

PEPSI-DRU CRICKET Daily Star in quarterfinals

SPORTS REPORTER

In what was tipped as a clash between the leviathan and traditional giant, The Daily Star defeated The Daily Ittefaq by 13 runs to storm into the last eight of the DRU-Pepsi six-a-side cricket tournament at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Electing to bat after winning the toss, The Daily Star scored a massive 72 in their share of six overs with Abul Kalam Azad, a worthy recruit in the reporting section this year, hitting a fluent 31. His back-to-back 30s not only gave The Daily Star their second win in the ball-bashing competition between the media houses. Azad also hit a perfect 35 in the first match that The Daily Star won against UNB with all wickets standing.

Jasim Uddin Khan (17) and Shariful Islam (7) also made useful contributions after Azad fireworks.

Ittefaq, in their chase, found the going very tough against the disciplined Daily Star attack backed up by brilliant keeping from Helemul Alam Biplop on a hard synthetic turf. They eventually scored 62 for the loss of three wickets.

The Daily Star will now face Amader Arthiny in the quarterfinal today.

Hoping for

FROM PAGE 17

just blocked in their chase and didn't do their business which, I once again say, is disappointing." Kallis echoed with Smith, who also blasted the Tigers for trying to play out the 50 overs.

Kallis also said that this series is a learning curve for a couple of young players in their team and they are satisfied the way they responded so far ahead of the next assignment against Australia.

"This is a learning curve for couple of our younger players and the series is refreshing after the disappointing England tour.

"We are not focusing on the Bangladesh team rather we are looking forward to the future. It takes a little bit time for the young players but the guys are coming and have shown their potential and learnt about things they need to win the match," he said.

Kallis made it clear that the series against teams like Kenya and Bangladesh just give them an opportunity to prepare for the upcoming tough task.

"We hope it would be a also good Test series for us against Bangladesh which will help us in the coming series against Australia," he hoped.

TEAMS

BANGLADESH (from): Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Shakib Al Hasan, Imrul Kayes, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Islam, Abdur Razzak, Syed Rasel, Shahadat Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Nazmul Hossain and Mahubul Alam.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (Captain), Johan Botha, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher, JP Duminy, Johann Louw, Albie Morkel, Morne Morkel, Justin Ontong, Dale Steyn and Monde Zondeki.

BCB polls

FROM PAGE 17

Football Federation polls which would be a blessing in disguise for the game.

The Anam-Moni panel features Obaid Nizam, Aziz Al Kaiser Tito, Ahmed Iqbal Hassan, Syed Farhad Hossain, Lutful Rahman Badal, Mirza Salman Ispahani, Mizanur Rahman, ASM Faruque, Ziaur Rahman Tapu and Ittefakhar Rahman Mithu.

With Siraj and Bobby are Ali Ahsan Babu, Hossain Molla, Shafiqur Rahman Munna, Mohammed Selim, Kazi Aziz Ahmed Taimur, GM Shamim Hossain, Nazrul Islam Babul, Golam Dastagir Gazi, GS Hassan Tamim and Jalal Yunus.

However, all eyes would be on Category 3 where intense competition is expected among former national cricket captains -- Roquibul Hassan, Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu and Faruque Ahmed.

The other candidate in Category 3 is Abdul Quayyum Chowdhury.

Votes will be taken at the NSC conference room from 10am to 3pm.



Did U Know?

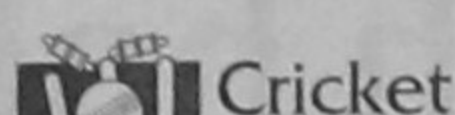
Star Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar becomes the fifth Indian player to take 100 catches on the fifth and final day of the fourth and final Test against Australia on Monday.



Pakistan pace bowler Shoaib Akhtar (L) sends down a delivery to Fawad Alam (R) during the nets at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Pakistan will play two ODIs against the West Indies here with the first scheduled for today.

'Akhtar is key'

Pakistan-West Indies first ODI starts today



AFP, Abu Dhabi

West Indian captain Chris Gayle said Tuesday fit-again paceman Shoaib Akhtar will be the key factor for Pakistan in the three-match series starting here from Wednesday.

"He (Akhtar) is always the key factor," Gayle said of the maverick Pakistan paceman, who will play his first one-dayer for over a year. "He is a wicket-taking bowler in a strong Pakistan pace attack."

The 33-year-old Akhtar, who was out for fitness and disciplinary reasons, returned to the squad in August for a Twenty20 tournament in Canada and heads a five-man strong pace attack for the West Indies series.

Gayle hoped his team would be up to the challenge.

Besides Akhtar, they have (Umar) Gul, and backed by a strong batting line-up they are a very tough team, but if we compete well, we can sneak a win in the first game for a good start," said Gayle.

"We know it will be a tough challenge because Pakistan always play well in one-day cricket and since we have not played here and Pakistan have, they have the home advantage."

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka 2-1 here last year, while they shared a two-match series against archrivals India the year before.

West Indies are on a high after Gayle led an all-star team to a comfortable ten-wicket win over England in the Stanford Twenty20 finale in Antigua earlier this month, earning millions of dollars in the process.

Gayle hoped the newcomers could build on that success.

"Beating England was nice and we worked really hard for that. Now it's a new series and every series is important for us, no matter who the opponent is, and winning this one will give us more confidence," he said.

"We have some exciting newcomers like Lionel Baker, who played in Canada, then we have Shawn Findlay and Brendan Nash, so these guys have an opportunity to prove themselves against a good

opponent."

Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik hoped his pace attack led by Akhtar would deliver.

"Akhtar is bowling in good rhythm. It is important that he performs, but we have a balanced attack, and it will be important that we play to our potential," said Malik, who shrugged off talk of being under extra pressure as captain.

"I am as relaxed as ever and there is no captaincy pressure on me. I have my own way and always look for improvement in all areas," said Malik, whose captaincy is under review by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Appointed captain last year, Malik's tenure ends next month.

Pakistan will chose between batsman Khalid Latif and all-rounder Fawad Alam as a replacement for experienced Mohammad Yousuf who last week joined the Indian Cricket League.

Yousuf, initially selected in the 15-man squad for the series, was banned from all cricket in Pakistan on joining the unrecognised league.

Local pair lose out

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh pair U Shew Shew and Mofazzal Hossain lost to their Indian counterparts in the first Junior South Asian Tennis Championship at the Ramna National Tennis Court complex yesterday.

Shew Shew (Bangladesh) conceded defeat to Shahbaaz Khan 6-1, 6-1 while Mofazzal lost to SV Abhishek 6-2, 6-0.

No need

FROM PAGE 17

spinner will fly for Australia on November 15 to make an independent analysis of his action in Australia which was reported during the second Test against New Zealand in Mirpur.

Razzak, who had his bowling action suspected by umpires Daryl Harper and Asoka de Silva, will be back in South Africa on November 18, the day before the start of the first Test, but it would be tough for him to play the match due to a long journey from Canberra where he will be examined by an ICC-appointed human movement specialist.

"He (Razzak) will be back and Shahab (Hossain) is also with the team, so we don't think there is any need to bring someone (like Enamul Haque) who is not playing at the highest level for a long time," explained Siddons.

Razzak however has been passing a very difficult time as it is tough for a player to face such a hassle in the middle of the series.

"It's a very big issue for my career though I am confident that everything will be okay. It's a matter of 1-2 hours to be examined by a human movement specialist but just think of the timing. It's really a uncomfortable situation for me in the middle of the series," said a disappointed Razzak.

It is especially shocking for the bowler when the team management just started to keep confidence in him as a Test bowler. Razzak so far played five Tests but appeared in 81 ODIs to brand him as a one-day specialist.

"I have been trying to bring some small variations in my bowling to become successful in Test cricket. During IPL, Anil Kumble suggested me to make small changes in my bowling rather than thinking anything big change and I got few success by following his instructions and just then came the shocking news," said Razzak.

England stoop to new low

AFP, Mumbai

England's brittle batting was exposed once again when they crashed to a 124-run defeat against a scratch Mumbai side in a one-day warm-up game here on Tuesday.

Chasing a modest 223, the visitors slumped to 98 all out in 25 overs to set alarm bells ringing ahead of the real action, which starts in Rajkot on Friday with the first of seven one-day internationals.

Local seamer Khsemal Waingankar picked up 5-37 as the tourists lost their top five batsmen for 33 runs in a collapse reminiscent of their recent Twenty20 drubbing in Antigua when they were bowled out for 99.

Waingankar had played in just one first-class game prior to Tuesday's outing at the Brabourne stadium.

England captain Kevin Pietersen afterwards tried to downplay his side's failure against unimpressive opposition.

The England bowlers did well to restrict Mumbai President's XI to 222-7 off 50 overs after electing to field with paceman Steve Harmison and left-arm spinner Samit Patel picking two wickets each.

The local team owed their total to Sushant Marathe, who struck a fine 65 with seven fours, and opener Paul Valthary, who made a patient 44 off 75 balls. Shoaib Shaikh boosted the total further with a cameo 35-37 ball.

The visitors struggled from early in their innings when in-form opener Ian Bell, who made 58 in the side's 122-run victory in the opening tour match here on Sunday, was caught behind off Waingankar for six.

Pietersen was out for a duck, trapped leg before by Waingankar who also accounted for Patel (13), Ravi Bopara (nine) and Luke Wright (one).

Andrew Flintoff failed to sustain the form that saw him smash an unbeaten century in Sunday's game, edging behind off Rahil Shaikh having made just five.

The Rajkot one-dayer will be followed by matches in Indore (Nov 17), Kanpur (Nov 20), Bangalore (Nov 23), Cuttack (Nov 26), Guwahati (Nov 29) and New Delhi (Dec 2).

The one-day series will be followed by two Tests in Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

BRIEFScores

MCAXI: 222-7 in 50 overs (Marathe 65, Valthary 44; Harmison 2-38, Patel 2-50)

ENGLAND: 98 all out in 25 overs (Swann 24; Waingankar 5-37)

India call off

Pak tour?

INTERNET, undated

India's cricket tour to Pakistan in January is likely to be called off. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) sources have told CNN-IBN that the security situation in Pakistan is dangerous.

In fact the Indian mission in Islamabad has given a report on the security situation in Pakistan and the report clearly outlines the dangerous situation in the country.

This report is not specific to the Indian cricket tour and thus a final decision has not been taken as yet.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) website, too, is yet to confirm the six-week long itinerary starting January 2009.

BCCI sources told CNN-IBN that they will discuss the Pakistan tour in detail with MEA in December.

Meanwhile, BCCI Vice-President Rajiv Shukla said, "We will wait for clearance from MEA. From our side the tour is still on."

India are to play three Tests, five One-Day Internationals and a Twenty20 game. The Test matches are at Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore while the ODIs are to be held at Faisalabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi.

The lone Twenty20 will be played in Karachi.

Earlier the five-match hockey Test series between the junior teams of India and Pakistan was called-off on Monday as the MEA refused to give clearance to the team, citing security fears.

The series was slated to start from Tuesday at the Hockey Club of Pakistan in Karachi.

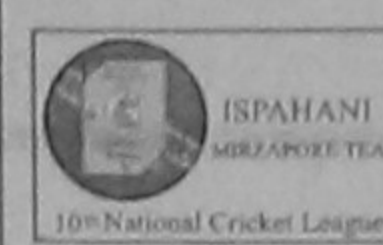
President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation Qasim Zia told reporters in Karachi that the series was called off as the Indian government was not satisfied with the security plans for their team.

"When Indian team didn't arrive on schedule, we got in touch with the Indian hockey officials and they said they are still waiting for clearance from their foreign ministry," Zia said.

"But at 1600 hrs, we were informed by the Indian hockey officials that they are not coming. The Indian government didn't clear the tour because they were not happy with the security plan we assured them," he added.

Nabil makes it 13

SPORTS REPORTER



10th National Cricket League

Left-arm spin duo Nabil Samad and Monir Hossain destroyed Chittagong and put Sylhet in the driver's seat in their fifth round National Cricket League match at the Chittagong Divisional Stadium yesterday.

Both shared the ten second innings wickets as Nabil took his match tally to 13 to bowl out the hosts for 140, leaving Sylhet 233 for win. They ended the day at 83 for 3.

At the Shaheed Chandu Stadium in Bogra, hosts' Barisal had it all their way and just need two more wickets for a victory over Dhaka.

And away in the Khulna Divisional Stadium, visitors Rajshahi put up a big first innings total to put the hosts under pressure. Khulna were 183-7 in their second innings, leading by 22 runs.

CHITTAGONG v SYLHET Sylhet captain Imtiaz Hossain declared their first innings on 201-9, despite trailing by 92 runs.

But that didn't deter the away side who were inspired by another good show from left-arm Nabil. He took the wickets of Gazi Salahuddin, Mahmudul Hasan and Tariq Ahmed before adding Raihan Anas and Rezaul Karim to his tally. Fellow spinner Monir took the rest, as Chittagong were bowled out for only 140 -- a lead of 232 runs.

Imtiaz wanted to finish the game on the third day as he launched into the Chittagong pacemen. He struck

seven boundaries in his 36-ball 42, before being caught by Kamrul Islam off off-spinner Mahmudul Hasan in the 13th over.

Mohammad Mithun remained unbeaten on 29 off 46 balls with the last wicket -- Rajin Saleh -- falling at the last ball of the day.

BARISAL v DHAKA

Elias Sunny added to the left-armers kitty, taking four wickets in Barisal's second innings. Resuming the day on 38 for one, Barisal were bowled out for 146, just enough to give Dhaka a 300-plus second innings target.

Dhaka's reply could not have started worse, losing captain and national discard Javed Omar out in the fourth ball for a duck.

Shamsur Rahman and Anwar Hossain added 72 for the second wicket with Shamsur hitting 53 off 56 balls but after both batsmen and Mahmudullah Riyad fell, Dhaka were in big trouble.

They slipped further, losing Nadif Chowdhury and Nazmul Hossain in quick succession as Dhaka looked down the barrel.

Saju Dutta, another left-arm spinner, took three for 49 for Barisal.

KHULNA v RAJSHAH

Rajshahi added 87 runs to their overnight score of 303-5 with veteran Mushfiqur Rahman striking 33. Ziaur Rahman took four wickets for Khulna.

The hosts however were off to a disastrous start, losing Monirul Islam in the first over. Thereafter, Shafiqul Islam ripped through their batting line-up, taking four for 28.

Sahagir Hossain top-scored with a 99-ball 56.

BRIEFScores

CHITTAGONG: First innings 293 and second innings 140 all out in 51.2 overs (Salahuddin 23, Nafis 6, Mahmudul 0, Tariq 28, Faisal 69, Mintu 5, Karim 0, Kamrul 0, Tariq 4, Anas 0, Younus 0; (Monir 5-35, Nabil 5-47).

SYLHET: First innings 201-9 dec and second innings 83-3 in 24 overs (Imtiaz 42, Saikat 10, Mithun 29, Rajin 2; Mahmudul 2-12, Anas 1-7) [target: 233].

BARISAL: First innings 274 and second innings 146 all out in 48.5 overs (Rony 12, Faruque 28, Shahin 4, Tariqul 3, Imran 14, Nasir 30, Raisul 3, Arafat 1, Sajid 40; Talha 0, Dutta 2; Ashraful 3-34, Elias 4-51, Nazmul 1-4, Riyad 1-37).

DHAKA: First innings 116 and 182-8 in 52 overs (Javed 0, Anwar 33, Shamsur 53, Riyad 1, Marshall 58, Nadif 21, Milton 7, Elias 1, Kabir 4; Ashraful 1; Talha 2-44, Tariqul 1-23, Dutta 3-49, Arafat 1-8, Nasir 1-24) [target: 305].

KHULNA: First innings 229 and second innings 183-7 in 53 overs (Monirul 0, Amit 28, Ashraful 30, Sahagir 56, Tushar 40, Salim 16; Zia 10, Dollar 4, Sadat 5, Murad 0; Kabir 1-37, Shuvo 1-48, Shahzada 1-31, Shafiqul 2-48).

RAJSHAH: First innings 390 all out in 133.4 overs (Jahurul 130, Mizanur 4, Farhad 51, Anisur 67, Shuvo 40, Mashud 8, Saqlain 5, Mushfiqur 32, Shahzada 18, Kabir 3, Shafiqul 9; Zia 4-64, Dollar 2-89, Murad 1-89, Tushar 1-28, Salim 1-4).

Lahore into ICL final



INTERNET, undated

Lahore Badshahs marched into their second consecutive final of the ICL 20s Indian Championship as they beat the Chennai Superstars by six wickets in the first semifinal on Monday at the Sardar Patel stadium in Ahmedabad.

Chasing a challenging 168, Lahore Badshahs reached home with seven balls to spare. It was a clinical batting display by the Badshahs with skipper Inzamamul Haq leading from the front. The former Pakistan skipper clobbered a blistering 33-ball 62 with the help of eight boundaries and two sixes.

The Badshahs were jolted early in their chase with Imran Nazir falling for 15 and then pinch-hitter Rana Navedul Hassan sent packing for 14. The game was evenly poised at that stage as Chennai reduced the Lahore team to 47-2 in the fifth over. But Imran Farhat and skipper Inzamam had other ideas. Just when it seemed that Farhat was running away with the match, Sathish struck his second blow of the match with the wicket of

Farhat, out for a well made 46 off only 24 balls; including five fours and three mighty sixes.

But Inzamam was on song, taking Chennai to the cleaners with some breathtaking shots to take the score to 130 /3 putting the Lahore Badshahs in the front at the end of the 15th over in company of Mohammad Yousuf. Inzamam brought his second ICL fifty in the 17th over coming off only 28 balls.

In the end a clinical 87 run partnership for the fourth wicket, powered by a 62 run knock from the Lahore skipper Inzamam saw the Lahore Badshahs romp home to a 6 wicket victory in the 19th over.

Earlier after put in to bat, Chennai's formidable opening combination of Vignesh and Harvey was off to a busy start till the quick Sami castled the dangerous Vignesh for six in the third over.

Harvey was taking over from his brilliant innings of the previous night, playing some breathtaking strokes all across the park. At the end of the fifth over Chennai Superstars were placed at 49/1.

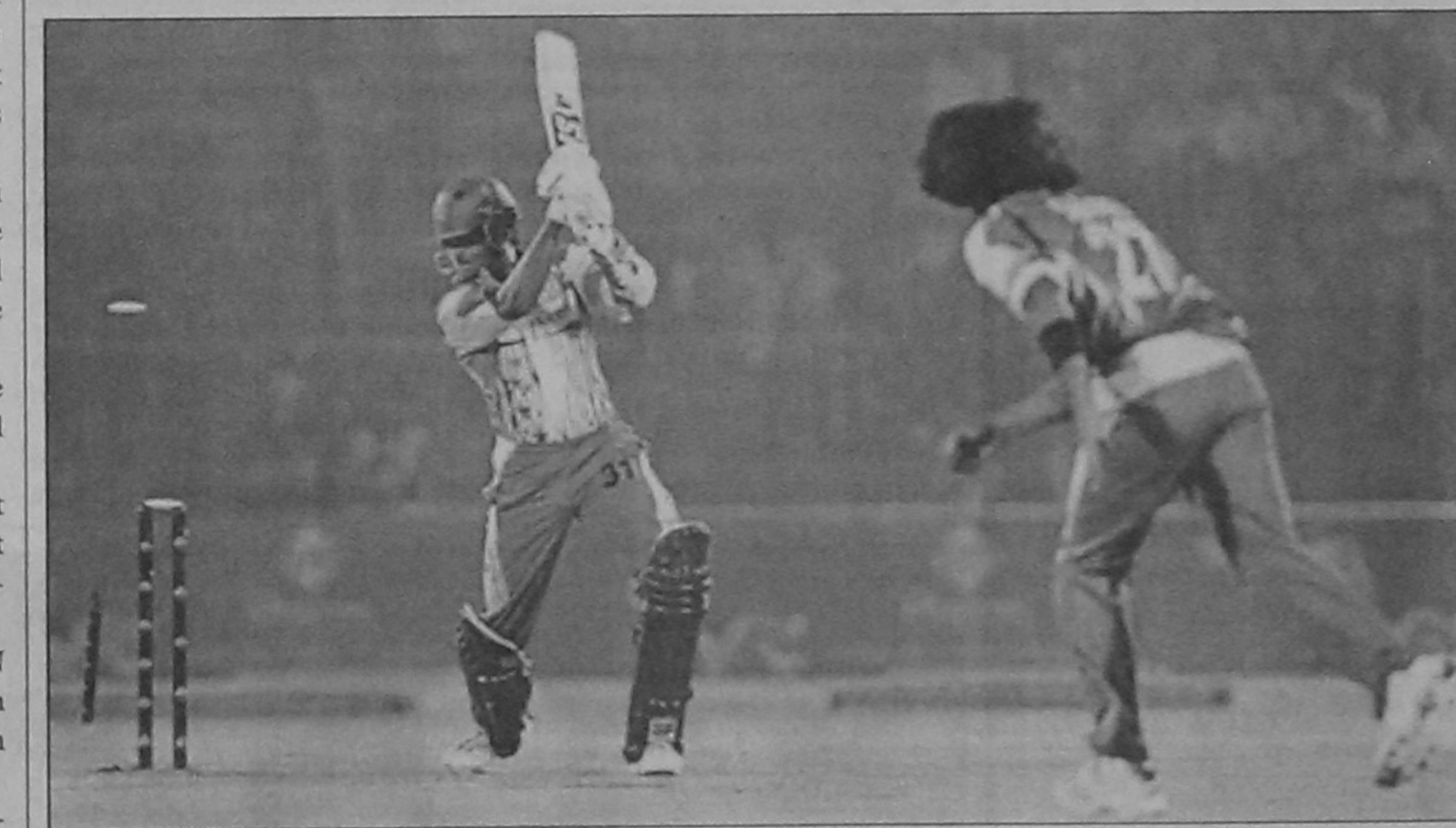
Inzamam brought on his inform bowler Rana Naved in the sixth over who struck immediately with the big wicket of Harvey, out for well-

made 29 off 21 balls; including 5 hits to the boundary. Arnold took over the batting mantle and in company of Badani put on a 33-run partnership for the third wicket, till the wily Saqlain bamboozled him with his new mystery ball the Jalebi, for the second time in two consecutive days.

The crucial middle overs had the backbone of the Chennai batting Hemang Badani and R Sathish battling it out in the middle. Both batsmen were looking in great touch countering the formidable Lahore bowling to take the score to 133/3 at the 15-over mark.

Badani was scalped by Saqlain for a well-made innings of 37 runs. All depended on the Sathish who was playing a fighting knock for the second consecutive night against the Badshahs displaying his humongous talent against one of the craziest bowling machinery of the world. Sathish's cameo was worth 37 runs off only 28 balls that had five fours. Chennai finally ended their innings on 165/7 in their allotted 20 overs.

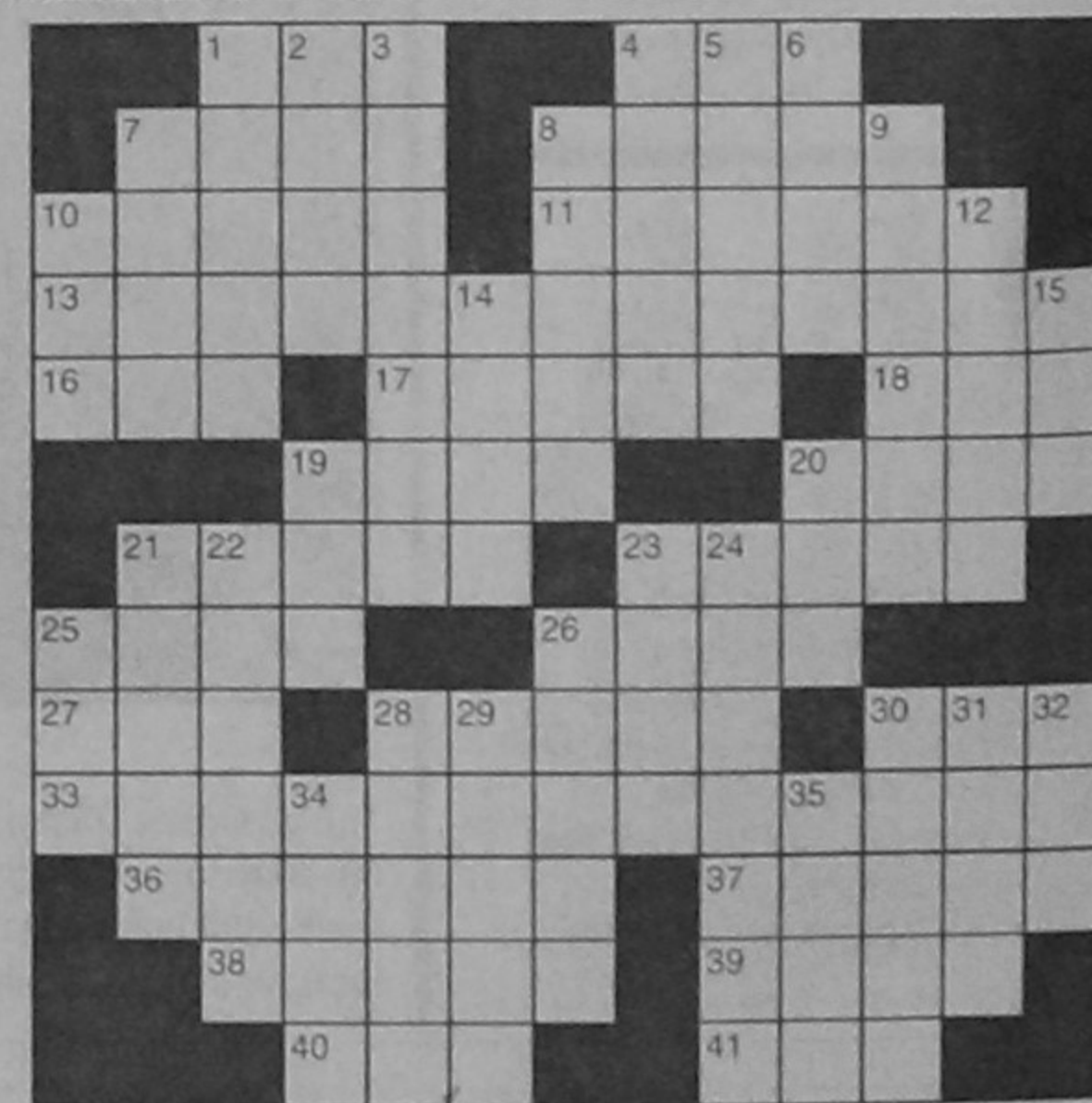
For the Lahore side Naved with 3 for 30 and Saqlain with 2 for 26 emerged as the most successful bowlers.



Chennai Superstar's G Vignesh is bowled by Lahore Badshahs' Mohammad Sami in the first semifinal of the Indian Cricket League in Ahmedabad on Monday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN	19 "See ya"
1 Big hoopla	1 Battery terminal to	20 Opposed to
4 Bake-sale org.	2 "— noted"	21 Rodents of South America
7 Give the cold shoulder	3 Inclined prize	4 Cougars
8 Radium discoverer	30 Man-handle	5 Characteristic noises
10 Bikini, e.g.	33 1967 Audrey Hepburn film	6 "— She Sweet?"
11 "Hair-spray" actress	36 Address bilingually	7 Go no further
13 Queen's attendant	37 Cousins' moms	8 Made crow noises
16 Caustic solution	38 "The final frontier"	9 Masthead as the Vikings did
17 Search	39 The Bee —	10 The whole enchilada
18 Gratitude	40 Prepared	12 Japanese cartooning style
19 Melville's Billy	41 Right angle	14 Undraped
20 Deep sleep		15 Coll. transcript
21 Check casher		23 Establish, as 25-Down
23 Fern product		30 Game-show group
25 After curfew		31 Crafts' partners
26 Primary		32 Yr. divisions
		34 Spigots
		35 One-on-one battle



CRYPTOQUIP

CPAU Z LIT KQ QNKYKUL

DPSVLPVID PKQ CPVYA YKBA.

K LIAQQ PA'Q LSKUUKUL

BSVN TAZS DV TAZS.

Today's Cryptquip: LOVING ELEVATORS AND DESPISING STAIRS, YESTERDAY HE RESOLVED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STEPS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals Y