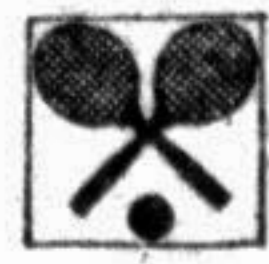


Gregory surprises Saurav

Sports Reporter



Top seed Indian Saurav Panja became Miha Gregory's last and latest victim in the Toyota ninth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships as the Slovenian stretched his remarkable run enough to win the boy's singles title at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

The win left Gregory, who won the final 7-5, 6-4, richer for 40 International Tennis Federation (ITF) ranking points while pre-tournament favourite Saurav collected 30.

The finalists held their service games until the eleventh game before Gregory broke Saurav's serve to lead 6-5. The Slovenian served out the game to clinch the first set.

The second set presented a completely different scenario with Saurav showing signs of a fightback as the Indian raced to a 3-0 lead with one break. But Gregory refused to let go and immediately broke back to level the set 3-3.

Having squandered an opening to get back into the match, Saurav seemed frustrated and could manage only one game before the unseeded Slovenian wrapped up the final.

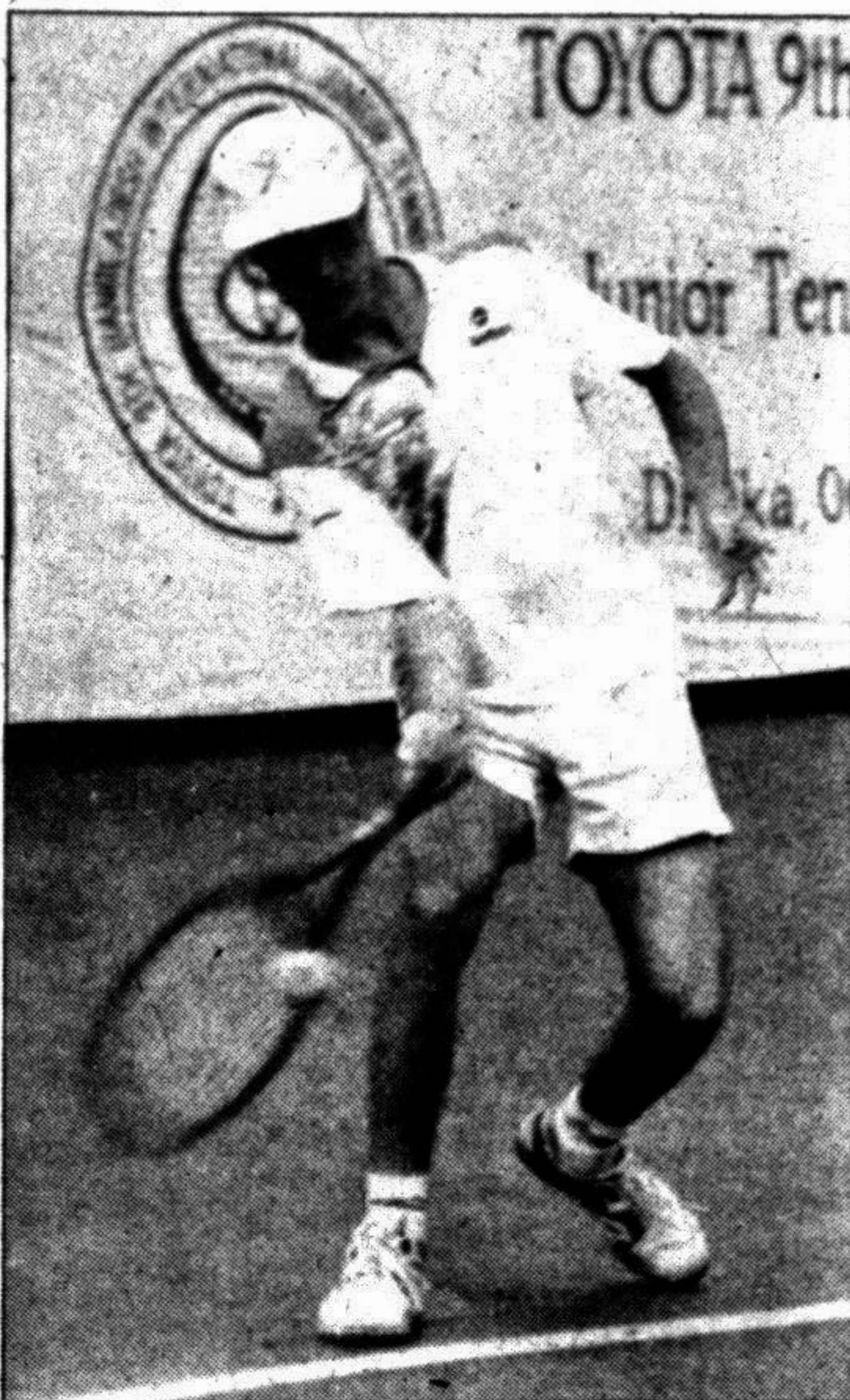
The boys' singles final brought the curtains down to the six-day meet. Earlier on Friday, Indian Rushmi Chakravarty clinched the girls' singles crown but failed in her bid for a double when compatriot Jahnvi Parekh and Sai Jayalaxmi won the title, overcoming a second set slump. Rushmi paired with fellow-Indian Hrushi Kamte.

In the boys' doubles, Thai pair of Witonpanich Bhee and Rangasree beat the Slovenian duo of Miha Gregory and Miha Pavlinic to lift the title.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas witnessed yesterday's match as chief guest and distributed trophies among the finalists. He was earlier given a memento of the tournament by

the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) president, Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan.

Fifty-two players, 22 of them girls, from eight countries including hosts Bangladesh took part in the meet.



Miha Gregory of Slovenia makes a forehand return against Saurav Panja of India in the boy's singles final of the ninth Toyota Bangladesh international junior championships at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Gregory clinched the title beating Panja 7-5, 6-4. — Star photo

For Tillekeratne cricket comes before wife

COLOMBO, Feb 11: Sri Lanka's test star Hashan Tillekeratne is seeking a divorce claiming he was unable to concentrate on his cricket because his wife could not cook or take care of household chores, reports AFP.

Tillekeratne, a top middle-order batsman, filed for divorce at the district court in suburban Panadura on Friday, officials said. District court judge, H I Inam has ordered the respondent to appear in court on February 15.

In his application, 27-year-old Tillekeratne, said he was finding it difficult to concentrate on his cricket because of the 'behaviour' of his wife, Nadesha Dulmini.

Tillekeratne has said that his wife does not even prepare his meals when he returns home after a hectic day's play. Instead of being a kind housewife, she often went to parties and attended social functions, he said.

Tillekeratne, who has rescued Sri Lanka from several tricky situations during his 28-Test career, is due to leave with the team on February 20 for a three-Test tour of New Zealand.

Div II football

Sports Reporter

Prantik Kirra Chakra confirmed their relegation from the Second Division Football league when BG Press drove the last nail on their coffin with a 2-1 win in their last league engagement at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

The defeat means that Prantik KC finished at the bottom of the table with 11 points from their quota of 15 matches while BG Press raised their collection to 19, also from 15 matches.

Fardul Huq and Anup Sen scored one goal apiece for the winners while Iqbal pulled one goal back for Prantik at the lag end of the match.

Meanwhile, in the other match of the day, Lalbagh Sporting Club edged past Mirpur Chalanika by the odd goal in three.

Raja and Selim gave Lalbagh a 2-0 lead at the breather before Shamul reduced the margin for Chalanika in the 48th minute.

China welcomes FINA plans

BEIJING, Feb 11: China said on Saturday none of its swimming coaches or doctors had been found to be involved in a drug scandal, but it welcomed a planned International Swimming Federation (FINA) inquiry, reports Reuter.

"The Chinese Swimming Association welcomes FINA to send a commission to China to conduct investigations. We will cooperate enthusiastically to clear up any problem," Yuan Jiawei, deputy secretary general of the Chinese Swimming Association, told Reuters.

Seven Chinese swimmers, including world champions Lu Bin and Yang Aihua, tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid at last October's Asian Games in Japan. All have been banned from competition for two years.

FINA announced plans on Friday to send investigators to China to look into who might have been involved in drug abuse apart from those banned.

China set up its own panel, last December to investigate the scandal.

"We are still investigating. So far, we have not found any coach, doctor or team leader to be involved. We have briefed FINA on our initial findings," Yuan said.

"Our policy is if we discover one (case), we will announce one, handle one."

The scandal came as a shock to the sport and an embarrassment to China, although Chinese sports officials have vigorously denied allegations of systematic doping.

Apart from sending investigators to China, FINA also announced plans for a crackdown on doping, with first offenders facing a ban of at least two years and the possibility of seeing their records, wiped from the books.

The swimming body also said it would increase substantially the number of out-of-competition dope tests in 1995.

China plans to conduct its own out-of-competition tests, said Yuan. "We will do secret out-of-competition dope tests. I cannot say when they will begin for fear it would affect their success," he said.

Yuan said he had no idea on when Chinese swimmers would compete again in international swimming events.

China decided against competing in the World Cup swimming event in Hong Kong last month but said the decision was not related to the doping scandal.

The country's doping control centre tested 1,608 athletes in 1993, of whom 24 including world stars tested positive, according to Xinhua news agency.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas hands over the championship trophy to boy's singles champion Miha Gregory of Slovenia at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday. Gregory beat top seed Saurav Panja of India in final. — Star photo

Akram powers Abahani

Sports Reporter

National skipper Akram Khan led an excellent rescue operation in the middle order to design a cosy

56-run victory for champions Abahani Krira Chakra over Wari Club in a Navana Premier Division cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The burly right hander remained unbeaten on an aggressive 82 off 74 balls embellished with seven fours and a sixer to stage a dramatic recovery for the Damal Summer champions, who plunged into their deep trouble losing four wickets for 40 in 20 overs after skipper Gazi Ashraf chose to bat first on winning the toss in the morning.

Akram found three willing partners in the two Pakistanis — Naveed Anjum and Iqbal Sikander — and his fellow Bangladeshi international Saiful Islam.

Akram added 69 runs for the fifth wicket in association with Naveed Anjum, the Test discard making 34 of 42 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Dropped at 26, Akram, who was among the runs after a fairly long time for someone as consistent as the Chittagonian, then milked 36 runs from the lopsided Wari fielding side with Iqbal Sikander.

One of the members of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad, Iqbal chipped in with a rapid 20 off only 13 balls but the turning point of the match came when paceman Saiful joined Akram out there in the middle.

Seventy three runs were plundered off 32 balls by the undefeated pair, who saw Abahani to a safe total of 218 for six on completion of their

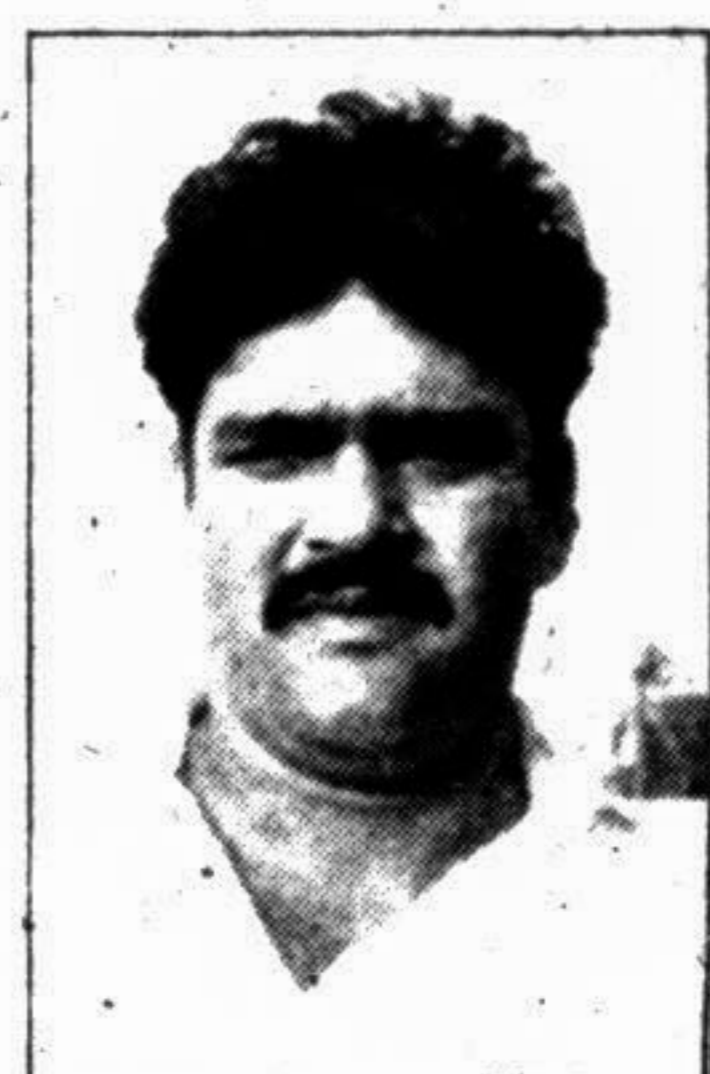
quota of 45 overs.

Wari's woes reached its Nadir in the last over when Akram and Saiful savaged new ball bowler Salahuddin for 21 runs including two sixes.

Salahuddin, who had earlier bowled seven very economical overs, finished with a still respectable analysis of one for 32 from eight overs.

But Waheedul Islam was more successful in terms of wickets bagging two for 53 from the individual ceiling of nine overs.

Wari, who had offered stiff resistance before bowing down to champions Biman in their previous match, looked positive in their quest for the 219 run victory target.



AKRAM KHAN

But wickets fell far too regularly to push their tanned opponents and although young skipper Halim Shah completed a fine half century, 162 for seven was the farthest the traditional club could go when the overs were exhausted.

Halim's 73 came off 110 balls including six hits to the

ence.

The other notable contributors were Obaidullah and Pakistani Aamir Wasim, who made 20 each.

Ashraf used as many as nine bowlers with spinners Iqbal Sikander and Jewel Hossain capturing two wickets apiece.

Rakib Hassan, who opened the attack with Anjum, bowled tightly to finish with one for eight from five overs.

This was Abahani's seventh win in eight matches while Wari suffered their fourth defeat in seven.

KALABAGAN CRUISE

National cricketer Athar Ali Khan notched his second half century in consecutive matches as Kalabagan registered a massive 98 run victory, their sixth in the league so far.

On the eastern strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Athar made 75 and Zahid Razak 63, the latter being among the runs after days of weeks as Kalabagan, sent in to bat first, rattled up 250 for six wickets.

Athar played 105 balls and struck eight boundaries while the athletic Zahid, a former national cricketer used 85 balls and hammered six fours.

Together they added 133 runs off 161 balls for the second wicket.

Pitted against a mindboggling task, minnows Sadharan Bima, who are yet to register a win, could manage 152 for five in 45 overs.

Shawkat Mirza, the consistent Pakistani, stood amid the ruins of an entertaining unbeaten 73 off 78 balls studded with seven fours.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Biman vs Brothers Union (DS)

Gulshan Youth vs Victoria (DCS)

Adams, Murray follow Lara's steps

Caribbeans skewer Kiwis



WELLINGTON, Feb 11: West Indies' brilliant batsmen continued their massacre of New Zealand's hapless attack today, declaring at 660 for five 45 minutes before the close of the second day of the second cricket Test, reports Reuter.

Needing a huge 461 to avoid the follow-on, New Zealand were 23 for no wicket with Bryan Young on 12 and Darrin Murray on seven.

Centuries by Brian Lara (147), Jimmy Adams (151) and Junior Murray (101 not out) and big contributions by Sherwin Campbell (88), Keith Arthurton (70) and Shivnarine Chanderpaul (61 not out) powered the tourists to the highest ever total against New Zealand.

The runs were scored at nearly one a minute on a lifeless pitch.

While the crowd was treated to Lara at his best on Friday, Saturday largely belonged to Adams and Murray, who scored his maiden Test century.

They began the day at 356 for three with Adams of 87. He cruised effortlessly to his century and then, with shots of exquisite timing and placement, raced rapidly to 151 before being caught by Murphy Sa'a off Simon Doull.

His fourth Test century in as many matches came off 224 balls and included 24 boundaries.

Adams was no sluggard but Murray made him look cautious. Murray's century came from just 88 balls and included 11 fours and two sixes. Twice he smashed the spinners for a six and four in successive deliveries.

Arthurton had also looked set to score a century but dashed off for a suicidal run and was stranded by Young's throw.

Chanderpaul, more circumspect than the others, occasionally drove beautifully on both sides of the wicket.

The New Zealand bowlers fared better than on the first day but got no encouragement.

Hart finished with the woe-ful figures of none for 181 from just 46 overs, although he was unlucky not to have Murray out twice on 98 — once when a caught behind appeal was declined and next ball when Adam Parore missed a stumping chance.

New Zealand negotiated the 12 overs they faced with few problems on the placid pitch. West Indies captain Courtney Walsh placed only two slips from the start and introduced legspinner Rajindra Dhanraj after just seven overs. But he too extracted little from the wicket.

New Zealand will have to

do a lot of batting to escape from this match," West Indies coach Rohan Kanhai told reporters.

New Zealand coach John Reid said the prospect for the Kiwis was daunting but that if they reached the follow-on target, they would save the game and two-match series. The weather-hit first Test was drawn.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second cricket Test between West Indies and New Zealand today.

WEST INDIES: First innings (356 for three overnight)

S Williams c Parore b Doull	26
S Campbell c Sa'a b Morrison	88
B Lara lbw b Morrison	147
J Adams c Sa'a b Doull	151
K Arthurton run out	70
S Chanderpaul not out	61
J Murray not out	101

Extras: (nb-10, lb-6) 16
Total: (for five wickets declared) 660

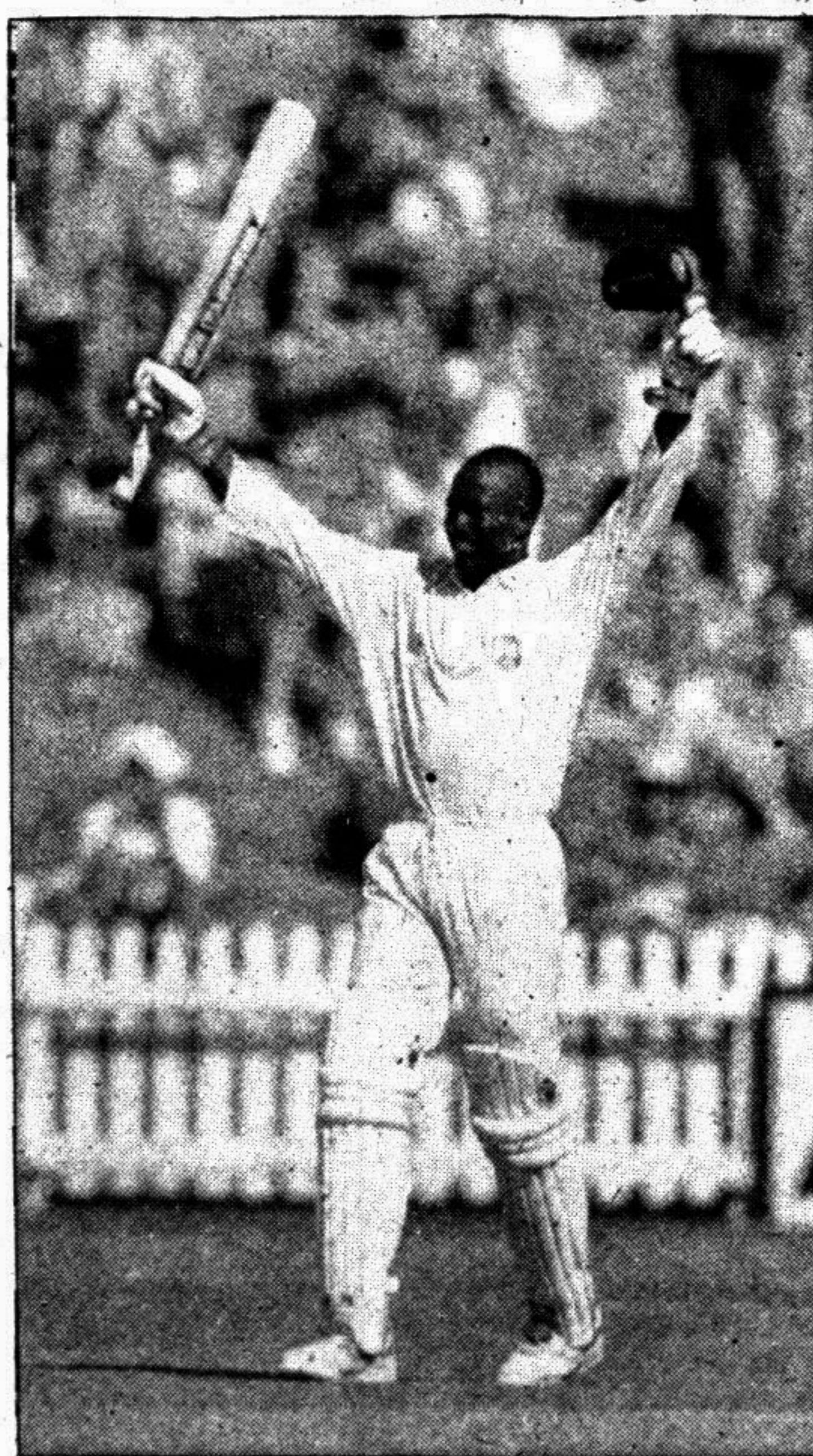
Fall of wickets: 1-85; 2-134; 3-355; 4-449; 5-521

Did not bat: C Ambrose, C Walsh, K Benjamin, R Dhanraj.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Morrison	29	5	82	2
Sa'a	44	4	179	0
Doull	37.2	5	162	2
Hart	46	4	181	0
Jones	13	2	50	0

NEW ZEALAND: First in-

B Young not out	12			
D Murray not out	7			
Extras: (lb-4)	23			
Total: (for no wicket)	24			
Yet to bat: A Jones, K Rutherford, S Fleming, S Thomson, A Parore, M Hart, M Sa'a, S Doull, D Morrison				
Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Ambrose	6	3	11	0
Walsh	3	3	0	0
Dhanraj	3	1	5	0



West Indies Junior Murray celebrates his maiden Test century during the second day's play of the second Test against New Zealand in Wellington yesterday. He was batting on 101 when skipper Courtney Walsh called his batsmen off the field. — AFP photo

Zimbabwe's worries

BULAWAYO, Feb 11: Zimbabwe seem certain to be without batsmen Dave Houghton and Mark Dekker when they take on Pakistan in the third and final Test which begins in Harare on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Opener Dekker, who after just 11 runs in his three innings in the series was likely to be dropped anyway, suffered a double-fracture of his left index finger courtesy of Aamir Nazir and will definitely be out of the Test.

Experienced number four Houghton had his right thumb broken in two places by Wasim Akram but, despite hardly being able to hold a tea cup on Thursday, has an outside chance of playing.

"It is very sore at the moment and I'll just have to see how it goes over the next couple of days," he said.

Coach John Hampshire was pessimistic about the chances of either of them playing. "It would be a major blow if both were to be out. Mark hasn't been scoring too many runs of late but he's a good player and of course Dave is a class and experienced player. It would be hard to replace him."

Hampshire is also concerned about the fitness of pace bowler Henry Olonga who missed the second Test in Bulawayo because of a side strain. "I'm not convinced that Henry is going to be fit. We have been putting him through his paces but he's still not running in at full tilt. He's working hard but the ball still isn't coming through."

Pakistan, who made four changes from the first Test, were delighted with their eight-wicket win which squared the series but declined to say whether Aaqib Javed, who missed the Test because of a thigh strain, would be making a return to the side.

Death penalty for soccer hooligans!

JAKARTA, Feb 11: Indonesian Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Hayono Isman has proposed that football hooligans be charged with subversion, which is punishable by death, a press report said here Saturday, reports AFP.

"I suggest ... that trouble-makers at the football stadium be charged with subversion," the leading Kompas daily quoted Isman as saying in an interview. "I do not see the need to make a new anti-violence law."

A fan of the Persebaya team based in Surabaya City was killed during a rampage at the Mandala Krida Stadium in Yogyakarta last week during a match of the semi-professional Liga Indonesia, which was set up last October.

In several previous matches, fans of losing football clubs have been reported to have vandalized to terminate the league if hooligans continued to create trouble in and out of stadiums.

Indonesia's tough anti-subversion law, enacted during the anti-communist struggle in the 1960s, has been applied to a wide variety of offenses, including separatism, mob violence, advocacy of a religious state, smuggling and tax evasion.

Other activities classified as subversive include damaging installations which serve the public interest, widespread destruction of property, and sowing hostility, chaos and disturbances among the population.

However, the death sentence in subversion cases has so far only been carried out on leaders of militant Moslem movements and communist insurgents.

ACB's stunning revelation



SYDNEY, Feb 11: A top Australian cricket official said on Saturday some of his players had been offered bribes to throw a Test match in Pakistan late last year, reports Reuter.

"There were a number of players approached," Australian Cricket Board chief executive Graham Halbish told Reuters.

Halbish would not confirm a report on Saturday by the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper that spin twins Shane Warne and Tim May had rejected an offer of 50,000 US dollars to throw the first Test match against Pakistan in Karachi.

He confirmed that the bribe offer was made before the first Test, which Pakistan won by one wicket, and said the Australian cricket authorities were deeply worried by it.

Halbish said in a statement the Australian authorities had asked London-based International Cricket Conference (ICC), the sport's top governing body, to investigate.

"The ACB is very concerned about the allegations of attempted bribery during the Pakistan tour," he said.

"I have spoken with team manager Colin Egar and coach Bob Simpson and we are all absolutely confident that one of our players, whether approached or not, has ever taken a bribe," Halbish said.

The allegations have been discussed with ICC chief executive David Richards, who has been informed that the ACB believes it is a matter that should be dealt with by the ICC.

The Sydney Morning Herald alleged that a prominent Pakistani cricket personality had attempted to bribe Warje and May.

The attempted bribe was rejected out of hand by Warne and May, the newspaper said. It did not identify the Pakistani.

"It is understood another offer of a bribe was made before the third and final Test in Lahore, which ended in a draw," the newspaper said.

It said that offer, of which it gave no further details, was also rejected.

The newspaper said Australian team manager Colin Egar had denied knowledge of which players were the target of the alleged bribe attempt.

"I was informed that it was knocked back and the blokes, whoever they were, turned around and said 'Piss off,'" Egar was quoted as saying.

Egar added he believed the offer was for "more than 50,000 US dollars."

"Another senior Australian cricket official this week confirmed to the Herald that Warne and May were the two players approached," the newspaper said.

It said the spin twins, as May and Warne are known, were offered the bribe to bowl badly and allow the Pakistani batsmen easy runs.

May refused to discuss the issue with the Herald. "It's something too big," he was quoted as saying. Warne's manager told the newspaper he had heard nothing about the alleged bribe attempt.

Neither Warne nor May were immediately available for comment.



Brazilian Sports Minister Pele (L) shakes hands with his French counterpart Michèle Alliot-Marie in Paris on Friday. They discussed preparations for the 1998 soccer World Cup, which will be held in France. — AFP photo

Colombia beat Australia in soccer friendly

SYDNEY, Feb 11: A Hamilton Ricard goal for Colombia inflicted Australia's first home defeat for nearly four years here Saturday, reports AFP.

The Colombians, who drew 0-0 with Australia in Brisbane last Wednesday, broke through in the 66th minute when Ricard evaded the off-side trap to slot home a quickly-taken free-kick.

It was Australia's first home defeat in a full international since their 1-0 loss to England in June, 1991.

The largely experimental South American team, under new coach Herman Dario Gomez, had a few shaky moments, but woeful finishing robbed the home side of at least a draw.

Australian forward Alex Tobin missed a 68th minute penalty when his chest high shot was saved by Oscar Cordoba, who replaced the extrovert Rene Higuita at halftime.

The chance came after Australian forward Harren Spink was brought down by Hector Botero. Australian referee Eugene Brazzale pointed to the spot immediately.