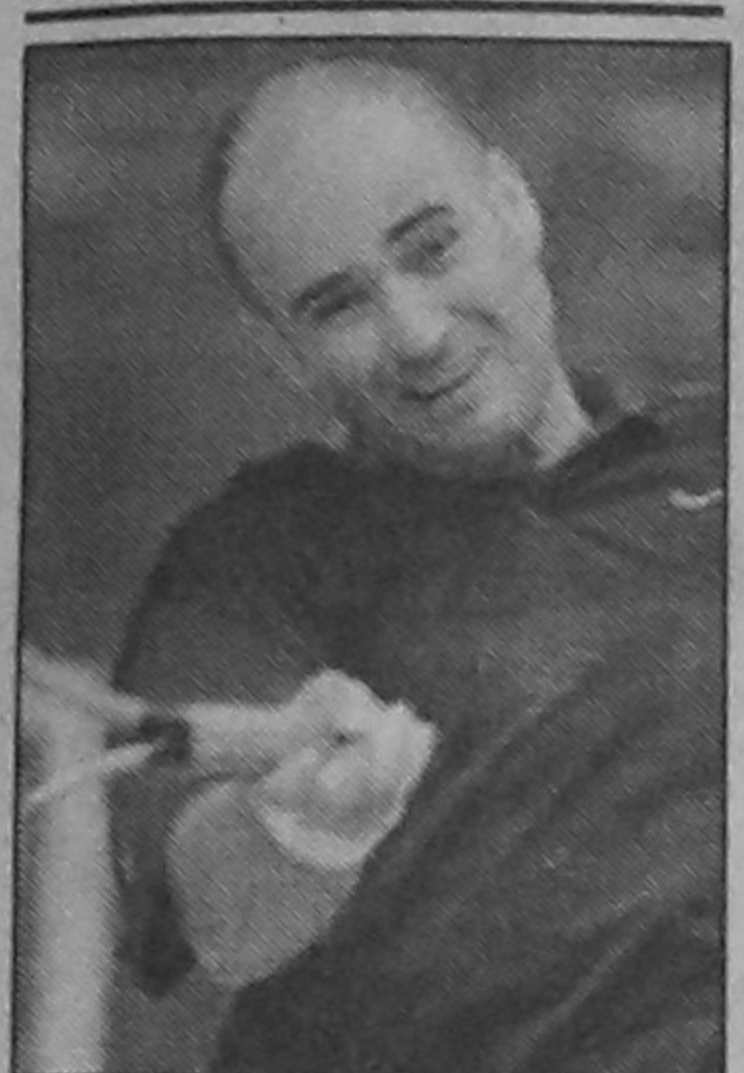


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Andre Agassi

(World No 1 tennis star)
"You can learn from a champion and she is a champion. I definitely do my best to learn from her."
On how inspirational his girlfriend Steffi Graf is.

Boost sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-126

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 15, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One Two Three
- Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?
Lazio Barcelona Man United
- Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Kluseker S Waugh Dravid
- Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens Seville Toronto
- Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

NOTICE

We, Star Sport, have moved to new premises at 19, Karwan Bazar on February 5 and are yet to get everything in order and that's why we could not hold the draw of the Competition-126 last night. Therefore, WHIZZ KIDS have patience and wait until February 18. —Sport Editor

Div I cricket

Comfortable win for Jatrabari

An all-round performance by Pakistani Rezwan Omar steered Jatrabari KC to a comfortable five wicket victory over Orient SC in the Metropolitan First Division Cricket League yesterday, reports UNB. Rezwan hit unbeaten 84 off 107 balls that featured six boundaries and claimed two wickets conceding 42 runs in 10 overs. Orient Sporting made 194 for nine wickets in stipulated 50 overs after deciding to bat first at the Dharmadhi Cricket Stadium. Pakistani Aslam Raza was the top scorer making 53 off 88 balls that included one boundary. Raza contributed 80 in the third wicket stand with Zahiruddin Kajo, who added 47 runs off 84 deliveries with two fours. Opener MH Rubel was another notable scorer making 30 runs off 63 balls featuring four hits across the rope. Bipul picked up three wickets for 35 runs. In reply, a brilliant 81-run fifth wicket partnership between Rezwan and Mushtaq Ahmed guided Jatrabari to reach the target of 195 runs losing five wickets in 46.2 overs. Mushtaq, the number six batsman, made 32 off 54 balls. Lucky, Aslam Raza, Ujjal and Kamaluddin took one wicket each.

BRIEFScores

ORIENT SC: 194/9 in 50 overs (Rubel 30, Kajo 47, Raza 53, Ehsan 10 n.o., extras 27; Ashraf 1/25, Safdar Ali 1/21, Rezwan 1/42, Bipul 3/35).
JATRABARI KC: 195/5 in 46.2 overs (Jewel 29, Liton 26, Rezwan 84 n.o., Mushtaq 32, Bipul 12 n.o., extras 7, Lucky 1/33, Raza 1/38, Ujjal 1/26, Kamal 1/38).

Chittagong win war of AKCs

From Hasan Masood



CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra got off to a resounding start in the Nitol-Tata National Football League with a comfortable 3-0 victory of Rajshahi Abahani KC in their Group One opener at the M A Aziz Stadium here tonight.

Striker Ariful Kabir Farhad struck twice while his attacking partner Saifur Rahman Moni scored the other goal for the home side. In a one-sided affair, the locals were cautious in the beginning but gradually took control of the proceedings. The hosts were ahead in the 16th minute when an overlapping right-back Pappal crossed into the Khulna D and Farhad sent a first time shot into the back of the net to the delight of the 15-thousand partisan fans. Moni doubled the margin after three minutes with a power packed right foot volley. Chittagong relaxed after the breather and let the tourists

take full advantage with a series of offensives early on. Custodian Bijan had to come up with some timely interception to thwart the Khulna moves. But Farhad, put issues beyond doubt in the 79 minute. Capitalising on a mistake by Khulna custodian Anwarul. Anwarul, mis-directed a goal-

Davis Cup

Bangladesh beat Pacific Oceania

Bangladesh beat Pacific Oceania 2-1 on Thursday in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group-3 encounter in Sri Lanka, reports UNB. Nadim Kamran defeated Lensi Tenai 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 while Dilip Pashia won 7-6, 3-6, 6-1 against Zergomy Rao. But in the doubles, Waliullah Jhilana and Dilip Pashia lost to Bret Bowdwin and Sairi Jacobo. Earlier on Wednesday, Bangladesh were outplayed 3-0 by Kuwait in their opening tie.

kick straight to Moni who passed the ball to Farhad. The lanky marksman who played for Dhaka Abahani a couple of years ago, coolly placed the ball home with a left footer.

After conceding the third goal, Rajshahi staged a late second half rally and were about to pull one back in the penultimate minute when substitute Tota got the ball inside the danger area with only Bijan to beat. But his shot rebounded off the crosspiece.

YELLOW CARDS: Al-Amin, Farhad (Chittagong Abahani) and Malek (Rajshahi Abahani).

TEAMS
CHITTAGONG ABABANI KC: Bijan Pappal, Aminur, Biplab, Sourav Raju, Taju (Pavel), Asif (Nurul Islam), Tanvir (Kawsar), Moni and Farhad.

RAJSHAHI ABABANI KC: Anwarul, Shamim, Palash, Eui, Malek, Mamun, Nayan, Shanto (Tota), Azim, Eko and Royal (Rubel).

Man-of-the-match: Saifur Rahman Moni (Chittagong Abahani KC).
Referee: Ibrahim Nesar.

Netrokona MSC face Dhaka Abahani's might

From Sports Reporter



CHITTAGONG, Feb 11: Abahani of Dhaka will be overwhelming favourites when they take on Mohammedan Sporting Club of Netrokona in their Nitol-Tata National Football League Group Two opener at the M A Aziz Stadium here tomorrow.

Abahani, the popular Dharmadhi outfit failed to win the Dhaka Premier League last season but coach Amalesh Sen and captain Partho Protin Kundu believes winning the National League will restore their image.

"Each year we build teams good enough to win titles and that aim is unchanged in the National league also," said Partho. "We have a very strong side with three foreigners. Ghansha and Kennedy have already proved their worth while Fattis is also a very good defender. Besides, custodian Aminul is also back in action."

Partho added, "We are looking for a winning start as that will hold us in good stead in future matches. Netrokona Mohammedan are a strong side as they have footballers who play in the Dhaka Premier League. But still I think we have a very good chance of winning," said a confident Partho after his team had a practice session at the Dampara Police Lines ground in the afternoon.

Coach Amalesh Sen revealed that his team would adopt 4-3-3 formation against the team from Netrokona.

According to the former national midfielder, Ghansha, Kingshuk, Partho and a guest player Tito from Arambagh will guard the defence while Iqbal, Zakir and Arman would man the midfield. Kennedy and two on-loan marksmen, Rahmatganj's Shahazuddin Tipu and Kanchan from Farashganj will make up the forward line. Netrokona skipper Masud Khan Johnny also looked in good spirit while predicting an upset

against Abahani. "We are going to prove our strength in the field without much talking," said Johnny. Johnny also disclosed that his team would follow the 5-3-2 formation.

The match will start at 5 pm. Bangladesh Television will telecast the match live while Bangladesh Betar will provide running commentary of the match.

This will be the last match of the league's Chittagong leg. The next four matches of the first round will be held in Khulna. Bangladesh Football Federation is yet to announce the dates for those matches.

TEAMS
ABABANI LIMITED (From): Aminul, Tito, Ghansha, Kingshuk, Partho, Iqbal, Zakir, Arman, Kennedy, Tipu and Kanchan.

NETROKONA MSC (From): Dulal Hossain Dhanu, Govinda, Chhoton, Din Mohammad, Kamal, Litu, Monir, Jalal, Noman, Rinku and Johnny.



Some of the participants in the American Millennium Cup golf tournament pose guests and officials at the Kurmitola Golf Club after the tee-off yesterday.

Lankans ready for Pakistan



KARACHI, Feb 11: Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya Friday said his boys are ready to face Pakistan

in the upcoming cricket series and hope to maintain their recent good form in the one-day game, reports AFP. The two teams meet in the first of three limited-over games on February 13 at the National Stadium in Karachi.

"It's all a matter of how you apply yourselves and the best performers in that particular match carry the day," he said after his team's practice session.

"We have been doing well in the one-dayers recently and can keep the tempo intact," the Sri Lankan captain said.

Sri Lanka ousted experienced captain Arjuna Ranatunga and batsman Aravinda de Silva from their one-day line-up after a poor show in the World Cup last year.

Under Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka lifted the tri-national one-day tournament against world champions Australia and India at home and beat Zimbabwe 4-1 in the away one-day series.

wickets, and focussing on his family commitments. "Wasim remains a threat as long as he is on the field, no matter in which role he plays," Jayasuriya said.

Five teenagers have been inducted into Pakistan's line-up for the first one-day and is likely to batsmen Younis Khan



SANATH JAYASURIYA

and Faisal Iqbal and pacer Zahid Saeed. "It's not a risk to play so many youngsters in the team, they are all well groomed and can contribute," Anwer said. Ace pacer Shoaib Akhtar is

suspended for the match on disciplinary charges while experienced batsmen Inzamamul Haq, Ijaz Ahmed and popular all-rounder Shahid Afridi have been axed.

Sri Lanka will announce its line-up on Saturday. Locals have shown enthusiasm for the match and ticket sale is high, organizers said.

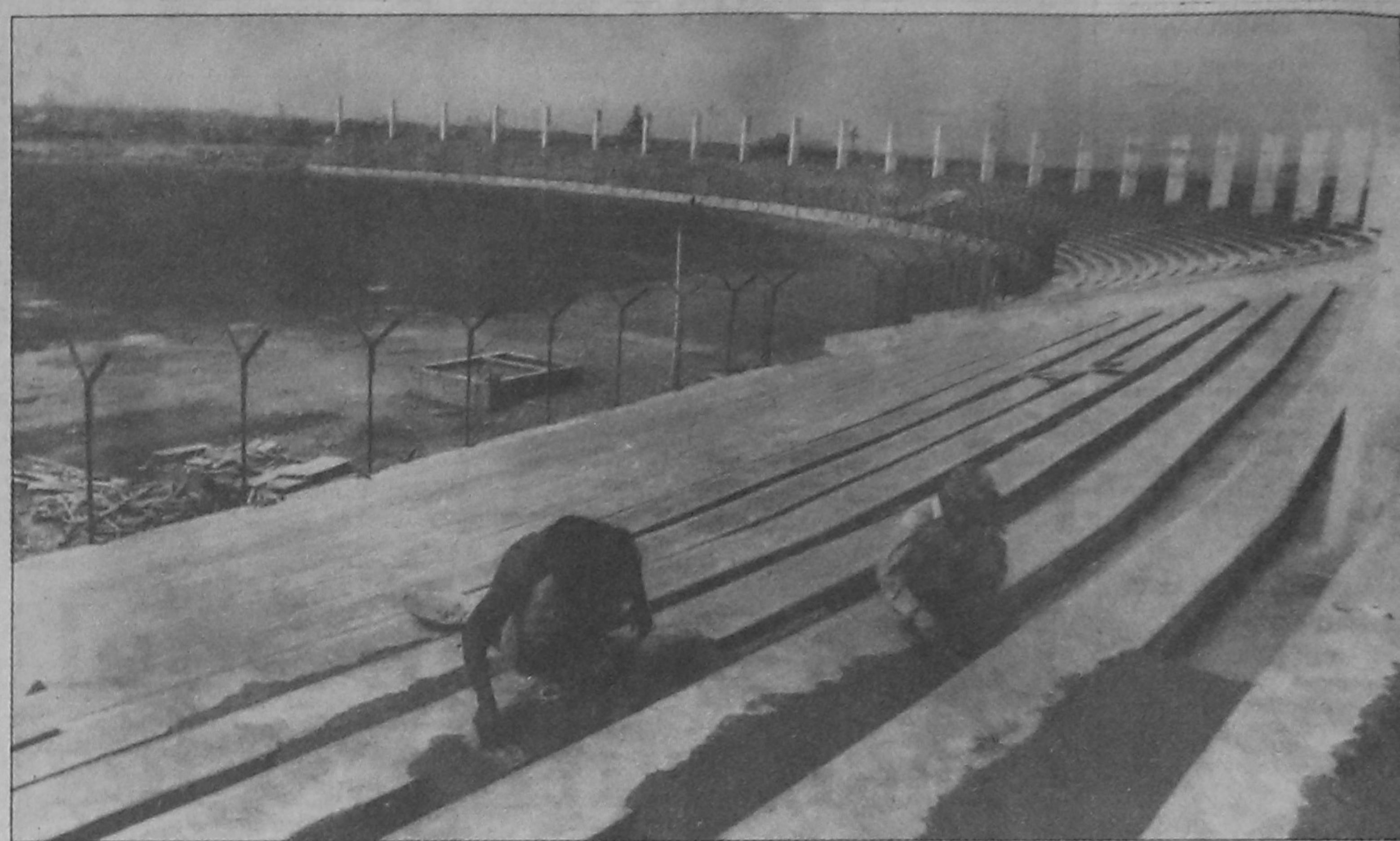
Violence plagued Karachi, which has a history of political, ethnic and sectarian troubles, when it last hosted an international match in November 1998.

Strict security measures have been taken for the match and spectators will not be allowed to carry anything inside the stadium.

Nat'l Chess qualifiers

Sports Reporter

Abdullah Al Rakib, Khan-daker Aminul Islam and Abul Kashem Bhuiyan led the table with maximum points at the end of the fourth round of the 26th National Chess Championship qualifiers yesterday. The leaders were followed by a group of seven players with three-and-a-half points.



MEN AT WORK: The exclusive Khan Sahib Osman Ali Cricket Stadium at Fatullah, Narayanganj, taking shape, although at snail's pace. The one lakh-capacity arena is due for completion in two months time. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Reefat wins, Zia held

Sports Reporter

International Master Ziaur Rahman earned a draw against Ukrainian Grand Master Alexander Goloshepov in the fifth round of the 11th Goodricke International Open Chess Tournament in Calcutta on Thursday.

Playing with white pieces Zia countered his opponent's Queen's Gambit and agreed to a draw after 15 moves.

The result left him sharing third place with ten other players on three-and-a-half points.

Bangladesh's other IM Reefat-bin-Sattar ended his losing two-match streak by overcoming India's Laisram Imocha.

Reefat used white to launch a King's Indian attack and secure victory in 46 moves. He has collected two points so far.

In the next round Zia plays Armenian GM Vladimir Akopian and Reefat faces another Indian Raktim Bandyopadhyay.

Grand Master Gregory Kaidanov of the United States took a solo lead by virtue of having full points.

American Cup golf starts

Sports Reporter

The two-day 22nd American Millennium Cup golf tournament got underway at the picturesque Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday.

Chief of Army Staff and president of the club Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman BB teed-off competitors at 7.30 in the morning.

At least 300 players including ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats based in Dhaka, expatriates and the country's business magnates will put themselves to the test over the tricky 18-hole course.

The American Cup is considered a major event of the season in Bangladesh. Held annually since 1977, the Kurmitola Golf Club has had the honour of hosting it.

The prestige tournament often attracts American companies operating here as its prime sponsors.

US ambassador to Bangladesh John C. Holzman, deputy chief of mission Theodore A. Nist, chairman of the organising committee and vice-president of Unocal Bangladesh Limited, Gregory Alan Gritters and vice-chairman of the tournament committee Iqbal Mahmud were among those who attended the inauguration.

At the end of the tournament a prize-giving ceremony will take place at 7.30 p.m at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Ponting unsure

SYDNEY, Feb 11: Australian batsman Ricky Ponting will have a fitness test here on Sunday to determine if he will be fit for this month's one-day tour of New Zealand, reports AFP.

Ponting had further treatment in his Tasmanian home town of Launceston Friday on the ankle ligaments he damaged when he slid into the boundary fence while fielding during a match against Pakistan on February 4 here.

Despite the injury, Ponting was named in the 13-man squad for the one-day tour, which starts on February 16.

The rest of the Australian squad had a net session Friday and the team will leave for New Zealand on Monday.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure I will be right for the first game in New Zealand," Ponting told the Channel Nine television network.

"But I shouldn't be too far away -- the physio assures me he's seen these sorts of injuries come good in two weeks. I will keep my fingers crossed and hope it's right."

Akram targets Dev's mark



KARACHI, Feb 11: Outgoing skipper Wasim Akram said he has set his sights on Kapil Dev's world Test cricket record after announcing his decision to step down as Pakistan captain Thursday, reports AFP.

The 33-year-old all-rounder said he wanted to shed the pressure of captaincy to concentrate on overhauling Dev's tally of 434 Test wickets. Wasim's all-time wicket haul is 383.

"I have had enough of it, the pressures of captaincy and its time now I give more time to my son and my family," Wasim said.

"I want to concentrate on the world record of most wickets in Test cricket," Wasim told the news agency.

"I think I can better his record as well as Courtney Walsh's."

West Indian paceman Walsh is only 11 shy of Dev's tally.

Wasim is the only bowler to

have taken 400 wickets in one-day internationals.

"I think as a player I can perform with a relaxed frame of mind and it is now time to develop a new captain with the eyes set on the 2003 World Cup," said Wasim, speaking for the



WASIM AKRAM

first time since returning from his country's losing tour of Australia.

"I can't rule out myself from the 2003 World Cup but it's too early to say, if my body allows me I can," Wasim said.

"My decision has no negative points nor I am physically drained or ill," Wasim said, refuting claims that diabetes had affected his health.

"I have been playing with diabetes for two to three years and have performed well, so there is nothing in it," he said.

Pakistan was blanked 3-0 in the Test series against Australia and similarly whitewashed in the best-of-three Carlton and United limited-overs tri-series final.

"There is no doubt that Australia is the best side in the world. They are mentally tough and confident," Wasim said.

"They are an amazing fielding side, have deep batting and effective bowling and successive wins increase their morale," he said.

Waqar, Faryal wedlocked



KARACHI, Feb 11: Ace Pakistan pacer Waqar Younis has married, putting behind him a tough patch in his life and predicting a new phase in his cricketing career, reports AFP.

"I am excited and am very positive about the second phase of my life," Younis told the news agency from Lahore where he married Faryal, a doctor, in a ceremony overnight Thursday.

The 29-year-old pacer, known for his vicious toe-cruising yorkers, has been through turmoil in his career.

He was sidelined once he lost his bowling rhythm in 1997 and had to leave the Welsh county Glamorgan mid-season.

"I hope my marriage will bring good luck for me both in my life and in my career," he said.

Younis was bowled over by the maiden two years ago and

they fell in love. Faryal, 20, motivated Waqar during his lean patch and was a great source of inspiration.

"You can say it's a love marriage but it was arranged also because my mother approved of the bride," he said.

Waqar fell out with captain Wasim Akram after he played just a single match in the 1999 World Cup, and then lashed out at Akram for destroying his career.

Akram, who stepped down from Pakistan's captaincy Thursday, did not attend the wedding.

Fellow players Saeed Anwar, Moin Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Yousuf Youhana and Azhar Mahmood attended the ceremony along with the city's elite.

The reception for the bride is scheduled for Friday night.

"I have not decided yet when to go on honeymoon but hopefully after the season I will go to

England," Younis said.

He was dropped for the side which will face Sri Lanka here on Sunday in the first one-day international of the visitors' tour.

ACB applauds ICC ruling

MELBOURNE, Feb 11: The Australian Cricket Board Friday welcomed the decision by the sport's world governing body to review the system of how suspected bowling actions are scrutinised, reports AFP.

The International Cricket Council announced it had lessened the powers of the advisory panel which investigates suspect actions.

The panel, of which former Australian captain and coach Bob Simpson is a member, no longer has the power to ban bowlers.

The ICC will review the action of express bowler Shoaib Akhtar in talks with Pakistan officials next week and make a decision before the first Test against Sri Lanka beginning February 26.

"Our response can only be seen in the Australian context and our questions about the issue of illegal deliveries were ones of process," said ACB chairman Denis Rogers.

The ICC meeting (in Singapore) acknowledged that the current process did not work and, as a result, a review of the approach to illegal deliveries is now underway. This is most welcome.

The interim decision to limit to powers of the Illegal Deliveries Panel is part of a wider decision to review how to best deal with illegal deliveries and is reasonable given the difficulties that were experienced under the previous system.

Simpson Friday declined to comment on the ICC's actions.

The issue of chucking blew up again during the Australian season when Akhtar's action came under intense scrutiny.

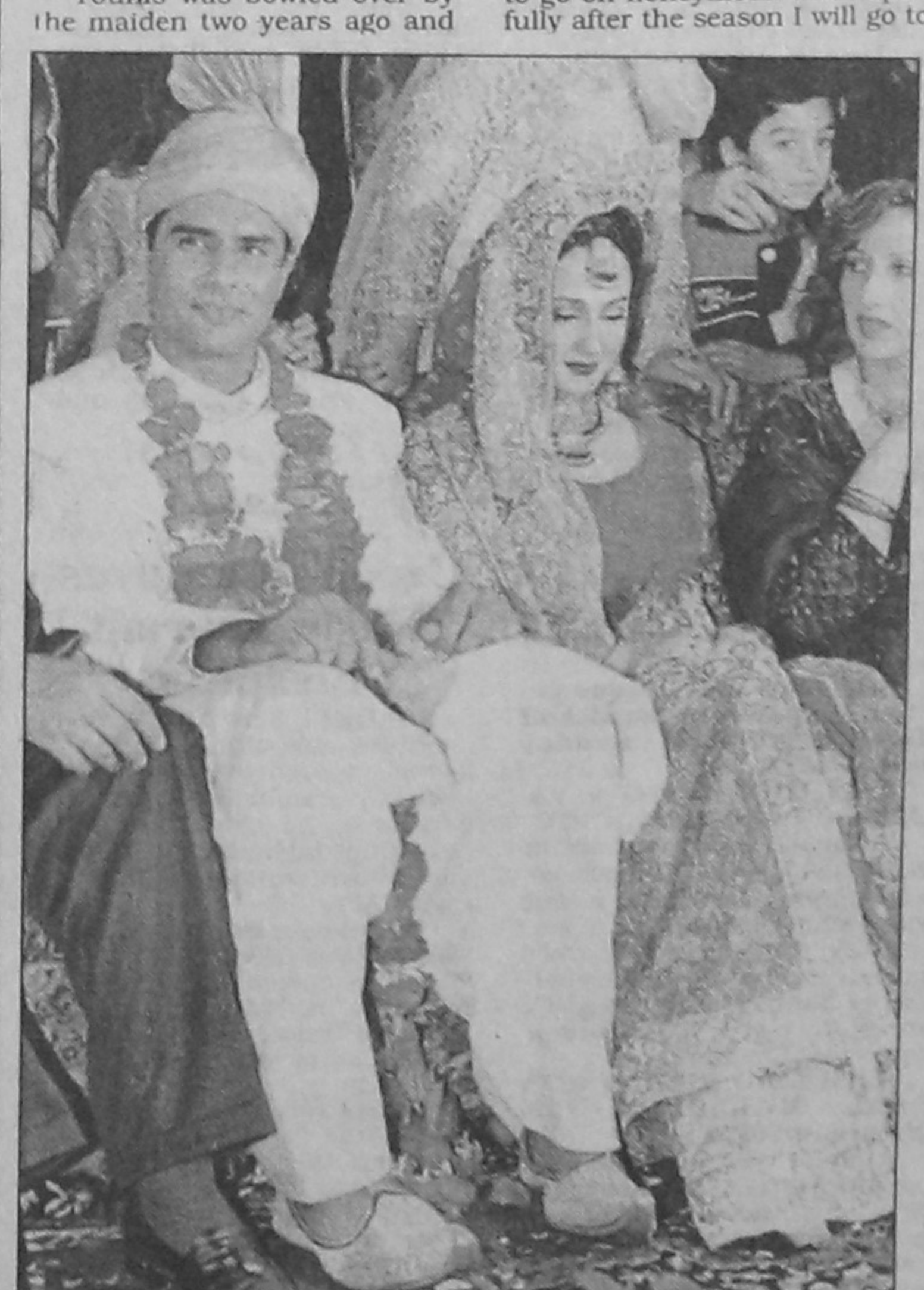
He was banned last year, but was then allowed to play in the Australian one-day series, which also included India.

NBL v'ball

Holders Bangladesh Rifles earned a 3-0 victory over newcomers Dilkusha SC in the inaugural match of the National Bank Premier Division Volleyball League yesterday, reports UNB.

In another match Titus Club also defeated Bangladesh Bank Club 3-0.

Brothers Union beat Dhaka Sahuj Club 3-0 in the First Division League.



ALL THE BEST: Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis and bride Faryal Malik during their marriage ceremony at Lahore yesterday. —AFP photo