper opportunity to bowl on those first tours."

Waqar was not chosen for the first Test in Brisbane and had one chance last week's tour game in Adelaide, to press his claims for a recall. He did more than enough to win back his Test spot.

"My last first-class match was before the World Cup," he said. "After the World Cup we played just a one-day series. I did not have enough match practice before I came here, but I'm coping well. I wouldn't have been in the side without that game in Adelaide."

The other boost that has helped Waqar regain his spot, as well as his enthusiasm, has been the emergence of Akhtar, who came here and play. This is my third tour and I haven't done as well as I could, but maybe I didn't get the proper opportunity to bowl on those first tours.

"You always expect someone to come along and take over," Waqar said. "He's quite good but he's still raw and has a lot to learn. But he'll be a good bowler for me to chase up. It does motivate me. He took my place in India and since then it was hard to get back in the side, but I kept my head down and kept working and now I'm back in the side."

Last year in Pakistan it seemed all the kids in the streets playing ball games - specially made light bats versus tennis balls wrapped in plastic tape - bowled like Waqar.

Fast and full at the batsmen's toes with the same, smooth slinging action. No spinners, hardly any bouncers. "I used to play with a taped tennis ball but I never learned anything from that," Waqar said.

"I always wanted to be a fast bowler and I basically learned from my public school where the cricket was very organised."

Waqar admits being 28 despite others querying his age throughout his career. He says his body feels older, mainly due to too much country cricket in his prime, but not too old to give us a glimpse Friday of what a great fast bowler he was. And he has another Test in Perth to come.

Courtesy: The Sydney Morning Herald.

Englishmen

in the lead

CENTURION, South Africa, Nov 20 (Reuters/Internet): England gained a formidable first innings lead of 102 over a Gauteng/Northern Combined XI as the local side was bowled out for 201 on Saturday.

Earlier on Friday, England pace trio Darren Gough, Andy Caddick and Gavin Hamilton produced a timely burst of form ahead of the first Test against South Africa next week.

They snapped up early wickets against a Gauteng/Northern Combined XI to give England the upperhand on the second day of their four-day match.

Gauteng/Northern were reeling at 37 for three before they started a recovery that took the score to 85 for three at the close in reply to England's first innings of 303.

CWAB takes on

Saber today

Sports Reporter

President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Saber Hossain Chowdhury will meet the rebel players today in a bid to end the impasse in the domestic cricket.

Leading players, under the banner of the newly-formed Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB), have been refrained from taking part in any domestic competitions including the National League to press home their one-point demand.

Crisis engulfed local cricket a week before when the agitating cricketers demanded to the organisation of Dhaka-based clubs to hold an early bourse or face the boycott.

Although the BCB boss is learnt to be optimistic ahead of his second meeting with the CWAB leaders, the president of the CWAB, Minhazul Abedin chose not to make any comment about it. He also refused to divulge their next course of action if the session with Saber falls apart.

"We will have a meeting at the Stadium (Bangabandhu) tomorrow (today) before talking to the president," said Minhazul to the Daily Star at the BCB office yesterday.

Before taking on BCB supremo, CWAB could not hold meeting among themselves due to the non-availability of its three leaders - general secretary Faruque Ahmed, vice-president Aminul Islam and organising secretary Naimur Rahman. Faruque has got married on Friday while national captain Aminul and Naimur are reportedly in India.

In another development, the organisers of Dhaka clubs launched an association yesterday to put Zahid Hossain as its chairman. Zahid is the cricket chairman of the Mohammedan Sporting Club.

Easy wins for

Wanderers, Khelaghar

Sports Reporter

Khelaghar Samaj Kallayan Sangha and Dhaka Wanderers Club won their respective matches of the 19th Damal Smriti cricket tournament, played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Khelaghar recorded a four-wicket win over Ajax Sporting Club. In a low-scoring affair, Khelaghar, chasing a paltry Ajax total of exactly 100, reached the target (101) in 31.1 overs for the loss of six wickets with skipper Shamsul notching highest 34 runs.

The easy sail of Khelaghar was however set out by their two bowlers Lal and Raju, who evenly shared eight wickets among themselves. Of the two, Lal was most economical with fantastic figures of 10-4-7-4.

Away at the Dhammondi Cricket Stadium, Dhaka Wanderers defeated Uttara Sporting Club by 38 runs. Shusanto set the tune of the match in favour of Wanderers with a brilliant half-century and later he was duly complemented by Saiful, who tore apart Uttara innings with a five-wicket burst.

Shushanto scored a workmanlike 64 off 122 balls as Wanderers, batting first after winning the toss, piled up a fighting 199 for eight wickets in their share of 50 overs.

In reply, Uttara were bundled out for 161 with 14 balls to spare in the face of some accurate bowling by Saiful, who ripped through middle and lower order to finish with five for 28 in his nine annoying overs.

Meanwhile, the organisers yesterday suspended the traditional season's curtain-raiser till November 23. They however did not provide any reason for the sudden suspension on the tournament.

BRIEF SCORES

Ajax SC v Khelaghar SKS Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium
Ajax: 100 all out in 44 overs (Elahi 21 not out; Raju 4/14, Lal 4/7)
Khelaghar: 101 for 6 wickets in 31.1 overs (Shamsul 34, Rana 23; Uttara 3/32, 2/8)
Result: Khelaghar won by 4 wickets.

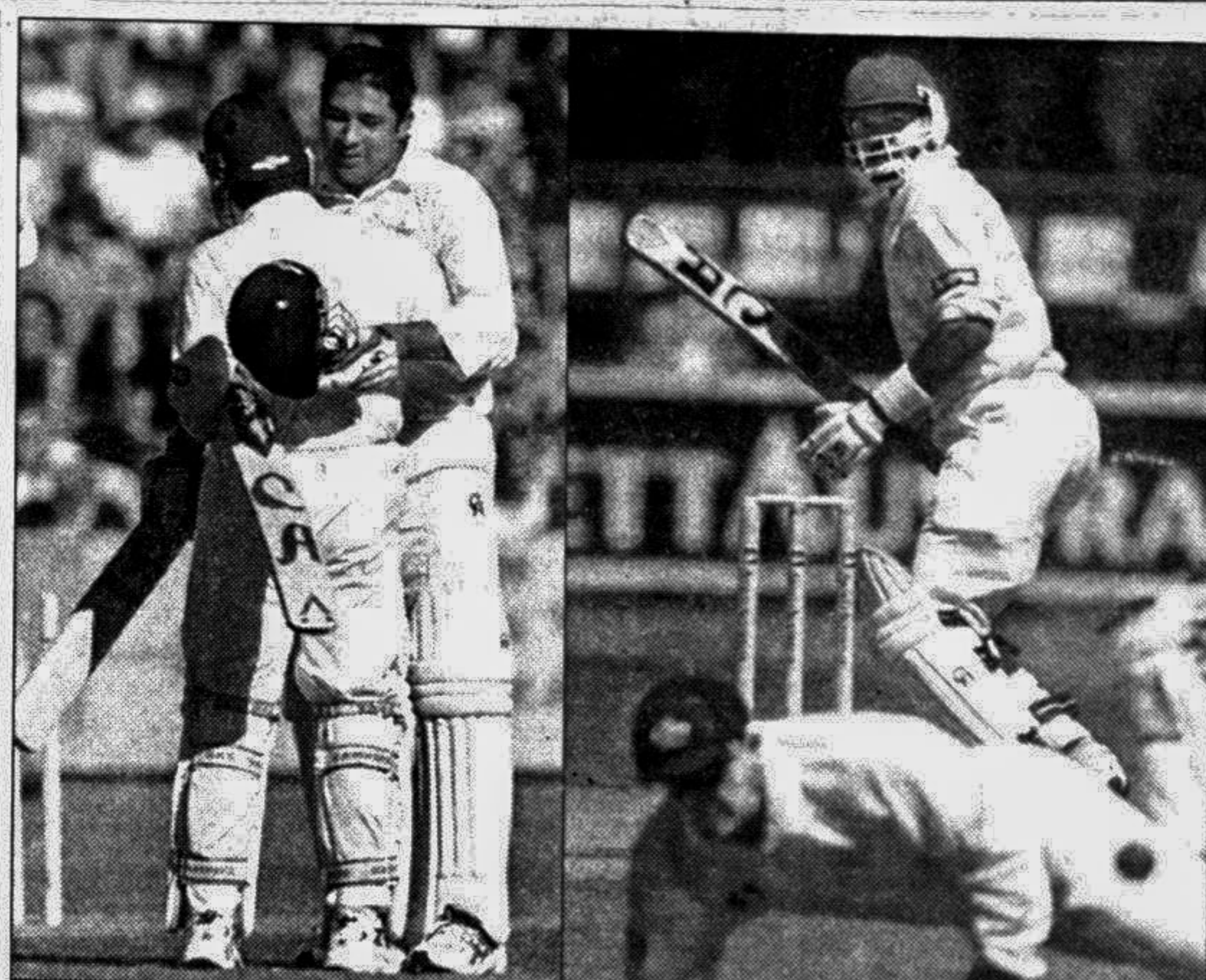
Dhaka Wanderers v Uttara SC Venue: Dhammondi Cricket Stadium
Wanderers: 199 for 8 wickets in 50 overs (Shusanto 64, Ashiq 33; Tawhid 4/35, Zahir 2/35, Habibullah 2/33)
Uttara: 161 all out in 47.4 overs (Zahir 54, Humayun 26; Saiful 5/28, Sujon 2/21, Selim 2/24)
Result: Dhaka Wanderers won by 38 runs.

Swimmers

reach C'pur

CHANDPUR, Nov 20: Three swimmers reached Chandpur today from Dhaka after successfully completing 70 km distance, reports BSS.

The swimmers Md Badsha Mia, Md Saunallah Khan and Rokonuddin started from Mary Auderson Ghat on Friday afternoon and reached Chandpur Railway Station Ghat.



An AFP combined image of Pakistan century-maker Inzamamul Haq (L), who scored an unbeaten 116 and Ijaz Ahmed who hit a well-made 82 in Hobart yesterday.

Inspiring Inzamam, Ijaz

Pakistan gain advantage



HOBART, Nov 20: (Reuters/AP): Inzamamul Haq scored a brilliant unbeaten century to put Pakistan in the driving seat on the third day of the second cricket Test against Australia at Hobart's Bellerive Oval today.

The 29-year-old middle-order batsman made 116 not out as Pakistan put Australia to the sword, piling on the runs to reach 351 for seven in their second innings for an overall lead of 327 with two days to go.

Pakistan need to win the match to square the three-game series after losing the first Test in Brisbane by 10 wickets. Australia will probably need to post a record fourth innings total to clinch the series.

The only time Australia have successfully chased more to win a home Test was in 1977-78 when they made 342 batting fourth against India in Perth. However, the last time Australia chased more than 300 and won was against the West Indies at Georgetown 21 years ago when they made 358 and won by three wickets.

Their best-ever run chase against Pakistan was 236 for three, after being set 235 in the second Test in 1978-79.

Inzamam came to the crease before lunch with Pakistan on 122-3 after the Australians, who led by 24 on the first innings, had picked up the wickets of night watchman Saqlain Mushtaq for eight and opener Saad Anwar for 78.

He began cautiously but soon found his rhythm on a flat track ideal for batting, swinging the game the tourists' way.

with a masterful display. He passed 50 after lunch then brought up his first Test hundred against Australia, and his eighth overall, 40 minutes before stumps when he worked Shane Warne through mid-wicket for two runs, raising his bat in the air.

He finished the day undefeated after an innings spanning 272 minutes and 186 balls and featuring 12 fours.

"This hundred is important because of two reasons - because Australia is the top team in the world and it also could set up the match for us," said Inzamam. "We are all pumped up because Pakistan has never won a series in Australia. We think we're in with a chance."

Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed also scored half-centuries on a day in which the bat reigned supreme.

Anwar survived a stumping chase in the third over of the day before adding to his overnight score of 36 before he departed for 78, bowled by a Warne with a superb delivery that pitched outside off stump and spun back onto his leg stump.

Warne also dismissed Saqlain, who took six for 46 on Friday to bring Pakistan back into the match just as it seemed to be slipping away. He was trapped him leg before wicket with a top spinner before lunch.

An identical ball after tea sent Azhar Mahmood back to the pavilion on 28.

Damien Fleming snared Yousuf Youhana for two, caught by Ricky Ponting, and Moin Khan for six, caught by wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist. Glenn McGrath's picket up Ijaz for 82

when he feuded a ball to Steve Waugh in the gully.

But the day undoubtedly belonged to Inzamam. The stocky number four batsman had previously made seven half-centuries against the Australians, including 97 in Peshawar last year and 88 in Brisbane earlier this month, but had never made it to triple figures before today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of play on the third day of the second cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan at Bellerive Oval on Saturday:

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 61-1)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Arnar v Warne	24	7	75	1
M Wasim c McGrath b Muller	20			
Saqlain lbw b Warne	8			
Ijaz c S Waugh b McGrath	82			
Inzamam not out	116			
Youshana c Ponting b Fleming	2			
Mahmood lbw b Warne	28			
Moin c Gilchrist b Fleming	6			
W Akram not out	1			
Extras (lb-5, nb-4, w-1)	10			
Total (For seven wickets in 114 overs)	351			

Fall of wickets: 1-50; 2-100; 3-122; 4-258; 5-263; 6-320; 7-345.

To bat: Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	24	7	75	1
Fleming	24	5	71	2
Warne	30	8	100	3
Muller	17	3	63	1
S Waugh	4	1	19	0
M Waugh	2	0	6	0
Ponting	2	1	7	0
Blewett	2	0	5	0

Magnificent Marvan



BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Nov 20: The Sri Lankan opening batsman Marvan Atapattu moved to 160 not out on the third morning of the first cricket Test against Zimbabwe Saturday to put his side in a commanding position, reports AFP.

At lunch Sri Lanka were 324-5, a lead of 38 runs with five wickets still intact.

Atapattu had spent more than seven hours at the crease, adding another 51 runs to his overnight 109, almost at leisure and he looks immovable.

He has already scored a double century against Zimbabwe and on an easy paced Bulawayo wicket there seems a distinct possibility he will get another in the second session.

He has also figured in three strong partnerships and these, apart from his own individual chances innings, have been the basis of Sri Lanka's domination.

Atapattu teamed with Sanath Jayasuriya in an opening partnership of 85, then he and Romesh Kaluwitharana put on 79, followed by an 86 runs

partnership so far with Test debutant Indika de Seram, who is also looking secure.

Zimbabwe had high hopes of a breakthrough early on. Henry Olonga took the new ball to dismiss Kaluwitharana for 30, when Sri Lanka had added only six runs to their overnight 232.

But it was only a hiccup for Sri Lanka who, unless Andy Flower's rather dispirited looking bowlers take some wickets quickly, will be looking to take a big lead and put Zimbabwe under immense pressure not to lose a fourth Test in succession by a wide margin.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at lunch on the third day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at Bulawayo on Saturday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings 288 (M Goodwin 61, A Flower 54, M Murewa 6-60)

Sri Lanka: First innings