

Abahani hammered

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani were thrashed 4-0 by West Ham United's under-19 selection in the final match of their England tour on Sunday.

The Premiership side led Dhaka giants the first half 3-0.

Gavin Holligan and Michael Ferrante struck twice each for the London club.

Playing in front 2000-plus crowd at Upton Park, Ferrante put the Hammers in front from a free kick.

Holligan after wasting a opportunity to get on the scoresheet, headed in from six yards after Louis Riddle supplied a perfect cross. And seven minutes before the break he doubled his tally. Ferrante acting as provider.

The rout was complete once Ferrante converted from the spot.

Earlier, the sky blues lost 2-1 to top rated Bangladesh amateur league team Sporting Bengal United on March 14. Their ten-day trip was sponsored by property developers Canary Wharf.

The team is expected to play an exhibition match in Uzbekistan this week before returning home.

Chess qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Three Bangladesh Ansars players - Sawkat Hossain Pallab, Khandkar Aminul Islam and Syed Mahfuzur Rahman Emon - were sharing the top spot in the qualifying round of the Professor Abdur Razzak 27th National Chess Championship after the sixth round held at the NSC chess room on Monday.

On the day, Aminul beat Palash while Pallab drew with Emon. All of them now have 5.5 points each from six matches.

International Master Abdullah Al Rakib, International Women Master Rani Hamid, Abu Sufian Sakil and Feroz Ahmed were in the second position with 5 points apiece. FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib, FIDE Master Rezaul Haque, Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, Monir Hossain and Chanchal Kumar Ghosh were following them with 4.5 points each.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Agradoot Cricket Club defeated Udayan Juba Sangha by 25 runs in the shaheed freedom fighter Rango Mia cricket cup at the Shahjadpur Junior High School playground here on Monday.

Agradoot, batted first, and made 145 all out. In reply, Udayan made 120 in the stipulated 30 overs.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 13

The provider then turned scorer four minutes into the second half, when he capitalised on a Shuvo pass.

Malaysia tried their best to find an equaliser but failed to break down the stubborn Bangladesh



SHUVO ... m-o-m

defence. Bangladesh forward Shuvo was later named as man-of-the-match.

Earlier, in the classification match for seventh and eighth spots, Scotland registered a solitary goal win over China.

Midfielder Scott McCartney scored the all-important goal from a short corner in the 18th minute.

Two cricketers

FROM PAGE 13

Lankan Under 17 coach Carlton Barnardus made the selection.

The Sri Lankan admitted that he was compelled finding no other alternatives.

"All the competent boys are busy in the Dhaka league now and no club wanted to release them for a week. That's why I had to pick them instead," Carlton told the Daily Star Sport last night.

According to him the course would benefit Arafat, who has been found having a 'suspect action'.

Meanwhile, former Pakistan cricketer and ICC development officer for Asia Nasim-ul Ghani arrived in the capital yesterday to supervise a spinners' camp for the under-13 and under-15 cricketers.

The five-day camp will start at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium this morning.

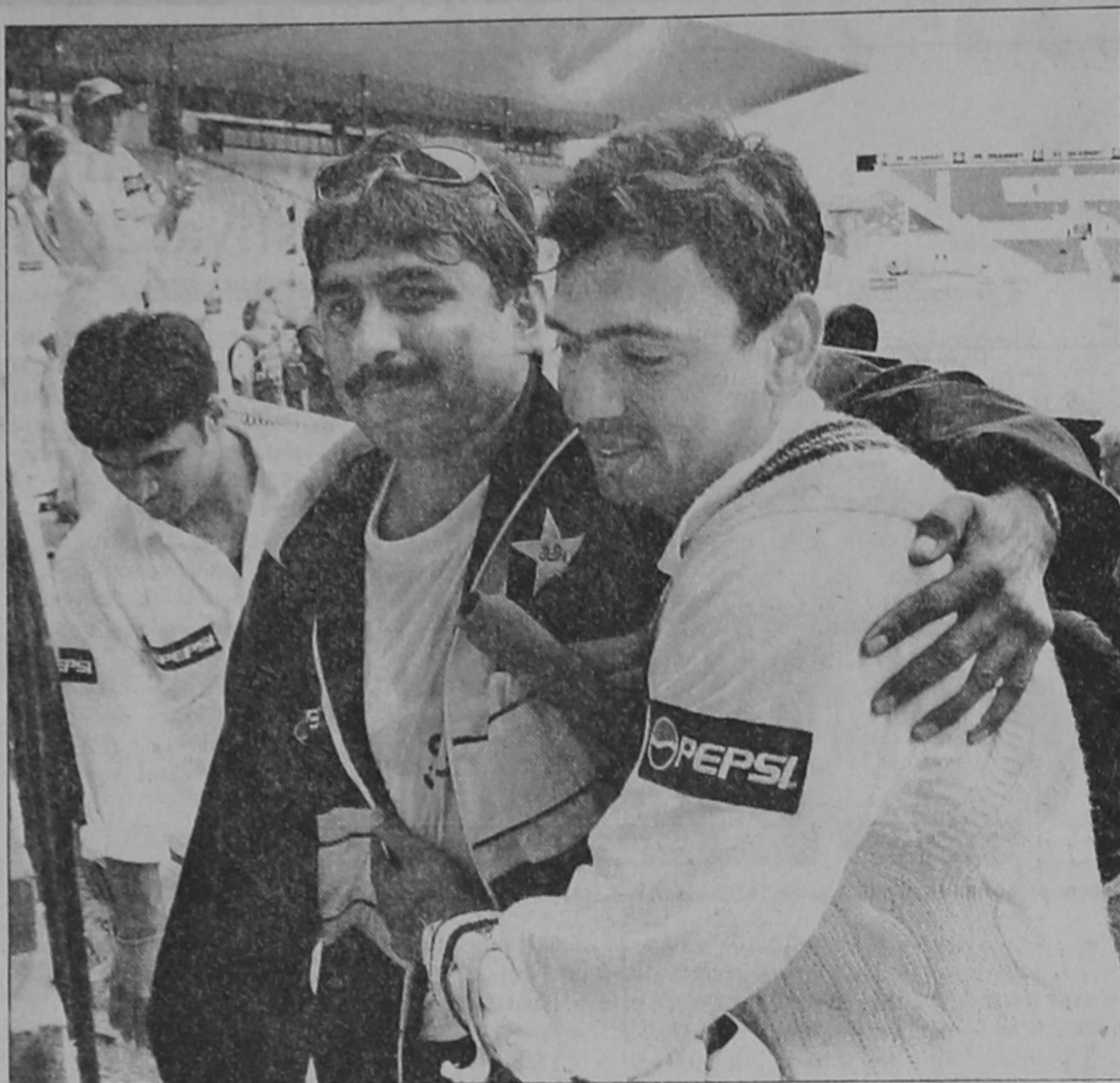


PHOTO: AFP

Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq (R), who scored a maiden Test century against New Zealand on Monday, being escorted to the dressing room by coach Javed Miandad after Pakistan declared their innings.

Dull draw at Christchurch

Cricket

AGENCIES, Christchurch

New Zealand gained some confidence for the third Test against Pakistan in Hamilton by batting out the last afternoon of the second match in Christchurch as the game ended in a draw that was inevitable almost two days ago.

Even the mystery bowling of Saqlain Mushtaq could make no inroads on a pitch that was too friendly for the batsmen and yielded four centuries including two double tons.

New Zealand ended the shortened day on 196 for one, with Mark Richardson not out on 73 and Mathew Sinclair - following on from his unbeaten 204 in the first innings - on 50. Sinclair was awarded the man-of-the-match.

Technically New Zealand declared, but there was no need for Pakistan to bat again as only ten minutes of the match remained.

Pakistan declared earlier at 571 for eight after Saqlain Mushtaq got his maiden Test century.

Waqar Younis was the only victim of a largely toothless New Zealand attack during Pakistan's assault on the home side's 476, giving Daryl Tuffey his second wicket of the match.

Matthew Bell and Richardson gave New Zealand their third good start in as many innings, 69, before Bell was trapped lbw to part-time leg-spinner Younis Khan.

From then Richardson and Sinclair simply got some useful practice against Saqlain in particular, and near the end Paki-

stan's acting skipper Inzamamul Haq had some fun by giving the wannabe bowlers like Younis Youhana and Faisal Iqbal a turn at the crease and Waqar some off-spin.

Pakistan, who lead the series 1-0, now travel to Wellington for a three-day match starting Thursday.

The third and final Test begins

in Hamilton on March 27.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth day of the second Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Jade Stadium Monday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 476 (N Sinclair 204; Faisal Akbar 87)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings Richardson not out 73

Bell lbw b Younis 40

Sinclair not out 50

Extras: (b-15, lb-4, nb-14) 33

Total: (For 1 wkt decl in 73 overs) 196

Fall of wicket: 1-69

Bowler O M R W

Waqar 8 1 18 0

Sami 11 3 32 0

Akbar 7 0 26 0

Saqlain 24 5 44 0

Younis 21 6 47 1

Youhana 1 0 3 0

Iqbal 1 0 7 0

Result: Match drawn and Pakistan lead three-match series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mathew Sinclair.

Third Test: March 27-31, Hamilton.

PAKISTAN: First innings (561-7 overnight)

Faisal c Drum b Martin 4

Ijaz hit wicket b Drum 11

Iqbal c Fleming b McMillan 63

Inzamam c Fleming b Martin 130

Youhana c and b Richardson 203

Younis c Parore b Tuffey 28

Moin c Martin b Bradburn 20

Saqlain not out 101

Waqar c Parore b Tuffey 12

Akbar not out 0

Extras: (b-5, lb-8, nb-6) 19

Total: (For 8 wks decl in 210 overs) 571

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-25, 3-157, 4-259, 5-260, 6-304, 7-552, 7-569

Bowler O M R W

Tuffey 49 13 152 2

Martin 41 9 153 2

Drum 8 1 21 1

Bradburn 42 10 124 1

McMillan 31 13 47 1

Astle 30 12 45 0

Richardson 9 0 16 1

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SINCLAIR ... m-o-m

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First Varsity Games begins tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The First Bangladesh University Games' 2001 will begin at the central play ground of the Dhaka University tomorrow.

The six-day competition involves nine universities. They are: Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Agricultural University, Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (BUET), Islami University, Shahjalal University, Khulna University, Jahangirnagar University and host Dhaka University.

A total of 825 athletes will vie for 150 gold medals in ten events: Football, hockey, athletics, volleyball, basketball, handball, table tennis, badminton, swimming and water-polo.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the Games

Naimur's Reds rout Enam's Greens

UNB, Dhaka

Naimur Rahman led Red XI earned a 293-run victory over Enamul Hoque's Green XI in the three-day practice match at BKSP on Sunday.

Naimur set Greens 382 runs for victory, after declaring by the second innings on 361 for three in 84 overs. Centuries by Akram Khan (115) and wicketkeeper Khaled Masud Pilot (100) set the Reds up for their declaration.

The Green team, who had 21 runs first innings deficit as they were bowled out for 324 runs in the first innings, were bundled out again for 89 in their second innings.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique who claimed five wickets in the first innings, also bagged another five-wicket haul to destroy the opposition batting lineup while captain Naimur took two wickets.

Shoaib going down under

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan is sending ace fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar to Australia for examination of his suspect bowling action, officials said Monday.

"We are sending Akhtar to Australia this week to have a three dimensional analysis of his bowling action," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said.

Luxmipur cricket

BSS, Luxmipur

The Wills Group First Division Cricket League started at the district stadium here on Friday.

A total of 10 teams are participating in the league.

On the opening day Bagbari Club defeated Haidargonj Cricket Club by 15 runs. Bagbari Club won the toss and batting first, scored 134 all out in 32 overs. In reply, the Haidargonj Cricket Club were dismissed for 119 in 34.4 overs.

The one-day league is being played in 40 limited overs.

Former secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, ASM Shahjahan inaugurated the cricket league.

Holders humble

FROM PAGE 13

ABAHANI

M Hussain c Russel b Imran 23

Nafis st. Sajjad b Russel 41

Anisur not out 23

Javed not out 4

Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-3) 6

Total: (For 2 wickets in 19 overs) 97

Fall of wickets: 1/47, 2/80

Bowler O M R W

Bappi 4 0 17 0

Imran Ullah 7 0 32 1

Ripon 4 1 25 0

Russel 3 0 19 1

Shoyon 1 0 3 0

Result: Abahani won by 8 wickets.

Bima bemuse

FROM PAGE 13

KALABAGAN

Rafiqul c Jashim b Zakir 15

Nahidul c Zakir b Moin 47

Ziaur lbw b Rizwan 49

Kalim run out 20

Tareq st. Jashim b Tariqur 3

Nasim c Jashim b Totam 15

Kuntal run out 4

Saiful b Rizwan 15

Mosaddek b Rizwan 2

Rana not out 4

Ashfaq c Totam b Rizwan 11

Extras: (lb-6, w-11) 17

Total: (All out in 44.2 overs) 202

Fall of wickets: 1/36, 2/77, 3/129, 4/137, 5/142, 6/148, 7/181, 9/185

Bowler O M R W

Tushar 5 0 35 0

Zakir 5 0 36 1

Rizwan 9.2 1 27 4

Moin 10 0 35 1

Tariqur 8 0 28 1

Totam 7 0 35 1

Result: Sadharan Bima won by 67 runs.

Andre abases Pete

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

Andre Agassi played near flawless tennis Sunday to crush Pete Sampras 7-6, 7-5, 6-1 and claim his first victory at the Indian Wells Tennis Masters Series.

ture his first crown at this desert event after runner-up finishes to Stefan Edberg in 1990 and Sampras six years ago.

"It's incredible, I've been on the losing end so many times with Pete," Agassi said. "It's more enjoyable at this stage of my career to play against him and to win a big match."

at San Jose only to lose to Briton Greg Rusedski. He was beaten in the first round at Scottsdale last week by Spain's Francisco Clavet, but showed that was merely a fluke loss.

Agassi's baselining was all over the famed Sampras attack during their duel in the desert.

Agassi saved a set point in the 10th game of the opening set and won the set in a tiebreaker in which Sampras double-faulted twice.

In the second, Agassi scored the first service break of the afternoon to clinch a two-sets-to-love margin as he committed only two unforced errors in the set. The third set was a mere formality as Agassi rolled to victory.

"It was tough conditions and very hot, there was no escape from the sun," said the winner, who claimed 400,000 dollars which he joked "wouldn't pay for some of the cars I've seen around here."

"The tie-breaker was a huge factor, but Pete hung in there and played like a champion," Agassi said.

Sampras, while disappointed not to have won a title since Wimbledon 2000, was not about to hang his head.

"It was one of those matches where I felt there were chances in the beginning but got a bit frustrated."

"You have to convert when you have a chance against Agassi. He's playing great and not missing much," said third seed Sampras, who had 14 aces counter-balanced by 47 unforced errors. "He's at a level where he was when he was number one in the world."

Thorpe to fill in for Hussain

AFP, Colombo

Graham Thorpe will take over from injured captain Nasser Hussain to lead England in the forthcoming three-match one-day international series against Sri Lanka.

The 31-year-old left-hander from Surrey was appointed captain on Monday to take over from Hussain, who is flying home along with four other members of England's Test squad early Tuesday.

Hussain strained his right thigh while fielding during the third and final Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo and is going home to prepare for the summer Tests against Pakistan and Australia.



PHOTO: AFP

American Andre Agassi proudly holds aloft the trophy of the Tennis Masters Series at Indian Wells on Sunday.

The Australian Open champion, little more than a month shy of his 31st birthday, showed that he's playing perhaps the best tennis of his long and roller-coaster career.

He had just 10 unforced errors in the two-hour, eight-minute match and was delighted to cap-

"It feels just wonderful, I feel very proud of the way I've played this week, especially today," he said.

Agassi has now won two of the four events he has entered this year.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion reached the title match

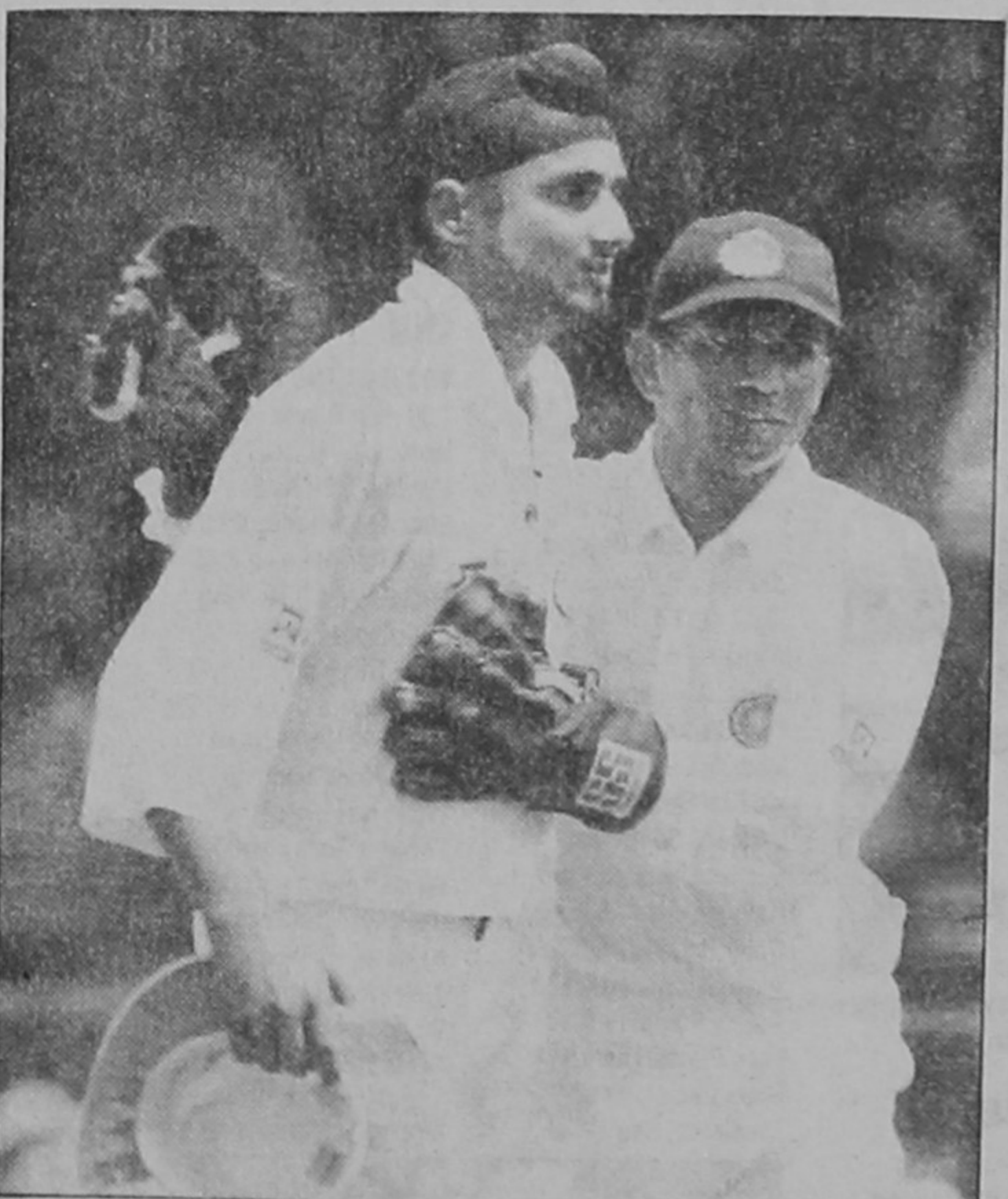


PHOTO: AFP

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (L), who grabbed seven Australia wickets, being congratulated by wicketkeeper Sameer Dighe after getting Michael Kasprovicz on Monday.

Harbhajan

FROM PAGE 13

Slater c Laxman b Zaheer 4

Hayden c Ganguly b Harbhajan 203

Langer c Dravid b Harbhajan 35

M Waugh c sub (Badani) b Bahutule 70

S Waugh handled the ball 47

Ponting st Dighe b Harbhajan 0