

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Racing Car now falls into two broad categories. First are open-wheeled vehicles, in which the wheels are not under fenders. These cars have open cockpits, although (according to type) there can be a roll bar or cage over the driver for protection in case of a crash. The cars are streamlined for speed and are single-seated, meaning that only one person can be in the vehicle. They come in varieties ranging from modest karts (small motorised vehicles) to extremely sophisticated F1 and Indy car racers. The other category of racing cars are closed-wheeled (with fenders) with an enclosed cockpit, so that they can somewhat resemble normal, everyday cars. Many so-called stock cars are actually pure racing vehicles with the bodywork of a streetcar, but with enhanced performance and more sophisticated safety devices than streetcars. Such cars are never used off-track and almost universally have only one driver aboard.

Now we have this thing called *Mishuk*, which also has one driver. Although motorised, it is not very fast. But that does not prevent the driver from pretending that he is on the racing circuit: bent forward, eyes focussed on the track ahead. Only problem he can't see what's coming from the sides.

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
Dec 4 '98, and draw
shortly afterwards

1	Which country lifted the Wills International Cup?	S Africa	W Indies	India
2	Who scored highest number of runs in the Wills 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	Nganj	Kushitia
5	Who will lead Bangladesh at Asian Games hockey tournament?	Mamun	Sadek	Kamal

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Brian Charles Lara

(West Indies cricket captain)

"We are sorry if we caused offence and we apologise to the people of South Africa for the delay."

After his team arrived late in South Africa because of a pay dispute.

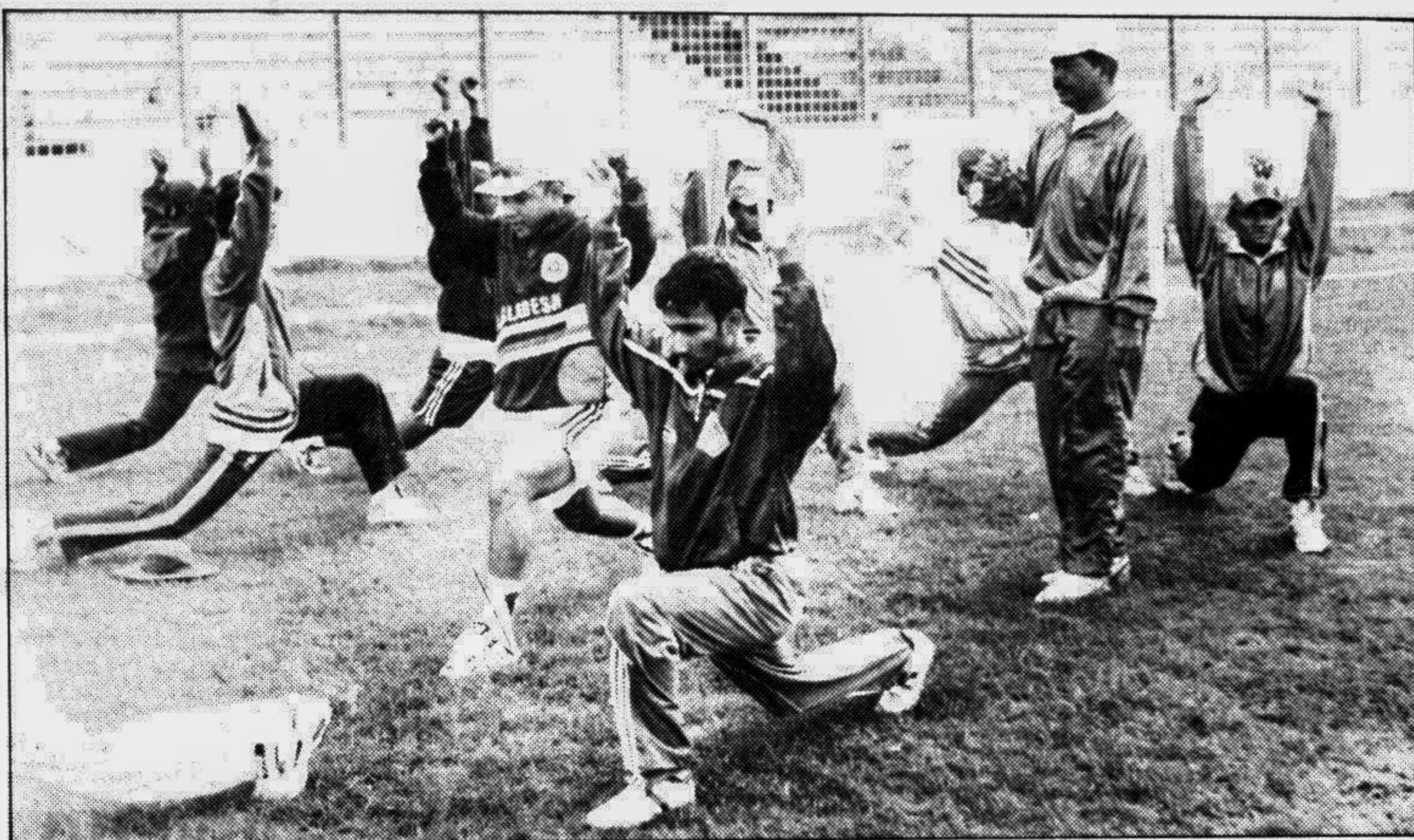
DU swimming

Mohsin Hall emerged champions in the Dhaka University inter-hall swimming championship at the university swimming pool yesterday, reports UNB.

Mahbubur Rahman became the best player in the competition bagging seven gold and one bronze medals.

Golfers meet Kibria

The Bangladesh golf team scheduled to participate in the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok, yesterday met Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, a patron of Bangladesh Golf Federation, reports BSS.



Coach Osman Khan supervising the warm-up session of Brothers Union at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Premier Division Cricket League Preview - II

Brothers eye championship, but with foreign umpires

Hasan Masood

Brothers Union are perpetually the cool customers of Dhaka cricket. The Gopibagh outfit were runners-up in the league last season with what could be termed as a balanced side, a happy blend of senior and junior players.

Although they hardly have supporters like the two popular crowd-pullers, Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting, Brothers were always considered as one of the major forces in domestic cricket. The coming season will be no exception.

The format of the league is new. There will be 80-overs-a-side matches this season on a single league basis. Obviously, Brothers Union have considered all given factors before composing their team.

The RK Mission Road club have well-kept their team of last year with very minor changes. All their four pool cricketers -- national team vice-captain Khaled Mahmud, opener Shahriar Hossain, middle-order bat Sanwar Hossain and new-ball bowler Shafiuddin Ahmed -- have maintained their allegiance. Most interestingly, they did not even bother to turn up at the BCB office during the three-day long inter-club cricketers' transfer that was held last week.

Wicketkeeper Jahangir Alam, who is still among the World Cup probabilities, has also stayed put with the team. Besides, Brothers have also retained the services of promising opener Shezan, middle-order bat Wahid, medium-pace Shahnewaz Shuvro and left-arm spinner Milan.

However, middle-order batsman Halim Shah, slow bowler Mustadir Litu, off-spinner Sohail and pacer Salaudun have left Brothers Union during the transfer.

Among the new comers, National Under-19 leg spinner Shyamol is a bright prospect. Shyamol apart, left-arm spinner Hasan from Ajax, medium-pace Rashed from Azad Sporting and two Under-16 cricketers, left-handed batsman Javed and wicketkeeper Anwar of Nabin Sangha, have also joined Brothers Union this season. But, they will hardly have any scope to play.

Among the foreign recruits, former Indian Test all-rounder Sanjeev Sharma arrived in the capital last week and looked pretty confident yesterday morning during the nets at the Bangabandhu.

Two Pakistanis, veteran Za-

hid Ahmed and Aamir Hanif, who are playing for Brothers Union for the last couple of seasons, and perhaps a young spinner from Delhi (name not known), are the other three probabilities likely to fill their 'foreigners' quota for this season.

"I think we have a pretty good side this year. This is almost the side we had last season. A few have gone but I don't think that will have any bearing," said national coach Osman Khan while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

"Last year, two defeats threw us away from the title race. I don't mind the defeat against Azad in a rain-curtailed match at the BKSP, but I have all the reasons to believe that the defeat against Abahani was a gift from our local umpires, who gave a lot of controversial decisions against us," said Osman, one of the two assistant coaches to Gordon Greenidge for the National team, which won the ICC trophy last year.

"Poor and biased umpiring is the main headache for teams like ours. This is a bad trend and that is why I want foreign umpires to conduct the league from the very beginning," said Osman.

When asked about his team's strengths, Osman claimed that his team is one of the most balanced sides, which will perform better this time.

"We have a different ball game this season. Boys will have to play two-day matches. They have to bat for 80 overs, which is a very new thing to them. There will be more slips,

close-in fielders and you have to have the habit of not trying with every ball. We have only one week's time to teach all these things to the boys and that is the only problem right now."

"Anyway, we are trying our best to motivate the boys within this short time and I think, if everything goes well, we will have a better result in the league this year. We will fight for the championship. All we need is a good team effort and the boys are ready to give their hundred percent," said Osman.

About his probable batting order, Osman informed that Shahriar and Shezan would open the innings, followed by Sanwar and Jahangir. Sanjeev Sharma and Khaled Mahmud, who is tipped to lead the team this season, would come in at number five and six.

"At seven, there will be Shyamol. If we don't have any foreigners. Then we have Shuvro, Hasan and Babu to bat. So I think we have depth in our batting."

"We have four pacers in Shafiuddin, Shuvro, Khaled Mahmud and Sanjeev Sharma and our spin squad will also be very powerful with Shyamol, Hasan, Shezan and Sanwar," added Osman.

About the other leading teams, Osman tipped reigning champions Abahani as the most powerful side.

"Abahani is a different team. They have good organisational back-up, which is very essential to manage a good cricket team. Besides, Biman and Surjo Tarun have also organised good teams. There is going to be a lot of fun this year," Osman concluded.

With Osman looking quite confident, Khaled Mahmud, the captain designate, was also in the same mood last morning.

Although, he repeated everything his coach had said, one thing he said about Sanwar Hossain was rather interesting.

"Everybody knows him as a batsman. But he is a fine tweaker of the ball. Last season his five-wicket haul helped us to beat Kalabagan. This time he is going to do even better. I tell you, his reverse spin is almost like that of Saqlain Mushtaq," said Mahmud.

Whatever is the outcome, Brothers Union will always play entertaining cricket. Watch out for their league opener against promotees Sadharan Bina at the BKSP ground next Monday (December 7).

Jahangir annexes nat'l billiards title

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Dec 1: Jahangir Alam Khan of Comilla Club clinched the 10th national billiards championship defeating

Sohrab Hossain of Dhaka Officers' Club by five frames to three in the final held here on November 27.

William Doherty of Chittagong Catholic Club finished third while his teammate Noel Roberto earned the fourth spot.

Saiful Islam, the president of Dhaka Club, distributed prizes in a simple ceremony which was presided over by Comilla Club vice-president Iqbal Hossain.

A total of 22 players from six clubs took part in the week-long tournament.



Comilla Club's Jahangir Alam (L) receives the national billiards championship trophy from Saiful Islam, president of Dhaka Club, in Comilla on November 27. —Star photo

Premier cricket fixture

Giants open with easy encounters

Sports Reporter

The Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) yesterday announced the fixture of the prestigious Premier Division cricket league, scheduled for a December 7 start.

The league, involving twelve teams, will be played in three different venues and is expected to be completed on January 30. Unlike the previous years, matches will be 80-overs-a-side and played over two days.

Three matches will be played on the inaugural day. Holders Abahani Krira Chakra will take on Orient SC, one of the two promotees to the Premier league this year, at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Runners-up Brothers Union will meet the other promotees Sadharan Biman at the BKSP in Savar.

Kalabagan KC, who finished third last year, will face Victoria SC at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Mohammedan Sporting Club will begin their campaign against Agrani Bank at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on December 9. On the same day Bangladesh Biman, the most balanced side this season, will meet Wari Club at the BKSP. Mediocre-turned-aspirants, Surjo Tarun, led by its new captain Minhazul Abedin, will begin their chase for a maiden title triumph at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium against Ajax SC.

Farsad dead

Farsad Hossain Babu, a former footballer of Brothers Union, Farashganj SC and Dhaka Wanderers Club, died of cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital at 6 am yesterday. He was 32, reports UNB.

He left behind one son and a daughter, wife and a large number of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Jurain graveyard after namaz-janaza at Brothers Union Club and Tikatuly Mosque.

BFF President and Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, General Secretary Harun-ur-Rashid, MP, and the federation members condoled his untimely death.

AB Bank TT

Armanitola GS, Bangladesh Biman and Biman Junior won their respective matches in the AB Bank Senior Division table tennis league at the NSC Wooden floor Gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Armanitola beat Wari Club in straight sets as Mustafa overpowering his namesake 21-15, 21-18, Tuhin defeated Mithu 21-19, 21-12 and Manas outplayed Tamim 21-17, 21-17.

Bangladesh Biman dumped Inter Sports Club, also in straight sets, with Mahubub beating Akhlaque by 21-14, 21-18, Hanik defeating Shayed by 21-11, 21-17 and Sadi outplaying Moin by 21-17, 21-11.

Biman Junior outplayed Brothers Union 3-1, with Edison defeating Rubel by 21-17, 21-14, Goutam beating Ripon by 21-18, 21-19, Pappu losing to Badal 21-7, 21-7 and Goutam overpowering Rubel by 18-21, 21-14, 21-7.

In the First Division league, Engineers' Club, Uttara Club, Dilkusha Club and BSJA beat their rivals at the same venue.

Engineers outplayed Mohammedpur Boys by 3-0 sets as Ritu overcame Farid 21-8, 22-20, Munna defeated Kajal 21-12, 21-10 and Sagar beat Rafique 21-13, 21-14.

Uttara Club crushed Angels Club by straight sets with Baban beating Shaukat 21-14, 21-10, Biplob defeating Mahubub 21-15, 21-9 and Tuhin outplaying Sabuj 21-9, 21-13.

Dilkusha Club downed Mohammedi Youth Club by straight sets.

BSJA overpowered Araka Club by 3-2 sets.

Real top the clubs



TOKYO, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Real Madrid were crowned World Club champions for the first time since 1960 when they finally outran Vasco da Gama of Brazil to win the World Club (Intercontinental) Cup 2-1 on Tuesday.

Real Madrid, whose indifferent domestic league form has left them currently eighth in the Spanish first division, regained the momentum that carried them to the European Cup last May.

Real, marshalled superbly by Fernando Hierro and Manuel Sanchis at the back and inspired by Raul in attack, gave a battling display that was ultimately too good for the Brazilian side who mixed some excellent approach play with periods of sluggish mediocrity.

But Vasco still contributed their part to an open, attacking match which tipped Real's way after 25 minutes when Naza headed into his own net when it looked easier to clear.

The goal came after Dutch international Clarence Seedorf found Brazilian international

Roberto Carlos with a long-range crossfield pass.

Roberto Carlos collected the ball wide on the left and whipped in a speculative cross to where Naza, standing alone six metres from his own goal, appeared to lose his sense of direction and headed the ball past stunned Vasco goalkeeper Carlos Germano and into his own net.

The Brazilians changed their tactics in the second half going for longer balls that put the Real defence under increasing pressure and in the 57th minute they were rewarded.

Real goalkeeper Bodo Illgner parried two shots at close range and Real appeared to have weathered the danger with a high lofted clearance to the edge of their own box.

But Juninho, whose namesake plays for Real's city rivals Atletico, did superbly, trapping the ball with his left foot, cutting inside a defender and unleashing an unstoppable rising shot with his right foot from 18 metres out.

Both teams went close to scoring and Real could have taken the lead after 78 minutes but Savio's powerful downward

header was superbly saved by Carlos Germano.

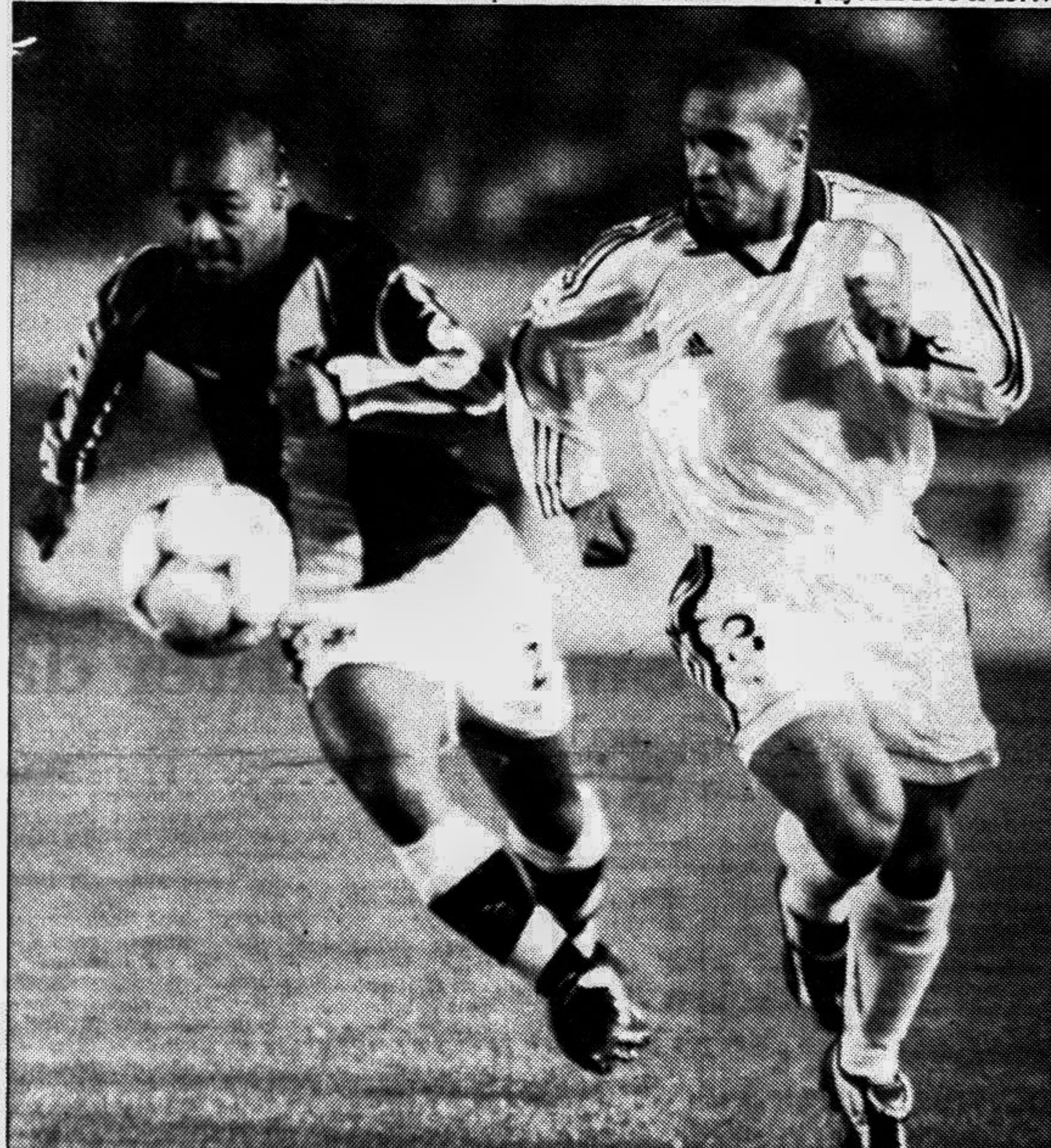
From the break Felipe went on a great run deep into the heart of Real's territory leaving two defenders in his wake, but his final angled shot, with only Illgner to beat, went bouncing agonisingly wide of the far post. Raul though made no mistake at the other end with just seven minutes to play.

Another long raking pass from Seedorf found Raul, who brilliantly eluded two defenders before planting a perfectly-placed curling right-foot shot wide of the goal for the winner.

That goal, and his overall contribution, earned him a Toyota car as Man-of-the-Match from the sponsors.

Real, whose only previous victory in this competition came in the inaugural match in 1960, followed Ajax Amsterdam (1995), Juventus (1996) and Borussia Dortmund (1997) as recent European winners -- the first time that Europe has triumphed for four successive seasons in the competition.

South American countries still the lead overall tally of victories by 20-17. The match was not played in 1975 or 1977.



A Vasco Da Gama defender (L) struggling to keep pace with Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar Roberto Carlos during their Toyota Cup clash in Tokyo yesterday. Real won 2-1. —AFP photo

Sohail comes under fire



KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec 1 (Reuters/Internet): Pakistan's chief selector Wasim Bari said

on Tuesday that under-fire captain Aamir Sohail was not worth his place in the Test side on performance alone.

Sohail was the target of Pakistani media criticism after his team lost the first Test against Zimbabwe in Peshawar on Monday by seven wickets.

The daily News, one of the papers attacking Sohail, tipped wicketkeeper Moin Khan to replace him as skipper in the last two Tests against Zimbabwe, saying, "Sohail has made the selectors his enemies".

Wasim Bari told Reuters he would not respond to criticism of the selectors by Sohail.

"The man is under pressure and he is desperately trying to safeguard his captaincy," Wasim said. "On performance, I am sorry to say, he doesn't get into the team. The only way he can retain his place is as captain."

He said he would put the issue before the (Pakistan Cricket Board) PCB chairman, adding: "I don't know yet if we would be lodging a complaint against him (Sohail)."

Opener Sohail scored 15 and two in the first Test against Zimbabwe. His scores when leading Pakistan to a 1-0 defeat in their recent three-Test home series against Australia were four, 13, 31, 133 and 25.

Mass-circulation Urdu-language daily Jang said: "Pakistan have plunged to the bottom of the (world rankings) table and all this is happening because of a foolish decision of the cricket administrators who appointed Sohail as captain."

"The skipper doesn't command respect over his players. And he can't because 20 months back he had levelled betting and match-fixing allegations against his teammates," Jang said.

The daily News said: "He (Sohail) is not a motivation to

the team. His own performance doesn't merit a selection in the team."

Tipping Moin to replace Sohail, the News added: "Sohail has made selectors his enemies and the players are already against him. His only well-wisher (PCB chairman) Khalid Mahmood is under tremendous pressure from all quarters and in all probability is set to succumb."

The Dawn newspaper said in its report that Sohail and coach Javed Miandad were operating on different lines.

"They have difference of opinion in team selections and strategies. When the two key officials of the team can't think on identical lines, it is anybody's guess how the team would perform."

Reports have suggested Sohail was not happy with the selection of the team.

"The whole problem is of selection and we have failed to

"This is not correct because if they do badly their head is also on the chopping block," he remarked.

Visibly upset Sohail said he had no hand in the selection of the preliminary squad.

"I am helpless at the moment and play whatever I am given. I will have to think about it and I will not back out from responsibility but now they will have to listen to me," he said of the selection committee.

Lashing out at the working of the selectors, he said "they decide about the squad by telephone without having a look at the pitch. They should come to the venue and ask the coach and the captain."

He also criticised the process of preparing pitches.

"It was a bowler friendly wicket and I have never seen a grassy wicket in my career. I ask them what is the use of a green wicket when our batsmen are struggling with form."

"We are not persisting with players and combinations and this is the main cause of the team not settling down," he said.

He also blamed the selection of new players for his own dismal form.

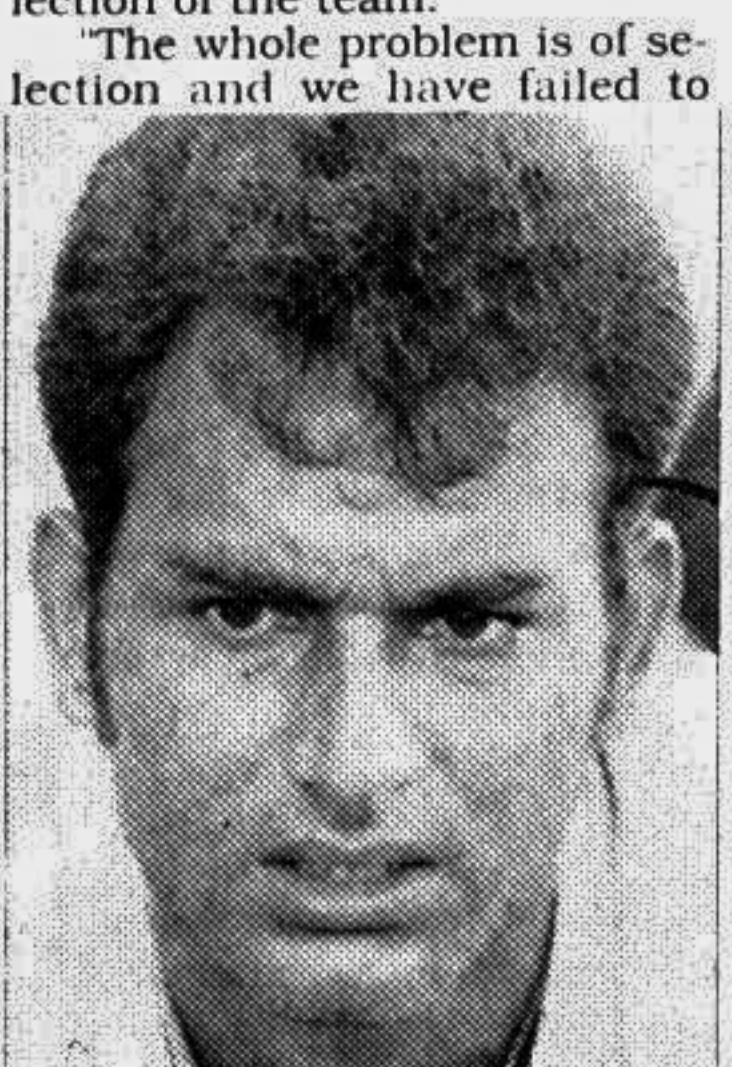
"When there are five new players in the team the pressure comes on us. Off and on my performance is good but I am under pressure," he said.

Concerning his continuing as captain Sohail said: "It's up to the Board and I am considering my options. We have lost one match and I will think about it."

Meanwhile, the Pakistan media were full of praise for Zimbabwe, whose victory in Peshawar was their first in a Test abroad.

Dawn said: "Zimbabweans, who have learnt most of their cricket from Pakistan, have conquered their masters on their ground."

"It reflects how rapidly they have improved and how alarmingly Pakistan have slumped from the zenith of glories to the depths of despair."



AAMIR SOHAIL

form a combination," he said after the loss.

"We had a green top wicket and had two spinners in the squad. We had no options, no variety."

He denied some senior players were not co-operating with him as they opposed his captaincy.