

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Jaspal Rana
(India's ace shooter)

"I get my drive from the immense hard work that I put into practice sessions. I do not set unrealistic target scores for myself."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-109

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Jan 8 '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Which country topped the medals table in the 13th Asian Games?
China India Japan

2 How many medals did Bangladesh clinch at the Asian Games?
None One Two

3 Who scored the first century in this year's Premier cricket league?
Azam Shawkat Selim

4 Where will the 14th Asian Games be held?
Paris Pusan Pyongyang

5 Which team won the AB Bank Senior Div TT title?
Jatrabari Ansars Biman

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Div I cricket

Lalmatia beat Eskaton

An all-round performance by Alam Bablu enabled Lalmatia Club to beat Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by 15 runs in the opening match of the Metropolitan First Division cricket league at City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat, Lalmatia were all out for 176 in 49.4 overs. But later they restricted Eskaton Sabuj Sangha to 161 in 48 overs to register the first victory in the league.

Lalmatia opener Alam Bablu top scored 15 off 99 balls. He also captured three wickets conceding only 29 runs.

Pakistani Abid Hanif contributed 40 in 62 balls with four fours and one down RJ Rubaiyat made 27 off 60 balls hitting three boundaries for the winners.

AR Hira was the most successful bowler for Eskaton claiming three for 34 while B Turki took two for 39.

Shahidul fought hard for Eskaton contributing highest 43 off 48 balls featuring two fours and a six. Opener Sajid Ali scored 24 in 54 balls with three boundaries and number eight bat Khorshed Alam made 23 in 26 deliveries with a four.

Excepting Bablu's three wickets, Aminul of Lalmatia took three wickets conceding 26 runs in ten overs including two maiden while Khokon and Shimul took one wicket a piece.

Corretja, Moya to play in Adidas

SYDNEY, Dec 27: Spaniards Alex Corretja and Carlos Moya have signed on for January's Adidas international warmup to the Australian Open, tournament organisers said Wednesday, reports AFP.

The addition of Corretja, the world No. 3, and Moya, No. 5 in the world, meant six of the world's top 10 male players would be at Sydney's White City for the tournament, tournament director Barry Masters said.

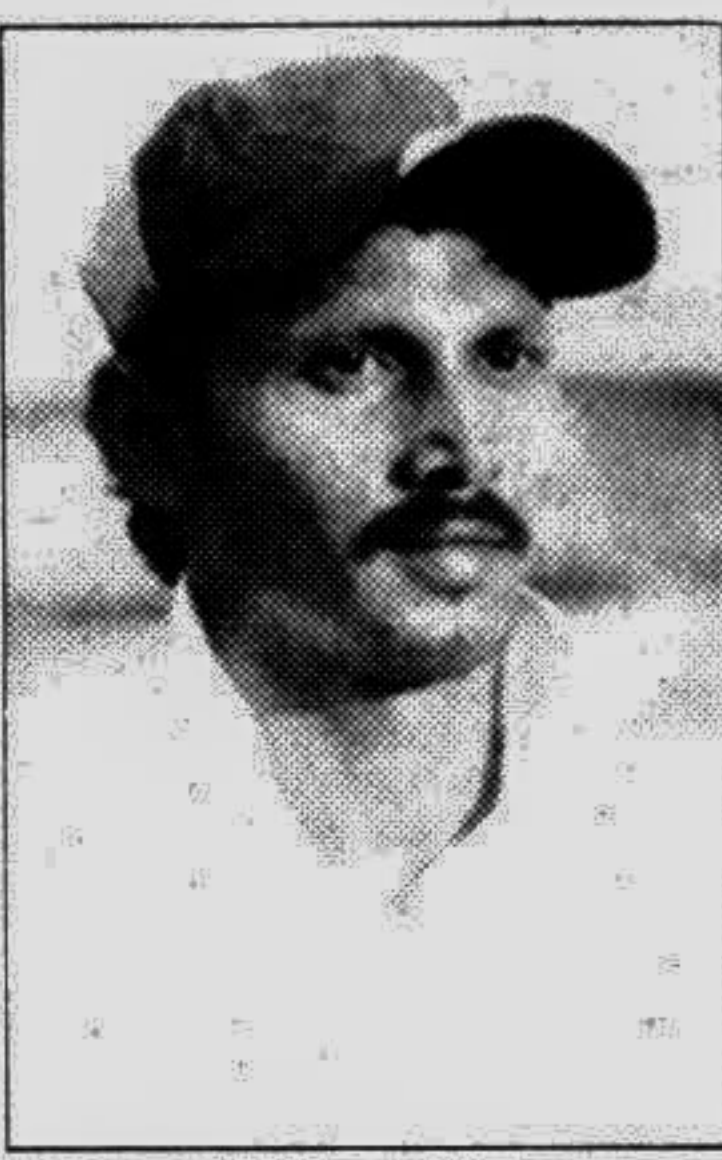
Also expected in the men's draw are Australia's Patrick Rafter (No. 4), defending champion Karol Kucera (No. 8), Greg Rusedski (No. 9), and Richard Krajicek (No. 10).

The women's field includes world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport and No. 2 Martina Hingis.

Biman remain clean, Rajinder insures Bima's win

Superb Surjo Tarun devour Mohammedans' long tail

Sports Reporter



ANIS ... 5/46

143 for five in 35.3 overs. It was Biman's fourth win on a trot to join holders Abahani at the top of the league table.

At the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium, promotes Sadharan Bima, aided by a brilliant half century from Rajinder Singh, defeated Victoria by four wickets. It was Bima's second win after two defeats.

Rajinder, the genial sardarji from across the boarder, scored a fluent 79 as Sadharan Bima, needing 176 to win, reached their goal in 49.2 overs with four wickets in hand.

Rajinder shared an invaluable 86 runs for the fifth wicket with Babu after Sadharan Bima, chasing Victoria's 175 all out in 71 overs, were reduced to four for 75 in 18.2 overs.

It was Victoria's fourth defeat from as many matches.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards of the three Janakantha Premier League matches held at different city venues yesterday:

Mohammedan vs Surjo Tarun

(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)
SURJO TARUN: 319 for 8 wickets in 80 overs (Enamul 68, Athar 61, Al-Shahriar 55; Rafique 3/71)
MOHAMMEDAN:

Imran b Enamul 78
Shahed c Ridwan b Nadim 31
Tikolo c Al-Shahriar b Anis 18
Odumbe c Athar b Anis 42
Nasirul c Enamul b Anis 0
Halim b K Masood b Enamul 0
Rafique c Athar b Enamul 0
Salahuddin st K Masood b Nadim 1
Zakir not out 1
Monjurul b Anis 0
Murtoza c Al-Shahriar b Anis 4
Extras (lb-4, lb-5, nb-4, w-10) 23
Total: (All out in 74.4 overs) 280
Fall of wickets: 1-93; 2-147; 3-200; 4-267; 5-268; 6-268; 7-273; 8-273; 9-273

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anisur Rahman	15.4	2	46	5
Khairuzzaman	3	0	18	0
Arshad Khan	15	1	69	0
Minhajul Abedin	2	0	12	0
Athar Ali	10	2	33	0
Nadim Nazir	15	1	44	2
Enamul Haq	14	0	49	3

Result: Surjo Tarun won by 39 runs

Biman vs Orient

(Venue: BKSP)
ORIENT: 140 all out in 48.4 over (Mizanur not out 38; Saifullah 3/26, Nasir Shawkat 3/31)
BIMAN: (Overnight: 120 for 4 in 29 overs)

Javed c Azim b Mizanur 11
Ziaur c Mazhar b Narayan 1
Faruque c Jewel b Tanvirul 35
Aminul lbw b Mizanur 18
Habibul c Jewel b Mizanur 25
Hasanuzzaman not out 27
Manzoor not out 5
Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-17) 21
Total: (For 5 wickets in 35.3 overs) 143
Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-22; 3-59; 4-93; 5-132

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mizanur Rahman	14	2	48	3
Narayan Chandra	8	0	38	1
Riaz Shaikh	8	2	21	0
Sohail Islam	3	0	12	0
Tanvirul Islam	2.3	0	20	1

Result: Biman won by 5 wickets.

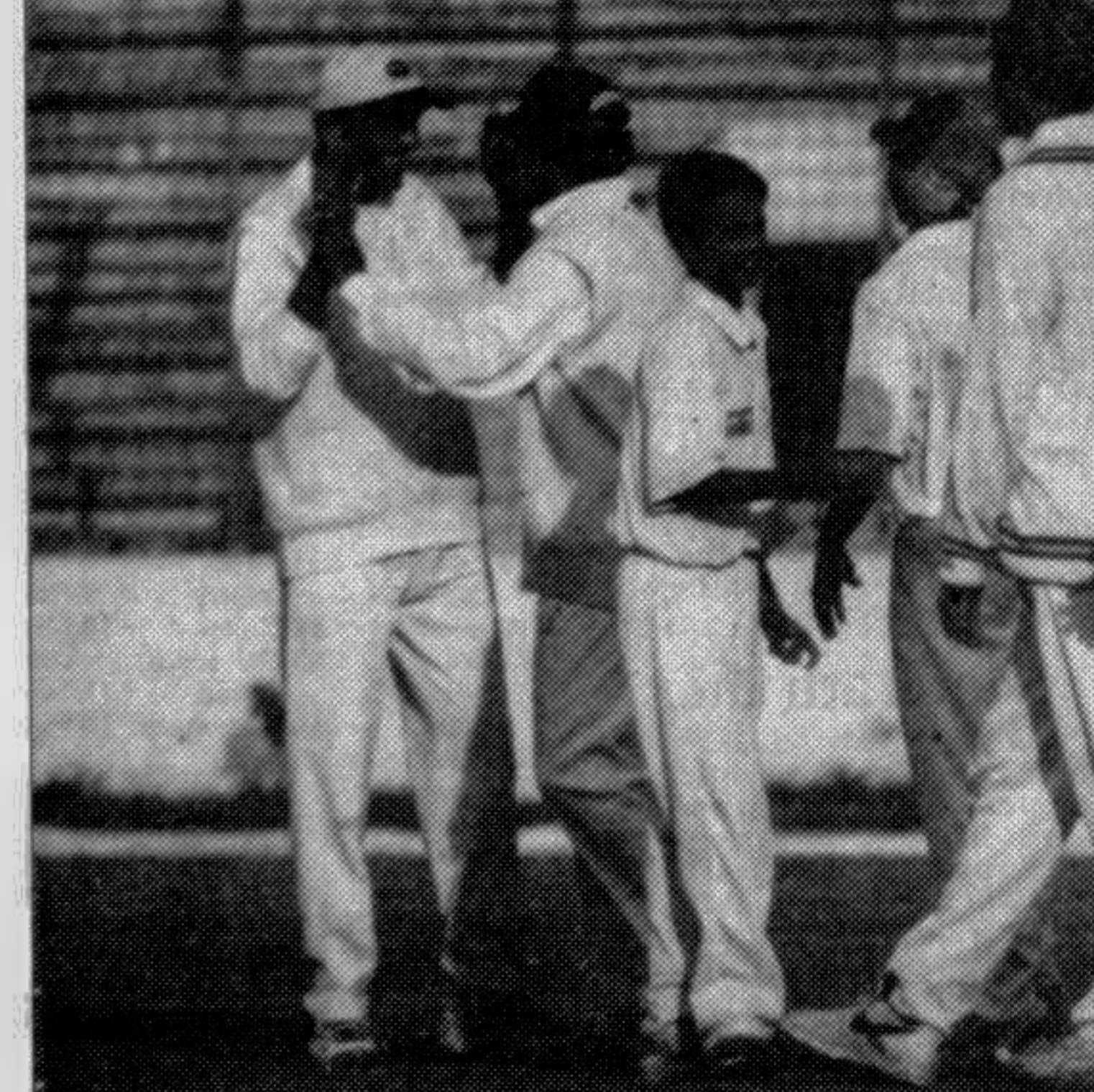
Victoria vs Sadharan Bima

(Venue: Dhamondi Cricket Stadium)
VICTORIA: 175 all out in 71 over (Moini 45, Bappi 30 not out; Totam 6/19, Moini 3/32)

S Bima: (Overnight: 46 for one in 16 overs)
Faruque c Sabbir b Al-Amin 4
Moin c Kamru b Zakir 14
K Chopra b Bappi 28
Mintu c Jewel b Zakir 4
Rajinder c Zakir b Sabbir 79
Babu c Bappi b Sabbir 21
Soup not out 4
Totam not out 4
Extras (lb-1, lb-4, nb-5, w-8) 18
Total: (for 6 wickets in 49.2 overs) 176
Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-50; 3-51; 4-75; 5-161; 6-168

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zakir Hassan	13	4	37	2
Al-Amin	12	4	29	1
Sabbir Khan	4	0	24	2
Shawkat Ali	2	0	8	0
Rakib Hasan Bappi	9	2	25	1
Ayaz Zillani	5	0	29	0
Mustadil Litu	2	0	13	0
Jewel Hossain	2.2	0	6	0

Result: Sadharan Bima won by 4 wickets.



GOT THE BIG ONE: Surjo Tarun players celebrating the fall of Mohammedans' Steve Tikolo's wicket yesterday.



Mohammedans' Steve Tikolo sweeps during his top score of 82.

—Star photo

CJKP Div I soccer

Abahani blank Bakalia Ekadosh

CHITTAGONG, Dec 27: Abahani Krira Chakra registered a consolidated victory over Bakalia Ekadosh outplaying them 5-0 in the CJKP First Division football league at MA Aziz Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Abahani now in the second position on the league table collecting 16 points from seven matches.

Farhad of Abahani scored twice while Mizan, Bakhtiar and Gobinda netted one goal each.

City Corporation and Sea Customs shared points with a 1-1 draw in the other match of the day.

Anwar of City Corporation and Ritu of Customs scored goals in favour of their teams.

Moment to remember

MELBOURNE, Dec 27: Alec Stewart savoured his first Ashes century today but said it did not signal a permanent return to the role of opener, reports Reuters.

The England captain hammered 107, his first Ashes hundred after 44 previous attempts, as the touring team were dismissed for 270 on the second day of the rain-hit third Test.

Although Stewart has scored almost 6,000 runs in Tests at an average over 40, his record against Australia was modest before this match.

Stewart said: "I've played 20 Test matches against Australia and most of those I've been on the wrong (losing) end. It was a very good feeling to chalk up a personal milestone and to do it on the MCG was very special."

The England skipper's landmark followed a decision by the team management for him to return to open the innings after batting at No 4 in the first three Tests of the series.

Stewart has struggled for runs on the tour while juggling his duties as captain, specialist batsman and wicketkeeper but relished his return to the top of the order while handing the gloves to Warren Hegg.

But, always the team man, the 35-year-old England captain said his success did not mean that he would make a permanent return to opening.

"Normally when I've kept wicket it's been to enable us to play five bowlers but on this tour it's been so we could play seven batsmen because we have been playing so poorly," he said.

"I can't say I'm never going to keep wicket again, I can't say I'm not going to open the batting again."

"I've always said my preference is to open but I'll do whatever is best for the team."

Stewart shines bright



MELBOURNE, Dec 27 (AP/Reuters): England captain Alec Stewart scored a stirring maiden Ashes century Sunday but his team collapsed around him on a tense second day of the fourth Test against Australia at the MCG.

England lost their last seven wickets for 70 to be bowled out for 270 after tea on a day extended by an hour because the opening day was washed out.

Australia, having already retained the Ashes with a 2-0 lead with two to play, reached 59 for two when play was stopped because of bad light with nine overs to play Sunday.

Justin Langer was 26 and Mark Waugh had 12.

Stewart, opening the batting

for the first time in the series, watched England slump to 4-2 before guiding them to 200-3. But his dismissal for 107, with the total at 200, sparked another disastrous collapse by England's batsmen, who have totaled 25 ducks in seven innings.

Stewart, who averages 41.50 in all Tests but just 27.87 against Australia, played a positive innings for his 12th Test hundred before his dismissal started a slump of three wickets for six runs.

With England looking for two wins to level the series, Stewart abandoned the wicket-keeping gloves to give a debut to Warren Hegg.

The decision allowed him to move out of the middle order, where he has struggled, to re-

unite with Mike Atherton at the top of the order.

Their union lasted just five balls before Atherton (0) fell to Glenn McGrath for the 10th time in his past 19 innings against the Australians. Atherton was clearly upset by the decision after he was given out edging through to Ian Healy.

McGrath struck again in his next over when No 3 Mark Butcher (0) played forward and nicked an inside edge onto his front pad and Justin Langer snared a superb diving catch at short leg.

Stewart put on 77 with Nasser Hussain (19) before the No 4 gave Matthew Nicholson a first Test wicket on debut.

Nicholson was smashed for 11 off his opening over but recovered in his fifth to get an edge from Hussain which gave world record-holder Healy his 350th Test dismissal.

Stewart reached his 100, in his 23rd Test and 45th innings against Australia, from 142 balls, getting back to cut an all-run four off leg-spinner Stuart MacGill.

He kissed the three lions emblem on the chest of his shirt and the spirited partnership with Mark Ramprakash (63) had the tourists in a rare moment of control. The Surrey batsman's previous highest score was 91 in the third Sydney Test of the 1990-91 tour.

But after the pair compiled a 119-run stand, MacGill started the collapse by bowling Stewart behind his legs.

Ramprakash followed soon after when he spooned a catch off Steve Waugh to mid-on and Hegg made just three before edging Waugh to Healy.

Graeme Hick and Dean Headley held up the Australian charges, taking the total to 244-7 after Headley had a bitter battle with McGrath.

Headley twice survived close appeals for catches and the second, fending away a vicious McGrath bouncer, incensed the paceman. The pair traded insults and were told to calm down by the umpires.

McGrath finally got Headley to a catch at first slip and Hick picked up the tempo. He moved to 37 with a massive six over midwicket off MacGill but after adding two more off a mistimed drive he played a poor shot to give MacGill his wicket.

MacGill had Darren Gough bowled behind his pads and Alan Mullally's fifth duck in six innings gave Shane Warne's stand-in a fourth wicket.

Australia started poorly in reply with Michael Slater trapped lbw by Gough for one with the total 13. Taylor followed for seven with the total 26, giving Gough a second wicket when he sliced an edge to Hick in the slips.

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the fourth Ashes cricket Test between Australia and England on Sunday:

ENGLAND: first innings
Atherton c Healy b McGrath 0
Stewart b MacGill 107
Butcher c Langer b McGrath 0
Hussain c Healy b Nicholson 19
Ramprakash c McGrath b S Waugh 63
Hick c Fleming b MacGill 39
Hegg c Healy b S Waugh 11
Headley c Taylor b McGrath 14
Gough b MacGill 14
Fraser not out 0
Mullally lbw b MacGill 0
Extras (lb-7, nb-6, w-1) 14
Total: (All out in 76 overs) 270
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-4; 3-81; 4-200; 5-202; 6-206; 7-244; 8-266; 9-270; 10-270

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 22 5 64 3
Fleming 19 3 71 0
Nicholson 10 0 59 1
MacGill 19 2 61 4
S Waugh 6 2 8 2

AUSTRALIA: first innings
Taylor c Hick b Gough 7
Slater lbw b Gough 1
Langer not out 26
M Waugh Not out 12
Extras (B-4, lb-5, nb-4) 13
Total: (For 2 wickets) 59
Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-26

Bowler O M R W
Gough 7 5 15 2
Headley 7 1 18 0
Mullally 3 1 12 0
Ramprakash 1 0 5 0

ACB stands by Mark, Shane



MELBOURNE, Dec 27: Australian cricket officials have rejected a proposal from the subcontinent that Shane Warne and Mark Waugh should be banned for life after admitting they took money from an illegal bookmaker four years ago, reports Reuters.

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive officer Mal Speed said the pair could not be banned because they had already been punished for their offence and the matters were officially closed.

Speed was responding to an announcement by Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Khalid Mahmood on Saturday that his board and those of India and Sri Lanka wanted the International Cricket Council (ICC) to introduce life bans for players involved in illegal betting on cricket matches.

Waugh and Warne have admitted taking the money during a limited-over tournament in Sri Lanka in 1994 but deny any involvement in match-fixing.

Mahmood said the three subcontinental countries wanted the ICC to make an example of the two Australians after they admitted selling information about the pitch and playing conditions to an illegal Indian bookmaker.

He said the proposal would be raised at next month's meeting of ICC executive board members in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The ACB announced last week it would conduct its own inquiry into match-fixing after several players said they had been approached by bookmakers both on the subcontinent and in Australia.

The move came after the ACB was criticised for keeping details of the fines it imposed on Waugh and Warne secret until journalists broke the story earlier this month.

The issue has been intensified because Waugh, Warne and former Test off-spinner Tim May accused ex-Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to play poorly during Australia's tour of Pakistan in 1994.

Malik has denied the charges and says Warne's and Waugh's admission over the Indian bookmaker proves his innocence.

Waugh, Warne and former ACB chairman Alan Crompton are to appear before a Pakistan inquiry which will sit in Australia as part of an investigation into bribery and match-fixing in Pakistan cricket.

Waugh testified before the inquiry in October when Australia were touring Pakistan but, in the light of his admission about taking money from a bookmaker, the Pakistan investigating judge wants to take further testimony.

However, in the latest twist to the saga, Waugh is taking legal advice to see if he has to reappear before the inquiry when it comes to Australia.