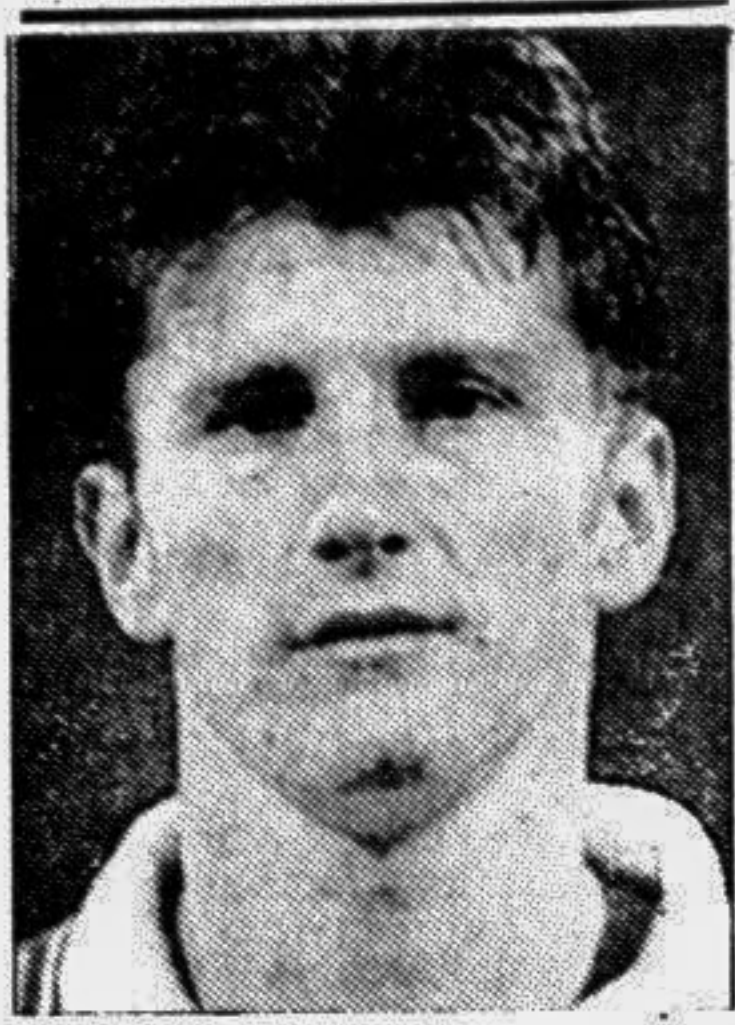


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Davor Suker
(Croatia's ace striker)

"I dreamed that we would beat the French and play Brazil in the final. When we scored first, early in the second half, I was almost certain that we would go through. But our lead lasted only a moment, and France went on to win. That's football!"

On the World Cup '98 semi-final loss to France.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-107

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm Nov 27 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

1. Which country lifted the Willis International Cup?	S Africa	W Indies	India
2. Who scored highest number of runs in the Willis Cup?	Kallis	Cronje	Wallace
3. Who topped batting average in the Bangladesh-West Indies A One-day series?	Reifer	Akram	Javed
4. Which team emerged champion in the national age-group swimming?	Khulna	N'ganj	Kushtia
5. Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?	Mamun	Sadek	Kamal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



JU cricket on

By JU Correspondent

Department of Archaeology handed Department of Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) a 25-run defeat in the inaugural match of the inter-department cricket tournament of Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Put into bat, the winners could collect a paltry 113 before being all out in 29 overs in the 30-over-a-side match with Mukti contributing highest 22. Bappi tore apart the Archeology batting claiming five for 20 from his six overs.

Chasing the target, ECS lost all their wickets for 88 in 26.2 overs. Uzzal, Tapan and Mukti evenly shared six wickets for the Archeologists.

Earlier, JU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Bayes inaugurated the competition.

Rakib, Dao draw

Abdullah Al Rakib drew with Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam in the second round of the World junior chess championship at Calicut in Indian state of Kerala on Wednesday, reports UNB.

With the draw, Rakib collected 1.5 point while Enamul Haq Rajib lost his board and remained on 0.5.

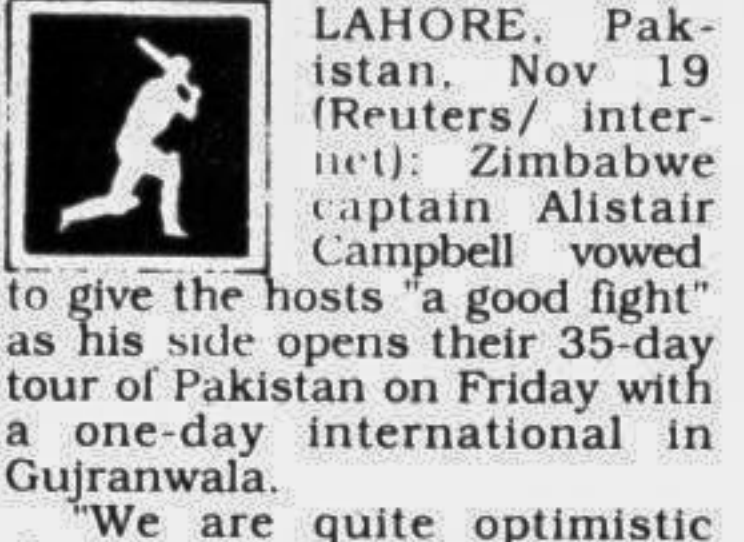
Some 81 players are participating in the 13 round Swiss League basis tournament.

Five-a-side soccer

A five-a-side soccer tournament for kids will be held at the French International School playground at Baridhara on November 27, reports UNB.

More than one hundred children from different international schools in the capital will participate in the tournament.

Pakistan face Zimbabwe today Campbell remains confident



AAMIR SOHAIL
Pakistan captain

LAHORE, Pakistan, Nov 19 (Reuters/Internet): Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell vowed to give the hosts "a good fight" as his side opens their 35-day tour of Pakistan on Friday with a one-day international in Gujranwala.

"We are quite optimistic about our chances. We've come to Pakistan after a reasonable performance in Sharjah where we reached the final," said Campbell.

"We beat Sri Lanka twice and India once and therefore our morale is high," he said as his team worked out in the nets.

"We feel we've a good chance. We've been playing good cricket of late but we realise we are up

compete, let alone win," he added.

Campbell acknowledged Pakistan had a very experienced side that would be out for revenge after being beaten 1-0 by Australia in their three-Test series and 3-0 in the one-day internationals that followed.

"We know Pakistan is an experienced side with some world class players and although we cannot say we will win the series we hope we'll give them a tough fight," said the 26-year-old captain, a veteran of 89 one-day games.

He said that wickets for the Australian tour were flat, slow-turning tracks. "We have been here in the past and we've played on the green wickets. So we really don't know what kind of wickets we can expect to be playing on," he said.

But he said his squad contained enough variety for any kind of wicket.

"Pace bowlers Mbangwa, Heath Streak and Craig Evans have gained much in experience while spinners Paul Strang and Andrew Whittall have also shown improvement since the 1989 Zimbabwe tour of Pakistan," he said.

The tourists play the other one-day internationals at Sheikhupura and Rawalpindi before the three-Test series starts in Peshawar on November 27.

Pakistan captain Aamir Sohail said the return after injury of opening batsman Saeed Anwar and middle-order bat Inzamam-ul-Haq had strengthened his side.

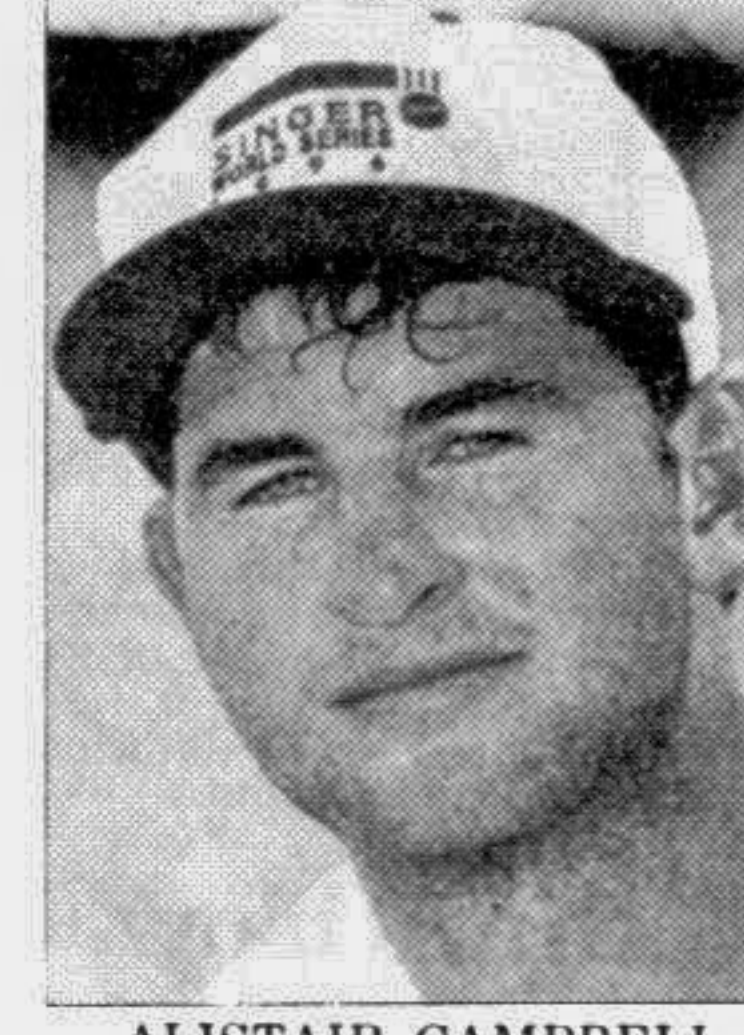
"There is definitely going to be much improvement in our batting compared to our per-

formance against Australia." Pakistan lead 14-1 in one-day clashes with Zimbabwe with one match tied. In 10 Tests Pakistan leads 6-1 with three drawn.

TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Aamir Sohail (captain), Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Yousof Yohanna, Moin Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Wasim Akram, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmad, Hasan Raza, Muhammad Akram.

ZIMBABWE (from): Alistair Campbell (captain), Andrew Flower, Grant Flower, Murray Goodwin, Neil Johnson, Craig Whittall, Craig Evans, Gavin Rennie, Heath Streak, Paul Strang, Mpumelelo Mbangwa.



ALISTAIR CAMPBELL
Zimbabwe captain



England opener Michael Atherton (on the ground) being attended by the team doctor during a stretching session at Brisbane yesterday.



— Internet photo

Asian games to shine

BANGKOK, Nov 19 (AP): Crowds at the Asian Games will no doubt flock to track and field events and boxing, but aficionados of uniquely Asian sports will be equally passionate for lesser-known but entertaining competitions like sepak takraw and kabaddi.

The quick and acrobatic play of sepak takraw, a sport almost unknown outside Southeast Asia, is expected to draw a packed stadium when host Thailand goes up against its rival, Malaysia.

Resembling a cross between volleyball and soccer played on a badminton court, sepak takraw players must volley a rattan ball over a net without using their hands.

Despite the physical limitation, the sport is filled with graceful teamwork and players execute impressive spikes by reverse kicking the ball over their shoulders.

Takraw has developed a reputation in Thailand as "the pedicab drivers' sport" — though such connotations are few these days — because the inexpensive rattan ball is the only equipment needed for a friendly game of circle takraw.

Both Thailand and Malaysia claim to be the first country to invent takraw. Although it is played by most of the 10 Southeast Asian nations competing at the games next month, international tournaments invariably boil down to a match between the Thais and their southern neighbours.

"Since 1965, when takraw was first played at the Southeast Asian Games, the two teams have been arch rivals. No other team can break this combination in the final round," said Sujin Kaewswarang, a coach of Thailand's takraw team.

Malaysia has triumphed over Thailand and claimed gold twice since sepak takraw was introduced into the Asian Games in 1990, but the Thais hope to turn the tables on their home turf.

Sepak takraw could be on its way to worldwide competition with the formation in recent years of both men's and women's teams in the United States, but Sujin said efforts to spread the sport to Japan and South Korea have not met much success.

As host of the Asian Games, which open December 6, Thai-

land has fielded one of the largest teams at 808 athletes, on par with regional giant China, which is expected to send about 800.

Besides taking the opportunity to introduce circle takraw to the Games for the first time and boost its local favourite status — there will be team and individual takraw for men and women — Thailand is delving into less familiar sports like kabaddi.

A sort of team tag, kabaddi has a limited following outside South Asia, but matches between India and rival Pakistan have been known to draw emotional reactions akin to war among players and spectators.

India took the gold medal at the last Asian Games in 1994 in Hiroshima, besting Pakistan and Nepal.

One of the game's more colourful aspects is a rule that when a player is in the opponents' zone, he has to hop continuously on one leg while chanting "kabaddi."

Thailand formed its first kabaddi team six months ago out of castoffs from other national teams and recruits from the Thai navy's frogman unit, the president of Thailand's new kabaddi association said.

The frogmen were selected because of their lung strength, which president Verapoj Phummaphuti said would be advantageous for the exhausting kabaddi chants.

The fledgling team had to make trips to Sri Lanka and India to familiarise itself with the sport. But kabaddi is not completely unknown in Thailand, where a version called "ding chapi" is played in elementary school playgrounds.

"People would laugh if I told them I was president of a ding chapi team, but they don't understand how difficult this sport can be," Verapoj said.

Asian martial arts judo, karate-do, taekwon-do and wushu — a type of kung fu with a staff — will also be represented. Muay Thai, the national form of kick-boxing, will be a demonstration sport.

Gillespie likely to sit out the first battle

BRISBANE, Nov 19 (Reuters/Internet): Australian pacer Jason Gillespie is almost certain to be left out of the first cricket Test against England starting on Friday.

Australian captain Mark Taylor said on Thursday that Gillespie, who took career-best figures of seven for 37 against England in the 1997 Ashes series, was likely to be named 12th man for the opening Test with Michael Kasprowitz sharing the new ball with Glenn McGrath.

Gillespie, who got help from Dennis Lillee to remodel his action that had caused stress fractures to his lower back, had been favoured to get the nod over Kasprowitz for the third fast bowler's spot behind Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming.

But Kasprowitz, who took six English wickets for 31 from 18.2 overs for Queensland against the tourists on Monday, has been impressive in practice.

Kasprowitz took 14 wickets in three Ashes Tests last year, including his best bowling figures of 7-36 at The Oval.

Bangabandhu football's Apr 25-Sept 7

The Bangabandhu National Stadium has been allotted to Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for football matches from April 25 to September 7 next year, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader said yesterday, reports BSS.

He said a decision in this regard was finalised during his meeting with BFF president and Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif on Wednesday.

The State Minister expressed his gratitude to both BFF president and president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Deputy Minister for Shipping, Saber Hossain Chowdhury for their all-out support and co-operation in solving the row between the two federations on using the stadium.

Quader urged BFF to try their best in keeping the cricket pitches playable.

He said the Bangabandhu National Stadium is not meant for a particular sport and it would be shared until the completion of the exclusive stadium for football and cricket at Fatullah in Narayanganj.

Replying to a question, the state minister said the BFF president wanted the stadium for a tournament in February and March next year, but it was not possible as they should provide the best possible support to cricket until the World Cup next year.

He said it would not be wise to disturb cricket until the World Cup in England was over. Bangladesh have qualified for the World Cup as ICC Trophy champions which was held in Malaysia last year.

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Nat'l rowing today

The Star 23rd national rowing competition will be held today on the river of Buriganga near the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to distribute prizes among the winners as chief guest.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the competition at 2 pm.

77 boats were enlisted for the competition from 15 districts and 22 clubs and organisations for the six races in the meet.

The six races are: 7-paddler (women), 7-paddler, 25-paddler (men) Kosha boat (International Standard), 50-paddler Kosha boat (men), above 50-paddler Sarengi boat (men), 50-paddler Chip boat (men).

The number of enlisted boats: 6 boats -7-paddler (women), 26 boats -7-paddler (men), 11 boats -25-paddler Kosha (men), 9 boats-50-paddler Kosha (men), 17 boats -above 50-paddler Sarengi (men) and 8 boats -50-paddler chip boat (men).

Greenidge meets Obaidul, Saber

Gordon Greenidge, Director of Coaching of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), called on State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader at his Secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

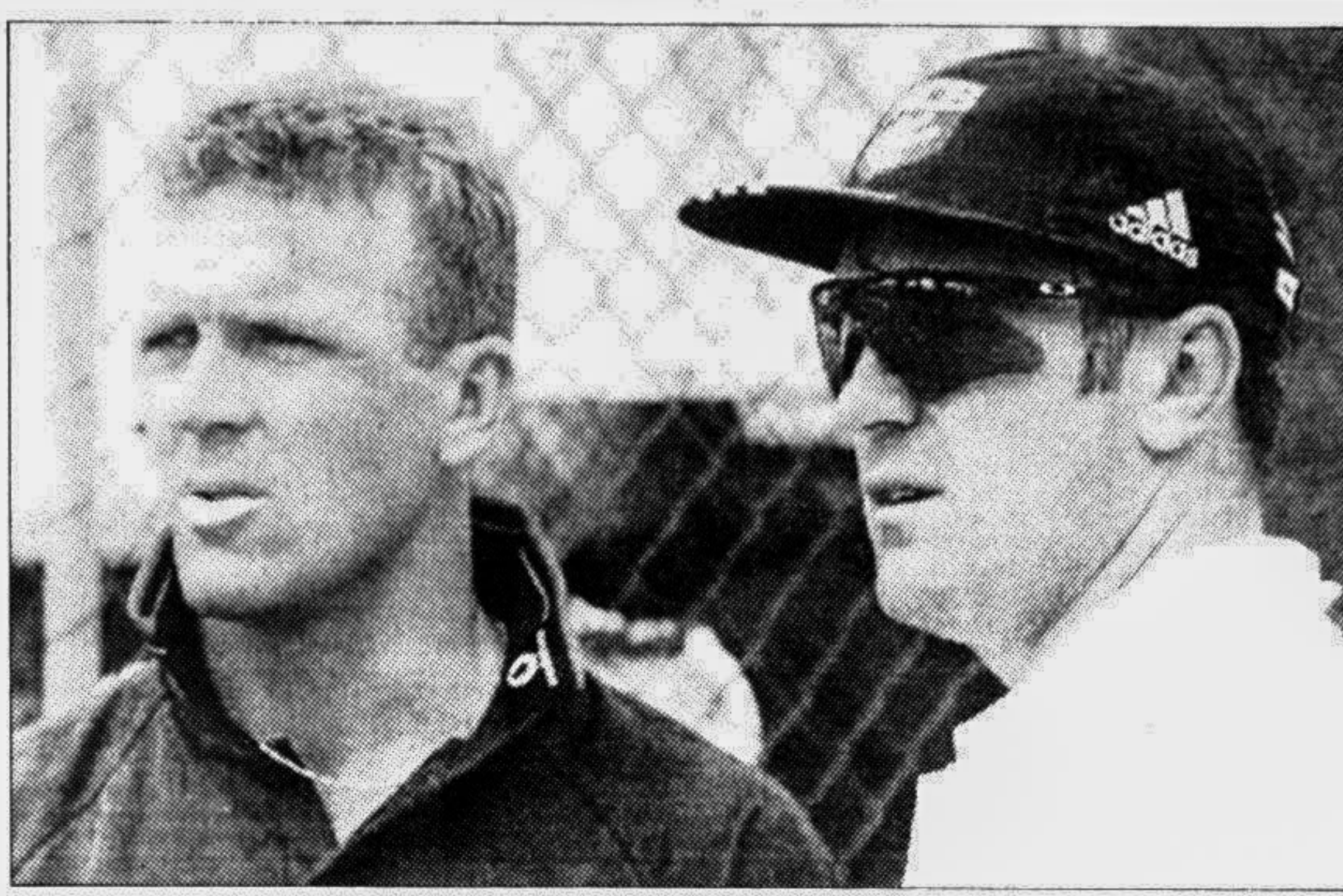
He discussed different issues relating to the game with the minister, who is also the chairman of the National Sports Council.

Gordon also called on president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Deputy Minister for Shipping, Saber Hossain Chowdhury at his Secretariat office.

JPC sports

Senior photo journalist Monwar Ahmed clinched the chess title of the Jatiya Press Club's 44th founding anniversary sports competition beating veteran journalist Saleh Chowdhury in the final held at the Club yesterday, reports BSS.

Monwar and Saleh reached the final defeating Abu Musa Hasan and Qazi Hannan in their respective semifinals.



THE GENERALS: Australian skipper Mark Taylor (R) and his England counterpart Alec Stewart at Brisbane yesterday ahead of the first Ashes Test.

Ashes war starts for real

BRISBANE, Nov 19 (Reuters/ AP/Internet): England's build-up to the Ashes cricket series starting at the Gabba on Friday has been far from incident-free.

One player was beaten up by a drunk, several batsmen have been belted by short-pitched deliveries, and their star bowlers have been openly ridiculed.

But unshaken by the rough Aussie welcome, England's battle-hardened troops still believe they can win back the sacred prize of cricket.

"Nothing that's happened will matter one bit when the teams get out on the field tomorrow," England coach David Lloyd said on Thursday.

"As far as I'm concerned the talking is all over and it's what happens out there that counts."

Australia have held the Ashes since 1989, winning five successive series. Most observers believe England's chances of winning the five-match series are slim.

The notable exception is Mark Taylor, the Australian captain who will be playing in his 100th test on Friday.

Taylor, perhaps more than any other cricketer of his generation, has ridden the game's highs and lows and is not prepared to discount England's chances.

Taylor has also played in each of Australia's last five Ashes wins — but believes this one will be the hardest yet.

"Things can change very quickly in this game," he said.

"When we went to England in 1989 we were known as the

worst team ever to leave Australian shores, yet we won 4-0.

"This England team is the most confident I've ever seen and they haven't lost a game on tour so far so of course they'll be tough."

England have definitely had more than their fair share of troubles on tour.

Players have been injured while batting, injured in training and, in the case of John Crawley, injured after being set upon by a drunk while walking home.

But their biggest concern has been the form of their top-order batsman. Mark Butcher has scored just nine runs in his last five innings after being struck on the head while batting in the first match.

And Michael Atherton, Butcher's opening partner, has needed painkilling injections to his lower back to give him any chance of playing in the first of the five Tests.

Australia, on the other hand, have enjoyed a relatively smooth build-up to the opening Test and were this week rated by cricket bible Wisden as the best team of all time.

They returned home after an historic series win in Pakistan, and have been able to select a full-strength side with the notable exception of star leg-spinner Shane Warne.

Warne has tormented England over the past five years but Taylor believes Australia can still win without him.

"I've always said that we can beat England without Warne but we know we'll have to play very well," Taylor said.

"This is the Ashes and the players on both teams will rise to the occasion."

England under Stewart has been far more consistent than in the past, winning a hard-fought series (2-1) over South Africa earlier this year, England's first win in a five-match series on home soil in 13 years.

However they came unstuck soon after when they were embarrassed by Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan in a one-off Test at The Oval.

But Stewart is confident after beating the South Africans and his side is strong enough mentally to take on the might of Australia. The opening session was crucial to the entire series.

"You want to set the tone early," Stewart said. "The first two balls of the Test here four years ago when (Michael) Slater cut 'Duffy' (DeFreitas) for two fours set the tone, and we want to get off to a good start like we did at Edgbaston two years ago."

BRISBANE, Nov 19 (Reuters/Internet): Australian cricket captain Mark Taylor will join one of cricket's most elite clubs when the first Ashes Test starts against England on Friday.

When Taylor leads his team onto Brisbane's Gabba ground, he will become only the fifth Australian, and the 19th from any country, to play 100 Tests.

"I knew at the time that I had done something a little bit special by making a Test 300 but I never realised how special until I got back home," Taylor said.

"Those who may have seen Sir Donald play back in 1948, they are the ones who walk up to me and almost kiss me."

"They say things like 'it's fantastic you didn't go past Sir Donald'."

Tubby, as Taylor is affectionately known, now stands as one of the greats of Australian cricket. He has long been recognised as one of the best captains in the game as well as a superb slip fieldsmen.

He was also a great opening batsman in the early stages of his career until his form dropped so alarmingly that he was in danger of being dumped.

Heading into the 1997 Ashes series in England, Taylor's career was teetering on the brink after an 18-month batting slump in which he didn't score a 50 in 21 Test innings.

But, just when it looked as though his Test-playing days might be over, Taylor ended his crisis with a courageous innings of 129 in the second innings of the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

It quite literally saved his career and, remarkably, marked the start of a dramatic return to form.

But Taylor is not getting carried away with his achievements. The secret to his success, he says, is that he grinds away, never flashy, never gracefully, but workmanlike.

"I've been able to play badly and make runs. I think that has been the secret of my success," he said.

"I've never been a super graceful player but I've been able to make runs whether I'm hitting the ball in the middle of the bat every time or squiring them through gully."

"It has never worried me how I have looked. I have always been a player who has accumulated runs and I think that's

why I've been successful."

This series against England is almost certainly Taylor's last appearance in an Ashes. He has played in five already, and won the lot.

Although he is in the best form of his life, Taylor has ruled out going for Allan Border's world record of 156 Tests, although he has not set a date for retirement just yet.

"I'll take it series by series and I honestly mean that," he said. "You just don't know what will happen in six or seven weeks' time."

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Mark Taylor (captain), Michael Slater, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Ian Healy, Damien Fleming, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath, Michael Kasprowitz, Jason Gillespie, (12th man to be named).

ENGLAND: Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, John Crawley, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Alan Mullally, Angus Fraser (12th man to be named).

Taylor set for another ton

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ACB delays decision

BRISBANE, Nov 19: The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) postponed Thursday a decision on whether umpire Darrell Hair should officiate in limited-overs matches involving Sri Lanka this season, reports AP.

Sri Lankan cricket authorities have asked the ACB to ban Hair from umpiring their matches in the triangular one-day tournament also involving Australia and England starting in January.

The ACB held a directors meeting Thursday where Hair's recently published book, "The Decision Maker," was discussed.

In the book, Hair details the furor that surrounded his calls of no balls on Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing in the December 1995 Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Hair described Muralitharan's bowling action as "diabolical" and wrote he would no ball the off-spinner again should he deem his action illegal.

ACB chairman Denis Rogers said the board considered a report on the book at Thursday's meeting from chief executive officer Malcolm Speed.

He said the board had sought further advice on the matter from the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"We received a preliminary report on the publication from Malcolm Speed and considered letters exchanged between the board of cricket control for Sri Lanka and the ICC," Rogers said.

Muralitharan was called for no balls for throwing by Hair seven times in a three-over period in the 1995 Test.



Football great Pele signing autographs for fans on arrival at Asuncion, Paraguay on an official visit on November 18.

— AFP photo