

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT, in the 1904 Olympic Games at St Louis, Missouri, three times the starter fired his gun, and three times some one in the 200 metres race broke ranks. The judge then addressed the four (!) men angrily and told them that if they could not all make a decent, clean start he would punish them by giving them an extra metre to run. Thus, the four finalists found themselves lined up a metre behind the starting line. The winner, the American Archie Hahn, can claim to be the holder of a unique Olympic record: the 201 metres. The time? 21.6 seconds.

I wonder how the same judge would solve a similar problem in the swimming backstroke.

Nowadays, participants are disqualified after two false starts.

SPORTS TALK



Jim Courier

(American tennis star)
"I don't want for anything in my life. Au contraire. There is nothing I don't have that I want."

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-21
Tick the Correct Answer
(Competition closes: 8 p.m. Jan 12, 1996)

1. Which country has won the greatest number of Olympic medals?	USA	USSR	Germany
2. What is the maximum break in snooker?	125	136	147
3. In international gymnastics, how many events are there in men's contests?	8	9	10
4. How long is a marathon?	51.33km	40.21km	42.95km
5. A super-heavyweight boxer must weigh more than:	91kg	101kg	109kg

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (if any)

Kaluwirthana to repeat the kamikaze act

PERTH, Jan 11: Sri Lanka will continue to use dashing wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwirthana as an opener for Friday's World Series one-day cricket match against Australia at the WACA Ground, reports AP.

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga said Thursday that Kaluwirthana, who was at the top of the order when he set up the tourists' win over Australia on Tuesday with a scorching 77 off 79 balls, deserved a chance to repeat the effort.

"Most likely we will use him as an opener because he has done well there and we don't want to change it at this time," Ranatunga said.

Kaluwirthana's surprise appearance at the top of the order caught the Australians off-guard and the diminutive gloveman's willingness to hit over the in-field paid handsome dividends.

Making his significant elevation even more successful was the performance of the batsman he replaced, Roshan Mahanama.

A class stroke-player, Mahanama had struggled throughout the season before making a polished 51 on Tuesday at No. 5.

It was an effort which did not go unnoticed by his skipper, who expects Mahanama to stay in the middle order.

Controversial off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who has been called for throwing in two matches, has been ruled out of Friday's game. But Ranatunga said the talented 23-year-old would be strongly considered for Sunday's match.

BU's trial of strength

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

GULSHAN YOUTH: 271 for five in 50 overs (Arun Lal 79, Malhotra 58, Sohail 41 not out, Zia 30)
BROTHERS UNION: 272 for five in 47.3 overs (Amir Hanif 113 not out, Abid Hanif 47, Baidut 45).



A dazzling unbeaten century by Pakistani international Amir Hanif lifted Brothers Union to their fourth win in the Premier cricket league when the Gopibagh-based outfit defeated Gulshan Youth by five wickets at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

In a high-scoring match, with Brothers Union facing an imposing Gulshan total of 271 in the allotted 50 overs, Amir Hanif cracked an electrifying 113 off only 90 balls to propel his side to 272 for five with 15 balls to spare.

It was Amir's maiden century in Dhaka cricket. Besides, it was a dream start in Dhaka cricket season for the middle order bat who had arrived in the capital only on Wednesday to play for Brothers Union for the second consecutive year, after failing to catch the Pakistani bus to Australia.

Amir, who came in to bat at number four after Brothers lost both their openers Shahriar Hossain Baidut (45) and Abid Hanif (47) for 109 in 19.5 overs, blemished only once on his way to steer Brothers to an improbable victory almost single-handedly.

Dropped at 37 by Shafayet Omar Rabbu at mid-wicket off off-spinner Ziaul Huq with the Brothers scoreboard reading 156 for two in 27 overs, Amir celebrated his new lease of life hitting almost every Gulshan bowler all over the ground.

The stockily-built Pakistani reached his fifty with a savage pull over the mid-wicket region for a four off Zia. Later, his ton came with a single off former Indian Test player, Arun Lal.

In his pyrotechnic 90-ball undefeated stay at the crease, Amir, eldest among the four Hanifs now featuring in top-level Dhaka cricket, struck 15 sweetly timed hits to the rope and one massive sixer over mid-wicket to the delight of the sparse crowd at the big-bowl.

The unofficial man-of-the-match fittingly ended the chase within the 48th over with an off-drive for two as Brothers surpassed the commanding-yet-not-safe Gulshan total with half their wickets remaining unused.

It is good to score a century, especially when that decides the fate of a match," said an elated Amir at the Brothers dressing room after the match.

Replying to a query about the changed circumstances with the artificial turf being introduced in place of grass for the first time this season, Amir lauded the move by the Bangladesh Cricket Control



AAMIR HANIF ... 113 n.o

Board (BCCB).

"It would be very helpful for the genuine fast bowlers as well as for the batsmen because the ball is coming onto the bat, often rising and also offering movement off the seam. And those who have the talent can make the most out of it," elaborated Amir.

Amir apart three of his six brothers — Abid, Rashed and Majed are also playing in Dhaka this year. Among them the first two are playing in the same team with him.

Although the day belonged to Amir Hanif, there was another outstanding performer at the other end — Arun Lal, hammering a swashbuckling 79 off 96 deliveries to build the backbone of the huge Gulshan total.

The bearded former Indian Test player, who found a stubborn partner in compatriot Ashoke Malhotra, another ex-Test cap in the Gulshan ranks, clouted eight boundaries in his chancy innings. While the robust Malhotra chipped in with a quick-fire 58 off 66 balls.

Among the local willow-wielders Sayeduzzaman, who along with Mohammed Ali, plundered 44 runs from the last 30 balls for the undefeated sixth wicket, remained not out on 41 off 40 balls to propel Gulshan to a commanding 271 for five in their share of 50 overs.

However, it was Arun Lal, an useful off-spinner, who fought a lone battle with the cherry in an otherwise depleted Gulshan attack against a marauding Amir Hanif. But he hardly got any support from the other end.

Arun Lal, the most successful bowler of the day, finished with two for 28 in his ten economic overs. But the dejected Indian, who helplessly watched a pathetic display of misfielding, wild throws and bizarre wicket-keeping as well as dropped catches by his teammates, eventually realised that he was fighting for a lost battle and made the long way back to the dressing room after completing his quota of ten overs.

With this win Brothers joined the crowded second position behind league leaders Abahani Krita Chakra along with Mohammedan Sporting Club, Kalabagan KC and Bangladesh Biman — all collecting eight points from five matches. It was Gulshan Youth's fifth consecutive defeat.

NEPC Masters' series

India beat Pakistan

Sports Reporter

Mahinder Amarnath and Syed Kirmani pulverised Pakistan's final over to clinch third place for India in the NEPC Masters' cricket tournament played at Sharjah on Thursday.

Amarnath's breezy knock of 53 n.o earned him the m-o-m award of \$500.

Set to score 162 to win, India were in a hapless position losing four wickets in the first ten overs.

However, Sandip Patil (39) steadied the boat for Amarnath and Kirmani (28) to sail home with five balls to spare.

Earlier, in a reduced match of 28 overs due to inclement weather, Pakistan scored 161/5 with Ijaz Fakih mesmerizing all with a 74-ball knock of 84. Only the result of the match denied Fakih the m-o-m plaque.

BRIEF SCORE

PAKISTAN: 161/5 (28 overs) Ijaz 84, Sadeq 16; Zahir Abbas 16, V Raghavan 3/44

INDIA: 162/7 (27.1 overs) (Amarnath 53 n.o, S Patil 39, S Kirmani 28, S Bakht 3/23, I Quasim 2/28)

Result: India won by three wickets.

The final of the tournament between England and West Indies will be played today.

Ata Mullick migrates at a point

Sports Reporter

Umpire Ataul Huq Mullick had some close shaves yesterday while umpiring during the Brothers Union-Gulshan Youth match at the Dhaka Stadium.

Standing at square leg, Mullick saw three pull shots from Brothers' Pakistan international Amir Hanif whoosh closely past him, missing the renowned personality by a matter of inches. So, dangerously close did the cherry fly that Mullick decided he had had enough close-calls for the day to prompt him to change positions to point after the third one rocked past him.

Curious observers in the stands jokingly asked one another, what wrong has the umpire done to deserve such treatment from Amir Hanif.

Mullick later commented in Calcutta dialect, "I was seriously scared. But the way the bowlers were bowling, Amir had no other option but to punish the ball the same way time after time."

Yamaha Div I cricket

Sports Reporter

Dhanmondi Club recorded their third victory in the on-going Yamaha First Division cricket league when they handed City Club a crushing seven-wicket defeat at the City Club ground yesterday.

Chasing a paltry 146 to win in 45 overs, the Dhanmondi outfit lost three wickets before they cruised home in the 40th over with a brilliant 105-run opening stand between Mohammad Hira (59) and Anisul Hakim (31) which came in 27.4 overs.

Earlier, put in to bat in the first session, the home side were booked in 44.3 overs with 145 on the board.

Opener Sajjadul Karim Chayan was the highest City Club scorer who scored 40 off 66 balls.

Dhanmondi's Golam Rasul Tushar grabbed five wickets conceding only 21 runs in his allotted nine overs.

City Club: 145 in 44.3 overs (Chayan 40; Tushar 5/21)

Dhanmondi Club: 149 for three in 40 overs (Hira 59, Anis 31; Ripon 3/37)

Result: Dhanmondi won by seven wickets.

Acme div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Rainbow Sporting Club posted win in the Acme Second Division cricket league when they defeated Udayachal Club by six wickets at the Mirpur outer stadium yesterday.

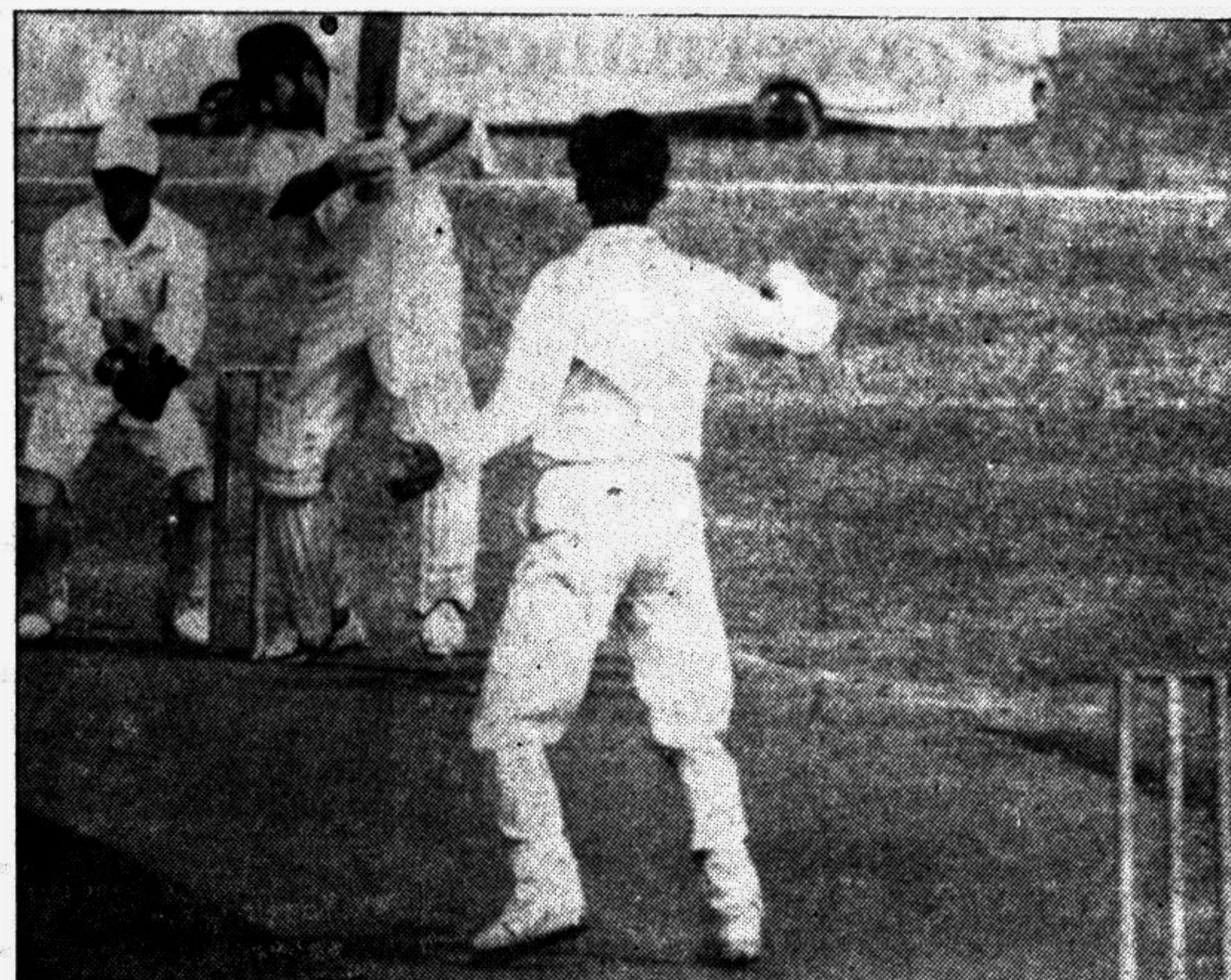
Chasing an impressive 200 to win in 40 overs, Rainbow middle order Shafiq scored an unbeaten 87 off 87 balls which saw his side through in 35.5 overs losing four wickets.

Udayachal in the first innings collected 199 for eight in 40 overs which includes a magnificent 85 off 74 balls by Rehan Rashid.

Udayachal Club: 199 for eight in 40 overs (Rehan 85, Shahnewaz 43; Mukul 3/31, Shaheen 3/35)

Rainbow SC: 202 for four in 35.5 overs (Shafiq 87, Rana 38; Manoj 24 not out)

Result: Rainbow won by six wickets.



Gulshan Youth's Indian Test star Arun Lal executes a square drive off the back foot during his smashing innings of 79 against Brothers Union in yesterday's premier league fixture at the Dhaka Stadium. Despite Lal's bravery, Gulshan lost by five wickets.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Countering controversy



COLOMBO, Jan 11: Sri Lanka has called up a Hong Kong based professor and his electrical wizardry to decide once and for all whether off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan chucks or bowls, a former first-class umpire said on Thursday, report agencies.

Electrodes will be attached to the bowler's elbow and transmit three-dimensional pictures of the arm angle during delivery, former Sri Lankan umpire Ajith Perera told Reuters.

"Then we can resolve the matter scientifically," said Perera, who lobbied to clear Sri Lanka's name on a charge of ball-tampering during the first Test against Australia in Perth.

Sri Lanka were later exonerated by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Dr Ravi Geonetilleke, a Sri Lankan professor based in Hong Kong, would be able to download the pictures into a portable computer and state categorically whether there is any straightening of the arm at the moment of release, illegal in cricket.

But some cricket board officials have said the medical test is redundant. The umpire that called him during the second Test at Melbourne did so only seven times, showing that Muralitharan does not chuck every ball if he chucks at all.

Four days after being no-

balled for throwing for the second time in a match on tour, the 23-year-old Muralitharan was omitted for the World Series one-day game against Australia at Melbourne on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the beleaguered spinner received unexpected support on Wednesday from Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar.

The former Test captain hit out at Australian umpire Darrell Hair for being inconsistent in no-balling Muralitharan, and believed officials had overstepped their authority in asking the bowler to modify his action.

"It is astonishing that Hair should call the odd ball from Muralitharan as a throw and allow the others as legal," Gavaskar, scorer of a record 34 Test centuries, wrote in his widely-read syndicated column.

"There is no bowler in the world who has different actions for different balls at the point of releasing the ball. There could be a change in as much as locking of the wrist to get more bounce and speed, but the action at the point of delivery remains the same."

"Either the bowler is throwing all his deliveries or not throwing at all, and from the slow motion replays one saw, there was no discernible change in Murali's action," Gavaskar wrote.

"It was even more amazing that Hair did not call Muralitharan even once while

standing at square leg, from where he would have got a clearer and uninterrupted view."

"And why did Hair watch Murali's arm from the bowler's end unless he was convinced from before that there was something wrong with his action?"

"That begs the question: Did not the umpire come into the game with a preconceived notion, and does not that affect his judgement?" Gavaskar asked.

The Indian batting great also pulled up the International Cricket Council (ICC) for asking Muralitharan to modify his action so that his career is not affected.

"I beg to differ, for if a bowler is called for throwing after he has sent down almost 1,000 balls in Test cricket, there is real no need for him to change his action."

"It's like telling a batsman who has scored off 1,000 deliveries from the same shot, not to play it because he has got out seven times the percentages are just not right."

"What about the other umpires who have assessed him, isn't the ICC telling these umpires that all of them were wrong, and only Darrell Hair is right?"

"Perhaps the ICC statement came so quickly because of the flak they have received for not taking the initiative in the bribery scandal involving former Pakistani captain Salim Malik," Gavaskar wrote.

Chang cruises to final



MELBOURNE, Jan 11: Defending champion Michael Chang trounced fellow American Jim Courier 6-4, 6-0 on Thursday to advance to the final of the Colonial Classic tennis tournament at Kooyong, reports AP.

Chang, who only flew into Australia on Tuesday afternoon, maintained his perfect record in the exhibition, the final warm up for the Australian Open which begins on Monday at the National Tennis Centre.

Chang, looking fit and mobile, used his speed and court coverage to down Courier in just 67 minutes, sweeping the last eight games. He had defeated Swede Stefan Edberg in his tournament opener on Wednesday.

The second semifinal of the eight-man event, slated for Friday, will pit reigning Australian Open champion Andre Agassi, the top seed, against No 3 seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Chang reached the semifinals of the Australian Open after winning the Colonial Classic last year and said he believed he is an improved player 12 months on — particularly his serve.

"I'd like to think I'm a better player than last year," he said. "I've learned a lot over the years — what works and what doesn't."

"My serve is more of a

Seles survives a toughie

SYDNEY, Jan 11: Monica Seles was given a tough workout by South Africa's Mariann de Swardt before extending her unbeaten run in Australia at the Sydney International on Thursday, reports AP.

The joint world number one, with Steffi Graf, beat De Swardt 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semifinals of the main curtain opener to the Australian Open next week.

The Yugoslav-born American said De Swardt was a vastly improved player as well as one of the nicest women players on the circuit.

"I knew I was going to get a tough serve and an unbelievable forehand with her," said Seles who has now won all 23 matches played in Australia.

"I just try to return well, which I think I did today, but some of the forehands she hit — the strength of them is beyond my human ability to return."

weapon now. It can help me out of difficult situations and it is nice to have to work so hard on my service games. In the past, I've had to work a lot harder than other players."

Change, the No. 2 seed, said he had quickly adjusted to the conditions in Australia. "I guess I adapt quickly," he said. "Realizing you have to play a top player right away here gets the blood flowing quickly."

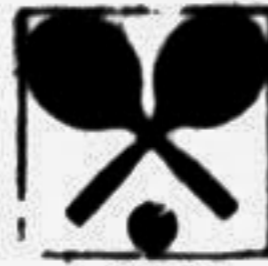
Former French Open champion Chang, 23, said he finds the Colonial Classic the ideal preparation for the Open.

"Winning here helps you psychologically," he said. "These are the guys you might play at the Open."

South African Wayne Ferreira earlier won his consolation-round match against Edberg 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7-4), while Dutch player Richard Krajicek was forced to withdraw from his match against Australian Pat Rafter because of a recurring muscle injury in his upper right arm. The injury could force Krajicek out of the Open.

Krajicek, ranked 11th in the world, won the first set of his match against Rafter 6-4, but trailed 1-3 in the second set when the pain from the injury forced him to quit.

Goran going great guns



SYDNEY, Jan 11: Top seed Goran Ivanisevic overcame Australian Mark Woodforde to reach the semifinals of the Peters International tennis tournament Thursday, but needed to save a set point before winning 6-4, 7-5, reports AP.

The Croatian broke Woodforde in the opening game and went on to win three service games at love in the first set. He forced Woodforde to save a break point in the first game of the second set, but then faced a break point himself that would have given his opponent a 4-2 lead.

Woodforde eventually earned his chance of taking the match to a third set when he broke serve to lead 5-3, but on set point Ivanisevic produced a magnificent one-handed crosscourt backhand, and that inspired him

to win that game and the next three to claim the match.

"I played very good tennis today," said Ivanisevic. "Mark

Sino natants set pool afire

BEIJING, Jan 11: China dominated the World Cup short course swimming contest here Wednesday taking 12 of the 16 golds, reports AP.

Faced with only mediocre opposition the Chinese swimmers barely broke a sweat, recording slow times in all the finals.

Le Jingyi took the 50 metres butterfly in 24.82 secs, while Liu Limin won the 100m in the same event in 59.19 secs.

In the breaststroke, 14-year-old world 50m record holder Han Xue took gold in the 100m in 1 min 07.54 secs.

is a good player and I knew it would be tough. I don't like to play lefties."

"I played more aggressive and attacked more than yesterday, and every time I came in I won the point."

Ivanisevic believes that he is ready to settle down and play consistently well and put shock upsets against lowly-ranked opposition behind him.

"I think this year and the next couple of years will be my best," he said. "I'm older and wiser and know how to play big matches. And I'm concentrating better if I'm playing some low-ranked player."

Fifth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands overcame American Lisa Raymond 6-4, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, while unseeded Greg Rusedski of Britain continued his excellent run with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 win over Australian Scott Draper.



Leeds United's Swedish star Tomas Brodin (C) gets involved in an off-the-ball scramble with Mike Gooding of Reading during the Coca-Cola Cup quarter finals in Leeds on Jan 10. The home team triumphed 2-1.

— AFP/UNB photo