

Bima crash again

Sports Reporter
Young Pegasus inflicted further misery on Sadharan Bima, by sending them crashing to a fourth wicket defeat in the Mirpur First Division cricket league yesterday at the Mirpur Pallabi ground.

Sadharan Bima had started the season with a bang, nothing up four wickets in a row. But once the downward slide started they slumped to their fourth consecutive defeat in eight matches. Young Pegasus, in their eight outings, also have four wins.

Sadharan Bima, put into bat, were skittled out for 156 runs in 44.5 overs.

Ripon, 35, Shaheen, 26, Shamim, 27, Nakib, 16, and Robi with 10 were the prominent scorers for Bima.

Medium pacer Zia bowled best for Pegasus by capturing four wickets for 20 runs. He was ably assisted by Mahmud, Babu and Babul with two wickets each.

In reply, Roni's superb 61 runs helped. Young Pegasus score 160 for the loss of six wickets in 43.4 overs.

Robin with four wickets for 30 runs and Nakib with two for 26 raised some hopes for Sadharan Bima to have Pegasus reeling at 125 for six.

But Mahmud with an unbeaten 38 and Babu, 17 not out ensured Pegasus avoided further damage and added 35 invaluable runs for the seventh wicket.

TODAY'S MATCH
Wanderers vs Amarjyoti (Mirpur)

Farooq's 177 in DU cricket

Sports Reporter
A brilliant 177 by Farooq enabled Public Administration Department through the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) by 107 runs in the Dhaka University Inter-department cricket match yesterday at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Public Administration, batting first, piled up 249 runs for six wickets in their allotted 35 overs, thanks to a scintillating 177 off Farooq's bat.

His knock included twelve towering sixes and fifteen glorious boundaries.

In reply, IBA were bowled out for 142 runs. Mizan top scored with 50.

Masood was the most successful Public Administration bowler with five wickets for 51 runs.

GMCC 246 all out

Sports Reporter
Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), contenders for this year's Navana Premier Division cricket league honours, lost their last three wickets without a run being scored yet managed to pile up an impressive 246 in 71.5 overs against former champions Bangladesh Biman at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In reply, Biman had made 55 for the loss of Tariquzzaman Munir in 15 overs till draw of stumps. Munir made just one before falling to leg before to Saiful with the total on nine.

GMCC, who signed on most of their players from Abahani, appeared to have put the bad memories of their opening loss to the reigning champions in the needle match last November and set about the limited Biman attack in right earnest. Tutul and Liton gave them a rollicking start by putting on 53 runs for the first wicket. Tutul made 40 while Liton made 34.

Contributions of 29 by Selim, 28 by wicketkeeper

Players blast Perth pitch

PERTH, Jan 23: Two of Australia's leading cricketers have strongly condemned the Waca ground pitch here, where the fifth Test of the Ashes series starts on Friday week.

Australian vice-captain Geoff Marsh and star one-day player Simon O'Donnell were outspoken in their criticism after the Sheffield Shield match between Western Australia and Victoria ended there Tuesday.

Marsh, who is also the Western Australian captain, was critical of wide cracks which developed in the pitch amidst extreme heat.

Some of the cracks were three centimeters (one inch) wide and up to 15 centimeters (six inches) deep.

Marsh said the pitch had been disappointing from Day Two.

"I hope Western Australian Cricket Association officials will do something about it because they have sat for four days and seen what has been going on," he said.

O'Donnell, skipper of Victoria, said: "The pitch contributed to a lot of the dismissals. Blokes were able to stand up a bat in one crack. It is very uncomfortable for batsmen on both sides to look down at this massive bloody hole in the wicket."

The Perth wicket was once regarded as the best in Australia and one of the best in the world.

However, it has not achieved the same high standard since it was re-laid five years ago.

The Test match between England and Australia, the final clash between the two countries in the Ashes series, will be played on the same wicket square, but on a strip five pitches away from the one used in the Shield game, won by Victoria by 29 runs.

Association officials say the cracking was caused by high temperatures, which exceeded 38 degrees (100 degrees Fahrenheit) during the early part of the game.

There are fears that more hot weather, which is likely during the Test, could cause further problems, giving bowlers an unfair advantage over batsmen.

Tk 24 lakh budget for Victory Day volleyball

Sports Reporter
A sum of Taka 24 lakh will be needed for hosting the Victory Day international volleyball tournament in Dhaka next March.

A meeting of the organising committee, with Presidential Advisor for Youth and Sports Alamgir M.A. Kabir in the chair, at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, discussed matter relating to the successful holding of the tournament, including fund raising.

Seven countries are expected to take part in the meet, scheduled for the first week of March. These are China, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nepal and Myanmar (Burma). Two Bangladesh selections will also take part.

Div 1 volleyball

Sports Reporter
Power Development Board, Sonali Bank and Water Development Board won their respective matches in the First Division volleyball league yesterday at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

PDB, after being extended in the first set, won 16-14, 15-6 and 15-8 against Fire Service in the day's first match.

Sonali Bank, took the first two sets fairly easily at 15-11 and 15-4 but were surprisingly resisted 16-14 in the deciding set by Dhaka Sabuj.

In the last match of the day, Water Development Board totally outplayed Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation 15-8, 15-2, 15-1.

There is only one match scheduled for today with Warli Club taking on Madartek M.S. at 4:30 pm.

Handball results

Sports Reporter
Two matches in the handball super league were decided yesterday at the Outer Stadium handball court.

In the first match of the day, Jagaron Sangskritic Sangsha drew 16-16 with Christian Youth Club in a keen contest. The score was 9-6 in Christian Youth's favour at the breather. In the second half Jagaron rallied well to net another nine goals against Christian Youth's seven. Saiful and Swapan were the top scorers for Jagaron with seven and five goals respectively. Salahuddin, Mamun and Alpha got four goals each for Christian Youth Club.

The other match, Kurmitola Apollo Club outplayed Farashganj Sporting Club 10-8.

Although Farashganj enjoyed a 7-4 lead at the breather they couldn't capitalize on it for their first league victory in five encounters. Kurmitola netted six goals in the second half in reply to which Farashganj could come up with a solitary one.

Delta hockey

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Sporting and Barnak Samaj kept their title hopes alive with identical 2-0 wins over their respective rivals in the Delta Life Second Division super league matches yesterday at the hockey stadium.

Bangladesh Sporting defeated Farashganj Sporting Club after a barren first half. Shimul scored both the goals.

This was their third win in as many matches while Farashganj suffered their second loss in three matches.

In the day's other match, Barnak Samaj stayed on course for the championship with an easy 2-0 win over Shishu Kishore XI.

Shaheen gave Barnak the lead by finding the mark in the 23rd minute.

Sajjad sealed the fate of the match with a 54th minute goal.

Barnak Samaj have now accumulated five points from three matches while Shishu Kishore crashed to their third defeat in four matches.

It's the blues for Kusumkair Ashar in Star cricket

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Mohammedan Blues routed Kusumkair Ashar by ten wickets in the Chaittagram Zilla Krira Parishad Star youth cricket tournament at the Outer Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Kusumkair Ashar batted first and were all out for 89 runs in 31.5 overs.

Saiful of Kusumkair made an unbeaten 27 Shovan scored 24.

Lenin and Mizan of Mohammedan captured three wickets each for 12 and 20 runs respectively.

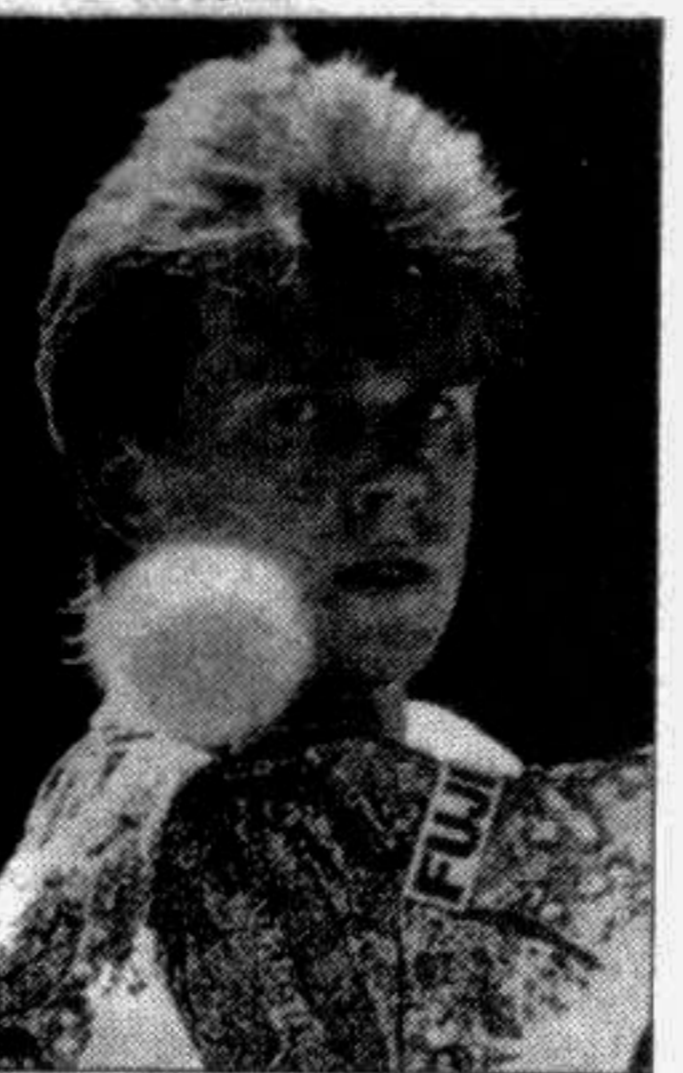
In reply, Mohammedan Blues scored 92 without loss in only nine overs.

Mohammedan's opening pair Shamim and Limon scored 56 and 26 respectively.

Lendl, Edberg on collision course

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Title-holder Ivan Lendl overcame a courageous Goran Prpic of Yugoslavia in straight sets in the Australian Open today to set up a semi-final clash with top seed Stefan Edberg, reports AFP.

"It has the potential to be a great match," said Lendl, who won last year's final when



STEFAN EDBERG

Edberg retired hurt in the third set.

"If we're both hitting the ball great there will be some good tennis."

But Lendl brushed aside the suggestion he and Edberg should be playing each other in the final.

"Those are strong words," Lendl said. "Boris Becker is

still number two in the world. He's had an easy draw, but if he's in the final it will be a good match."

Becker, seeded second, was due to play 10th seed Guy Forget of France late today in the quarter-finals.

The man drawn to meet Becker in the semi-finals, number four seed Pete Sampras - the US Open champion - withdrew with shin splints on the eve of the tournament.

Prpic, who had never got beyond the second round in a Grand Slam event, was disarmingly modest after forcing Lendl into two tie-break sets.

"It looks like it was close," he said. "But it wasn't that close. I had only one break and a couple of deuces. It was only a question of time before he broke me."

The first set was a rout. Prpic managed to take a mere three points off Lendl, who won 6-0 in 27 minutes.

"I played the first time on Centre Court and didn't know that was happening," Prpic said.

"He was hitting every ball hard. I wasn't prepared for this kind of game."

Although it began in the early afternoon the match was played under floodlights with the roof closed against rain.

Prpic might have been speaking for dozens of Melbourne's flood stranded

motorists when he said, "All the lights were on. I didn't get used to these conditions - I just didn't know what hit me."

For the first half of the match, Prpic seemed less in command of himself than the insouciant sparrow which at one point skimmed leisurely along the net cord, as though defying the awesome power of Lendl's serve.

But trailing 3-5 in the second set, Prpic suddenly came alive.

He broke back to equalise at 5-5 and did not lose another game on his serve.

It was the tie-breaks which sealed his fate. Lendl took the first by seven points to one, the second 7-2, wrapping up the match in two hours and 27 minutes.

The champion praised his opponent's skill and courage, after the first set, he said. "Goran got used to the pace and the conditions. He's a very good player."

Asked whether he would be more motivated in the semi-final than Becker by the prospect of meeting Edberg, Lendl replied:

"It doesn't matter who you play, what matters is that you are in the semi-final of a Grand Slam tournament."

Referring to the unseeded competitors in today's fourth quarter-final, Lendl went on: "Even if you play (Cristiano) Caratti or Patrick McEnroe

you've got to go out there and win three sets to make it to the final. If you're not pumped up for the semi-final of a Grand Slam tournament you've got a problem."

He was not only "hungry for another Grand Slam title," Lendl said. "I'm looking forward to the next two years."

Lendl will be 31 in March



IVAN LENDL

and is nearly six years senior to Edberg, eight years older than Becker.

"If you take good care of your mind and your body -- and I have -- physically your best years are between 30 and 35," he said.

"I wouldn't mind proving that right."

Brave Pat emulates brother John

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Patrick McEnroe, clutching his side and wrapped in a corset, fought courageously for more than two hours after straining a muscle to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open, reports AP.

Grimacing in pain throughout and weeping with joy at the end, the 24-year-old matched the best showing of his older brother, John McEnroe, in this Grand Slam event as he outlasted Italy's Cristiano Caratti 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2 Wednesday.

McEnroe called a 3-minute injury timeout one hour and 10 minutes into the match after he hurt himself. He led 3-2 at the time in the second set, and after getting massaged and having a wide corset wrapped around his torso, he came back and held service to 4-2.

McEnroe won that set, but Caratti chipped and charged and wore McEnroe down to tie the match. In the fifth set, McEnroe, still in obvious pain, pushed himself to his limit and

finally won on his fifth match point, after 3 hours, 36 minutes, when Caratti pushed a backhand into the net.

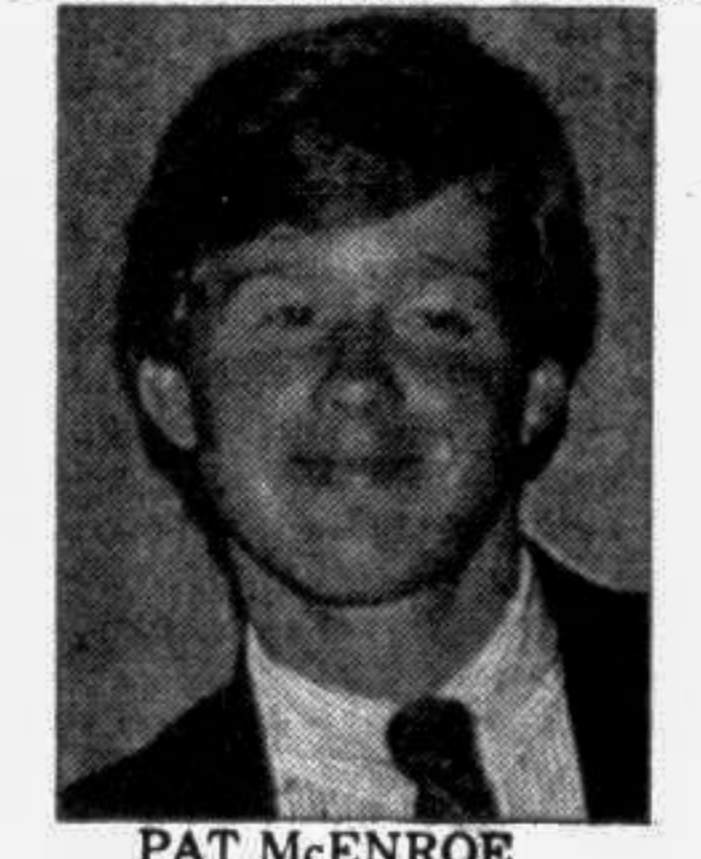
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PAT MCENROE

John McEnroe, kicked out of this tournament for misconduct in the fourth round last year, got as far as the semis here only once in four tries, in 1983.

tough player to beat," said Edberg, who won the first set of their final here last year before quitting in the third set because of a torn stomach muscle. "He's hitting the ball very well, and I'm playing well. I'll be whoever's the best man on the day."

Earlier, Edberg sleepwalked through his match against Yzaga in just under 1 1/2 hours to reach the semifinals for the fifth time in the past six years.

Yzaga, the first Peruvian to reach the quarters of the Australian since the start of the open era in 1968, is ranked No. 86 and had nothing that could stop the constant net forays of the top-ranked Edberg.

Edberg played as if practising and sweated from the humidity in the closed stadium than from anything Yzaga did. Officials had the stadium cover shut because it threatened to rain, but did not reopen it even though the rain never came.

Aggression is the name of the game

setters against Monique Javier and Lori McNeil.

But the key again was aggression a part of the Spaniard's returned game.

"I knew I had to play my game and, when I had the chance, pressure her," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I think I surprised Gabriela by always pressuring her."

Scles, the second seed, has a chance to close the gap on Graf if she can add the Australian title to her 1990 French Open victory. She took apart Germany's Anke Huber, 6-3, 6-1, in the quarterfinals, winning 10 consecutive games after Huber took a 3-0 lead.

She owns a 2-1 record against Fernandez and said she'll have to keep mistakes to a minimum to reach her second Grand Slam final.

"She doesn't make too many mistakes and I'll just have to be aggressive just really go for it," Scles said.

That's Fernandez's game plan, too.

"I used to just move my opponent from side to side. It's easy to play someone like that," she said. "So it's important for me to start doing more with my groundstrokes. I'm trying to take more chances."

Fernandez beat fifth seeded Katerina Maleeva 6-3, 6-1, winning seven games in a row from 2-3 in the first set to a 3-0 lead in the second.

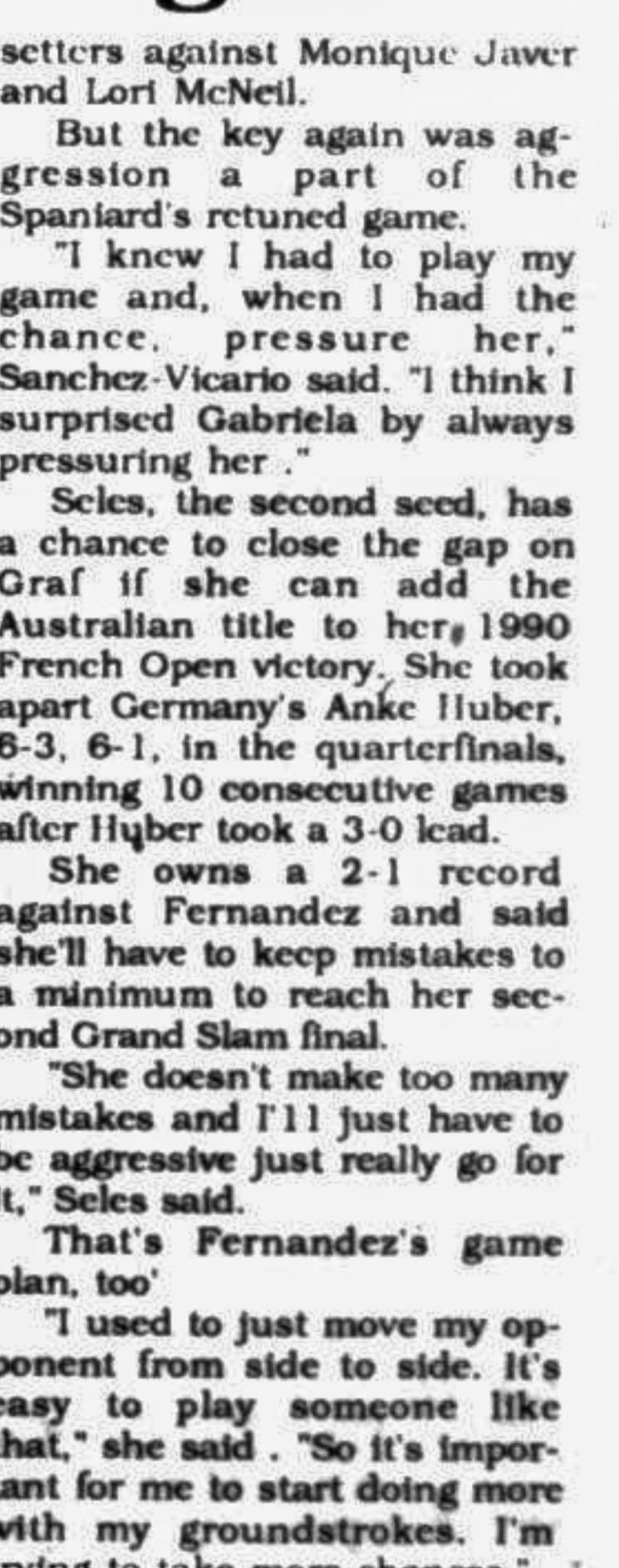
The Gorans head Y'slav Davis Cup challenge

BELGRADE, Jan 23: Goran Ivanisevic and Goran Prpic were named Tuesday to head the Yugoslav team in its first-round Davis Cup World Group match against Sweden scheduled for Feb. 1-3 in Zagreb, reports AP.

Also named to the team by coach Radmilo Armenulic were Bruno Oresar and Sasa Hirson. Slobodan Zivjnovic was dropped from the team.

The holding of the match in the Croatian capital was in question because of the Gulf war and related concerns over security, organizers said Tuesday.

The International Tennis Federation announced Tuesday seven first-round series had been postponed because of the war and security problems.



Tenth-seeded Czech Jana Novotna stretches for the ball in the quarterfinal match against Steffi Graf at the Australian Open, Jan 22. Novotna upset the World number one 5-7, 6-4, 8-6. — AFP photo

MELBOURNE, Jan 23: Call them "The Aggressors," armed with tennis rackets and a killer instinct.

The semifinals at the Australian Open will showcase the latest phase in the rapidly changing world at the top of women's tennis, where power and quickness have replaced the baseline style popular just a few years ago, reports AP.

Nuances separate the quartet. Jana Novotna and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario display budding all-court games, while Mary Joe Fernandez and Monica Seles get their points mostly from the backline.

But none of them wait for their opponent's mistakes. It's constant attack, and it's turned the hunt for the year's first Grand Slam title - and the race for the No. 1 spot - into a game of kill or be killed.

"I think we are just hitting the ball harder and we are fitter," said the second-seeded Seles, perhaps the hardest hitter in the women's game.

The girls are improving their serve. Everyone's learning to volley now, so it's getting tougher and tougher. You really have to work hard to stay on top."

Two of the biggest names, top-ranked Steffi Graf and U.S. Open champion Gabriela Sabatini, will be watching Thursday's semifinals because they couldn't keep up with the changes.

Novotna, with a revitalized game designed by former U.S. Open champ Iana Mandlikova, ended Graf's three-year run as Australian champion with a 5-7, 6-4, 8-6 victory Tuesday.

The match was won at the net - Novotna made 17 volley winners and kept pressure on Graf's once unbeatable forehand. The German had just 10 forehand winners and looked very vulnerable in her first loss in the four-year history of the National Tennis Center and her first in 10 meetings with Novotna.

"Before, I was always playing

A costly flight for them

ADELAIDE, Jan 23: Former England captain David Gower and batsman John Morris were fined 1,000 pounds (1,945 U.S.) each by team officials today following a flying stunt during a match against Queensland, reports AFP.

Four manager Peter Lush said it was the maximum penalty that could be imposed and both players had subsequently apologised to the management and captain Graham Gooch for the incident during the match Monday at Carrara, on Queensland's gold coast.

Top scoring batsman Gower and Morris, who has batted well in the one-day matches, left the ground without permission and chartered two vintage Tiger Moth aircraft to fly over the Oval to celebrate a century by team-mate Robin Smith.

Lush said, "Whilst appreciating the incident was intended to be no more than a prank, the management and captain consider it to be immature, ill-judged and ill-timed."

I'm also very disappointed that Gower and Morris agreed that photographs for publication in newspapers could be taken of them when they landed and later at the



DAVID GOWER

close of play.

"As a result, major publicity on the day alluded to the flight and detracted from a good solid performance by the England team on the day."

He said there was "particular disappointment" felt about Gower, who as one of the three experienced international players in the side, failed to set the appropriate example for the rest of the touring party.

Consequently, one of his younger colleagues had suffered, said Lush.

But apologies from the players had been accepted "and the matter was now closed," he said.

England, which Tuesday completed its only first class win of the tour by toppling Queensland, today started preparations for the fourth Test against Australia which begins at Adelaide Oval Friday.

Although Australia has retained the Ashes by taking a 2-0 series lead, England still has high hopes of squaring the series.

Despite his off-field misdemeanors, Gower has been England's batting linchpin and has easily been the best scorer on either side this series with 347 runs, including centuries in the last two Tests.

England coach Micky Stewart said he was optimistic the tourists would be at full strength for the fourth Test with tour vice-captain Allan Lamb back on deck after missing the Melbourne and Sydney matches.

The only concern remained with paceman Angus Fraser, who was struggling to overcome a hip injury that caused him to miss the third Test in Sydney.

Gower said later, "It's the most expensive 20 minute flight I can ever remember."

"I hope it will not affect John Morris's future."

Labrooy rallies Lankans

WELLINGTON, Jan 23: Spirited Sri Lankan late order battering restricted a potentially large Wellington first innings lead to 55 runs on the third day of a four-day match today, but the tourists still face a battle to save the game.

DU athletics trials today
Sports Reporter
The selection trials to pick the Dhaka University team for the national athletics championships will be held today at the university's main playground, opposite the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The trials start at nine in the morning.

Students keen to make the squad have been advised to report at the venue with their kit on time.

Sri Lanka, after a poor effort by their top batsmen, declared at 240 for nine wickets just over an hour before stumps. Wellington, who scored 295 in their first innings, batted comfortably to 46 for no wicket at stumps to take an overall lead of 101 runs.

A lack of discipline by the top half of Sri Lanka's batting lineup left them precariously placed at 116 for seven at lunch and it seemed they would struggle to reach the 146 required to avoid the follow-on.

But an aggressive 52 from number nine batsman Graeme Labrooy and 48 from wicketkeeper Hashan Tilak-eratne allowed Sri Lanka to post a respectable first innings total.

All the earlier batsmen made comfortable starts, after Sri Lanka began the day at 30 for one wicket. However lapses

in concentration saw them playing across the line to a consistent but unspectacular Wellington bowling attack.

Sri Lanka lost six wickets for only 46 runs in the first session, as they appeared to rush shots and showed indecision in running between the wickets.

But Labrooy and Tilak-eratne combined to score 81 runs for the eighth wicket. Labrooy's brisk 52 came off 79 balls in 107 minutes and included eight fours.

Tilak-eratne, while scoring more slowly, was the only other batsman to dominate the bowlers.

Paceman Patrick O'Rourke and Greg Mackenzie each took three wickets for Wellington. New Zealand cricket administrators warned local umpires and the touring Sri Lankan team today that they would not tolerate unnecessary delays to the start of play.