MSC-Abahani clash today

Reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club take on arch-Abahant Krira Chakra in the finale of the first phase of this year's Navana Prentier

Division ericket league at the Dhaka Stadium today. Although both the teams have to play five more matches in the forthcoming six-team super league including agother showdown between them selves to decide the league title, the Titans of domestic cricket can ill afford to take today's match lightly. Both have run up to the conclusion of the first phase with 16 points from nine outings each. This match fell through last Friday owing to unplayable ground conditions.

Last year's runners-up Abahani who started this year's campaign perfectly by winning the Damal Summer tournament, the traditional curtainraiser of local ericket, were first among the two popular clubs to suffer defeat in this year's Navana league. Abahani lost to the Greater Mymenstrigh Cricket Club (GMCC) by ten wiekets.

Mohammedans were robbed of the privilege of staying atop as the only unbeaten team of

Sports Reporter champions Bangladesh Biman played havoc with Mohammedan's second successive abortive quest for unbeaten championship with a stinging

five wicket defeat.

Let alone the championship prospects, Mohammedans will be extra keen today to settle a score with their toughest opponents on the field. Abahani are one up this year in the clash of the giants, having beaten Mohammedans in the semifinals of the Damal Summer championship. The defeat had some sort of an extra impact as Mohammedans failed to reach the final of the tourney in its fourteen-year history. Before the debacle early this season, Mohammedans were poised for another entry into the final to add to the rare distinction of having made it to the all 13 previous

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board has already announced the rates of tickets for this crowd-pulling holiday entertainment. VIP Gate No 1-Taka 100, Gate 3A-Taka 50, Gate 3 B - Taka 30, general galleries - Taka 10. Counters adjacent to the stadium will open from 7 am. The match is scheduled for a 9.30 am start with each team althis year's league when former lowed to play a maximum of 45 **GULSHAN WIN**

Meanwhile, all other clubs barring Abahani and Mohammedan have finished their first phase engagements with the penultimate being played between Gulshan Youth and Surfa Tarun Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadtum vesterday

Gulshan Youth, one of the six super league qualifiers. completed their first phase programme with an eleven-run win against Surja Tarun Club.

The victory takes Gulshan's collection to 16 points from ten matches while Surja Tarun, doomed to play the relegation league, have only six from their quota of ten matches in the cleven team Navana league.

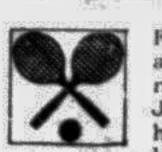
Yesterday, however, Tarun had an excellent chance to end Gulshan's Midas touch since their only two losses to Mohammedans and Abahani, in the current league.

Chasing a modest total of 200 for vietory in 42 overs against a depleted Gulshan playing without their Indian stars - Arun Lal and Ashok Malhotra — Tarun badly bun gled things losing five wickets in six overs, only 30 runs adrift of the victory target. They were all out eventually for 188



Australian batsman Justin Langer in action on the first day of the first cricket Test between Australia and new Zealand in Christchurch yesterday. Langer finished the day 63 not out.

7th jr int'l finals today The Indian girl beat Sarana



and Sheikh Moinuddin Waltullah Jhilan created history for Bangladesh when they

qualified, for the boys' doubles inal of the seventh Bangladesh international junior tennis championships at the National Tennis Complex in Ramna vesterday.

It was for the first time that

Masum, Moni for Colombo doubles

Sports Reporter Zahid Razzak Masum of

Brothers Union and Enamul Huq Moni of Bangladesh Biman are expected to leave Dhaka today to take part in a doublewicket cricket championship in Shri Lanka. Earlier, Aminul Islam Bulbul

was supposed to form the pair with Mont but Mohammedan Sporting Club, Bulbul's club, were reportedly reluctant to release him in view of today's important league tie against Abahani Krira Chakra.

One pair each from the three Test playing countries of the subcontinent, along with a pair each from Bangladesh and Malaysia, will compete in the tournament.

Youth cricket Sports Reporter

Tangail, Raibari, Satkhira. Jhenidah and Gaibandha moved into their respective zonal semifinals of the qualifying meet for the Beximco 13th national youth cricket championship which began at five different venues across the country yesterday.

At Comilla, Tangail moved into the Group A semifinals registering an easy 119-run victory against Sunamganj.

At the Tangail stadium. Rajbari beat Kishoreganj by three wickets to secure a berth in the Group B semifi-

Satkhira registered an impressive .108-run victory against Thakurgaon in the Group C quarterfinals at the Jhenidah Stadium.

At the Satkhira stadium, Jhenidah outplayed Jhalakathi by 77 runs to qualify for

the Group D semifinals. At Thakurgaon, Gaibandha

defeated Kurigram by three wickets. The final round comprising the five group champions and

title-holders Jessore and runners-up Rajshahi and the Bangladesh, Krira Shiksha Protisthan will be held from

March 10 to 15 in Dhaka.

It was for the first time that any Bangladeshi could secure a berth in the final of any international tennis event at home or abroad.

The top-ranked Bangladeshi junior Faisal, teaming up with Jhilan, took exactly an hour to beat the Indonesian pair of Djanuar Radjub and Agung Utomo Cipto 7-5, 6-4 in an exciting semifinal yesterday. Both the local boys dis-

played some wonderful tennis with Faisal's superb returns and placings earning him praise from the capacity crowd. Faisal and Jhilan take on Lasith Dissanayake and Previn

Wass of Shri Lanka in the final today at 2:00 pm. Dissanayake and Wass made the final outplaying the Indo-Lankan combination of Suhcl Malhotra and Chandragupta

Malhotra and Radjab will contest the boys' singles title at 9:30 am.

Syosa 6-4, 6-4.

Malhotra beat Faisal 2-6, 6-6-2 while Radiab outlasted Genuan Gunawardene of Shri Lanka 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the two semifinals.

Nirupama Vaidyanathan of India plays Ratchaniwan Pragitatikul of Thailand in the girls' singles final at 9:00 am.

Nat'l youth volleyball Sports Reporter

The 1993 Rahima Food national youth volleyball championship will be held from March 13 to 17 at the Rajshahi Stadium under the joint auspices of the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation (BVF) and the Rajshahi DSA, says a press release.

The following 12 teams will take part in the meet:

Faridpur, Tangail, Rajshahi, Pabna, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Khulna, Narail, Kushtia and Dhaka Education Board

Participating teams have been asked to report to the Rajshahi Stadium on March 12 at 4:00 pm.

Meanwhile, the qualifying meet for the Second Division volleyball league will be held from March 1 to 3 at the Outer Stadium volleyball court.

Four teams will participate in the qualifying meet. They are Christian Youth Club, Agrani Club, Chand Textiles Mills Ltd and Sher-e-Bangla Poura Physical Training

Centre. Participating teams have been asked to contact the BVF at the earliest.

Sangakkara of Shri Lanka 6-4, 6-3 while the That girl elimianother Lankan Anowshka Boralessa 6-2, 6-1 in the semifinals vesterday. Liza Andriyani and Vinca

Rampen of Indonesia and the Thai-Lankan combination of Ratchaniwan and Upekha Wijeratne will clash in the girls' doubles final at 2:00 pm.

The Indonesian girls beat Sangakkara and Boralessa of Shri Lanka 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 while the Thai-Lankan pair routed Saathi Sarker and Yasmeen Ahmed Urmi of Bangladesh 6-2, 6-1 in the semifinals yesterday. State Minister for Youth and

Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will attend the closing ceremony as chief guest and give away the prizes.

Hodgson's win

Sports Reporter

Quite expectedly Julian Hodgson, the English Grandmaster, won his adjourned match against compatriot GM David Norwood in the ongoing Grandmasters' chess tournament at the Jalsaghar of Hotel Purbani yesterday.

Hodgson, who was in an advantageous position on Wednesday when the match was adjourned, now has three and a half points from four matches while Norwood has collected three points from four matches.

Pakistani International Master Mahmood Ahmed Lodhi still leads the table with four points from five matches. Matches resume today at 3:00 pm.

Pioneer soccer

Sports Reporter

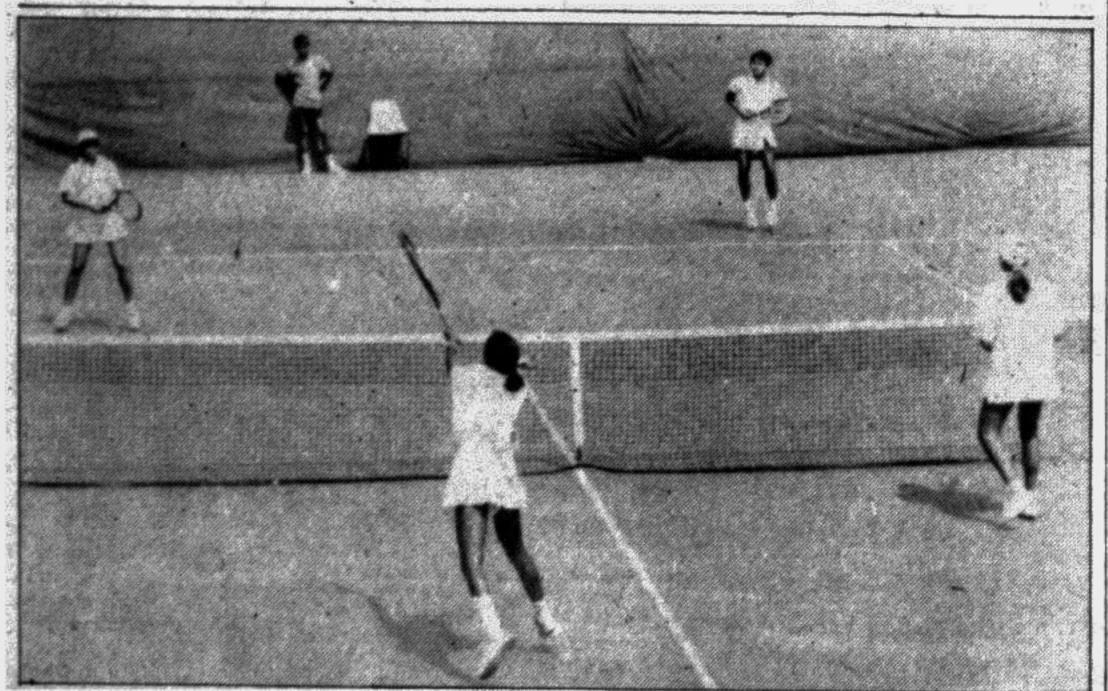
Two hattricks were scored in two matches of the Janata Bank Pioneer football league at the Bashabo ground vesterday. Akbar Hossain slammed three goals for Titas Sporting

Club when they beat Madartck Club by three goals to one. Kamrul reduced the margin

for the losers. Anthony of Motifheel T&T Club was the other player to score a hattrick when six team outplayed Kamalapur Samai Kallayan Sangha by three goals

At the Mahakhali T&T ground, Rampura Natunkuri eliminated Chaitali Sangsad by six goals to nil.

At the Khilgaon High School ground, Srijoni Sangsad trounced Barnali Sangsad by five goals to nil.



Action from yesterday's girls' doubles semifinal between Indonesia and Shri Lanka at 'he Ramna Tennis Complex. The Indonesian duo - Liza Andriyani, and Vinca Rampen beat Srana Sangakkara and Anoushka Boralessa 6-4, 6-3.

Bobby Moore is no more



who died on Wednesday after a two-year battle against cancer

was not only England's finest soccer captain but was revered for epitomising a spirit cherished in leaders of sport. reports Reuter.

Moore displayed both dignity and courage in his fight against the disease that echoed the qualities of sportsmanship and leadership he showed in a distinguished of narga areer



Daily Star file photo shows Bobby Moore (R) with 1966 World Cupwinning teammate John Connelly (holding Cup repliea) during Silver Jubilee celebrations of England's

famous win on Oct 21,199L He kept his illness private until 10 days ago, when he issued a statement in repose to growing inquiries about his

health. And a week before his death, aged 51, he was commentating on an England in-

ternational in the Wembley Stadium where he reached the pinnacle of his career - captaining England to the 1966 World Cup. Moore, the elegant delender who played 108 times for his country, claimed a place both in history and the

hearts of a nation when he lifted aloft the Jules Rimet trophy on the steps of Wembley after England beat West Germany 4-2 in a momentous final. That triumph made Moore

famous, a status fully deserved by a man who neither flinched from a tackle nor from his responsibilities on and off the

Sir Alf Ramsey, manager of the only England team to win the World Cup, described Moore as the heartbeat of the England team in 1966 ... a lieutenant I could trust with my

from all quarters of soccer left no doubt to Moore's place in the game as one of its finest players, respected for his skill, style and most of all his conduct. FIFA spoke for soccer fol-

The tributes that flowed

lowers worldwide when it described Moore as one of the all-time greats who left his footprints in the history of the game when he collected the World Cup. Moore was the focus of an

entire nation on the July afternoon 27 years ago. That golden moment is remembered with pride and emotion by all Englishmen and women who saw it, making Moore's death an even greater shock to the nation.

Born in Barking on April 12, 1941, the only son of an

electricity board worker. Moore made his league debut for West Ham as a 17-year-old against Manchester United in

Four years later he made his first appearance in England colours against Peru.

With West Ham he won the FA Cup in 1964 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1965. He appeared in another Wembley Cup final in 1975 with Fulham, losing to his former club.

His imperious, calm style of leadership and speed of thought on the pitch outweighed a supposed lack of pace and heading ability.

Moore's strength of character was displayed in the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico when he was in magnificent form despite the off-field distraction of being accused of stealing a gold bracelet from a liogota jewellery store a few days before the tournament. But England failed to retain their crown.

His international career ended when England failed to qualify for the 1974 World Cup. lle had played 1,000 senior games by the time he retired in May 1977.

Only one player, Peter Shilton with 125, has surpassed Moore's total of England caps.

After retiring from the soccer field, he was involved in football management with two clubs and various business ventures and was working in journalism when the first signs of poor health became apparent.

In December 1991, Moore married his second wife, air stewardess Stephanie Parlane-Moore. He leaves two grownup children from his first marriage and an infant daughter from his second.

Gordon Banks, former England teammate and a member of the 1966 World Cup-winning side, said: "Obviously it is a great shock to us all. I spoke to him just last week. He said he didn't feel too bad and was going to fight it and now a week later he is gone."

Bobby Charlton, his friend and equally famous England teammate, said: "The football people in the country will miss Bobby Moore.

"If you played with him you would know that he was a gentle man. He was very kind, very courteous, very thoughtful and really always did things with great dignity."

Ten days ago when he told the world of his disease, he said: "I have a battle to win." It was a battle he fought

courageously and without secking sympathy, showing to the end the dignity and strength for which he was admired and will be remembered.

Compromise!

CAPE TOWN, Feb 25: Cri cket-mad Muslims agreed not to boycott Thursday's one-day international between Pakistan and West Indies after a pledge that Pakistani players would refrain from breaking the Ramadan fast in public, reports Reuter. "We met the Pakistani team

manager, who said he would do his best to see the players did not infringe Ramadan by eating and drinking in public so as not to offend the community and we appreciate it," said Muslim leader Imam Hassan Solomon.

Taylor puts Aussies on top



New Zea-land, Feb 25: A dogged 82 on a green wicket by opener Mark Taylor put

Vistralia on top at the end of he first day of the first cricket est against New Zealand today, reports Reuter. Australia, sent in to bat,

ended the day at 217 for three wickets. But for some rash shots by the three batsmen who got out, they could have been in an even stronger posi-Taylor received solid support from Justin Langer, who

was 63 not out at the close together with Steve Waugh on For Taylor It was a welcome return to form. He has not

scored a Test half-century

"It's been a while," the relicved Taylor said. In sunny conditions New Zcaland captain Martin Crowe had no hesitation in asking Australia to bat on the Lancaster Park wicket, which had sweated under covers in

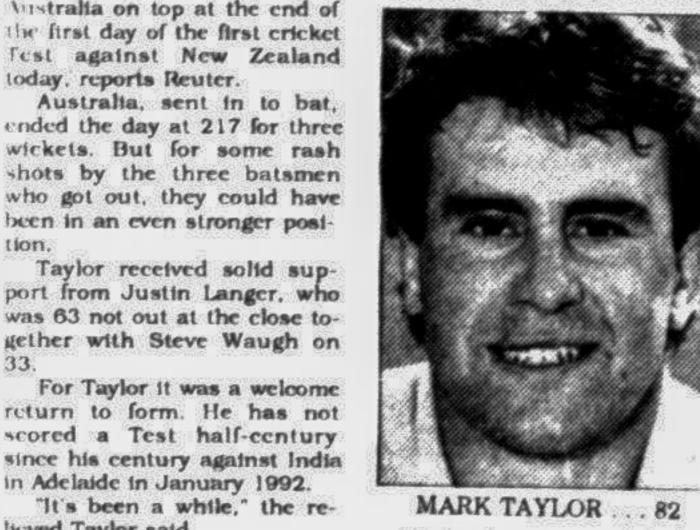
in Adelaide in January 1992.

But his four-pronged pace attack bowled a line which allowed Taylor and David Boon to let most deliveries go by. Boon was out for 15, flash-

the rain on Wednesday.

ing at a wide ball in Michael Owens's first over to give wicketkeeper Adam Parore a diving catch in front of first

Taylo: was joined by fellow left hander Justin Langer and they established Australia's dominance in a 116-run stand.



Taylor began scratchily but grew ir. confidence and it was a surprise when he miscued a pull off Danny Morrison to give Martin Crowe the catch. In nearly five hours at the wicket he hit six fours.

Wher. Mark Waugh was

caught behind from off-spinner Dipak Patel for 13, New Zealand had a glimmer of hope at 170 or three, But Langer and Steve Waugh ensured a strong position for the tourists. Langer scored most of his

runs behind the wicket and interspersed long periods of intense concentration with the

odd wild swing. Crowe dropped him on 37 off Patel, who bowled well in spells.

Steve Waugh also began shakily but then hit several scorching drives.

New Zealand's guick bowlers will remember the day as one in which they failed to exploit helpful conditions. They are sitting in the dressing room reflecting on what might have been, coach Warren Lees told a news conference.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps at the end of the first day of play in the first cricket Test between Australia, and New Zealand here today: AUSTRALIA: 1st innings

DC Boon c Parore b Owens 15 MA Taylor c Crowe b Morrison J Langer not out ME Waugh c Parore b Patel SR Waugh not out Extras. (w1, lb5, nb5) Total: (3 wkts) 217

Fall of w 49; 3-170	rickets	: 1-	33;	2-
owling:	o'	М	R	w
orrison	21	6	38	- 1
ıa	18	5	41	0
atms	19	8	40	0
wens	- 13	4	25	1
itel	19	3	68	1
	W 1995 W	i minis	e to me	32-11

Pakistan hit record low Saturday afternoon village ama-CAPE TOWN, Feb

25: South African cricket chiefs threatened to stop using Newlands as an international venue after West indics trounced Pakistan in

Thursday, reports Reuter. The pitch resembled a minefield for the Pakistanis as the world one-day champions were bundled out for 43, the lowest total in a one-day international, and tumbled to a

less than three hours on the

controversial pitch on

seven-wicket defeat. West Indies scored 45 for three off 12.3 overs to seal Pakistan's humiliation in the rehearsal match before the two sides meet in Saturday's final of the South African triangular

one-day series. The previous worst total in a one-day international was Canada's 45 all out against England at Old Trafford in the 1979 World Cup.

"The Test status of

Newlands is in question now, said Krish Mackerdhuj, president of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA). "For an international match to be over within three hours is totally unacceptable," he

the batsmen time and again. **UCBSA** Managing Director Ali Bacher said he was appalled by the state of the pitch.

told Reuters after watching the

ball lift unpredictably and beat

"I was horrified that some one would end up with a fractured arm or worse. It's just not good enough," he said. South African cricket fans,

their own team already climi-

nated, had come to Newlands hoping for a full day of topclass cricket - but all they got was 177 minutes of batsmen trooping in and out.

The Pakistanis looked like

teurs as they played and missed.

covers were left off during a thunderstorm two days before West Indies played South Africa. But even then both sides reached three figures. West Indies captain Richie

Richardson won the toss and sent Pak stan in to bat. Fast bowler Patrick Patterson struck with the first

ball of the match when he had opener Rameez Raja caught. Fellow paceman Courtney Walsh, who took four for 17, accelerated the devastating collapse. In one over he dis-

Wasim Akram for ducks. Zahid Fazal was Pakistan's highest scorer with 21.

Anderson Cummins, playing

missed Salim Malik for one

and Asif Mujtaba and captain

for the first time in the series after a bout of chickenpox, in Australia, wrapped up the tail by taking three for 10. West Indies were rocked by the first-ball dismissal of

opener Desmond Haynes, who

went leg before to Waqar But Brian Lara, 26 not out, and Richardson put together a 34-run partnership to steer

their side to victory. Pakistan captain Wasim Akram was philosophical after the match. "We're not angry After all this is only a rehearsal for the final," he told a news conference.

He then led his men to the nets for some practice.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard from Thursday's limited-overs cricket match between Pakistan and the West Indies, played at Newlands Stadium in Cape Town. PAKISTAN: Rameez Raja c Lara

Ghulam Alt c Hooper b Patterson The groundsman was disci-Saced Anwar c Murray plined last week after the b Walsh

Zahid Fazal e Lara b Simmons Saltm Malik c Haynes b Walsh Asif Mujtaba c Lara b Walsh Wastm Akram c Hooper b Walsh

Rashid Latif c Logie b Cummins Wagar Younts b Cummins Mushtaq Ahmed c Simmons b Cummins Aaqib Javed not out

Extras: (1-b, 1-lb, 2-w, 6-nb) Total: (all out in 19.5 overs) 43 Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-10;

3-11; 4-14; 5-14; 6-14; 7-25; 8-25; 9-26 Bowling Patterson Walsh Cummins Simmons . 0.5 0

D Haynes lbw b Wagar B Lara not out P Simmons c Malik b Wasim 2 C Hooper c Mushtag b Wasim R Richardson not out

WEST INDIES:

Extras (7-lb, 2-nb) Total (3 wkts in 12.3 overs) 45 Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-9;

England still seek a silver lining BOMBAY, Fcb 25:



England's beleaguered cricketers still hope to return home with their heads high despite their 3-0 Test series

drubbing by India, reports Reuter. Many know their Test careers are on the line and hinge heavily on success in the four remaining one-day internationals against India and the Test and two one-day matches

in Shri Lanka. "If you lose you are a villain, if you win, a hero. We want to leave as heroes ...," captain Graham Gooch said on Wednesday. He will lead England in the

at 1-1 - but will return home before the Shri Lankan leg of the tour. The England team are under fire from fans and newspapers at home for their poor showing against India in the lests and there is concern about how quickly they can

pull themselves together for

the Ashes Series against

Australia in a few months'

one-day matches against India

- the series is currently level

Gooch, at present, appears likely to remain as captain but England manager Keith Fletcher has admitted there may be team changes. Batsman David Gower, the

most contentious omission from the current tour, could "Just because he is not on this tour does not mean his Test career is finished," said

Fletcher, adding that the same

applied to another discarded

veteran England batsman,

Ramprakash, left out of the tour to India and Shri Lanka for disciplinary reasons, is also back in the reckoning. Fletcher blames some of England's problems, particu-

larly in coping with India's

spinners, on the state of the

pitches in the English domestic game. "They are too bland," he said. "On some of our pitches you don't have to bat well to build an innings. We need

pitches to turn. "When I started 70 per cent of them did. Now, next to nothing. Although we have lost 3-0 it has been good watching spinners and we have had three results."

Fletcher said the development of Graeme Hick and Chris Lewis as all-rounders had been major pluses on the tour. "Hick could be the man to

hold England's batting to gether for the next 10 years, he said. But the minuses heavily outweigh the pluses and

England's whole approach to the tour has been questioned. In the build-up Fletcher watched India struggle in alien conditions in South Africa and returned with a mistakenly low

opinion of them. England then prepared at great length physically and on matting wickets -only to find Indian pitches were far differ-

results.

Some of the players struggled to come to terms with conditions in India, particularly the food and its sometimes infamous "Delhi belly"

team could not be faulted for effort, saying: "They trained, practised and played hard." The Test series exposed

the lack of young English tal-

ent — or a reluctance to risk it.

India's top run-scorers Vinod Kambli and Sachin Tendulkar and leading wicket- takers Anil Kumble and Venkat Raju are all under 24 years old. The only member of the England team under 24 was leg-spinner Ian Salisbury -

The England team selection for each Test was also flawed four scamers to India's two at Calcutta, the omission of batsman Mike Atherton at Madras, and the choice of rusty, out-ofform paceman Phil DeFreitas

instead of Paul Jarvis at

and he wasn't originally se-

Bombay. India; meanwhile, made miner but valuable adjustments to the side that lost in South Africa.

Kambli and the experienced Navjot Sidhu were introduced into the batting line-up. India also held to their tradition of spin by bringing in Rajesh Chauhan to make up a triumvirate that England never managed to work out.

Most of the England team showed poor technique against Pitches that were benign

when Indian batsmen were stalking them suddenly became minefields under English Action resumes on Friday

with the third one-dayer in Bangalore.

Bowling: Wagar Younis 5 Wasim Akram 6 0 22 Aaqib Javed 1.3 0 9 STANDINGS Final standings in the triangular one-day cricket series between South Africa, Pakistan and West Indies after the last round-robin match on Thursday (tabulate under played, won, lost, points): West Indics 6 4 2 8 Pakistan 6 3 3 6 South Africa 6 2 4 4

But Fletcher insisted the Young batting talent Mark