

N'ganj, Khulna schoolboys vie for title

Sports Reporter

Narayanganj High School and Gazi Memorial High School of Khulna clash in the final of the eleventh Nirman schools cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The two teams worked their way into the final with semifinal victories of contrasting nature at adjacent city venues yesterday.

A bright knock of 61 not out by Pappu helped Narayanganj record a facile seven-wicket victory against Sathkira Government High School at the Dhanmondi Club Ground.

Chasing 143 for a win in 45 overs, the schoolboys from Narayanganj needed only 26.4 overs to storm into today's final.

Earlier, in the morning, Mona blasted all hopes of a neck-and-neck and contest befitting a semifinal with a deadly spell of bowling. The Narayanganj bowler captured four Sathkira wickets for 24 runs only from his quota of nine overs, including two maidens, a feat that made him the man-of-the-match.

Kamal 35 before the former fell leg before to Mithu. Perhaps smarting under the loss of his partner, Mir Kamal too, left soon with the total on 92.

Monti handed the ball over to Mithu and the bowler tried in a dramatic spell to snatch victory that seemed locked under the belt of the Robert Turkey took one wicket apiece.

Foreign Minister and BCCB president ASM Mostafizur Rahman will give away the



Sohag of Sathkira Govt High School being bowled by Narayanganj High School skipper Sajal in the 11th Nirman schools cricket tournament semifinal at the Dhanmondi Club ground yesterday. Narayanganj High advanced to today's final. — Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Even at that stage it was difficult to imagine a dramatic collapse that was to befall the Rajbari innings. One down Mahub made a quite 20 and although two quick wickets fell, including that of skipper Wahid Palash, the chasers seemed to be well on course with Pavel making a carefree 25 off 35 balls.

Mona had commendable figures of four for 26. He was backed by Topu who bagged two more for 28. Jahangir, Raj and Sajal had one scalp each.

Pappu led the Narayanganj quest for the simple target with a blazing undefeated half-century. His fireworks were enough to put down the tail of the Sathkira bowlers that might have gone up at the quick dismissal of three Narayanganj batsmen.

Pappu's 61 off 76 balls featured eight delightful hits to the fence. He had Mridul with him when the winning hit came along with Narayanganj on 143 for three in just 26.3 overs. Mridul was not out on 22. Among the three dismissed batsmen, Jahangir made 12.

Sharif, Shimul and Altaf picked up one wicket each. In the other semifinal, Gazi Memorial High School of Khulna edged out Rajbari High School by 26 runs on the eastern portion of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Asked to bat first, the Khulna school were all out for 184 with all but a couple of their batsmen reaching double figures. Although as many as four batsmen scored 13, a figure known for its prejudiced association with misfortune, the cumulative effect of the quarter's contribution to the fortune of the Khulna school was anything but unfortunate. Mithu topped scored with 23, followed by Karim with 18 and skipper Monty with 17. Gazi Memorial School used up their 45 overs quota when last man Mehdi was bowled by Azam for two with the total on 164.

Azam took three wickets for Rajbari spending 27 runs in the process. Rajbari skipper Wahid Palash had two in his kitty for 36 runs, so did Rafi Kamal at a cost of 33 runs.

Arman and Mir Kamal gave Rajbari more than an adequate start for a victory target of 185 by putting on 85 in 22.3 overs. Arman made 39 and Mir

players. Mithu dismissed two batsmen with the last two balls of his eight over and then trapped Rajbari's last man Aziz leg before with the first ball of his ninth over to give his side a place in the final. Good enough for him to be adjudged the man-of-the-match.

Mithu bagged his three scalps for 39 as Rajbari were all out for 158 in 41.3 overs. Mithu, Montu, Mehdi and

prizes as chief guest while State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka and former BCCB chief K Z Islam, Managing Director of Nirman International, sponsors of the meet, will also be there as a special guests. National cricketer Aminul Islam Bulbul, a former Nirman schools player, will be the match adjudicator. The match starts at 9:30 am

India canter past Zimbabwe

FARIDABAD, India, Mar 19: India cantered to a 67-run win over Zimbabwe in the first of three one-day cricket internationals on Friday after setting the tourists a demanding target of 250 for victory, reports Reuter.

Replying to India's 249 for seven, Zimbabwe lost in-form opener Andrew Flower early on and folded to 182 all out in 46.2 overs.

India's Vinod Kamblit won the man-of-the-match award for his dashing innings of 80. He spent only 74 balls at the crease before he went down the wicket, missed a slower ball from David Brain and was bowled.

The aggressive Manoj Prabhakar, India's strike bowler whose move up the batting order seem to have solved his side's opening problems, and the more cautious Navjot Sidhu had earlier put on 114 in 25 overs.

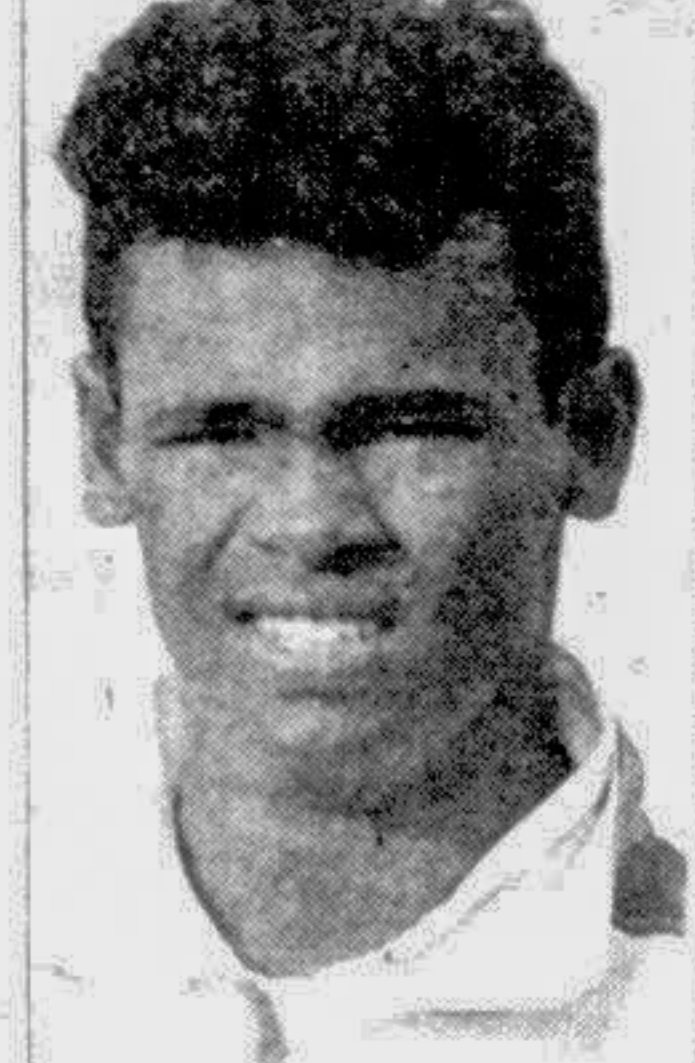
Both made 56, opening the way again for Kamblit, scorer of consecutive Test double centuries against England and Zimbabwe, only the third player in history to achieve the feat.

The 21-year-old from Bombay savaged the Zimbabwe attack, hitting eight fours and clouting left-arm spinner Grant Flower for one six over long-off.

Quickie Javagal Srinath then picked up three for 38 as the Zimbabwean batting failed to recover from a poor start.

Andy Flower, who scored a century in the one-off Test

earlier this week, went for nine, bowled by a late swinger by Manoj Prabhakar with the



V KAMBLI ... m-o-m

score on 20 and, although his brother Grant top-scored with 42, only four other Zimbabwe batsmen reached double figures.

They included tail-ender David Brain, who hit 27 in a last-wicket flurry of aggression with two fours and two sixes.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the first one-day international between India and Zimbabwe at the Nahar Singh Stadium here today:

INDIA: Prabhakar c Houghton b Traicos 56; Sidhu c Brain b Crocker 56; Kamblit b Brain 80; Azharuddin c and b Grant Flower 8; Tendulkar c and b Grant Flower 3; Anur c James b Brandes 2; Yadav not out 19; Kumble c James b Brain 0; Ankola not out 1; Extras: (b7, lb8, w8, nb1) 24; Total: (for 7 wkts) 249

Fall of wickets: 1-114; 2-149; 3-183; 4-204; 5-207; 6-245; 7-245.

Did not bat: J. Srinath, V. Raju

Bowling: Brandes 10 0 32 1

Brain	9	0	36	2
Ali Shah	4	0	26	0
Crocker	10	0	54	1
Traicos	10	0	61	1
Grant Flower	5	0	25	2

A Flower b Prabhakar	9
G Flower c Kumble b Raju	42
A Campbell c Prabhakar b Raju	12
D Houghton run out	23
M Dekker c Azharuddin b Srinath	22
W James run out	0
Ali Shah c Raju b Kumble	2
E Brandes lbw b Srinath	7
G Crocker c Yadav b Srinath	2
D Brain at Yadav b Tendulkar	27
J Traicos not out	7
Extras: (b-8, lb-14, w-6, nb-1)	29
Total: (all out, 46.2 overs)	182

Fall of wickets: 1-20; 2-71; 3-85; 4-105; 5-115; 6-126; 7-135; 8-141; 9-147

Bowling: Prabhakar 9 1 33 1; Srinath 10 1 38 3; Ankola 7 1 20 0; Raju 10 0 26 2; Kumble 10 0 37 1; Tendulkar 0 2 0 6 1

Result: India won by 67 runs

5 Dhaka teams for Bangkok Sixes cricket

Sports Reporter

Five teams from Bangladesh will participate in the Bangkok six-a-side cricket tournament to be held from April 1 to 4 in the Thai capital under the aegis of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club

Bangladesh Biman, the national airlines team, will field two squads while the other three teams are the Commonwealth Cricket Club (CCC), Dhaka Club and the Renegades, a weekend cricket club.

Fariduddin Khan Rumi will lead the CCC as manager. The CCC squad includes Athula Samarasekera, Ashoka de Silva, I. L. Fernando, Gamagee of Sri Lanka and Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Tanjib Ahsan Saad and Zahid Razaque Masum of Bangladesh.

The Dhaka Club squad will feature veteran cricketers of the country like Roqibul Hossain, Syed Ashraful Haq, Jahangir Shah Badshah, Mainul Haq, Tanvir Haider and Mujib Khan Rumi.

The players of the Renegades squad are yet to be picked.

Thirty-six teams from all over the world will participate in the festive cricket tournament with the top two teams from each group playing in the finals.

Apart from Bangladesh, Pakistan, World Cup runners-up England, New Zealand, Australia, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Hong Kong and hosts Thailand will take part in the four-day tourney.

Mohammed Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Vinod Kamblit, Arun Lal, Ashoke Mahotra, Kirri Azad and Roger Binny are likely to represent India in the meet.

Sri Lanka's captain Arjuna Ranatunga, former skipper Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya and Asanka Gurusinghe are some of the Lankans likely to play in the competition.

Ian Botham of England and Clive Rice of South Africa are also expected to play in the tournament.

Royal Bangkok Sports Club the organisers, will bear all expenses of the teams which will qualify for the 12-team final round.

The Bangladesh teams will start leaving the capital on March 29.

Schools handball

Last year's runners-up Shaheed Nabil High School outplayed St Gregory's High School by 24 goals to nine in the fifth Bata schools handball tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

The title-aspirants led 13-3 at first half.

Priyotosh and Kamal scored 12 and six goals respectively while Probir netted seven goals for the Gregorians.

Bangladesh Rifles High School beat Bhashantek High School by 24 goals to 21 earlier in the afternoon at the same venue.

Rifles School led 12-11 at interval.

Monti and Rafiq got 10 and five goals respectively for Rifles School while Soliman got 15 goals for Bhashantek High School.

TODAY'S MATCH

Kamalapur School vs Ansars School (2:30 pm)

Obituary

Mrs Tanjina Khatoon, mother of senior cricketer umpire SA Abad Jhunu, died last Wednesday night, says a press release.

Tanjina Khatoon, who was suffering from diabetes, was 80.

She left behind five sons and two daughters and host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her quikhwant will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at 32 Banagram Lane, Wari in the city.

Inzamam sets Sabina Park afire

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Mar 19: Inzamamul Haq hit an attractive 106 to steal the limelight on the opening day of Pakistan's Caribbean tour on Thursday, reports Reuter.

He helped the touring team to 296 for four at the close of the first day of their four-day match against Jamaica.

Inzamam, dropped when 27, faced just 109 balls and struck nine fours. Soon after completing his century he hoisted out to Anthony Andrews in the deep off leg-spinner Robert Haynes.

Inzamam put on 90 for the second wicket with the experienced Rameez Raja and 97 for the third wicket with Zahid Fazal, who was caught by Jimmy Adams at square-leg off medium pacer Laurie Williams just before the close for 62.

All the top order Pakistani batsmen gained valuable batting practice ahead of Tuesday's one-day international against West Indies.

Opener Sohail scored a rapid 25 from just 21 balls while Raja made 46.

Young paceman Franklyn Rose, who took 20 wickets in the recently completed Red Stripe Cup competition, was Jamaica's most successful

bowler with two for 86.

The Jamaican attack was handicapped by the loss of off-spinner Nchemiah Perry who injured his bowling hand before lunch in deflecting an edge from Sohail for Haynes to

complete the catch at first slip.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening day of the four-day match between Pakistan and Jamaica at Sabina Park on Thursday.

PAKISTAN: First Innings. Rameez Raja c Andrews b Rose 46; Aamir Sohail c Haynes b Rose 25; Inzamamul Haq c Andrews b Haynes 106; Zahid Fazal c Adams b Williams 62; Basit Ali not out 40; Asif Mujtaba not out 17; Extras: (nb-17) 0; Total: (for four wickets) 296

Fall of wickets: 1-32; 2-122; 3-219; 4-294.

To bat: Moiz Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Ataur Rehman.

Bowling: O M R W; Rose 23 3 86 2; Andrews 7 0 28 0; Williams 19 0 61 1; Haynes 31 1 95 1; Adams 11 1 26 0

JAMAICA: Jeff Dujon (captain), Delroy Morgan, Robert Samuels, Jimmy Adams, Cleveland Davison, Patrick Gayle, Franklyn Rose, Anthony Andrews, Nchemiah Perry, Robert Haynes, Laurie Williams



INZAMAMUL HAQ ... 106

Fletcher lashes out at TCCB

COLOMBO, Mar 19: Beleaguered English cricket manager Keith Fletcher lashed the bland pitches he found in the tour itinerary for his team's humiliating recent losses in India and Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

Speaking after England's five-wicket loss to Sri Lanka in the one-off Test which ended Thursday, a bitter Fletcher advised English cricket authorities to get their act together if the country, which gave the game to the world, was to lift itself out of the doldrums.

"We lost because we were unable to cope with spin bowling. We are not used to playing on turning pitches... There are no turning pitches in the county cricket scene. Our wickets are so bland," said Fletcher.

England, who lost the Test series in India 3-0, followed it up by the debacle in Sri Lanka. It was England's first Test defeat to Sri Lanka.

"We virtually had to learn to play spin in five weeks. A good example was Robin Smith who started tentatively but later developed a technique and improved as the tour progressed."

"Like our batsmen, our spinners too found that they could not bowl on turning

pitches. They are not given the opportunity to do so back home," added Fletcher.

The English manager also criticised the English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for scheduling an itinerary which ignored the team's interests.

England complete their short tour of Sri Lanka with a final one-day game at the Moratuwa Stadium, Saturday.

Left-arm fast medium bowler Paul Taylor is expected to be drafted into the side which lost the first international by 33 runs.

Sri Lanka will field the same one-day squad with all-rounder Ruwan Kalpage and paceman Pramodya Wickremasinghe brought back into the side.

They will replace Test bowling heroes, off-spinners Jayananda Warnawera — who took a career best match haul of 8 for 188 — and Muttiah Muralidharan.

Teams: Sri Lanka: A Ranathunga (Capt), R Mahanama, U Hathurusinghe, A Gurusinha, P A de Silva, H Tillekeratne, S Jayasuriya, R Kalpage, A M de Silva, H Ramanayake, P Wickremasinghe.

England: A Stewart, R Smith, M Gatting, G Hick, N Fairbrother, C Lewis, J Embury, P Jarvis, D Malcolm, JP Taylor, D Reeve, P Tufnell, M Atherton.

"Ideally we would have liked to have played all the one-day games in one go in India. The tour was too short and there were not enough three day games. We did not get enough time to prepare for the Tests," explained Fletcher.

"If they (TCCB) want the England side to perform well overseas, then they've got to get the itinerary right," added Fletcher.

England sink to a new low

LONDON, Mar 19: Llammered three times in a row by India and then humiliated by Sri Lanka, England, the nation that invented the game of cricket, has sunk to a new low, reports AP.

Three months ago, it could justifiably say it was a close third behind the two strongest teams, the West Indies and Pakistan.

If there were league standings in international cricket, it now would be somewhere near last place. Even Zimbabwe, the latest country to gain international Test status, would be confident of beating the English.

The team returns home Sunday after one of the worst tours in the history of English cricket and heads could roll.

India, who lost to re-emerging South Africa in their previous series and went home to howls of criticism, beat England by eight wickets in the first Test and by an innings in each of the next two.

They made it look easy. Then England went to Sri Lanka to play one more Test, and lost for the first time to a country that only began playing international cricket 11 years ago.

England have been doing it since 1877. So what went wrong? Why will the players come home to read headlines in the British newspapers that say: "How Can They Go?", and call the team "Village Idiots"?

"Stewart's Men Are a Rabble" said the tabloid Daily Mirror in a reference to a team captained by Alec Stewart. "England Shame Goes On," was the Daily Express headline. The Times of London said defeat by Sri Lanka was a "final humiliation."

The critics said England took the wrong players and did not adapt to playing conditions they apparently were not used to. Yet England teams have been regularly visiting India since 1933.

England's batsmen were repeatedly bowled out by spinners who were virtual unknowns back home. Their own bowlers were hit all around the ground by batsmen aged 21 and 19.

But it's not just the performances of the players that attracted so much criticism. The media slammed the appearance of the players, who were regularly lounging around in tracksuits or shorts rather than wearing jackets and ties. Graham Gooch, who was captain of the team in India, was targeted by the critics for an unkempt appearance and apparent fondness for designer stubble.

The players did have some things to gripe about. Throughout the tour, the players were fearful that violence spreading across India could turn on them. They also were hit by a pilots strike, bad health and injuries.

Against that, the critics said, the players turned sour when things did not go right on the field. They hardly did the image of fair play any good by acts of petulance when umpires gave decisions against them.

And in the Test against Sri Lanka rumours abounded there was a suspicion among the England players that two of the

home team bowlers had illegal actions — that they occasionally threw rather than bowled the ball.

The players did not say so on the record and made no complaint on the field. But was another issue that soured the game.

The British media believed England was beaten fairly. The Times described England's performance against Sri Lanka as "their most inept display of a calamitous writer tour."

The Daily Express said the batsmen psyched themselves out by exaggerated worries that Sri Lankan bowlers were throwing rather than bowling the ball.

"Whatever the outcome of this one-off Test the abysmal nature of most of England's cricket (on Wednesday) should not be overlooked," the Express said. "It was as bad as anything in India this weary winter."

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Sydney leads race for 2000 Games

ATLANTA, Mar 19: Sydney has its nose in front in the race for the 2000 Olympic, according to an unofficial poll of Olympic leaders on Friday, reports Reuter.

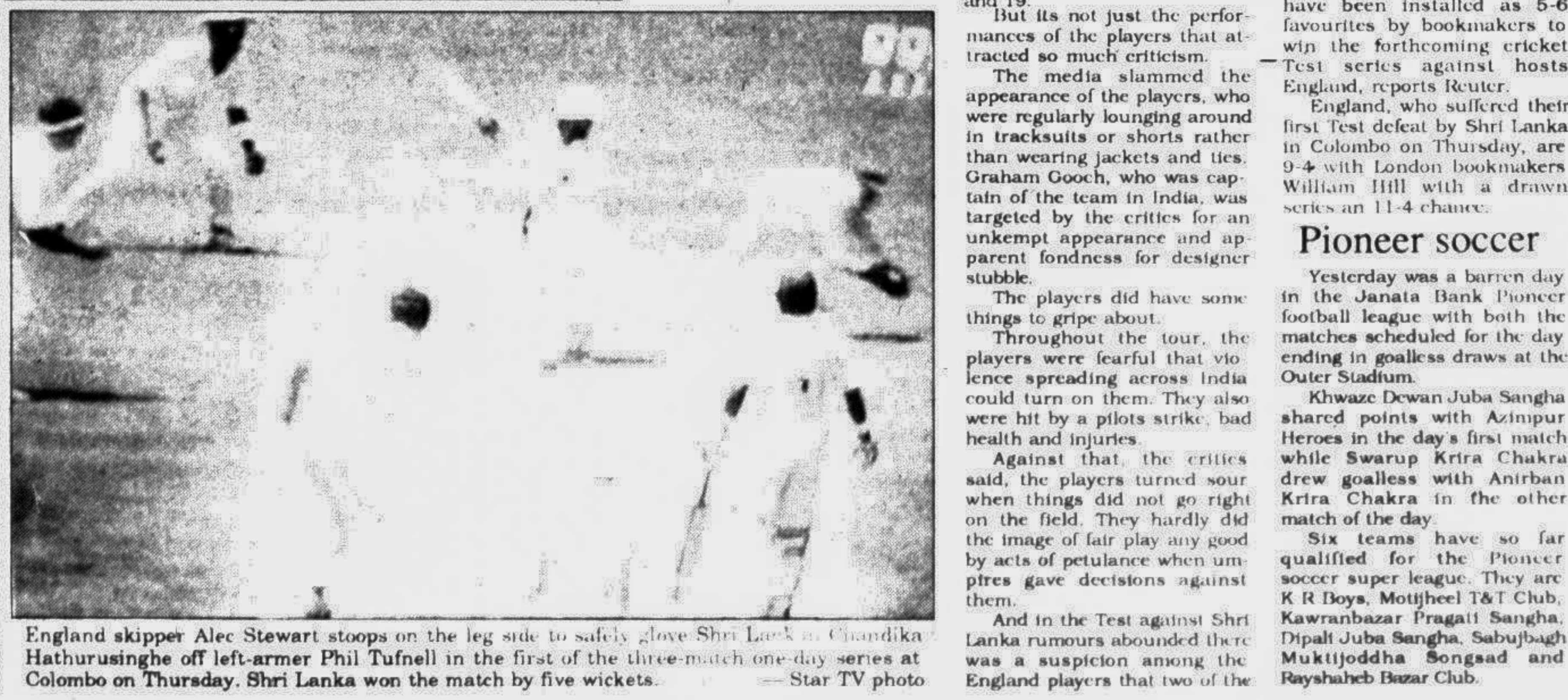
International Olympic Committee (IOC) members in Atlanta have given Sydney a slight edge over Beijing, its only serious rival.

Bad stomach ends Kapil's run

FARIDABAD, India, Mar 19: A bad stomach ended Kapil Dev's streak of 203 consecutive one-day cricket games for India today, reports Reuter.

Indian manager Ajit Wadekar said gastro-enteritis ruled the all-rounder out of the first of three one-day games against Zimbabwe.

Kapil is the leading wicket-taker in international one-day cricket with 238 wickets.



England skipper Alec Stewart stoops on the leg side to safely glove Sri Lanka's Chandika Hathurusinghe off left-arm Phil Tufnell in the first of the three-match one-day series at Colombo on Thursday. Sri Lanka won the match by five wickets. — Star TV photo