

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Mohinder Amarnath

(Former Indian cricketer) If the boys have not faced such bowling before, how are they going to cope with it in a Test match? Changing home tracks is the only answer.

On the disappointing show by the Indian batsmen in the first Test against South Africa in Durban.



COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-63

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes: 8 pm Feb 14, '97

- 1. Who won the Australian Open women's singles title this year? Hings Pierce Coetzer

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

WHIZZ KID-62 winner

Ifakher Mahmud (Rajib) Kadamtala PB High School (Remember to bring a passport size photograph and your ID card while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on Feb 5. Please collect the prize in due time.)

WHIZZ KID-62 correct answers

- 1. The name of Imran Khan's son is Ans Sulaiman.

Dinajpur FPA win Mahabur Smriti Gold Cup

GAIBANDHA, Jan 31: Dinajpur Football Player's Welfare Association won the Mahabur Rahman Smriti Gold Cup tournament beating Gaibandha Players Welfare Association by 2-1 goals in the final at Bharatkhali High School ground here on Thursday, reports UNB.

Reception

RAJSHAHI, Jan 31: Fifty six noted sportsmen and sports organisers were accorded reception here Thursday by Rajshahi DSA on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Independence, reports UNB.

Pakistanis reel off twin tons in a day Biman prevail in a runfest



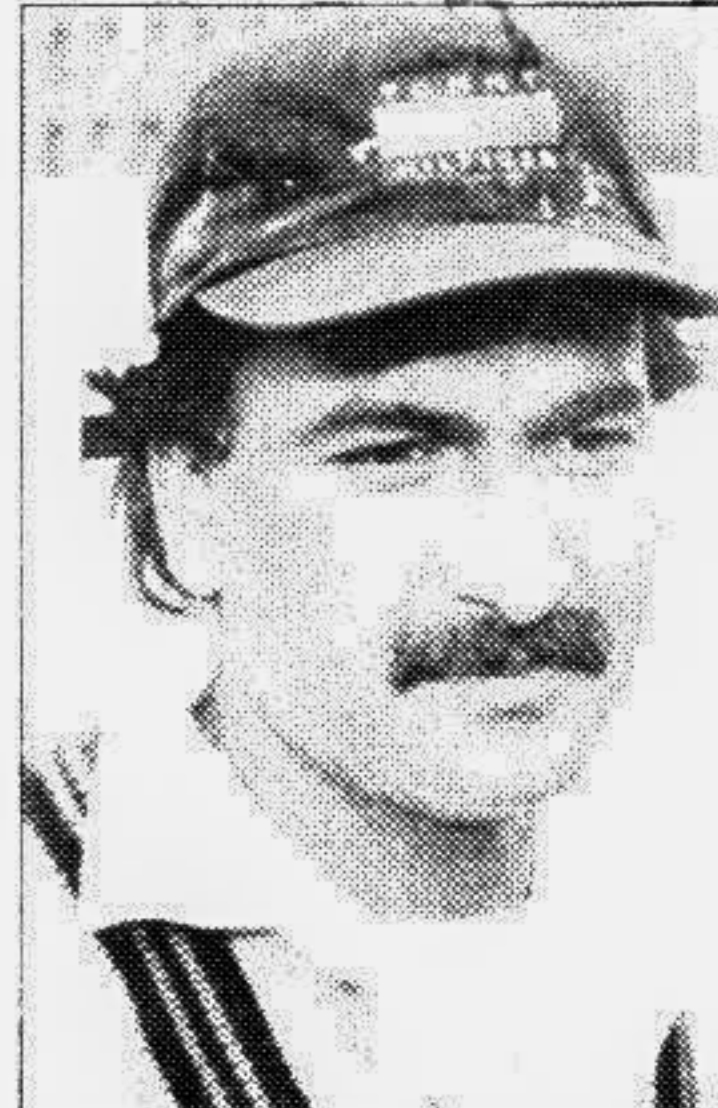
Former Pakistan international Mansoor Akhtar hammered a dazzling century as title aspirants Bangladesh Biman handed Kalabagan Kriya Chakra a four-wicket defeat in an important Premier Super league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Chasing a mammoth Kalabagan total of 269 in 49 overs, Mansoor scored a blazing 128 off 126 balls to enable the national airliner reach the summit in 48.2 overs and with four wickets in hand. In an eventful match marked by two centuries, Biman were penalised one over by the Sri Lankan umpires for taking more than the allotted time while fielding. Besides, their regular opener Athar Ali Khan was also denied to get on with the usual practice of opening the innings for being out of the ground for too long in the morning session.

But with Mansoor shouldering the burden of opening the Biman innings, which started half an hour after prolonged debate between the umpires and Biman officials, it was a sensational start for the national airline outfit when the experienced Pakistani and Habibul Bashar Sumon put on 65 runs in only 7.1 overs. The marauding duo, who were particularly harsh on Anisur Rahman, took only 31 balls for Biman's first 50. Bowling from the pavilion end, Anis, the national left-arm seamer conceded 24 runs in his prodigal second over. Sumon scored 13 with three boundaries of the fateful over while Mansoor plundered 10 which included a massive six over the deep fine-leg boundary.

But once Sumon fell to a brilliant catch by Moniruzzaman after scoring 17, Biman suffered a set back, losing their next two wickets - Hasanuzzaman (14) and Mizanur Rahman Babul (11) - with the addition of only 41 runs in the next ten overs. But Mansoor with his brilliant stroke-play, not only held the innings together, but also paved the way for Biman's improbable victory.

He shared 48 runs for the fourth wicket with pacer Nazimuddin Manna (16). But the Biman innings regained momentum when Athar finally allowed to bat after the departure of Manna. Together with Mansoor, the national opener featured in a match winning stand of 95-run for the fifth wicket before being caught at mid-off after scoring an enterprising 32. When Athar was dismissed by Saiful, Biman were left with a rather simple task of scoring 21

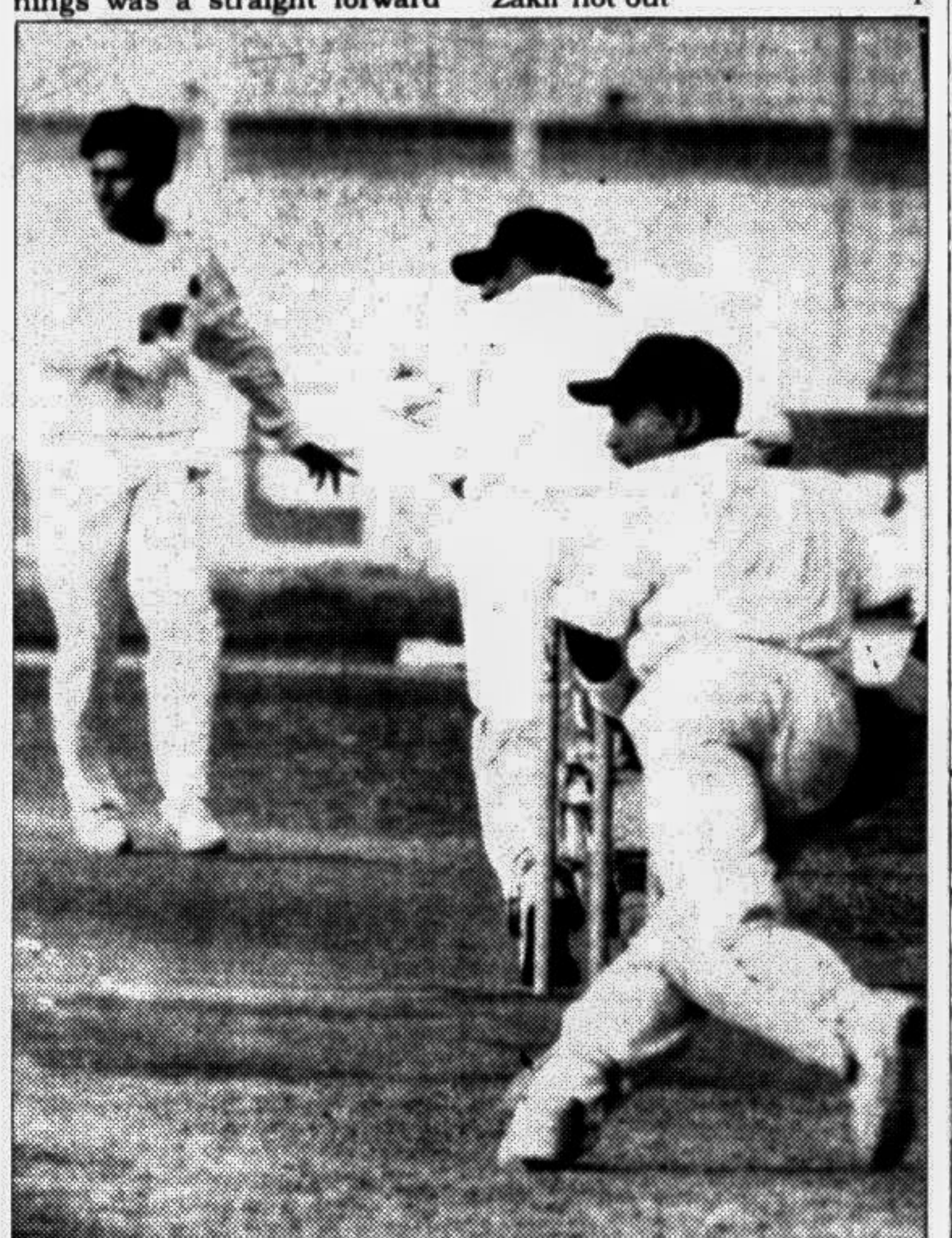


M AKHTER ... 128

runs off 22 balls for a win. Mansoor, the unofficial man-of-the-match, then added another 14 runs to Biman total before a direct hit from Anis ended his 126-ball vigil.

In his torrid innings, Mansoor, a member of the Pakistan World Cup team in 1987, clouted a quarter of sixes and 11 sweetly-timed hits across the rope. He took only 38 balls to complete his fifty while he

reached the magical three figure mark off 103 balls. The only blemish in his scintillating innings was a straight forward



Biman's Pakistani batsman Mansoor Akhtar, who led his side to a four-wicket win over Kalabagan in yesterday's Premier Division super league match at the Dhaka Stadium with a brilliant 128, turns a Saiful Islam delivery to leg.

catch at point off Zakir while he was six runs short of fifty. But dogged by bad luck throughout the match, Anis dropped a sitter.

After the sad departure of Mansoor, his compatriot Nasir Shaukat collected the required runs without any further damage along with Mohammed Rafique. Mansoor's pyrotechnics, however, overshadowed yet another brilliant century by his compatriot Shaheed Saeed. The Kalabagan middle-order bat scored 104.

Coming in to bat at number five with his side tottering at 11/3, Saeed shared 192 runs for the fourth wicket with Athar Rahman. The duo remained on the crease for next 35 overs and took the score to 203 before Athar was taken by Rafique at mid-off when he tried to drive Mizanur Rahman Babul.

After Athar's departure, Saeed's concentration seemingly lapsed and he too returned to the dressing room shortly, scoring a fine 104 off 112 balls which included eight boundaries and a big sixer. On the other hand, Athar hit six boundaries and a six in his 107-ball 77.

In the remaining 5.5 overs, Kalabagan lost four more wickets but added valuable 59 runs including a cameo 32 off only 18 balls by Pakistani middle order bat Manzoor Elahi.

With yesterday's victory, Biman joined Abahani and Brothers Union at the top of the six-team Super league with all the teams having collected 22 points from 14 matches. On the other hand, the defeat three Kalabagan out of the title race as they remain stuck with their green collection of 20 points on completion of their 14th outing.

SCOREBOARD KALABAGAN KC Liton c Jahangir b Rashed 1 Koen c Jahangir b Manna 4 Shahed c Jahangir b Munna 7 Athar c Rafiq b Babul 77 Saeed run out 104 Elahi c Sumon b Akhtar 32

Rain to Indians' rescue

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa, Jan 31: South African A team opener Louis Koen survived an umpiring error to hit a century against India before rain spared the touring side from the prospect of defeat on Thursday, reports Reuter.

India were tottering at 94 for five from 24.2 overs when a downpour ended their faltering chase of South Africa A's 251 for six from 50 overs in the day-night match.

Each side had to receive a minimum of 25 overs for the game to have a result. If a further four balls had been possible to complete the 25th over, India would have had to score 22 more runs for victory.

The touring team made a dreadful start to their run chase against South Africa's combination of emerging youngsters and internationals hoping to fight their way back into the senior team.

Piet Botha dismissed Rahul Dravid and Sunil Joshi with the total seven and when Makhaya Ntini ran out Sachin Tendulkar to make it 75 for four. India's chances looked increasingly slim.

Earlier, Koen scored 105 from 134 balls to help lift his team from 91 for four, with 19-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman Mark Boucher lashing 42 not out from 31 balls in the end-of-innings assault.

Koen was dropped at short mid-wicket on 19 and received another left-off on 86 when he was called back from the dressing room by Indian captain Tendulkar.

The third umpire had mistakenly flashed up the red light when he had meant to show green as Koen had made his ground in a run-out appeal.

The mistake was radioed to the on-field umpires and Tendulkar allowed Koen to return from the dressing-room.

India, who have won just one of their 10 matches on tour, meet South Africa in a triangular series match in Port Elizabeth on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD South Africa A Koen 105 Ntini 42 Boucher 42 Joshi 10 Tendulkar 30 Dravid 10

AKC-MSC crucial tie today

Sports Reporter Title aspirants Abahani will take on arch rivals and defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club in a crucial Premier Division cricket super league clash at the Dhaka Stadium this morning.

Both teams have already played 14 matches so far in the league. Abahani, with eleven wins and three defeats, are leading the super league table jointly with Biman and Brothers Union having 22 points apiece. On the other hand, Mohammedans, who have lost six matches so far, are already out of the running having 16 points from 14 matches.

Div I Super league Wins for Ajax, Uttara

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

SADHARAN BIMA KS: 216 for nine in 45 overs (Manu 38, Jawad 35, Selim 30, Ahsan 2/34) AJAX SC: 219 for five in 44 overs (Maqsood 60 no, Rafique 58, Murshed 30)

Result: Ajax SC won by five wickets.

Ajax Sporting Club defeated Sadharan Bima Kriya Sangha by five wickets in a First Division cricket super league clash at the City Club ground yesterday.

Chasing an attainable Sadharan Bima total of 216 in 45 overs, the Elephant Road outfit lost five wickets before reaching the winning mark (219) with one over to spare.

Pakistani middle order bar Maqsood Raja hammered highest 60 not out off 61 balls while one down Murshed scored 59 off 71 balls for the winners.

Earlier, put into bat, the insurancemen mustered 216 for nine in 45 overs with opener Manu scoring highest 38 followed by Pakistani Jawad Ali who chipped in with 35.

With yesterday's win, Ajax earned a solo lead in the six-team super league table having 16 points from 12 matches while Biman remained struck to their previous collection of 14 point also from 12 matches.

In the day's other match, Uttara Sporting Club recorded an impressive 167-run in over City Club in a relegation battle at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Aided by a brilliant century (107) from one down Mridul, Uttara piled up a huge 268 for five in their stipulated 45 overs in the first session. In reply, the Mirpur outfit were bundled out for 101 in 25.3 overs.

Victoria beat Bankers

Sports Reporter

VICTORIA SC: 176 all out in 45.4 overs (Rahul 43, Sajid 26; Shahed Mehboob 4/47, Shuvro 3/21).

AGRANI BANK: 173 all out in 47.4 overs (Nahid 37, Shahid Iqbal 35; Pappu 3/12, Babu 3/24).

Result: Victoria SC won by three runs.

Victoria Sporting Club recorded a narrow three-run victory over Agrani Bank in a relegation league engagement of the Premier Division cricket at the BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Sent into bat in the morning the Victorians reached 176 before they were all out in 45.5 overs with lower middle order Rahul hammering highest 43 off 67 deliveries. Skipper Sajid Hasan (26) and Lalul (15) were the other leading run scorers.

Pakistani right arm medium pacers Shahed Mehboob was the most successful Bank bowler taking four for 47 while Shuvro took three wickets for only 21 runs.

In reply, the Bankers' innings ended in the 48th over with the scoreboard reading 173, four short of their winning mark.

Agrani Bank middle order Nahid scored highest 37 followed by Pakistani Shahid Iqbal who added 35 runs.

For Victoria, new-ball bowler Babu and Pappu shared six wickets evenly conceding 24 and 12 respectively.

Italy-Moldova WC qualifier in Trieste

ROME, Jan 31: Italy will play their World Cup Group Two qualifier against Moldova on March 29 in the northeast city of Trieste, the birthplace of new coach Cesare Maldini, reports Reuter.

In an announcement that smacked of more than mere coincidence, the Italian soccer federation have also chosen the birthplace of new under-21 coach Rossano Giampaglia for a match against Moldova under-21s on March 27. It will be played in Livorno.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division Cricket League: (Super League) Abahani vs Mohammedan SC(DS) (Relegation League) GMCC vs Lalmitia Club (BKSP)

Acme Second Division Cricket League: Mill Barrack CC vs Shantinagar A (DCG) Amarjyoti Club vs Udayachal Club (DCS) B Railway vs Nawabganj CC (MOS) Mariner Youngs Club vs Uddy Club (Uttara) Gendaria Cricketers vs Khe-laghar SKS (T&T ground).

Final Test begins today



PERTH, Jan 31: Australia take an unbeatable 3-1 series lead into the final cricket Test with the West Indies, but the home side have an extra incentive for victory once the first ball is bowled Saturday, reports AP.

The West Indies have won all four previous matches at the WACA ground, three of them by an innings.

In 1984-85 Australia were routed for 76, in 1988-89 Geoff Lawson had his jaw broken by Curtly Ambrose and in 1992-93 Australia were beaten by lunch on Day Three after losing by one run in Adelaide.

Australia clinched the Frank Worrell Trophy in Adelaide on Tuesday with a crushing innings victory and captain Mark Taylor wants to take a 4-1 thumping to South Africa next month.

Perth has long been the home of pace bowling in Aus-

tralia but the current crop of Caribbean quicks, apart from Curtly Ambrose in Melbourne, has struggled this tour.

Their batsmen have been even worse and skipper Courtney Walsh, who boasts 323 wickets from 86 Tests in a magnificent career, could not hide his disappointment at the lopsided series.

Walsh and Ambrose, if he passes fit, are playing their last Tests in Australia. Senior batsman Carl Hooper, and paceman Ian Bishop could also be Down Under for the last time.

"We did not show enough hunger and we did not show that we wanted it as badly as the Australians did, that's why the scoresheet is the way it is," Walsh said Friday.

"I don't mind losing, but if you lose and you put everything into it and come off the field feeling you gave it your all but were simply not good enough then I could live with that."

"But when you think there's still a lot you could have done and it just didn't happen then it's disappointing."

Walsh acknowledged Australia's superiority but called on his players to show some pride and make it a 3-2 loss rather than 4-1 or 3-1.

"They're playing the sort of cricket that we used to play," Walsh said. "They've always played tough and hard but they've shown a lot more commitment than we have."

"They seem a bit more hungry than we are at the moment. That's what we've got to try to get back - our desire to win and our belief in ourselves."

An unusually dry, dusty and already cracking pitch should mean Australia again play fourth-Test hero Michael Bevan

match to spare. Lloyd said vice-captain Lara must apply himself more and temper his attacking instincts after failing to score a half-century in the series until the second innings in Adelaide, when the match was all but lost.

"Brian's open of those batsmen who likes to score quickly but he's got to realise in Test cricket he's got to work harder," Lloyd told reporters as the tourists prepared for the fifth Test, starting at Perth's WACA Ground on Saturday.

"Bowlers have studied him and worked out how to restrict his scoring," he said.

In the second and third Tests Lara the world record holder for the highest score in Test and first-class cricket scored seven

runs in four innings. Lloyd said the squad sent to Australia lacked balance with the absence of a frontline spinner and an all-rounder.

In a frank assessment of West Indies current weaknesses, Lloyd said, "We still haven't got a good opening pair yet, our middle order is still there or thereabouts and our back up bowlers haven't been too good."

"We have to have a look and choose carefully (in selecting future teams) because they (the players) are quite young it's not a rosy future as such but once we get the right blend we're going to be a very competitive team in the next year or so."

"We should have brought an all-rounder, somebody like Phil Simmons who had been here before a seasoned player, full of confidence."

"It would have helped us a lot because we wouldn't have had to

put so much pressure on our older bowlers," said Lloyd, referring to ageing pace duo Curtly Ambrose and captain Courtney Walsh.

Simmons arrived in Australia two weeks ago after fast bowlers Kenneth Benjamin and Nixon McLean went home injured.

A spinner who is good enough should have been here and would have got enough experience looking at (Australia leg-spinner) Shane Warne and the others."

West Indies next play India in a five-Test series in the Caribbean starting next month.

West Indies built their success over the past two decades on a four-pronged pace attack that battered opponents into submission.

The tactic described as obsolete by Australia captain Mark Taylor failed miserably in the current Test series.

There comes a time when you have to look at a situation and think are we going to have competitive fast bowlers that are able to win games for you? And if they don't then you've got to think again, Lloyd said.

Jhalakathi cricket

JHALAKATHI, Jan 31: Local Kalabagan became champions in the Ekota cricket tournament while Gulshan Youth were the runners-up in a final match held here today, reports UNB.

The Kalabagan beat the Gulshan Youth by two wickets in the final held at local hospital ground.

Batting first, the Gulshan Youth scored 72 runs in nine wickets in the stipulated 30 overs. In response, the Kalabagan made the winning score losing eight wickets.

Kanal Malo of Kalabagan was judged the man-of-the-match while Chunnul of local Abahani became the man-of-the-tournament.

Natore football

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Jan 31: Natore Football Players' Welfare Association lifted the Sobhan Shahjahan Smriti Football trophy defeating Shaheed Arif Club of Bogra by a solitary goal at the local Kanaikhal Stadium here this afternoon.

Forward Mintu scored the match-winner in the 80th minute.

Elliott's poor show

SYDNEY, Jan 31: Victoria opener Matthew Elliott's celebrations at being selected for the South African tour were dampened when he was dismissed cheaply in the Sheffield Shield on Thursday in his first innings after returning from injury, reports Reuter.

Elliott, who injured his knee while batting in the second Test against West Indies eight weeks ago, made only two as New South Wales dominated the first day of the match in Melbourne.

New South Wales were earlier dismissed for 290 after opener Michael Slater, who lost out to Elliott in the battle for tour selection, laid the foundation for the innings with a typically robust 71.

At close of play on the first day, Victoria were 12 for one wicket.

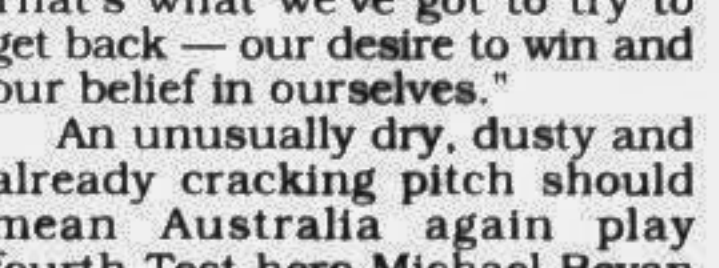
In Brisbane, Sheffield Shield leaders Western Australia gained the upper hand against their nearest rivals Queensland.

At close of the play, the visitors were 102 for four after dismissing Queensland for 179 at the Gabba.

Western Australia opener Mike Hussey scored 15 before being dismissed hit wicket in extraordinary circumstances.

The left-hander attempted a drive through mid-wicket only to lose grip of his bat, which flew over his head before falling onto the stumps behind him.

Western Australia lead the table on 26 points, six points clear of Queensland and New South Wales.



COURTNEY WALSH



MARK TAYLOR

Clive clears his throat



PERTH, Jan 31: West Indies team manager Clive Lloyd criticised star batsman Brian Lara and selectors on Thursday after declaring the once mighty cricket power faced a difficult future, reports Reuter.

Lloyd, who captained West Indies at the height of their prowess during the late 1970s, spoke out in frustration two days after the tourists slumped to their heaviest Test loss in 40 years.

Australia beat West Indies by an innings and 183 runs on Tuesday in the fourth Test at Adelaide Oval to clinch the five-Test series 3-1 and retain the Frank Worrell Trophy with one

run in four innings. Lloyd said the squad sent to Australia lacked balance with the absence of a frontline spinner and an all-rounder.

In a frank assessment of West Indies current weaknesses, Lloyd said, "We still haven't got a good opening pair yet, our middle order is still there or thereabouts and our back up bowlers haven't been too good."

"We have to have a look and choose carefully (in selecting future teams) because they (the players) are quite young it's not a rosy future as such but once we get the right blend we're going to be a very competitive team in the next year or so."

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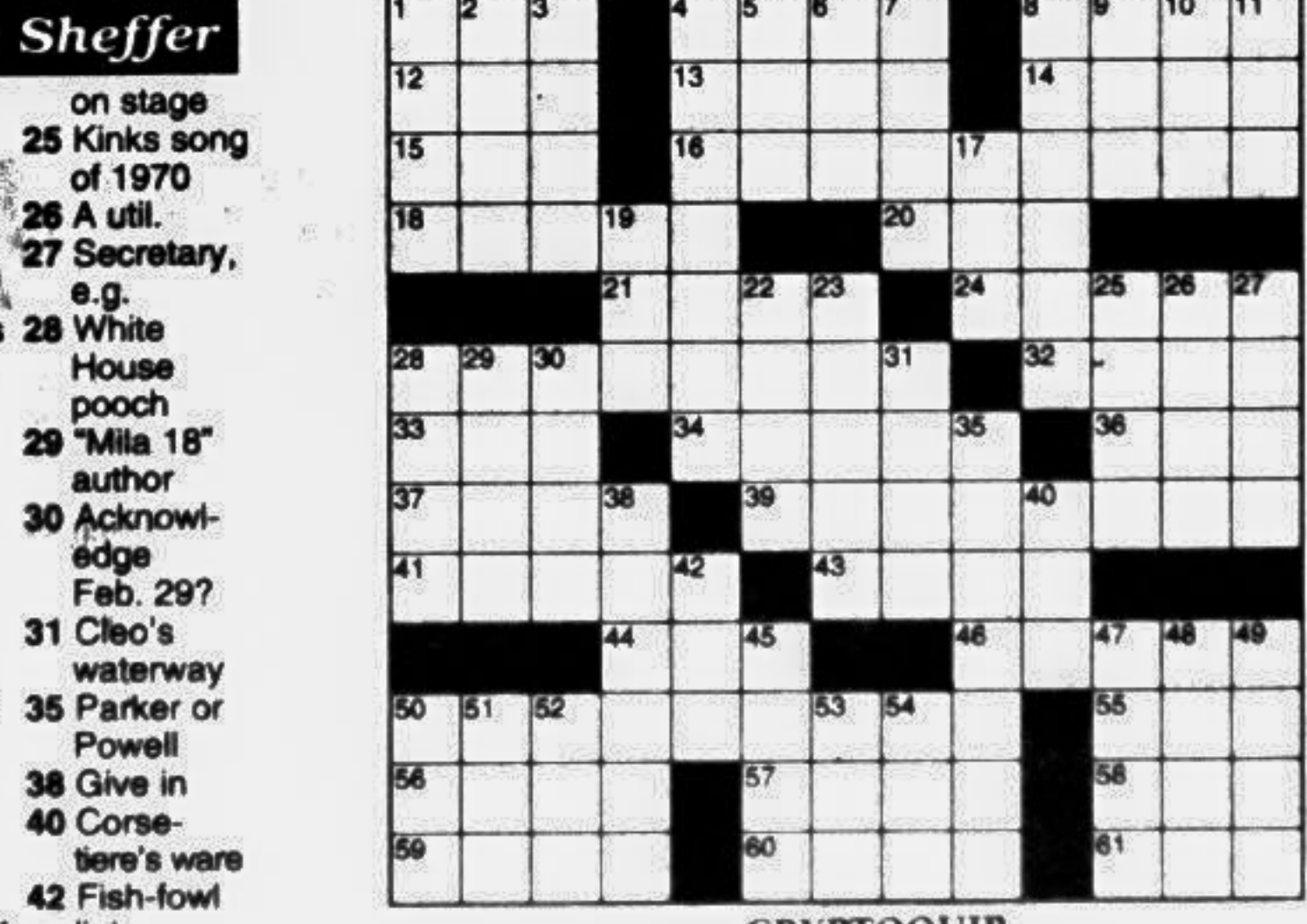
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Oxford 46 Toni's dad things passed? 25 Kinks song of 1970



CRYPTOQUIP VMLHAMEHRSLP HRW

VWGGWJHZKMNSYWOZLNSPWQOMHSGGEJWNAZYMKYZPW?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THIS HOCKEY PLAYER WANTS A KISS, HE ONLY HAS TO PUCKER UP.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: Y equals C. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.