

Dhaka to host World Chess zonal matches

Bangladesh will host the zonal championship of the World Chess Championship in Dhaka between April and May next year, reports UNI.

Bangladesh men's team was placed 58 among 129 nations and women's team ranked 37 among 85 countries in the just-concluded 34th Chess Olympiad in Istanbul.

General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) Syed Sufajuddin Ahmed, who was also the team leader of Bangladesh in the Olympiad, disclosed it at a press conference at the Federation office yesterday.

Latvian coach of Bangladesh team Grand Master Igor Rausis and I M Zia Rahman and Reefat-bin-Sattar also spoke on the occasion.

However the ladies comprising IWM Rani Hamid, Zakiya Sultana and Nazrann Khan Evi displayed their every-best performance in the Olympiad securing 21.5 points from 14 rounds.

They bettered their previous ranking of 41 among the 72 countries.

IWM Rani Hamid, playing in number one board, secured 7.5 points while Eva, in their first international appearance, bagged seven points from 14 matches.

Sufajuddin said the performance of men was not at all satisfactory.

They secured only 29 points from 14 outings while the country's leading player Zia missed the Grand Master norm by one point.

In the previous meet in Russia, Bangladesh collected 26.5 points from 14 matches and were placed 53 among 110 nations.

Sufajuddin Ahmed, who also attended in the FIDE congress in Istanbul, informed that Bangladesh will collect 3,000 dollars from the game's ruling body to conduct its training programmes.

The BCF general secretary mentioned that the United Insurance Grand Masters Tournament will start from February 19. Fourteen players including seven Grand Masters are expected to take part.

English Grand Master Nigel Short won the last edition.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 19: Rajshahi Jubo Cricket School (A) defeated hosts Katakahi Cricket Training Academy (B) by 57 runs in the first Shaheed AHM Qamruzzaman Hena Smriti Cricket tournament at the Katakahi Adarsha Degree College playground today.

Winning the toss, Jubo Cricket School batted first and made 173 runs for all in 22.3 overs.

In reply, Katakahi went all out collecting 116 runs in 21.9 overs.

KABADI

Raj Sporting Club and Mohabagan Sporting Club won their respective matches of the Rajshahi First Division Kabadi league at the local gymnasium today.

Nat'l rowing postponed

Bangladesh Rowing Federation has postponed the 25 national rowing competition, scheduled to be held on November 24, due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

The competitors and the affiliated rowing clubs will be informed the new date soon.

First Test

From page 13
Atherton 73, Marcus Trescothick 71, Saqlain Mushtaq 8-164.

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 333-8)

Anwar Ibw b Hick	40
Afridi c Gough b Giles	52
S. Elahi b White	44
Inzamam b Giles	63
Youhana c Stewart b Giles	124
Q. Abbas c Hick b White	2
Moin Ibw b Caddick	17
Razzak Ibw b White	10
Akram c White b Giles	1
S. Mushtaq not out	32
M. Ahmed Ibw b White	3
Extras: (lb-3, lb-5, nb-8)	16
Total: (All out in 163.3 overs)	401
Fall of wickets: 1-63; 2-101; 3-199; 4-203; 5-210; 6-236; 7-272; 8-273; 9-400; 10-401	

Bowler: O M R W
Gough 17 6 45 0
Caddick 24 4 68 1
Giles 59 20 113 4
Salisbury 31 5 71 0
Hick 8 0 42 1
White 24.3 5 54 3

ENGLAND: Second innings
Atherton Ibw b Mushtaq 20
Trescothick Ibw b Akram 1
Hussain retired hurt 0
Thorpe c Razzak b Saqlain 5
Stewart not out 27
Hick b Afridi 14
Extras: (lb-7, nb-3) 10
Total: (For 4 wks in 32.1 overs) 77
Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-29; 3-39; 4-77

Bowler: O M R W
Akram 6 5 1 1
Razzak 7 0 21 0
Saqlain 10 2 14 1
Mushtaq 8 0 32 1
Afridi 1.1 0 2 1

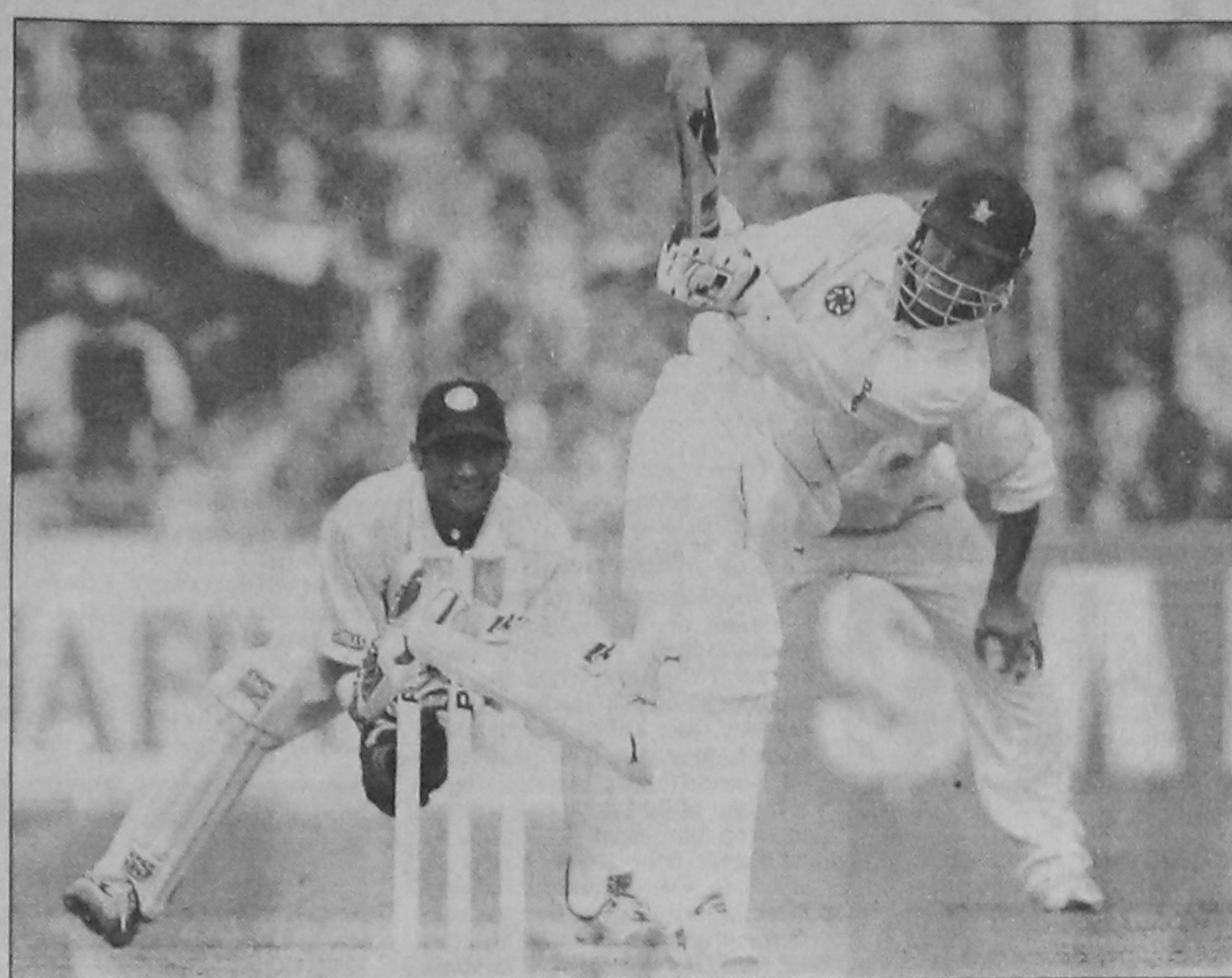
Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Saqlain Mushtaq.

Second Test: Faisalabad (November 29).

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Riazuddin (Pakistan).

ICC match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka).



FABULOUS FLOWER: Zimbabwe's master-bat Andy Flower whacks one towards midwicket during his fantastic unbeaten 183 at Delhi yesterday.

Flower show in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: Andy Flower hit a career-best 183 not out as Zimbabwe's gallant lower-order frustrated India on the second day of the first cricket Test here on Sunday, reports AFP.

The left-hander's eighth Test century helped the tourists recover from a shaky 155-5 on the first day to post 422-9 declared in their first innings just before stumps on the second day.

India replied with nine for no loss in seven overs before close, with Shiv Sunder Das unbeaten on four and Sadagopan Ramesh on three.

The hosts need a further 212 runs with all 10 wickets in hand to avoid the follow-on.

Flower was helped in the brilliant rescue act by the tallenders, who added 267 for the last five wickets to seal off India's decision not to play a fifth frontline bowler on the slow Kotla pitch.

The home team's woes brimmed over as last man Henry Olunga put on 97 with Flower, a record 10th wicket partnership for Zimbabwe, surpassing the 54 between Stuart Carlisle and Olunga against the West Indies earlier this year.

Olunga's contribution in the record stand was an unbeaten 11 after defending his wicket for 158 minutes.

Flower, who came to the crease on the first day at 135-3, hit 24 boundaries and two sixes during an eight-hour vigil that helped him surpass his previous best of 156 against Pakistan at Harare in 1994-95.

But his failure to force the pace just before the declaration denied Flower a chance to become only the fourth Zimbabwean to reach 200 runs.

wean, after his brother Grant, David Houghton and Guy Whittall, to score a double century.

It was at the same Kotla ground in 1993 that Flower scored 115 in Zimbabwe's only previous Test on Indian soil, which ended in an innings victory for the home team.

He revealed again as the Indians, already without injured Anil Kumble, failed to get rid of the Zimbabwean lower-order with just four regular bowlers and three part-timers.

Pace spearhead Javagal Srinath finished with 4-81, but new ball partner Ajit Agarkar went for 1-89 from 35 overs while left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi conceded 116 runs in 46 overs for his two wickets.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly kicked the unresponsive turf in frustration as Zimbabwe piled on the agony before 12,000 equally disenchanted home fans.

Zimbabwe, who began the day at 232-5, battled the Indian bowlers in misty conditions to take the score to 299-7 by lunch.

India gained success with the day's first ball when Srinath dismissed captain Heath Streak to end a stubborn 77-run stand for the sixth wicket with Flower.

Claiming the second new ball at the start, Srinath had Streak caught at short-leg by Rahul Dravid to pick up his fourth wicket in the innings.

Paul Strang added 34 for the seventh wicket with Flower, before Brian Murphy put on 46 for the eighth.

Strang made 19 before he top-edged a drive off Joshi to Ganguly in the slips.

Murphy's contribution was 13 when he was run out.

caught out of his crease as Dravid at gully flicked the ball back to wicketkeeper Vijay Dahiya.

Bryan Strang was trapped leg-before by Agarkar for six, but the last-wicket stand between Flower and Olunga kept the Indians in the field longer than expected.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first cricket Test between India and Zimbabwe at the Kotla here on Sunday:

ZIMBAWE: First innings (overnight 232 for five)				
G. Flower b Srinath	0			
Rennin c Dahiya b Srinath	13			
Carlisle c Joshi b Tendulkar	58			
Campbell c Laxman b Srinath	70			
A. Flower not out	183			
G. Whittall c Dravid b Joshi	0			
S. Streak c Dravid b Srinath	25			
P. Strang c Ganguly b Joshi	19			
Murphy run out	13			
B. Strang lbw b Agarkar	6			
Olunga not out	11			
Extras: (lb-8, lb-10, nb-2, w-4)	21			
Total: (For nine wickets decl in 168 overs)	422			
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-15; 3-135; 4-154; 5-155; 6-232; 7-266; 8-312; 9-325				
Bowler: O M R W				
Srinath	35	9	81	4
Agarkar	35	13	89	1
Ganguly	8	1	26	0
Joshi	46	11	116	2
Tendulkar	19	5	51	1
Kartik	24	7	40	0
Laxman	1	0	1	0
INDIA: First innings				
S Das not out	4			
S Ramesh not out	2			
Extras: (lb-2)	6			
Total: (for no loss in 7 overs)	12			
Bowler: O M R W				
Streak	3	2	2	0
B. Strang	3	2	4	0
Murphy	1	0	1	0

Windies wobble again

MELBOURNE, Nov 19: Captain Jimmy Adams said his beleaguered team needed to break bad habits after another tour disaster against Victoria at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here Sunday, reports AFP.

Just four days out from the opening Test with Australia in Brisbane, the tourists endured a humiliating loss to under-strength Victoria - folding by an innings and 63 runs inside three days.

It followed last week's seven-wicket loss to Western Australia, leaving the West Indians in disarray before the Test series begins at the Gabba on Thursday.

Coach Roger Harper insisted there was no explanation for the latest batting collapse, when the Windies crashed all out for 114 following Friday's first innings failure of 167.

"It's not getting to be a bad habit - it already is a bad habit," Adams said.

"The bottom line is that we're just not batting as well as we're capable of batting and we have four days to sort it out."

"It's stuff we know. We're not talking about fellows who are green - we've been around the track before and it's just not happening."

"Some work has to be done within. We have to reinforce the fact that the players here are good quality players... we have to repeat to them you're here because you're good enough."

Adams said the Windies had to work on the basics, such as building partnership and batting through sessions, to avoid a repeat of their latest humiliation.

After Victoria declared their first innings at 344 for seven, following an improved bowling performance by the tourists, the Windies were quickly on the familiar path to batting ruin.

Darren Ganga (0) went early and he was soon joined by star Brian Lara (20), Sherwin Campbell (20) and Shivnarine Chandernpaul (21) as the Windies crumbled to 78 for seven.

Matthew Innes (6-26 and 3-47) spearheaded a wicket spree that included Colin Miller (3-26), Ben Oliver (2-13) and Damien Fleming (2-27).

While the Windies struggled, Victoria played particularly well - especially batsman Brad Hodge (134 not out).

The right-hander didn't bat Sunday, retiring hurt overnight with a bruised thumb following a delivery from Courtney Walsh (4-66).

Walsh toiled admirably again, only to watch his batsmen show a lack of respect for their wickets.

"It was a disappointing performance and that is putting it mildly," Harper said.

"But it's difficult to put a finger on what will bring out the best performances on a consistent basis for us."

"Physically we're working harder and a lot better than we have before."

Harper said it was reasonable to ask if West Indian fans should be panicking but he stuck by his team.

"I still think we have it in us to play good cricket," he said.

Harper c Campbell b McLean 15
Oliver c Dillon b Walsh 0
Berry c Chandernpaul by Walsh 0
Fleming not out 6
Miller not out 22
Extras: (lb-12, nb-10) 22
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 344
Fall of wks: 1-4; 2-61; 3-182; 4-329; 5-331; 6-331; 7-331

Bowler: O M R W
Walsh 33 15 66 4
McLean 27 8 90 2
Dillon 28 5 76 1
Nagamootoo 14 2 61 0
Adams 13 2 39 0

WEST INDIES: Second innings
Campbell c Berry b Fleming 20
Ganga c Mott b Inness 0
Lara c Miller b Oliver 20
Chandernpaul c Oliver 21
Sarwan c Craig b Oliver 2
Adams c Arnberger b Inness 8
Jacobs c Craig b Miller 25
Nagamootoo c Harper b Inness 0
McLean c Craig b Miller 9
Dillon c Mott b Fleming 0
C Walsh not out 4
Extras: (lb-1, w-6) 7
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 114
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-33; 3-58; 4-2; 5-72; 6-78; 7-78 8-97; 9-107

Bowler: O M R W
Fleming 10 3 27 2
Inness 15 7 47 3
Miller 15 3 26 3
Oliver 6 2 13 2

Results: Victoria won by an innings and 63 runs.



Inspector General of Bangladesh Police Muhammad Nurul Huda handing over the winner's trophy to the Dhaka Mahanagar Police team which clinched the handball title at the Rajarbagh Police Lines ground yesterday.

'In another ten years'

BRISBANE, Nov 19 (AFP): It could take the West Indies another decade to again become a dominant force in world cricket, Sir Garfield Sobers said today.

The legendary West Indian all-rounder, in Australia to commemorate the famous 1960 Test between the two countries, predicted Australia would beat the Windies in the five-Test series starting Thursday, but not as easily as many think.

He said the 1960 West Indies team had also come to Australia as an underdog but had more potential than the current team.

"This team was beaten in England so badly - I don't think they will beat Australia but they won't be beaten as badly as some expect them to," Sobers said.

He said he had no doubt West Indies cricket would rise again.

"They will have to work very hard and it might take us another 10 years to rebuild but I'm sure we'll get there again," he said.

There have been a lot of players who have left the scene over the past seven or eight years. But everything goes in cycles and in the Caribbean we have players that are coming on.

Sobers arrived with former opening batsman Rohan Kanhai for the 40-year anniversary celebrations for the tied Test at the Brisbane Cricket Ground which Sir Donald Bradman described as "the greatest and most exciting Test of all time."

The West Indies and Australia scored heavily in the first innings before a dramatic last two days. Australia required 233 in the last innings to win but Ian Meckiff was run out needing one run with just two balls remaining.

Sobers, who made 132 in the West Indies first innings of that match, agreed with Bradman.

"We had two great captains in the late Sir Frank Worrell and Richie Benard and they made a very good series out of it. As long as you live you will always remember that tied Test."

Sobers said he rarely watched cricket and acknowledged he found it hard to compare one era with another.

"I was never really a watcher," he said. "I was always a participant."

ACC Trophy

UAE, Nepal book their berths

SHARJAH, Nov 19: Hosts the United Arab Emirates and Nepal claimed their expected semifinal berths at the Asian Cricket Council Trophy with easy wins over Japan and the Maldives respectively on Sunday, reports AFP.

UAE sped to a six wicket win over minnows Japan to top Group B while Nepal finished runners-up after defeating the Maldives by five wickets.

The semifinal line-up will see Hong Kong take on Nepal in the first match on Tuesday followed by the UAE v Malaysia clash on Wednesday. The two finalists qualify for next April's Asia Cup in Karachi where they will come up against Test-playing nations India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Japan once again was completely outclassed as they tumbled to a quickfire defeat at the hands of the host nation. Batting first, Japan were dismissed for 95 in the 39th over. Hirokazu Takahashi top-scored with 18 while off-spinner Mohammed Tauqueer grabbed six for 10.

The UAE lost four wickets as they reached 98 in 21 overs. Asim Saeed scored 25, including three boundaries and a six, while Babar Malik hit 30.

In the other game, the Maldives struggled to 191 for eight in their allotted 50 overs thanks to contributions from Moosa Kaleem who hit 35, Ismail Nihad 38 and Afzal Amad 42. Jayaprakash Sharraf was the best bowler for Nepal finishing with three for 50.

Opener Kiran Agarwal struck an accomplished 91 off 129 balls as he led the chase for Nepal who reached 192 for five in 48.5 overs.

While the semifinalists will vie for the opportunity to play in the same arena as Asia's top cricket sides, the Maldives, Japan, Singapore and Kuwait, the other teams who participated in the competition will return home.

Div I chess draw held

The draw of Metropolis First Division Chess League was held at Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) office yesterday, reports UNI.

General secretary of BCF Syed Sufajuddin Ahmed drew the numbers of 16 participating teams. The league begins today at 3 pm at the National Sports Council.

Eight matches will be held on the opening day.

The matches are: Bangladesh Ansars (1) vs Kamapur SKP (16), Farashganj SC (2) vs Bangladesh Binan (15), Dhaka University (3) vs Uttara Central CC (14), Sonali Bank (4) vs Titas Club (13), Uttara Daba Sangha (5) vs Prodder Sangha (12), Nakhapara JKS (6) vs Rashid DUS (11), Naravanganj DKS (7) vs Anu Memorial Club (10) and Anusilan CC (8) vs Loumie CC (9).

Cheer up Lara: Sobers



SIR GARY SOBERS

BRISBANE, Nov 19 (AFP): Legendary West Indian all-rounder Sir Garfield Sobers threw his support behind Brian Lara on Sunday, urging him to forget allegations he had accepted money to under-perform.

"Whatever has been said, he's not involved," said Sobers who is in Australia to commemorate the famous 1960 Test between Australia and the West Indies.

"He should just forget about it and do whatever he has to do."

Lara was one of several international players named in a recent Indian police report into alleged match-fixing.

The report by India's Central Bureau of Investigation contains claims that the record-breaking batsman accepted 40,000 US dollars to under-perform in two one-day games in India in 1995.

Lara, 31, has refused comment on the allegations on the advice of his lawyer.

"I can't afford for any outside thing to influence my game, and I am just looking to focus on my cricket," he said after arriving in Australia earlier this month.

On Saturday, the influential Australian newspaper called for Lara and Australian Mark Waugh to stand down from the five-Test series between Australia and the West Indies starting Thursday for the good of the game.

The broad sheet said it would be the "most noble" course the pair could take.

"This is the scale of destruction greedy players and incompetent administrators have wrought on the game that it will take years, perhaps decades, to restore confidence," the paper said.

"If there is to be a future it can only be achieved with strength, dignity and sacrifice."

Meanwhile, former Australian paceman Craig McDermott has criticised the Australian Cricket Board for not banning stars Mark Waugh and Shane Warne.

The Dubai-based Gulf News quoted McDermott as saying the ACB should have banned them for accepting money in 1994.

"The Australian Cricket Board should have banned them for their act as such an action from the ACB would have made the younger players think before wrecking their careers."

Waugh was reported to have accepted 5,000 dollars while leg-spinner Warne is reported to have received 5,000 dollars. The ACB fined them 10,000 and 8,000 dollars respectively without imposing a ban.

"Any player who has been involved in match fixing or has been named in connection should be banned," said the 35-year-old former paceman. "They have done irreparable damage to the game."

It happens in Tests but Mushtaq did not bowl as well as Saqlain Mushtaq did," he said.

Moin justified teenager Qaiser Abbas's selection.

"Abbas may have failed but he is our future player and will play in Faisalabad," he said.

Abbas scored two in the match, dropped a crucial catch of Graham Thorpe and failed to get any wickets.

The second Test commences in Faisalabad from November 29.

England captain Nasser Hussain was pleased at his team's showing on a tour of Pakistan after a long gap of 13 years.

"I am pleased with the team's performance because it's the first Test we played in the sub-continent for 13 years and came out with a draw," Hussain said.

"It was a slow turner but a good surface and did give assistance to a bowler who bowled tight," he said.