

BCCSL's denial

COLOMBO, Feb 5. The cricket board denied on Wednesday that two Sri Lankan bowlers with suspect action will come under scrutiny in the forthcoming cricket tour of New Zealand, reports AP.

The Daily News, a state-run newspaper, earlier this week reported that the actions of off-spinners Muthiah Muralitharan and Kumar Dharmasena will be closely scrutinised during the Kiwi tour.

The newspaper was quoting a confidential International Cricket Council (ICC) report to the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL).

But the chief executive of the board, Dhammika Ranatunga, said: "The ICC at no stage has cautioned that Muralitharan and Dharmasena's action will come under close scrutiny during the New Zealand tour."

The newspaper report was "misleading and mischievous and based on conjecture," said Ranatunga in a statement.

Muralitharan, Sri Lanka's principal spinner, was questioned by New Zealand coach John Reid during Sri Lanka's tour in March 1995.

Later during a tour to Australia that ended last year, two Australian umpires no-balled Muralitharan, forcing Sri Lanka to leave him out of further matches during the tour.

Sri Lankan authorities requested international experts to carry out intensive medical and scientific tests to prove that he suffered from a congenital condition that does not allow him to straighten his arm fully and his generous wrist action sometimes makes it look as if the ball has been thrown.

On the evidence of these reports, Muralitharan went on to play an important role in his country winning the World Cup in March last year. He has also played in one-day tournaments in Singapore, Kenya, Sharjah and at home, without being called for throwing.

Dharmasena is among a short list of six bowlers that the ICC released in December 1995 as bowlers with suspect bowling action, the Daily News reported. The ICC recently appointed a committee to investigate bowlers with suspect action.

Sri Lanka will play two five-day Test matches against New Zealand during a month-long tour beginning March. The two bowlers are likely to be included in the 16-member squad to be named shortly.

Cricket takes new colour in NZ

WELLINGTON, Feb 5. Cricket fans unfamiliar with Oasis, The Cranberries, Katrina and the Waves, EMF and Jimmy Barnes will have a chance to broaden their musical horizons during the forthcoming limited-overs series between England and New Zealand, reports AP.

In a follow-up to an idea introduced to domestic limited-overs matches, music will boom out at the five one-day internationals to greet introduce each batsman.

The choices were made by the players, and the range covers rock, pop and ballads.

Oasis, one of the biggest and most controversial names in rock music, is a favourite among the England team.

They figure prominently on the team bus music system and five of the 16 players chose one of that group's songs.

Captain Mike Atherton and his opening partner Nick Knight went for Some Might Say, batsman John Crawley opted for Wonderful, while bowlers Chris Silverwood and Phil Tufnell, a heavy smoker, went for Supersonic, and Cigarettes and Alcohol respectively.

Welsh off-spinner Robert Croft plumped for fellow countryman Tom Jones' rendition of Delilah, while other choices included Katrina and the Waves for Darren Gough, James Brown for fellow seam bowler Andrew Caddick, Frankie Goes to Hollywood for all-rounder Ronnie Irani and The Cranberries for vice-captain Nasser Hussain.

The choices of the New Zealand players also crossed the musical spectrum.

Opening batsman Bryan Young went for Sade's Smooth Operator; captain Lee Gernon got That's The Way by KC and the Sunshine Band; new ball bowler Simon Doull has Jimmy Barnes' No Second Prize while Nathan Astle will stride out to the roar of all-time favourite, the same song which boomed around the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta last year when American Michael Johnson broke the world 200m record.

The one-day series will start with the first day-night international in Christchurch on February 20.

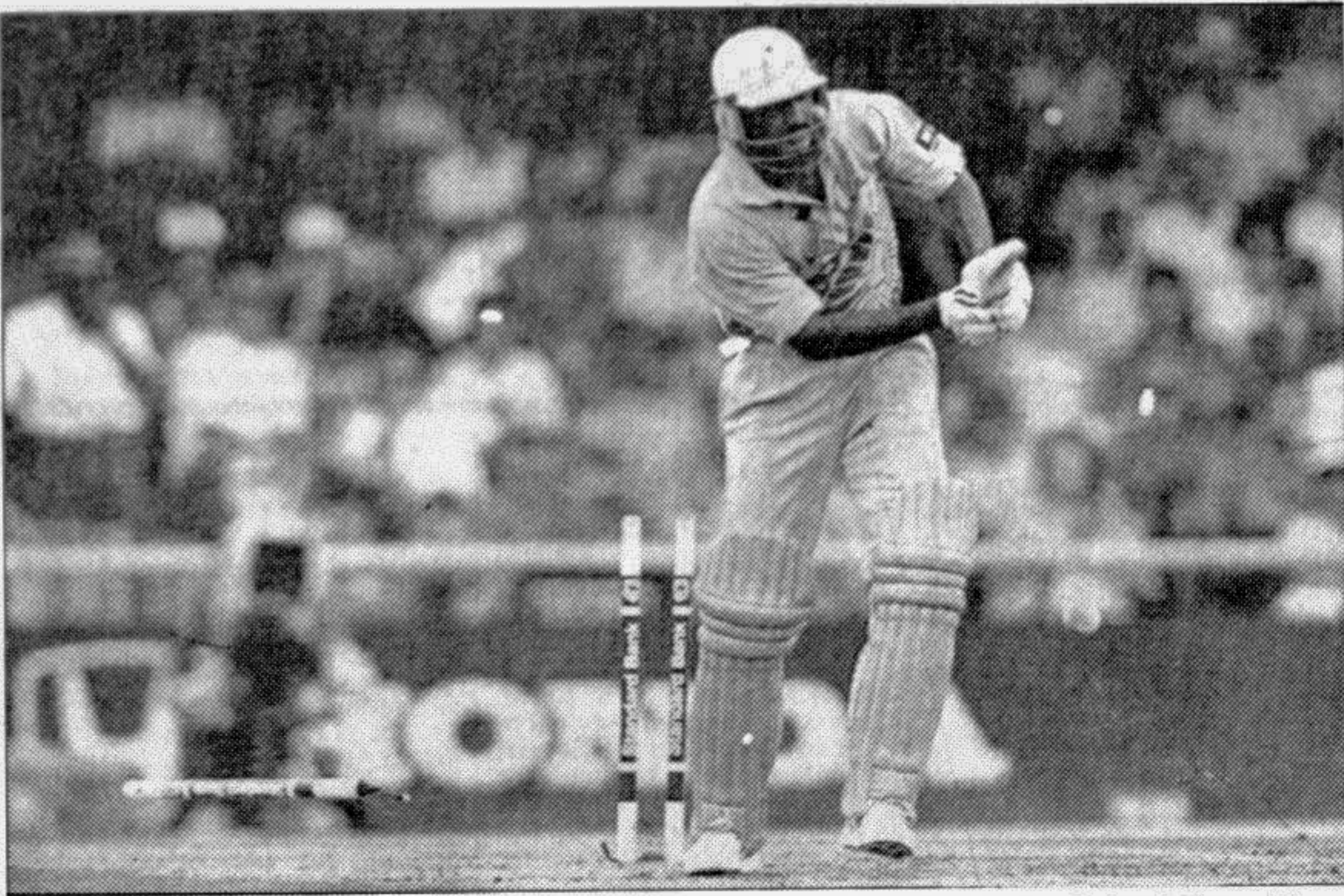
WC short course swimming results

IMPERIA, Italy, Feb 5. World record-holder Le Jingyi was beaten Tuesday by Leah Martindale of Barbados in the 50-metre freestyle at a World Cup short-course swimming meet here, reports AP.

Unlike the record shattering that marked the season's six prior meets, no standards were seriously threatened Tuesday.

In the women's 50m freestyle, Martindale clocked 25.26 seconds, .05 seconds faster than China's Le but well of the record of 24.23. Le is world champion in the outdoor 50m and 100m freestyle and world record-holder at those two short-course distances.

Russia's Denis Pankratov won the men's 200-metre butterfly in 1:54.37, more than 1.5 seconds slower than the record he established Saturday at Geisenkirchen, Germany.



South African speedster Allan Donald (not in the picture) uproots one of the Azharuddin-stumps to bowl him out during a day-night match of the triangular series at East London on Feb 4. — AFP/UNB photo

S Africa look too good

EAST LONDON, Feb 5. India's woe of South Africa continued on Tuesday as they slumped to a fifth defeat in their last six matches against their hosts, beaten by six wickets in a triangular series match, reports Reuter.

It was India's third defeat by South Africa in the limited overs series and followed their 2-0 loss in the three-match Test series.

India and Zimbabwe meet at Centurion Park on Friday and again in Benoni on Sunday for the right to meet South Africa in the final in Durban on February 12. Both teams have one point from four matches.

It was South Africa's sixth successive win in the series and their 31st in 36 one-day internationals since the start of 1996.

India and Zimbabwe meet at Centurion Park on Friday and again in Benoni on Sunday for the right to meet South Africa in the final in Durban on February 12. Both teams have one point from four matches.

Scoreboard of the triangular one-day international between South Africa and India at the Buffalo Park on Tuesday:

INDIA

Ganguly run out (Rhodes) 83
 Dravid run out (Kirsten) 53
 Tendulkar c Cullinan b Klusener 14
 Azharuddin b Donald 13
 Jadeja c Cronje b Klusener 19
 Singh not out 32
 Karim not out 7
 Extras: (lb-7, nb-1, w-3) 11
 Total: (for 5 wks) 232
 Fall of wickets 1-118; 2-150; 3-171; 4-176; 5-216

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Pollock	10	2	26	0
Kallis	6	0	34	0
Klusener	10	0	58	2
Donald	10	1	38	1
Cronje	9	1	37	0
Adams	5	0	32	0

Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly (India) and Gary Kirsten (South Africa).

tween Jonty Rhodes (22) and Jacques Kallis (52 not out) kept South Africa on track.

India's total was founded on a 117-run opening partnership between Rahul Dravid (53) and Saurav Ganguly (83) but the middle order failed to capitalise on it.

Only Robin Singh with 32 in the innings after Sachin Tendulkar (14) and Mohammad Azharuddin (13) had fallen cheaply.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Bacher c Dravid b Kumble 14
 Kirsten c Kumble b Prasad 82
 Cullinan st Karim b Joshi 32
 Kallis not out 52
 Rhodes lbw Srinath 21
 Cronje not out 21
 Extras: (lb-1, lb-7, w-2, nb-3) 13
 Total: (For four wickets) 236
 Fall of wickets: 1-44; 2-134; 3-142; 4-200

Did not bat: S Pollock, D Richardson, L Klusener, A Donald, P Adams.



KIRSTEN ... m-o-m

Bowling:

O	M	R	W	
Srinath	10	0	50	1
Prasad	9.2	1	43	1
Kumble	10	0	36	1
Singh	6	0	31	0
Joshi	10	0	48	1
Tendulkar	3	0	17	0
Jadeja	1	0	3	0

Results: South Africa won by six wickets.

Greenidge's appeal

Sports Reporter National cricket coach Gordon Greenidge is presently handicapped in his role as his handbag, which got lost from the room of the Bangladesh Cricket Board president on January 23, is yet to be found.

All the important notes on the local performers he jotted down since his assumption of the coach's office in November last year, telephone directory, address book and other relevant documents were reportedly there in the handbag.

With the International Cricket Council Trophy in Malaysia knocking at the door, the anxious coach is fearing the daunting option of having to start from the scratch if the bag remains missing. Greenidge has earnestly urged for the return of if not exactly the bag but the diary at least. The West Indian boss of the Bangladesh cricket team has offered a cash award for any one coming up with his lost belongings.

Misinformation

It was reported in the February 4 issue of The Daily Star Sport page that the Hong Kong based Star TV network would cover the ongoing triangular cricket series match between hosts South Africa and India much in accordance with their recent practice. But in reality the live coverage was provided by ESPN, another TV network, leading to an unfortunate inconvenience to those who relied on Star's information on cricket coverage. Confusion, the main reason behind this misinformation, was caused by the reported merger deal struck between the two networks. The fact of the matter is that it will take some time before the networks represent each other in such cases. Viewers' inconvenience is regretted.

— Sports Editor

Revenue loss for ACB

PERTH, Australia, Feb 5: Early Test match finishes and Australia's failure in a one-day series have cost the Australian Cricket Board an estimated three million Australian dollars (2.3 million US), officials said today, reports AFP.

But despite the heavy revenue losses they have still met their budget for the summer, board officials said here.

The final blow was on Monday when the fifth Australia-West Indies Test ended in three days — two days less than the scheduled five.

The third Test in Melbourne lasted only three days and the fourth in Adelaide four, causing a total loss of five days' revenue over the series — the equivalent of an entire Test.

Revenue from the triangular international one-day contest was savagely reduced because of Australia's failure to make the finals, in which Pakistan beat the West Indies.

The early finish to the Perth Test this week, on a pitch seriously cracked by intense heat, cost the board "many thousands of dollars," a Western Australian Cricket Association official said.

But the association's chief executive, former England Test batsman Chris Smith, defended curator David Crane and his preparation of a pitch widely condemned.

"Unfortunately, the extreme heat backed the pure clay base and the pitch started cracking 24 hours before the start of the match," he said today.

"The higher clay content here makes it much more difficult to prepare a pitch. Crane is rather distraught, but his job is not in jeopardy. He does a good job."

Crane's predecessor, New Zealand's Scott Hamilton, was sacked after an Australia-West Indies Test ended on the third day four years ago.

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The European Union's executive agency gave France two months to answer questions about the awarding of the construction contract for the 80,000-seat Stade de France to a consortium of three companies, including French giant Bouygues.

If not, the Commission will take France before the European Court of Justice.

Austrian Open results

LINZ, Austria, Feb 5: Defending champion Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, Nathalie Tauziat of France and Chanda Rubin of the United States advanced to the second round of the Austrian Open women's tennis tournament Tuesday, reports AP.

Appelmans, seeded No. 4, defeated Karin Kschwendt of Austria 7-5, 6-3.

Tauziat, the No. 6 seed, beat Gloria Pizzichini of Italy 6-4, 7-5, and Rubin, seeded seventh, beat Patty Schnyder of Switzerland 7-5, 6-0.

Mike puts on a bright face

WELLINGTON, Feb 5. England cricket captain Mike Atherton said today he wants to put an end to his team's run of bad Test starts when it meets New Zealand in the second Test here Thursday, reports AFP.

In three recent tour Tests against Zimbabwe and New Zealand, England started badly, the home side taking the initiative early on in both Zimbabwe Tests.

In the first Test at Auckland, New Zealand was sent in to bat and batsman Stephen Fleming's maiden Test hundred helped the Kiwis to 390.

"We've had bad starts in all three Test matches," Atherton said. "We've fought back well after that but it would be nice to play well before we get behind the eight-ball."

"To go out and grab the initiative at the start of the game is important."

But Atherton says England's encouraging displays in those matches despite falling behind in the early stages showed his team has spirit and tenacity.

"We had the belief to go out and still get ourselves in a winning position."

"That shows a lot of belief. It's not easy to force yourself into a winning position when a side gets 400 against you," he said.

England's resolve came into question when they played well below par in losing to New Zealand A by 90 runs in Wanganui last weekend.

Atherton, who bounced back into the runs after a poor tour with 83 in England's only innings at Eden Park, said his team had a good Test record but needed to turn draws into wins.

"We've certainly found Test matches difficult to win in the last couple of years, and it would be nice to finish games off, like those in Bulawayo and Auckland."

"Equally what is important is that the level of performance is very good."

"If we can reproduce that over a period of time the results will follow," he said.

Colombian squad for WC qualifier

BOGOTA, Feb 5. Colombian squad selected here on Tuesday for South American World Cup qualifier with Argentina to be played in Baranquilla, Colombia, on February 12, reports AFP.

GOALKEEPERS: Farid Mondragon (Independent, Arg), Miguel Calero (Col).

DEFENDERS: Jorge Bermudez (Benfica, Por), Alexis Mendoza (Veracruz, Mex), Wilmer Cabrera (America, Osman Lopez (Millonarios), Hugo Galeano (Junior).

MIDFIELD: Leonel Alvarez (Veracruz, Mex), Freddy Rincon (Palmeiras, Bra), Andres Estrada (Col), Mauricio Serna (National), Carlos "Pibe" Valderrama (Col), Victor Pacheco (Junior), Luis Quiñones (Caldas).

FORWARDS: Faustino Asprilla (Newcastle, Eng), Ivan Valencia (Veracruz, Mex), Antony de Avila (America), Hamilton Ricard (Col).

British minister joins the dock

LONDON, Feb 5. Britain's sports minister on Tuesday described UEFA's backing for Germany to host the 2006 World Cup as "difficult to understand" but said he hoped England would be allowed to compete for the honour in friendly rivalry, reports Reuter.

In answer to a parliamentary question, Iain Sproat said he met representatives of the English Football Association (FA) on Monday to discuss the refusal by UEFA, Europe's football governing body, to consider an English bid.

The FA have said they were astounded to receive a fax from UEFA on January 31 which said a meeting of its committee had "recalled that it had already committed itself to supporting the candidature of the German, FA as organiser of the World Cup in 2006."

"From the information presented to us, we find it difficult to understand UEFA's position," Sproat said.

However, he noted the decision was a matter for the world body, FIFA, who had indicated they would not be influenced by UEFA's position.

"I have written today to my opposite number of Germany to express my hope that our bids can be conducted in a spirit of friendly rivalry," Sproat said.

Russia had announced last week that World No. 5 Kafelnikov would not be travelling to Westbridge Park because of a broken knuckle on his right hand.

Kafelnikov, Volkov skip Davis Cup tie

DURBAN, South Africa, Feb 5: South Africa's hopes of getting through to the next round of the Davis Cup have been given a boost with the injury of Yevgeni Kafelnikov and Alexander Volkov, reports AFP.

Volkov tore a groin muscle during Sunday's final of the ATP tour event in Shanghai, losing 6-2, 7-6 to Slovakia's Jan Korslak.

Russia had announced last week that World No. 5 Kafelnikov would not be travelling to Westbridge Park because of a broken knuckle on his right hand.

England, like New Zealand, will do some hard thinking on whether to take one or two spinners into the Test.

Although there was plenty of grass on the pitch Tuesday, it is only a hometown player can," said New Zealand chairman of selectors Ross Dykes said today.

A final decision on Cairns' fitness won't be made until just before the toss.

If Cairns is fit he expected to be part of a five-strong bowling attack along with fast-medium pacer Simon Doull, Geoff Allott and Cairns, along with spinners Dipak Patel and 18-year-old Daniel Vettori.

An unfit Cairns could mean Chris Harris batting at No 6 followed by captain Lee Gernon with three seamers and one spinner.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Lee Gernon (captain), Blair Pocock, Bryan Young, Adam Parore, Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Chris Harris, Dipak Patel, Simon Doull, Geoff Allott, Daniel Vettori, Heath Davis.

ENGLAND (from): Mike Atherton (captain), Nick Knight, Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Craig White, Ronnie Irani, Robert Croft, Dominic Cork, Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick, Alan Mullally, Phil Tufnell.

also expected to give some help to the spinners on the last two days.

For New Zealand, the decision could be trickier.

Off spinner Dipak Patel was their best bowler in the Eden Park game, New Zealand convenor of selectors Ross Dykes however, has made it clear the panel want teenage left armer Daniel Vettori to make his Test debut here.

There's no problem if they decide to play both spinner, but omitting one could prove a difficult choice.

Facer Heath Davis was picked up on standby for injured Chris Cairns.

Cairns twisted his left ankle playing in a testimonial match last Sunday and is struggling to recover in time to play.

Davis, whose only test appearance was against England in Nottingham three years ago, has been called into the New Zealand squad as a precaution.

He was sharp and accurate in taking six wickets for New Zealand A in their 90-run win over the tourists in Wanganui last week.

"He is in excellent form and he knows the Basin Reserve as

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Even chance for Cairns

WELLINGTON, Feb 5: New Zealand cricket officials will delay a decision on whether all-rounder Chris Cairns plays in the second Test against England until Thursday morning — just hours before the match starts, reports AP.

Cairns, who twisted his left ankle batting in a benefit match last Sunday, did some batting and bowled at medium pace in New Zealand's practice session at the Basin Reserve on Wednesday.

"No decision has been taken on whether he'll play in the Test," New Zealand captain Lee Gernon said.

The Kiwis also have not made any decision on whether to bring another player into the squad as cover for Cairns.

The Test will be played at Wellington's Basin Reserve ground.

Ref No 22.16/SKO/39 Dated: 5.2.1997

Corrigendum

Reference International Tender Notice for supply of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) published in The Daily Star, Bhorer Kagoj and Banglar Bani dt. 4.2.97.

In the Tender Notice the Tender Notice date has been inadvertently printed as January 02, 1997 which shall be February 02, 1997.

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
 1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, PO Box No: 2052, Chittagong-4100
 D-171

Bangladesh Power Development Board
 বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন

Notice for Time Extension for Submission of Bid for Shahjibazar Gas Turbine Power Plant

It is notified for all the interested parties that the submission date for the bids for Shahjibazar Gas Turbine Power Plant has been extended up to 11:00 AM (BST) of 27th February, 1997.

All other terms & conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged.

Habibur Rahman Jamaly
 Secretary
 Bangladesh Power Development Board
 WAPDA Building (1st floor)
 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
 Biddut/Jan-948(3)96-97 D-170

Directorate General Defence Purchase
 Ministry of Defence
 New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in Local/Foreign currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Indentors/Dealers (enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Army:

Ser	Nomenclature	Qty	Selling Date	Date of Opening	Cost of I/T and Currency
1.	Spare Parts for Radio Relay Eqt.	101 Line Items	18.2.97 to 1.4.97	24.97	100.00 (Foreign Currency)

2. Detailed specification, nomenclatures and quantity of items have been mentioned in the tender schedule. The tender schedule will be available on cash payment against the mentioned amount (not refundable) at above mentioned dates on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on aforesaid date at 1000 hrs in presence of all tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/97
 DFP-2467-12
 G-381

Major For Director General

Faustino to lead strike force

BOGOTA, Feb 5. Newcastle United's inconsistent Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla is set to lead his country's attack in their vital World Cup qualifier with Argentina in Baranquilla, Colombia, on February 12, reports AP.

Asprilla, recently recalled to the Newcastle side after recovering from injury, is one of several of the hugely disappointing 1994 World Cup squad to have been retained by present coach Hernan Dario Gomez.

Colombia, whose coach at the 1994 finals Francisco Maturana resigned immediately afterwards, lost to hosts United States in the group stage and made an early exit when they were considered to be one of the favourites — it had tragic consequences when defender Andres Escobar was shot dead outside a restaurant.

However, Asprilla along with playmaker Carlos Valderrama, Freddy Rincon, midfield hardman Lionel Alvarez and fellow striker Ivan Valencia have shown glimpses of their pre-USA '94 form and will be determined to extend their lead at the top of the qualifying group, which they currently lead with 17 points to Paraguay on 14.

Argentina, coached by 1978 World Cup winning captain Daniel Passarella, are having

some difficulty in finding their rhythm and are equal third on 10 points. The top four qualify to join Brazil, the 1994