

Column One

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

- Which country lifted the Wills International Cup?
S Africa W Indies India
- Who scored highest number of runs in the Wills Cup?
Kallis Cronje Wallac
- Who topped batting average in the Bangladesh-West Indies A One-day series?
Reifer Akram Javed
- Which team emerged champion in the national age-group swimming?
Khulna Nganj Kushia
- Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?
Mamun Sadek Kamal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

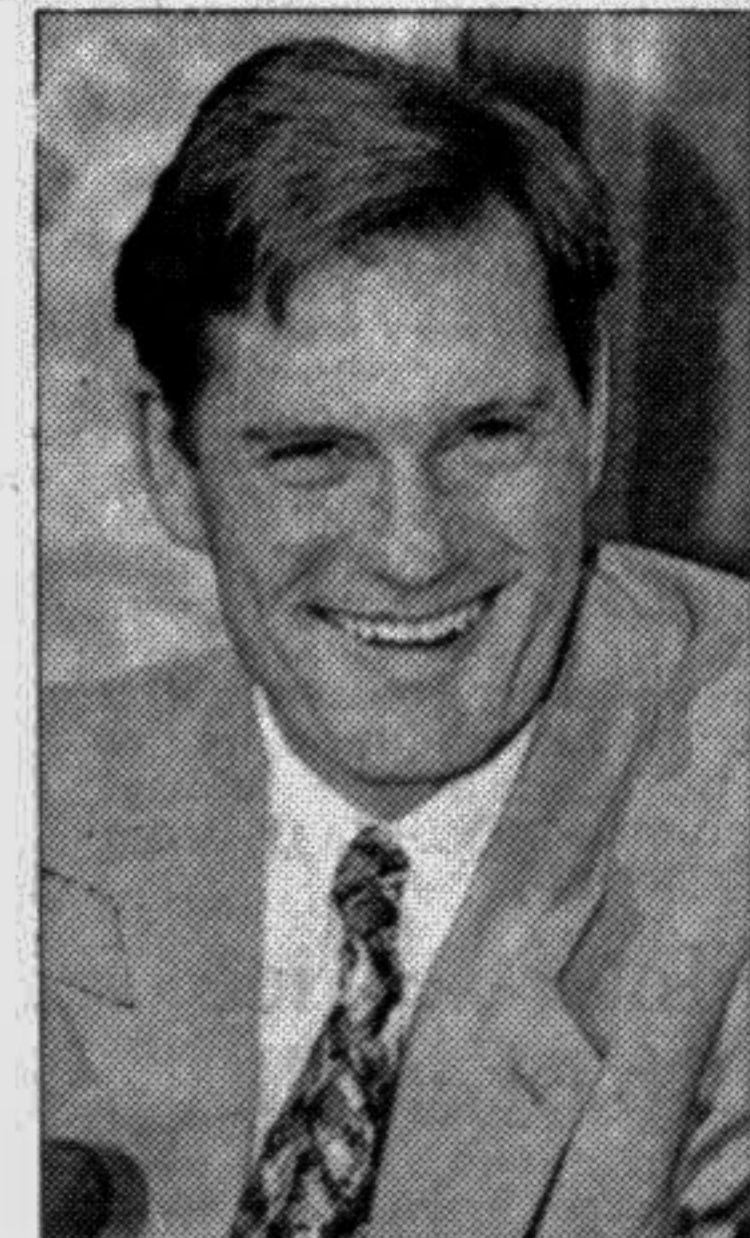
Phone: (If any)

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT in the sport of Automobile Racing, drivers race specially designed automobiles over tracks or courses of differing lengths, designs, and constructions. It tests the skills of the drivers, the speed capabilities of the vehicles, and the endurance of both. Automobile racing, which originally consisted of occasional challenges among wealthy individuals in the United States and continental Europe, has evolved into an international year-round professional sport. It is one of the most popular spectator sports in the world, with races run before millions of fans at events with wide coverage on television.

Frankly speaking, I hate the droning sound of the vehicles that make me dizzy as they go round and round. But thought some of you out there might perhaps be crazier than I am.

SPORTS TALK



Glenn Hoddle
(England football manager)
"Compared to most of the international managers in Europe, this job is poorly paid."

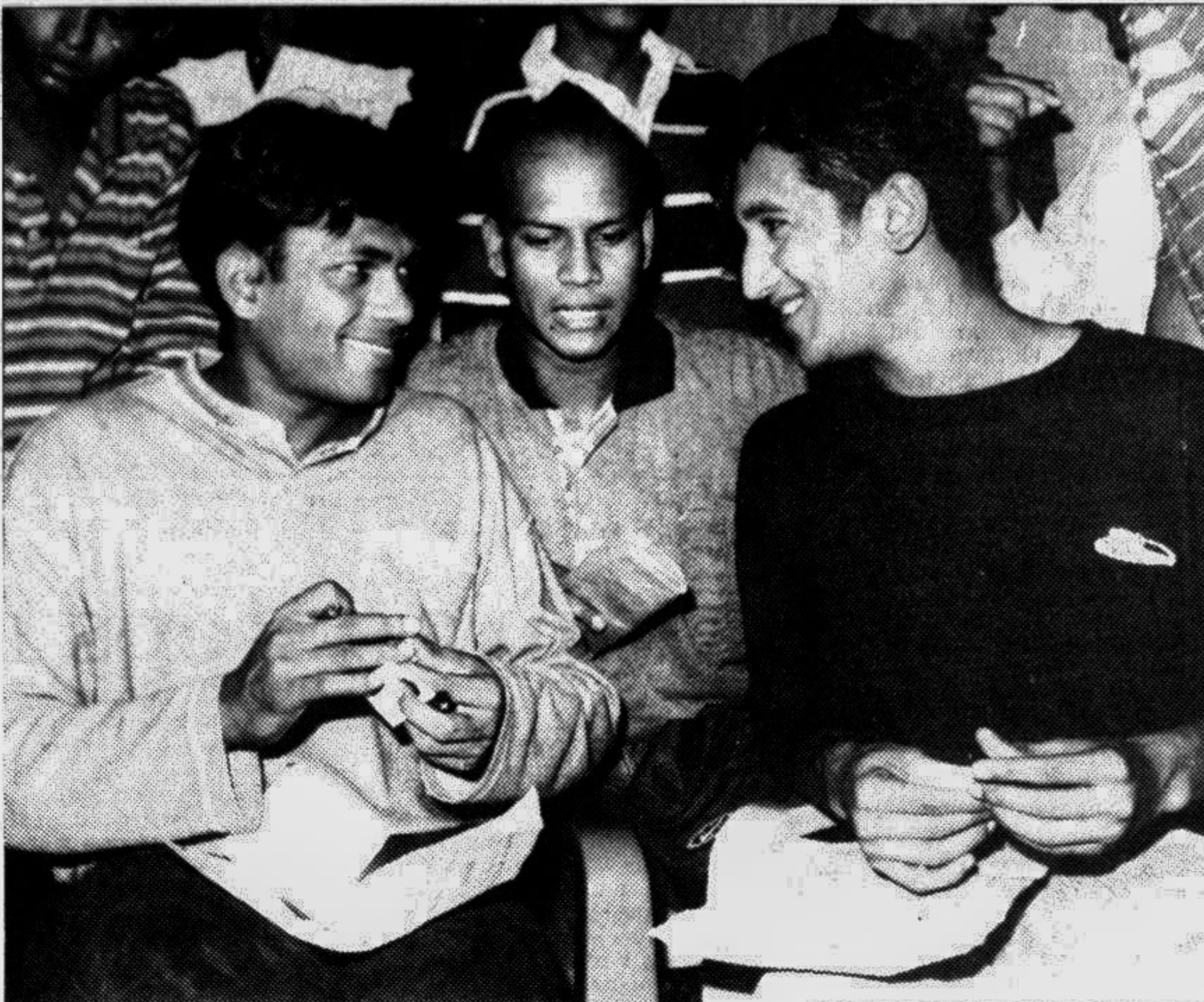
Hosts humble Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: A skipper's knock of 113 by Anand Sharma helped India beat arch-rivals Pakistan by eight wickets to reach the semifinals with a clean slate in the inaugural Kanishka World Cup cricket for the blind here yesterday, reports PTI.

Anand Sharma's superb effort and his 174-run second wicket stand with all-rounder Balaji Damar 62 not out propelled favourites India to 248 for two in 36.1 overs after they had inserted and restricted Pakistan to 244 for 8 in 40 overs.

The hosts will meet South Africa, who beat New Zealand by seven wickets thanks to captain Rury Field's 163 — the third century — here, in the semifinals on November 26. Pakistan meet Australia in the other semifinal on the same day.

Sushiti Guard (3/41) helped India restrict Pakistan to 244 for eight. Opener Masood Jan, who enriched the tournament with a world record 262 against South Africa, scored 52. Abdul Razzaq hit an unbeaten 67 and Zareen Khan added 35 runs.



MOHAMMEDANS' LOSS ABAHANI'S GAIN: Hasibul Hossain (L) and Mehrab Hossain (R) are all smiles at the BCB office yesterday. —Star photo

Inter-club cricketers' transfer

Surjo Tarun basks, Mohammedan burns

Sports Reporter

Surjo Tarun Club has kicked up real sensation yesterday on Day One of the three-day inter-club cricketers' transfer when the mediocre-turned-aspirant signed up seven players including a quintet of national stalwarts, but all on commission.

Surjo Tarun hardly made its appearance among the heavyweights of the Premier League during a hectic bourse at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office on Wednesday evening. But the Dhanmondi-based outfit stole the limelight by luring former national captain Minhazul Abedin (from Mohammedan), Athar Ali Khan (from Biman), Enamul Haq Monil (from Kalabagan), Al-Shahriar Rokan and national wicketkeeper Khaled Masud Pilot (from Abahani).

Apprehending interference from their old clubs, the seven went on voluntary hibernation at Coxes Bazar; and thus the need for signing on commission. It could however not be confirmed till late last night whether they have returned to Dhaka.

Among its haul, Surjo Tarun also roped in young and upcoming right-hand batsman Ridwan from Lalmitia and opener Parvez Ahmed of Mohammedan.

Despite losing Athar Ali, Biman had a happy day by signing up three players, again on commission. Jahangir Talukder Dulu of Mohammedan, Saifullah Gem of

Inter-Thana football Cox's Bazar dump Teknaf

From Our Correspondent
Cox's Bazar, Nov 25: The inter-thana football championship of Cox's Bazar District begins at the local stadium today.

On the opening day, Cox's Bazaar Thana recorded a thumping 3-0 win over Teknaf Thana.

Earlier, Ali Imam Majumder, the District Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, as chief guest declared the championship open.

Seven teams are taking part in the meet.

Ramu Thana will take on Mohekshal Thana tomorrow (Thursday).

Abahani and Rafiqul of Ajax have signed for the national airline outfit, who have retained the services of captain Faruque Ahmed along with Habibur Bashar Sumon, Ziaur Rashid Rupom, wicketkeeper Atiar and Hasanuzzaman. Biman, almost with a vengeance, signed up Surjo Tarun's opener Javed Omar Belim to retrieve the loss of Athar to the emerging giants.

The opening day was also marked by a foreign signing by Kalabagan, who took away Pakistani Sahid Sayeed from Surjo Tarun's disposal.

It was however Mohammedan Sporting Club, who returned the worst campaigner on an eventful day. Mohammedan, who are going through a bad time for the last couple of years, could only manage to retain the services of Mohammed Rafique and Monjurul Islam among the pool players. The notable signings for Mohammedan were Abahani's seamer Zakir Hossain, Agrani Bank's Nasirul Alam Nahid, Gopibagh Friends' wicketkeeper Golam Murtaza and Wari's off-spinner Jamaluddin Babu.

Defending champions Abahani Kriya Chakra, who lost some of their key players, appeared to have compensated the voids of Al-Shahriar and wicketkeeper Khaled Masood when they bagged Mehrab Hossain and Hasibul Hossain from the rival tent of Mohammedan Sporting Club.

With the inclusion of Mehrab, the experienced opener, and tall national right-arm seamer Hasibul, Abahani completed their quota of five pool players. Skipper Akram Khan, his deputy Naimur Rahman and opener Azam Iqbal have decided to stay back in the popular Dhanmondi tent for another year.

Although Naimur, the discarded national all-rounder, and Azam came along with their club officials to the BCB office, Akram opted not to face the eagerly awaiting photographers.

Abahani have also roped in Agrani Bank's young opener Hannan Sarkar and GMCC's left-arm spinner Masud Rana.

Besides, Abahani have ensured the services of six of their old players — left-handed opener Imran Hamid Partho, Iqbal, Ashfaq Ali Khan Rahat, Ahmed Kamal Colonel, Naimur

Rashid Rahul and wicketkeeper Rokon (jr).

Abahani's neighbours Kalabagan, who finished third in the Premier league last year, also had a busy day. The new levitarians of domestic cricket, whose hopes to retain the services of Enamul Haq evaporated after the latter joined Surjo Tarun, seemed to have made up the loss of the slow left-armer by hooking young off-spinner Fahim Muntasir Sumit and his Agrani Bank mate Moshfiqur Rahman Babu.

The inclusion of the Bank duo also completed Kalabagan's quota of five players bracketed in the national 'pool'. Moreover, Kalabagan have also signed up Mohammedan's Sajid Hasan and Mukul.

Hard-hitting opener Harunur Rashid Liton, Sajjad Ahmed Monsur Shipon and seamer Zakir Hasan are the other three 'pool' players, whose services Kalabagan have retained for another season.

National skipper Aminul Islam Bulbul of Mohammedan told APB over telephone that he has decided to join Bangladesh Biman. "It will take place on the second day of the transfer," added Bulbul.

Nat'l badminton begins Dec 1

The 21st national badminton tournament under the joint auspices of Bangladesh Badminton Federation and Jessore DSA will begin at the Jessore gymnasium from December 1, reports APB.

Interested teams have been requested to report to general secretary of Jessore DSA by November 30.

Justice Dalil to conduct BOA election

Justice Daliluddin Ahmed has been made Chief Election Commissioner to conduct election of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA), according to a press release issued by BOA president Lt General (ret'd) Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, reports BSS.

The commission has been given the responsibility to hold the election of BOA executive committee within three months.

Caribbean cricket boss carjacked!

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 25 (Reuters/Internet): A car driven by the president of the West Indies Cricket Board, Pat Rousseau, was hijacked in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

Rousseau, his wife, Jamaica Gleaner sports editor Tony Becca and a United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa official, Wally Miller, were en route to the Soweto Oval when armed men forced them out of the car and left them, unharmed, on the side of the road.

They were rescued by other UCB officials on their way to Soweto, and then reported the crime to the police.

The ill-starred West Indian tour of South Africa was almost stillborn because of a pay dispute.

Murali picked up for World Series

COLOMBO, Nov 25 (Reuters/Internet): Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was included on Wednesday in Sri Lanka's 15-member squad for the World Series tournament in Australia.

Australia, England and Sri Lanka will compete in the one-day tournament in January and February.

Muralitharan, who spearheaded Sri Lanka to a 10-wicket victory over England in August, missed this month's one-day tournament in Sharjah due to an injury to his shoulder.

Australian umpire Darrell Hair recently described Muralitharan's bowling action as "diabolical." Hair said he would have no hesitation in no-balling Muralitharan in the future if the bowler has not sorted out his action.

Hair called Muralitharan for throwing seven times in a three-over spell in the second test against Australia at Melbourne in 1995.

Sri Lankan cricket authorities have protested to the International Cricket Council (ICC) over Hair's remarks and asked the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) to ban him from umpiring their matches in the World Series.

The ACB last week postponed making a decision pending consultation with the ICC.

SQUAD

Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Rossouw Mahanama, Hashan Tillekeratne, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Pramodaya Wickremasinghe, Suresh Perera, Nuwan Zoysa, Avishka Gunawardane, Tilan Samarawera.

Waqar back in Test fold

KARACHI, Nov 24 (Reuters/Internet): Waqar Younis' comeback remained on track when he was named in Pakistan's 14 for the first Test against Zimbabwe, starting in Peshawar on Friday.

The fast bowler, who has 267 Test wickets, returned to competitive cricket after more than seven months on Tuesday and took two wickets in the one-day international victory over Zimbabwe. An elbow injury has kept Younis out.

"I am impressed by the way I bowled although I was a yard or two slow, but there was absolutely no problem and I enjoyed this match," he said.

"The feeling of playing an international match naturally lifts your performance and I am expecting that I will play much better in Peshawar."

Coach Javed Miandad said: "It's great to have Waqar back. But his inclusion has exposed the youngsters who have failed to establish themselves in his absence."

Salim Malik, dropped from the one-day side, was overlooked again. Saeed Anwar and Mushtaq Ahmed, who missed the third and final Test against Australia last month, have returned.

SQUAD

Aamir Sohail (captain), Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Yohanna, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Azhar Mahmood, Hasan Raza, Salim Elahi, Shoaib Akhtar.

Unfriendly!

BANGKOK, Nov 25: A friendly soccer match ahead of next month's Asian games between Thailand and Qatar degenerated into a brawl Tuesday after a Thai referee handed a yellow card to a Qatar player, reports AP.

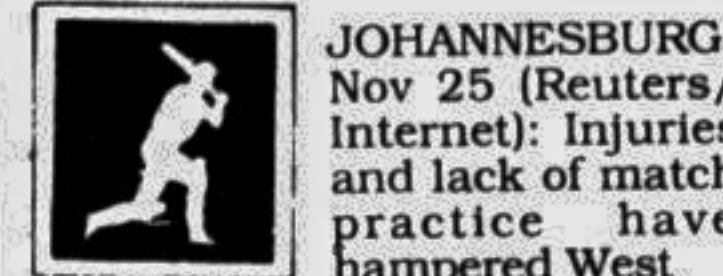
The match was suspended without further play after players from both sides punched, kicked and body-slammed each other for several minutes.

several players on both teams suffered slight injuries. There were no problems in the first half, which saw both sides go scoreless.

But when referee Ekchai Thanatdeunkhao yellow-carded a Qatar striker for knocking down a Thai player seven minutes into the second half, his teammates protested vociferously.

After a five minutes of arguing, the fighting started when a Qatar player pushed the chest of a Thai player.

First Test begins today Fortune frowns on WI



JOHANNESBURG, Nov 25 (Reuters/Internet): Injuries and lack of match practice have hampered West Indies' preparation for the first Test against a fully fit and highly-motivated South African side starting on Thursday.

It is only the second time that the two sides have met in a Test match after the West Indies came from behind to win the one-off Test in Bridgetown, Barbados, in April 1992 by 52 runs.

That match came just after South Africa's readmission into world cricket after more than 20 years of apartheid-induced isolation and it was an inexperienced, naive South African team who underestimated Courtney Walsh on the final morning.

On Thursday, that same duo and Brian Lara stand between South Africa and victory over a side who have not been favoured by fortune over the past three weeks.

First there was the defeat at



On paper, West Indies' hopes look bleak but at least captain Lara was prepared to look on the bright side.

"Yes, our preparation has been limited," Lara said. "But there must be no excuses. We must be mentally prepared. That is the most important thing."

"On the positive side all our batters have had a good knock and there's been some good performances from our bowlers."

Despite niggling injuries to Walsh (ankle) and Ambrose (toe), Lara and coach Malcolm Marshall were confident that all 15 tourists but leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine would be available for selection.

Ramnarine pulled out of the tour on Wednesday with a shoulder injury.

Rawl Lewis, who is scheduled to join the team on Thursday, will replace him.

"He's had the injury for some time now and there was hope that it would get better," said the Caribbean manager. "Unfortunately it's very painful now."

On the way to South Africa, Jimmy Adams sliced open his

finger with a bread knife, putting him out of contention. Then their opening warm-up match against a provincial XI in the black township of Soweto was rained off after just 47 overs.

West Indies' only two first-class games were less than promising.

They drew against minnows Griqualand West and then suffered an astonishing two-wicket defeat at the hands of provincial champions Free State who chased 438, thanks to an unbeaten 158 from Hansie Cronje at the weekend.

In contrast, South Africa are on a high after taking the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in September and then winning again in Bangladesh, before a month-long series of provincial four-day matches that saw almost every member of the national squad among the runs.

South Africa's opening attack of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock were also given some well-earned rest, while the selectors unearthed 21-year-old swing bowler David Terbrugge to fill the gap left by the retired Fanie de Villiers.

On paper, West Indies' hopes look bleak but at least captain Lara was prepared to look on the bright side.

"Yes, our preparation has been limited," Lara said. "But there must be no excuses. We must be mentally prepared. That is the most important thing."

"On the positive side all our batters have had a good knock and there's been some good performances from our bowlers."

Despite niggling injuries to Walsh (ankle) and Ambrose (toe), Lara and coach Malcolm Marshall were confident that all 15 tourists but leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine would be available for selection.

Ramnarine pulled out of the tour on Wednesday with a shoulder injury.

Rawl Lewis, who is scheduled to join the team on Thursday, will replace him.

"He's had the injury for some time now and there was hope that it would get better," said the Caribbean manager. "Unfortunately it's very painful now."

Concern over white Protea



JOHANNESBURG, Nov 24 (Reuters): The head of South Africa's sports control body, the National Sports Council (NSC), said on Tuesday he was concerned with the composition of the nearly all-white South African cricket team to face the West Indies in an historic first Test starting on Thursday.

Mvuso Mbebe, the chief executive of the NSC, which acts as a national controlling body for sport in South Africa, said that despite a statement from South African cricket boss Dr Ali Bacher in March this year saying the team would include more players of colour, things

had not changed. "We are really concerned about that and we will probably take the matter up with Dr Bacher after the Test match," Mbebe told Reuters on Tuesday.

"After Dr Bacher's comments in March we expected to see a drastic transformation but now we are back where we started."

"The announcement from Dr Bacher suggested everything is going fine, but all of a sudden it isn't."

The only non-white member of the 12-man squad announced on Sunday is left-arm spinner Paul Adams, after seamer Makhaya Ntini was dropped.

Mbebe suggested that the reason for the lack of non-

white players may be the two-fold system of the board.

"We need to find out what the problem is. Maybe it is a selection problem or maybe the provinces aren't giving the players a fair chance to come through," he said.

Convener of selectors Peter Pollock said the team was picked purely on merit.

In his statement Bacher said that the International Cricket Board of South Africa always intended to have a player of colour in the national side. "There should always be players of colour but there are sometimes reasons why the team will be all-white in certain matches," Bacher said.

MacGill being philosophical



SYDNEY, Nov 25 (Reuters/Internet): Stuart MacGill has adopted a philosophical approach to his surprising omission from the Australian team to play England in the second Ashes cricket Test starting in Perth on Saturday.

The Australian leg-spinner was unceremoniously dropped from the Test team on Tuesday just after the weather intervened to stop him from bowling Australia to a famous Test victory.

England were heading towards almost certain defeat late on the final day of the first Ashes Test in Brisbane when the match was abandoned because of a fierce electrical

storm.

MacGill, playing in the absence of regular wrist-spinner Shane Warne, was leading the Australian charge. He had already dismissed three of England's leading batsmen and was working his way through the tail when play ended with England six wickets down.

His performance was not enough to win him a place in the side for the second Test, however, as he lost his spot to Colin Miller, a seamer-cum-off-spinner who made his Test debut just two months ago at the ripe old age of 34.

"There are a lot of things running through my mind," a disappointed MacGill said on Wednesday. "But I never felt I was a certainty for Perth any-

"Of course some of the guys will be carrying injuries but that is the nature of tours," Lara said. "My long term aim is to get West Indies cricket back to the top and this will be the start."

Despite his impressive knock over the weekend, Cronje was well aware of the danger of playing a West Indies side seemingly down and out.

"We must be careful. The only form that counts is the form we have on Thursday," Cronje said. "Not for one minute can we expect the same bowling we saw on Sunday night and Monday morning."

They're not regarded as the best bowlers in the world for nothing. The West Indies were top for a long time and I think they are keen to get there again."

South Africa will start the Test with a well-balanced side both in age and variety.

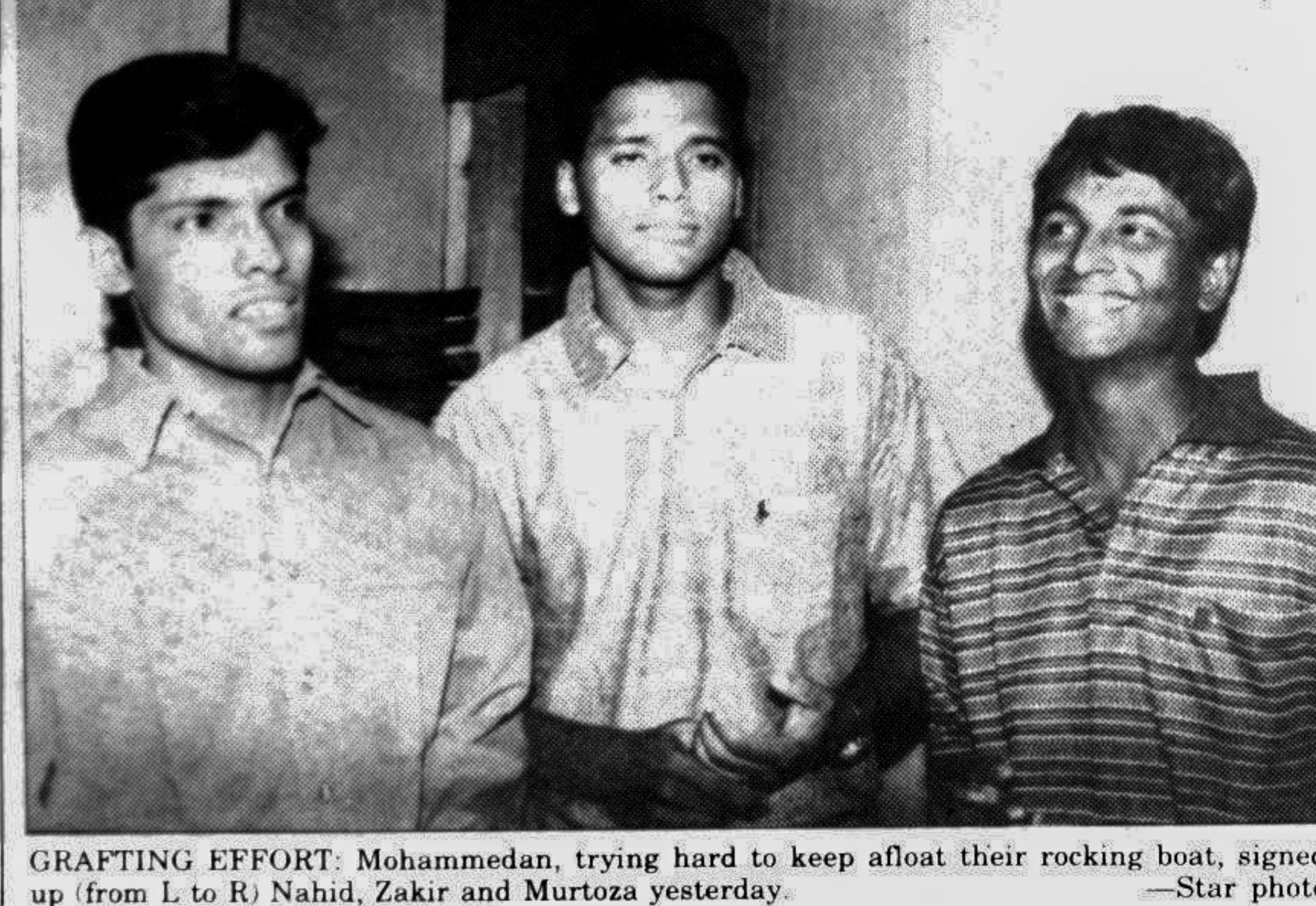
On the one hand is Terbrugge and on the other, 38-year-old off-spinner Pat Symcox, who is likely to play ahead of left-armer Paul Adams in the final 11 to be selected on Thursday morning.

The teams will contest another four Test matches and seven one-day internationals.

TEAMS

South Africa (from): Gary Kirsten, Adam Bacher, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Pat Symcox, Allan Donald, David Terbrugge, Paul Adams.

West Indies: Yet to be announced.



GRAFTING EFFORT: Mohammedan, trying hard to keep afloat their rocking boat, signed up (from L to R) Nahid, Zakir and Murtzo yesterday. —Star photo



FRIENDLY FIASCO! Batters of Thailand and Qatar fighting against each other during a supposedly friendly match in Bangkok on November 24. The game was abandoned halfway. —Internet photo